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Name: How to make a throw bag

Description:

I originally wrote this document in 1999.

Ever wonder how to make one of those fancy throw bags similar to those commercial ones? I did ever since they decided to change the boating laws and make canoeists/kayakers carry 15 metres of floatable rope. I figured it was better to carry rope in a bag than to have it get tangled in the boat.



I have spent quite a few hours looking at various white water throw bags and decided to combine features I found to my liking into one bag. The following is a guide complete with pictures on how I made my bag.

I do not have a fancy sewing machine. It is a 40 year old Singer. The hardest part of the whole project was finding the 500 denier codura nylon. You should be able to make this bag in about 1 to 1 1/2 hours depending on interruptions. I initially made twenty of these bags.

The same concept can be used to make replacement tent bags, etc.

Sewing terms:

right side	refers to good side of material you would see in the finished product. I look at it as the outside of the bag.
wrong side	refers to the other side of the material you won't see. I look at it as the inside of the bag.
seam allowances	refers to how close you are sewing to the edge of your material. All seam allowances are 1/4 inch.

Shopping List (starting from the top):



QTY Description

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | 15 inch by 18 inch 500 red dernier codura nylon. Smaller piece of codura nylon for the bottom. |
| 1 | 22 inch piece of 1 inch wide webbing. |
| 2 | 19 inch pieces of 1 inch wide webbing. |
| 1 | 48 inch piece of 1 inch wide webbing for optional belt. |
| 1 | 7 inch piece of 1 inch wide webbing. |
| 1 | 2 metre package 100% polyester 1 inch wide twill tape. |
| 1 | 1/2 inch grommet. You will need a special tool to install this. |
| 1 | 3/8 inch grommet. You will need a special tool to install this. |
| 1 | quick release buckle for use with 1 inch webbing. |
| 1 | quick release buckle for use with 1 inch webbing for optional belt. |
| 1 | 1 inch slider for optional belt. |
| 1 | D-ring for use with 1 inch webbing. |
| 1 | 22 inch piece of cord for use as drawstring. |
| 1 | cord lock. |
| 1 | Large metal washer with a 1/2 inch hole. |
| 1 | 7 inch by 7 inch piece of closed cell foam. |
| 60 | feet good quality floating rope. Contact your local Canoe and Kayak Store. |
| 1 | Roll Black CSB 69 nylon thread. |

Material preparation/placement:

Sear all edges of material and nylon webbing with a candle, lighter, etc. Place the 15 inch side at the top and bottom with the right side facing up. The right hand edge of the fabric will become the bottom of the bag.

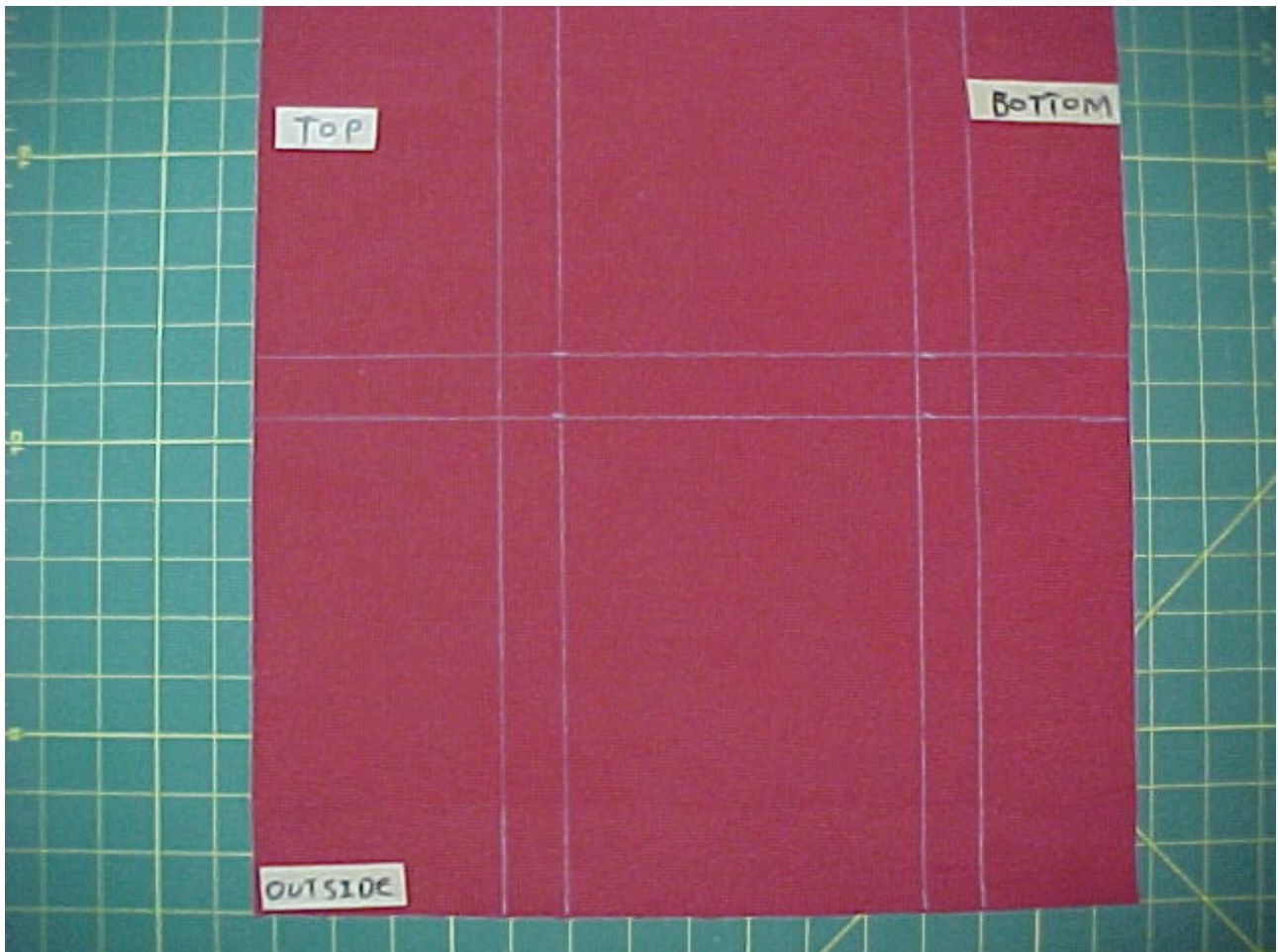
Vertical lines (made on 15 inch wide side):

