

How to...

MAKE A LAUNDRY BAG

Keep your dirty laundry in order until wash day in a pretty Lisa Stickley handmade bag. The instructions are for a laundry bag, but you can make the bag any size, simply scale the measurements up or down proportionally.

1. Prepare the cord casing Measure 8cm in from each end of the fabric piece and make a cut of 1cm at each corner as shown to create a flap.

2. Stitch the cord casing Fold each cord casing flap over to the wrong side by 5mm and press. Fold again by a further 5mm to enclose the raw edge and press. Pin and stitch – always backstitch at the start and finish to fasten the seam.

3. Finish the cord casing. Fold a 1cm hem over to the wrong side along each short end and press. Fold the short edges over to the wrong side again so they are level with the 1cm cut made in the fabric and press. Pin and stitch in place – stitch as close to the edges as possible for a neat finish.

4. Stitch the bag With right sides facing, fold the bag in half so the raw edges meet. Pin the side edges together. Stitch both edges with a 1cm seam allowance. trim the excess seam allowance all the way round with pinking shears.

5. Finish the bag Turn the bag right side out and press the seams. Cut the cotton cord in half and attach the end of each piece to a large safety pin (if you can get find one, old-fashioned nappy pins are best). Thread the two cords all the way through both sides of the cord casing. When fully threaded, and holding onto both ends, gently pull one of the ends to determine which is which, and fasten each separately with a secure knot. To finish pull one of the knotted cords through to the opposite side of the casing so you end up with a knot at either side, making it easy to draw the strings together when you need to close the bag. ●●●

Made at Home, Lisa Stickley, Quadrille, ISBN-10: 1844002373, £16.99, www.lisa-stickleylondon.com

