

# BACKPACK SCHOOL BAGS

**Note: If making backpacks for Secondary Kits, lengthen the strap to 49" and possibly make the backpack a little larger.**

(You can try it on to check the size.)

## Cutting Instructions:

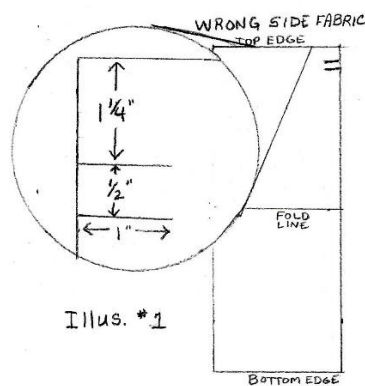
Cut one – 14" X 36" piece of fabric

Cut one – 43" X 1" web or fabric strap. May be longer (49") for older children.

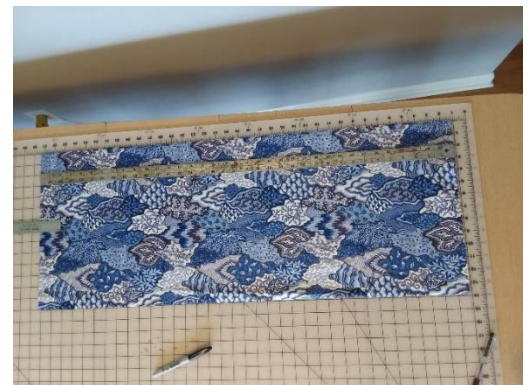
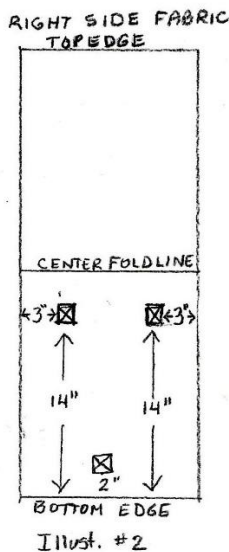
Need two – 36" shoe strings or cable cords or whatever works for drawstrings

## Mark:

- On wrong side of fabric: Make four 1" long horizontal lines that are 1 1/4" and 1 3/4" down from the top edge on each side (Illus. #1)

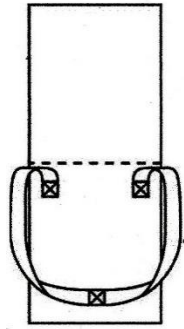


- On right side of fabric: Mark 3 boxes. 1<sup>st</sup> mark is 2" up from bottom edge in center of fabric. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> marks are 14" up from bottom edge and 3" in from each side. (Illus. #2)

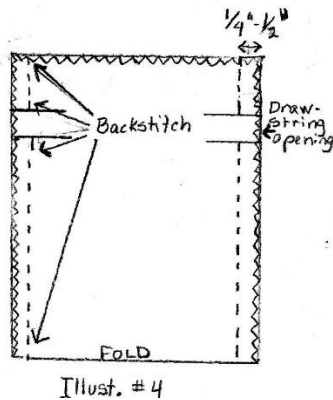


Sew:

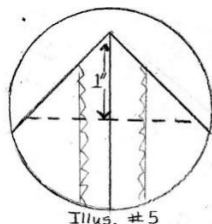
- Serge or zigzag around rectangle.
- Next find the center of the length of strap. This will go on the center bottom mark, making sure the strap is 2" above bottom edge. Secure by sewing strap down with an X inside a square.
- Next lay the ends of the strap, one on each mark with the ends pointing down towards the bottom edge. Sew down the two strap ends with the X inside a square. (Illus. #3)



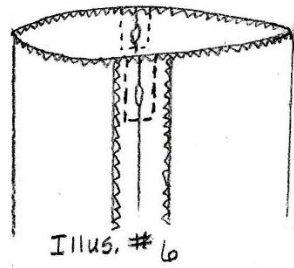
- Now bring bottom and top edges together with right sides together and turn over so the marks made in Illus. #1 are visible. Sew both side seams (using  $\frac{1}{4}$ " –  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance) from the top edge to the first mark, being sure to backstitch at both ends. Skip to the second mark (leaving a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " hole) and start sewing (remembering to backstitch), continuing to sew to the fold and backstitch. (The strap will be inside the bag at this time.) (Illus. #4)



- Next, to make a box bottom, open the side seam at the bottom of bag to form a point. Sew in 1" across point. (Illus. #5)



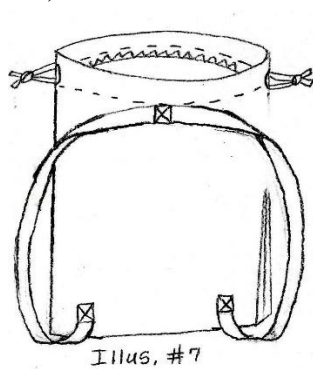
- Open the side seams at the top and topstitch around the openings for the drawstrings. (Illus. #6) This step is optional, but makes stringing the bag easier.



- Now turn down top edge of bag 1" and sew in about 1/4" from inside edge, to form a 3/4" casing.

#### Finish:

- Turn bag right side out and thread one drawstring all the way around through casing and knot it to form a circle. Repeat with other drawstring starting at opposite hole. (Illus. #7)



- Pull the knots of the strings on each side to check to make sure it draws closed.

Updated 10/8/2020