Mark a line $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches at the top and bottom edge of the material from the right side. Make another line 1 inch to the left of this. This is where the 1 inch nylon will sit.

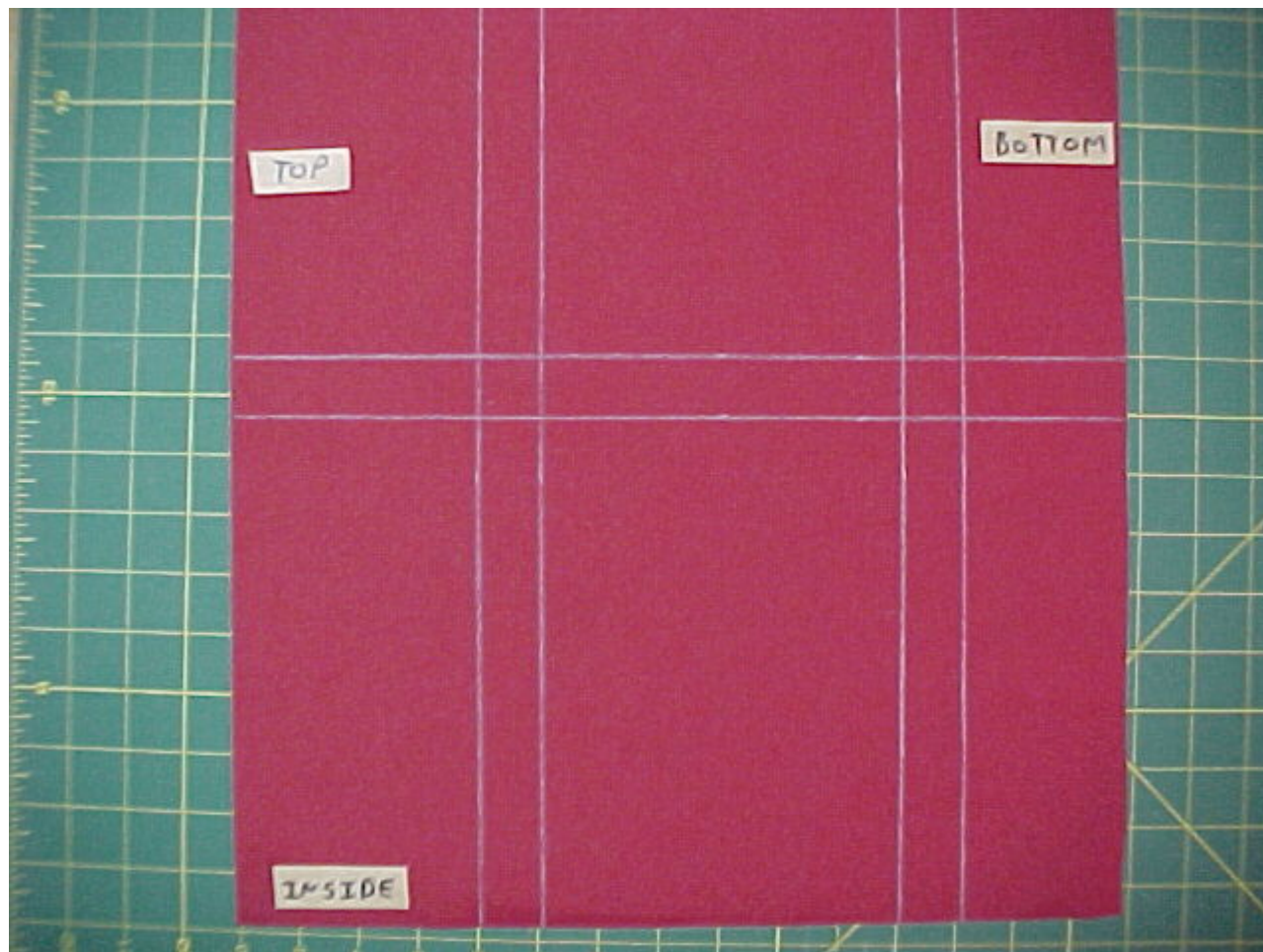
Mark another line $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches from the right side. Make another line 1 inch to the left of this. This is where the 1 inch nylon will sit.

