How to Sew a Laundry Bag

Materials and Supplies:

Fabric for Bag (1 ½ yard)
Two pieces of 3’ Continuous Loop Cords
Iron-On Batting - at least 18” x 18”
Scrap of Lining - at least 18” x 18”
Fabric and Trim Glue

It is easy to sew your own customized Laundry Bag. Makes a great item for back-to-school season or a gift for new mothers or new home owners.

Step-by-Step:

1. From 1 1/2 yard piece of fabric, cut:
   - 1 piece 51 1/4” wide x 36” high (this will become the side)
   - 1 piece 18” x 18” (this will become the bottom)

2. On the front of the 18” x 18” piece, draw a 16” circle (Photo 1).

3. On the 18 x 18” piece of fabric, apply Iron-On Batting to the back of the fabric so that a 16” circle will have batting (Photo 2). The glue dots on the batting go against the back of the fabric.

4. Cut out the circle (Photo 3).
5. Glue baste the circle to a scrap of lining by placing small dots of glue near the edges as shown. (Photo 4)
   a. Do not cut the lining to a circle form yet.
   b. Use a steam iron to help “speed set” the glue (Photo 5).

6. Cut off excess lining to circle shape (Photo 6). Serge, zigzag or overlock stitch around the circle.

7. Fold the 51 1/4” x 36” piece in half, right sides together to form a rectangle about 25 1/2” x 36”. Sew a 1/2” seam the entire length of the 36” side.

8. Sew the circle to the rectangle (Photo 7).
   Hint: Mark 1/4’s on the rectangle and on the circle. Match quarter marks and pin in place. Ease in any extra fabric between the marks as you are sewing.

9. At the top, iron over a 1” pocket (Photo 8).
10. To allow the cord to move freely, you will need to create two openings in the pocket: One at the seam and one directly across from the seam (halfway around the pocket).

   a. If the fabric is thin or will rip easily, reinforce the openings by gluing a small scrap of lining to the area, let it dry and then cut the opening (Photo 9).
   b. Iron-on tape could be used instead of glue.
   c. For the non-seam opening, make a small slit just below the 1” pocket fabric; for the seam opening, clip open a few stitches (Photo 10).

11. Load the two continuous cords into the top of the pocket, making sure one comes through to the other side from one opening and the other cord comes through from the other opening (Photo 11).

12. Top stitch the pocket closed using a ¾” seam allowance (Photo 12). Be sure not to catch the cords in the stitching.

13. Turn right sides out and it’s ready to use (Photo 13)!