

Amazing Recycled T-Shirt Back Sack

Instruction Sheet:

By Holly Hutchings

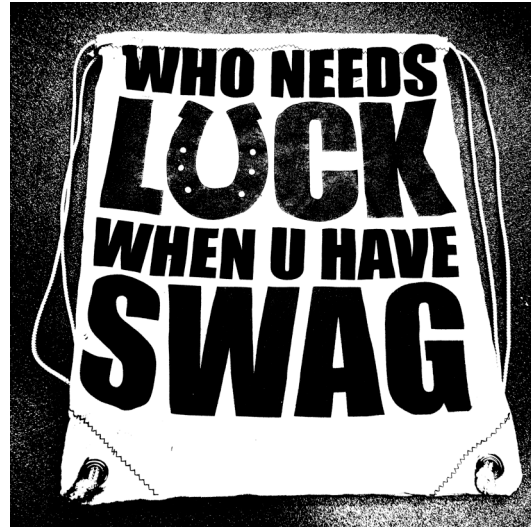
Materials Needed:

New or Used, Large T-Shirt

Matching Thread.

4 yards of Drawstring

2 ¾ size grommets.



Preparation Instructions:

Examine the logos on your T-Shirt to decide if you need to cut layers out separately, or if you can do it at the same time depending on the where the logos land on the shirt.

Back Sack Preparation:

- a. Lay your old T-shirt out on a flat surface. Flatten all the wrinkles out so you will have a straight line when you mark.
- b. Select the pre-cut poster board pattern that fits to the size of the shirt you are using.
- c. Place the rectangle Poster board pattern piece on the shirt, so any logos are aligned appropriately.
- d. Trace the pattern with a sharpie, directly onto the shirt.
- e. At this point, you can either cut out the rectangle, with both layers, or cut out the top layer and then turn the T-shirt over and trace the pattern onto the back of the shirt and cut the second layer out separately. This will depend on where the logos land.
- f. Decide which side will be the top of the back sack. Mark a straight line across the top 3 " from the top on the *wrong side* of the fabric, on both layers.

Pocket Preparation: *Optional*

- g. Cut the sleeve off of the remainder of the shirt right along the seam.
- h. Open the sleeve by cutting the seam up right along the seam line.
- i. Lay the pocket across the bottom of the back sack pieces, with the edges hanging over, so they can be marked and trimmed. The sleeve hem should be at the top.
- j. Trim the edges of the sleeve, so the sleeve will be the same size and shape as the bottom of the back sack.
- k. Mark the pocket lines, as desired, onto the pocket.



Sewing Instructions:

Attach the *Optional Pocket*:

1. Separate the layers of fabric, and work only with the front layer of the bag for this step.
2. Place the pocket over the bottom of the front layer of the bag with the hem side up.
3. Pin the outer edges of the pocket, around the three sides of the bag.
Leave the top of the pocket open.
4. Set your stitch length to 5 for a Basting Stitch.
5. Using a ¼" seam allowance, stitch the pocket around the three pinned sides.
Leave the top of the pocket open.
6. Stitch the lines that you marked to make separate pockets.

Front & Back Layers:

7. At the top of the back sack, on both layers, you should have marked a line **3 inches** from the top. **If you DID NOT, mark that line now.**
8. Put the front and the back layers of the bag together, with the *wrong side* out.
Make sure the top of the bag is up on both the front and back pieces.
9. Pin sides and bottom of the bag together.
Leave the top of the bag open.
10. Set your stitch length to 5 for a basting stitch.
11. Using a ¼" seam allowance, stitch the side of the bag to the 3" line that you marked.
12. Change your stitch to your ***Knit Stitch*** setting.
Use a stitch suitable for knits. Ask teacher for knit stitch setting.
13. Continue stitching the edge of the bag the rest of the way down the edge.
14. Pivot at the corner and stitch the bottom of the bag.
15. Pivot the second corner, and stitch up the side of the bag until you reach the 3" marking.
16. Change your stitch length back to 5 and baste the edge the rest of the way.

Casing:

17. Now, fold the top of the edge of the back sack down to the 3" marked line, and press.
Use the clapper for a crisp seam.
18. Adjust your machine so you can sew circular.
19. Set your machine to a basic zig zag stitch. *Length-2, Width-2.*
20. Stitch the casing by lining the top edge of the fabric, (*edge that is folded over*), with your 1/8" seam allowance. Stitch all the way around the casing. ***Do not leave an opening!***

Drawstring:

21. Seam Rip the basting at the top of the bag seams. *This will leave two openings for the drawstring to go through.*
22. You should have 4 yards of drawstring. Cut your drawstring exactly in half, so that you will have two 2 yd pieces of drawstring.
23. Attach a safety pin at the end of the drawstring.
24. Insert the end of the drawstring into one of the openings at the top of the bag. Make sure the drawstring goes all the way around the top of the bag and comes out the same opening that it went in. Then even out the drawstrings.
Repeat with the other 2 yd piece of drawstring though the other opening.
25. Stitch a diagonal line along the bottom of the corner.
26. Mark and insert the grommets. *One on each corner.* SEE TEACHER for help with this.
27. Insert both ends of the drawstring through the grommets, from back to front. Tie ends in a Knot.

Congratulations! You are Finished!