Horizontal lines (made on 18 inch wide side):

Mark a line $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top side. Make another line 1 inch below. This is where the 1 inch nylon will sit.



I also made the same corresponding marks on the wrong side of the material as my sewing machine had a hard time sewing properly on the coated side of the nylon. I sewed from the wrong side through to the right side by using the lines as a guide for my pressure foot.

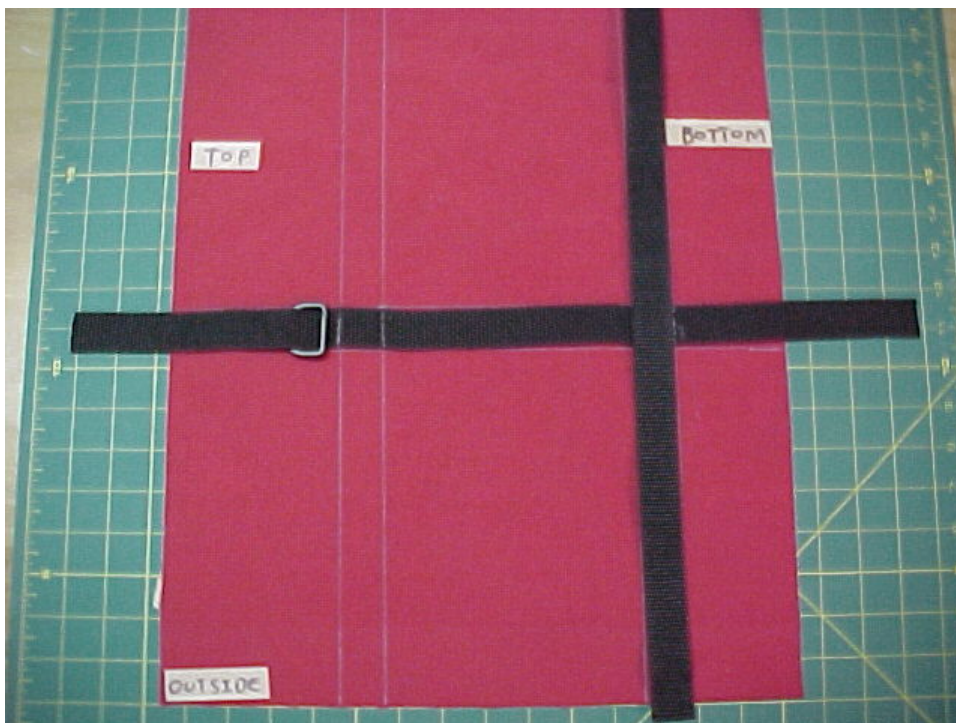


Webbing Placement:

Take the 21 inch piece of webbing and 1 inch D ring. Measure a mark 6 1/4 inches from one end. The end with the mark will be placed on the right hand edge of the first line. The D ring will be placed on the edge of the farthest left hand line.



