

HANDY SEWING OR CRAFT BAG

Requirements:

1.2 metres or 44 inches print fabric for outer bag

1.2 metres or 44 inches plain matching fabric for lining

2 metres or 80 inches matching cord

7 ½ inch circle of plastic cut from a plastic ice cream lid or template plastic

2 wooden beads (optional)

Matching sewing thread

Place outside and lining fabric together with right sides facing and cut out two large circles (66 cm or 26 inch) and two smaller circles (50 cm or 20 inch). Do not separate once cut out as you will never get them back together perfectly.



Sew small circle completely around using ¼ inch seam allowance. Cut a small area in the centre of the lining fabric and turn through (this will be hidden inside the plastic base section). Press and mark into quarters with the iron.

On the large circle mark a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch frill allowance. Fold circle in half and mark $\frac{1}{2}$ inch buttonhole each side on the halfway line on the right side of the outside fabric.

Pin both circles together and pull apart the area where you are making the button holes. Place a small piece of reinforcing behind the buttonhole.

Once buttonholes are completed sew $\frac{1}{4}$ inch all the way around, cut a split in the lining section of the large circle and turn through. (keep the cut central and within the area of the plastic base). Press and stitch two rows of stitching from one buttonhole to the next $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the edge and then another $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in to form the casing for the cord.



Press into quarters and place the plastic circle in the centre of the large circle. Line up small circle on top and sew a circle around the plastic circle insert. Segment the smaller circles into eight equal spaces for pockets. Mark and sew in place.



Cut the length of cord into two pieces and thread through one buttonhole and out the same buttonhole. Repeat threading the cord through the opposite buttonhole in the same manner. Thread the cord through a wooden bead and knot. A little glue may be applied to stop the knot pulling through the bead hole.



Finished Bag.

Composed by Betty Gricks June 2009