



Please join me in reaching out to the thousands of abandoned, unwanted, and/or impaired children who are currently being warehoused in Bulgaria's orphanages. The government there is not providing sufficiently for their physical needs, but just as importantly, they are not getting the amount of love and attention they so desperately crave.

The non-profit organization, One Heart Bulgaria, is doing much to provide physical, nutritional, medical, and emotional support for these precious and lonely children, but they are limited to the amount we all can donate to their cause. Please go to their website, www.OneHeart-bg.org and see how even a small donation can make an incredible difference in the physical and emotional lives of these orphans.

In addition to financial support, we can help the Bulgarian orphans cling to the hope that they are needed and loved by providing a tangible, handmade object for them to treasure. I have tailored this free tutorial for a large drawstring pouch for that purpose. The goal is to provide every single child with their own bag in which to keep the few small belongings that they own.

Included in each bag will be a cardstock bookmark (available as a separate download) that says "You Are Loved" which you can choose to print out and decorate if desired. After you are finished with your bags, please mail them to me at the business address below, and when I have accumulated enough to provide all the children in an orphanage with a bag, I'll ship it to that orphanage. There is a donate button in the right sidebar of my blog, 7LayerStudio.typepad.com, that will be collecting money to pay for shipping costs.

THANK YOU so much for your help in this project! I know that if we work together, we can help brighten the lives of the deeply disadvantaged orphans of Bulgaria. Bless you for your efforts.

Very Sincerely,

Shelley Detton

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LARGE DRAWSTRING BAG by Shelley Detton of 7LayerStudio for SEWING FOR ORPHANS project



1) Cut out 2 pieces of fabric, each piece measuring 18" x 42". It's okay to make it a little bit smaller than that if necessary, but make sure both pieces are the same size.

Cut 2 pieces of ribbon at 19" lengths. Ribbon can be 3/4" to 1.5" wide.



You will also need some sort of nylon rope cord for the drawstring. This mason line can be purchased for less than \$3 in the hardware section of Walmart, or you can buy it at any hardware store.

NOTE: If you don't want to go buy the string, just send the bag(s) to me without it and I will insert it before shipping it to Bulgaria



2) Fold each fabric in half with right sides together. Stitch 1/4" seam up both sides of the outside fabric.



On one of the sides of the liner, measure down about 11" from top and mark a gap about 2 or 3 inches wide. Stop and start your stitching between those marks.

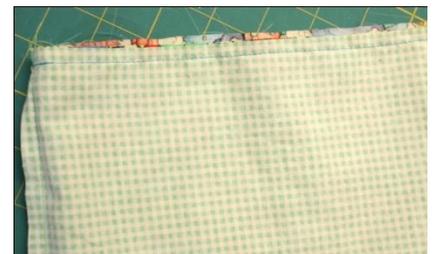


3) Once side seams are sewn, pull front and back apart so that side seam is facing straight up and the front and back create a triangle at the base of the bag. Mark the lines for the box corners, 2.5" down from peak and about 5" across. Stitch on that line.

Repeat for all corners on both bags. They should now look like the photo in the next column.



4) Turn exterior bag right side out and tuck it inside the liner, which is still inside out. This way the right sides of both bags are facing each other. Match up the side seams and pin like photo below.



5) Stitch 1/4" seam all around top edge.



Step 6

6) Through the gap that was left in one of the sides of the liner, gently pull the exterior fabric completely out so that it looks like the photo below:



7) Stitch the gap in the liner closed either by hand or by sewing very close to the edge with machine like photo above.



8) Tuck liner inside bag, and press the top edge so that it lies flat. This is best accomplished by fitting the bag over the tip of the ironing board and pressing one bit of it, rotating bag, press another bit of it, and repeat until you have come full circle.



Step 9

9) Press one end of each ribbon under about 1/2".



10) Fit the bag over the arm of the sewing machine with one of the side seams facing up. Place one of the ribbons (pressed-under end facing down) along the side seam about 1.5" away from top edge of bag.



11) Stitch, backstitching a little bit at beginning, all along top edge of ribbon. Stop stitching when you get almost to the end of the ribbon. Fold under raw edge of ribbon so that it lines up with the second side seam. Stitch to the end of the ribbon and backstitch.



12) Leaving needle in down position, lift up presser foot and place second ribbon in place. Align it with the first one and make sure you start with the pressed-under

end just like you did with the first ribbon.

Stitch all the way down and repeat process of folding under excess ribbon, stitching, and backstitching to secure.

Lift up needle, clip threads, and stitch all around the bottom edges of both ribbons, backstitching for extra reinforcement in side seams areas. You have now created a casing for the drawstring.



13) Cut 2 lengths of string that measure about 42" long each. This nylon string unravels quickly, so I recommend tying a temporary knot at each end.



14) Attach a large safety pin to one end of string. "Scoot" the pin and string all the way around the entire casing so that it comes full circle and meets up with the tail end of the string. Remove the pin, and tie the ends together in a firm knot.



Step 15

15) Repeat process on other side of the casing, so that you have 2 separate strings going full circle around bag on opposite sides.

You may want to use a match and singe the loose ends of the nylon string to help prevent unraveling.



Congratulations! You have now created a tangible gift of love which will brighten the life of a lonely, disadvantaged young person in Bulgaria. Doesn't that feel great?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE!