

Small Drawstring Storage Bags for Soldiers (Ditty Bags)

1.	Use substantial-weight 60", 54", or 45" fabric —preferably a dark solid . Bright color and print ok for hospitals.
2.	Use substantial-weight thread ; need not match fabric.
3.	Use a 36" section of cord for drawstring for each bag. Use a 1/8 braided nylon or twisted cotton string. Use a large safety pin to feed cord through casing.
3.	Lay 60" or 54" fabric out on table; leave it folded for cutting—as it is on bolt. Extra fold is required for 45" fabric, see step 4c.
4.	<p>a. If using 60" fabric, measure carefully and cut into 12" segments; then cut each of those on the fold so that each rectangle is about 30" X 12". (If the cut is not fairly precise, it will be difficult to match sides and sew.)</p> <p>b. If using 54" fabric, cut into 12" segments; again, it is important to measure and cut carefully to ease matching and sewing of sides; then cut each of those on the fold so that each rectangle is about 27" X 12".</p> <p>c. Using 45-inch fabric requires an extra step; the width should be folded into thirds—about 15" wide; cut into 24" segments; then cut on each of the two new fold lines. Each rectangle will be 24" X 15".</p>
5.	<p>a. Fold the 30" X 12" rectangle so that it is 15" X 12".</p> <p>b. Fold the 27" X 12" rectangle so that it is 13 ½" X 12".</p> <p>c. Fold the 24" X 15" rectangle so that it is 15" X 12".</p>
6.	Serge, zigzag (wide, close stitch), or double stitch the sides/bottom of the bags, leaving a 12" section open for the top. Secure ends of seams to avoid raveling or fraying. Turn bag inside out .
7.	a. Turn under ¼" and stitch around the top opening; then turn down about 1" and double stitch for the casing . Leave about a 1-inch opening for inserting the cord. If using a wide zigzag stitch for the casing, you need not turn under the ¼" prior to stitching.
8.	Attach a large safety pin to one end of the 36" cord ; feed pin through the casing . Secure the two ends of the cord by tying them together.