Cotton and Linen Drawstring Bag

Quick Facts

Loom Type: Rigid Heddle or Multi-Shaft Loom

Weaving Width: 19.5” (bag can be made smaller with less width)

Rigid Heddle of Multi-Shaft – 12-dent reed

Warp Length: 2 ½ yds (enough yarn included for a 3-yard warp)

Finished Size: 2 bags, each approximately 11.75” x 14”

Yarns

Warp: LoftyFiber Thick and Thin 1200 per pound cotton (60% organic).

Weft: 16/1 multicolor Linen – 5 colors ½ ounce each

Unleash your creative side with this simple draw-string bag! Weave it on your rigid heddle or multi-shaft loom.

This simple drawstring bag is woven with a natural-colored warp of a bubbly thick and thin cotton, sett close at 12 ends per inch. Several colors of the 100% linen weft yarns used to create narrow stripes of random width during weaving. Weave it on your rigid heddle, table or floor loom.

If your loom isn’t wide enough, the bag can easily be accommodated by a warp that isn’t as wide; this will impact the height of the bag.

Shown is a draw string made with length of the warp yarn using the Lofty Twist. The draw string can be a twisted rope (as shown here), inkle band, ribbon or any narrow cord as desired.

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Warping The Loom

Warp the loom using the Thick and Thin Cotton, using your preferred method.

Wind 234 warp ends for a weaving width of 19.5” in the reed.

Sett the cloth at 12 ends per inch.

Weaving the Fabric

The bag can be woven completely in plain weave or using a combination of twill and plain weave. The picks per inch is approximately 16 ends per inch for plain weave. The picks per inch will be a little tighter when weaving twill than plain weave.

The bag pictured at the right was woven with stripes of the different colors, chosen randomly for color and width. The bubbly nature of the warp and the thin linen weft makes for a very organic look.

Plain weave on a multi-shaft loom can be accomplished with a straight draw threading (such as heddles 1-2-3-4 in sequence) and a tie-up of odd shafts on one treadle and even shafts on the other. Similarly for a table loom, lift odd shafts alternating with even shafts.

A 2-2 twill on a 4-shaft loom can be accomplished by lifting shafts 1-2, 2-3, 3-4 and 1-4.

On a rigid heddle, a pick-up stick can be used to go over 2 threads and under the next two across one weft pick, then shifting the threads that are raised and lowered by one on each subsequence pick.

Start weaving with a few picks with waste yarn until the warp is evenly spread, then start to weave with the linen weft, changing colors as desired. Weave until the fabric measures about 27 inches. At the end, Weave a few picks of waste yarn. Next weave the second bag’s fabric.

Remove cloth from the loom and secure the two raw ends with a zig-zag stitch, serger, or fabric glue. Machine wash and dry. Cut and separate the fabric for each bag, secure raw warp ends.

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Sewing the Bag and Inserting the Draw String

Sewing the Bag

1. Lay out the rectangular piece of cloth as shown, wrong side up (note – both sides may look the same, if so, just choose a wrong side)	
2. Press ¼" along the entire length of one edge (this is a selvage edge, not the raw edge).	
3. Turn casing over again and press to make a pocket of at least 1-inch, as pictured. You may want to add allow a larger fold (1 ½") to make it easier to push the rope through the casing.	

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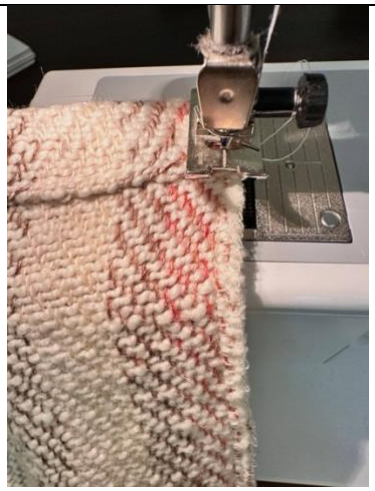
4. Sew casing with a straight stitch close to the edge of the fold. The casing may also be hand stitched.	
5. Sew a ¼" seam down the side of the bag, starting the stitching below the casing. Note there is only one side seam. The fold of the cloth makes the other side.	
6. Stitch a ¼" bottom seam. Then turn bag right side out.	

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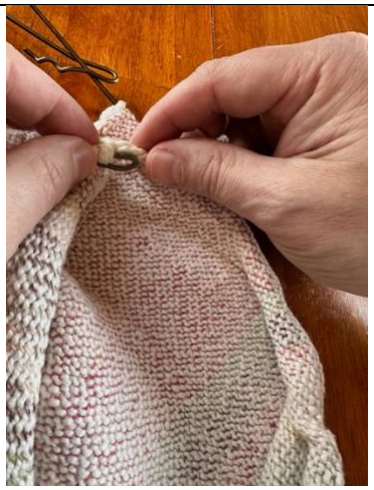
7. If twisting a rope using the same as the warp yarn, cut sixteen 60-inch lengths. Clip four of the lengths into each of the 4 alligator clips if using a Lofty Twist. Add about 60 turns of twist (thumb piece up and engaged), then turn about the same amount with the thumb piece down, allowing the four bundles to twist around each other. Knot each end. The resulting rope is about 40 inches long.	
8. To feed the rope through the casing, we bent a metal clothes hanger and inserted the hook into one of the knots on the rope. The rope was pushed through the casing.	
9. The bag is finished!	

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