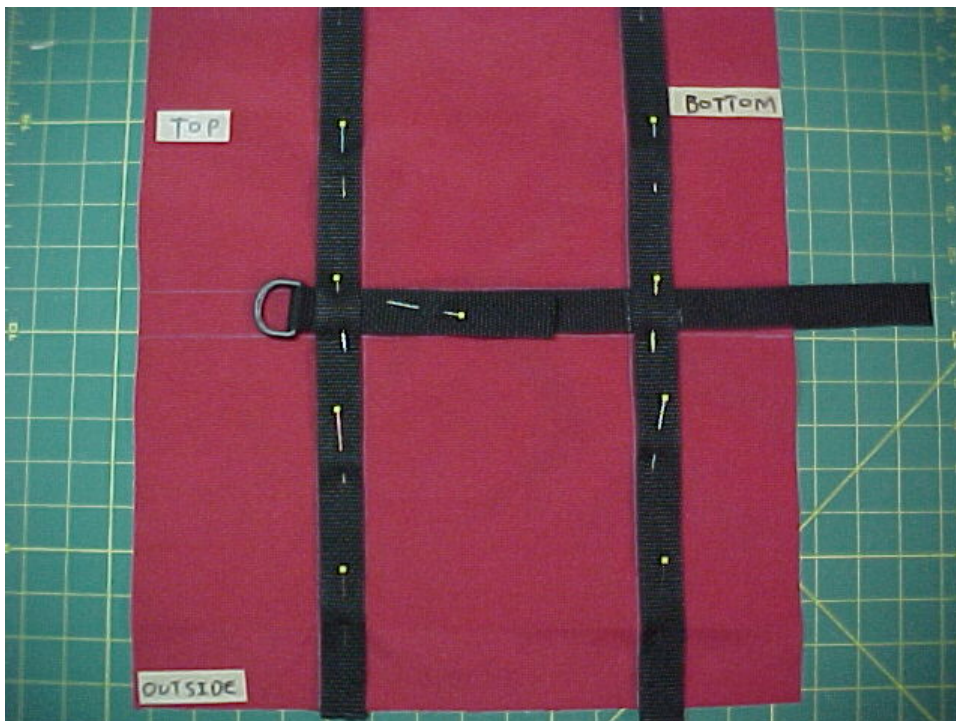
Place one of the 19 inch pieces of webbing vertically over the first piece. Remember that the little tail left on the right hand side is 6 1/4 inches.



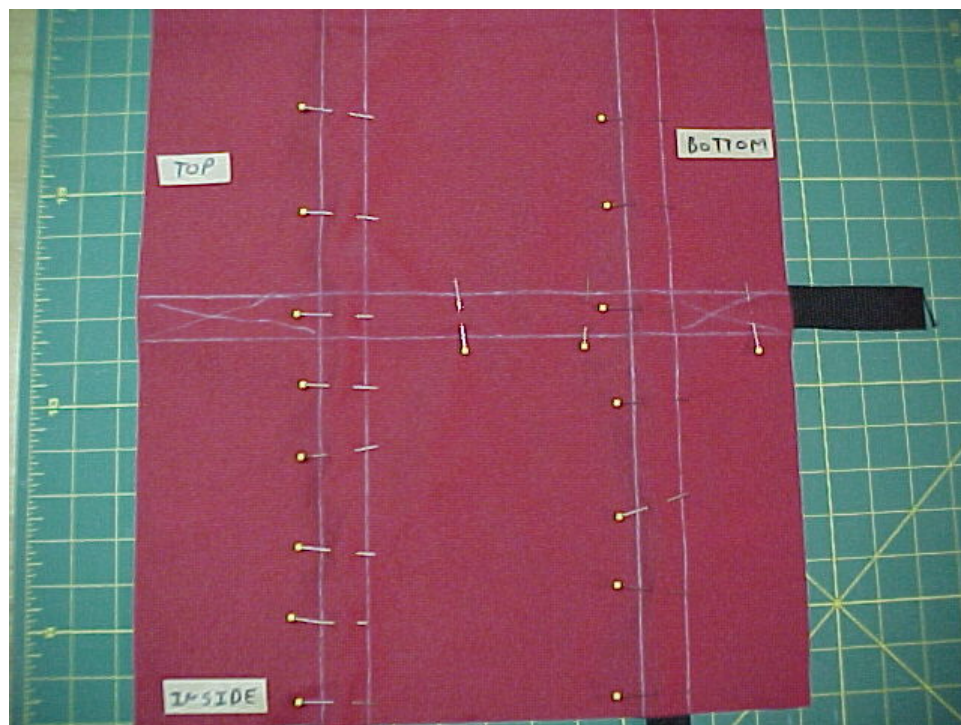
Pin through both pieces of webbing and codura nylon at the cross. Fold the webbing from the left side over the buckle and pin it as well. There should be about 1/8 inch between the edge of the buckle and the edge of the farthest left hand line.



Take the remaining 19 inch piece of webbing and place it vertically over the folded over webbing at the D ring side. This means that there will be three layers of webbing and one layer of codura nylon. Pin it as well. Add a few extra pins to the webbing to keep the pieces from moving around.



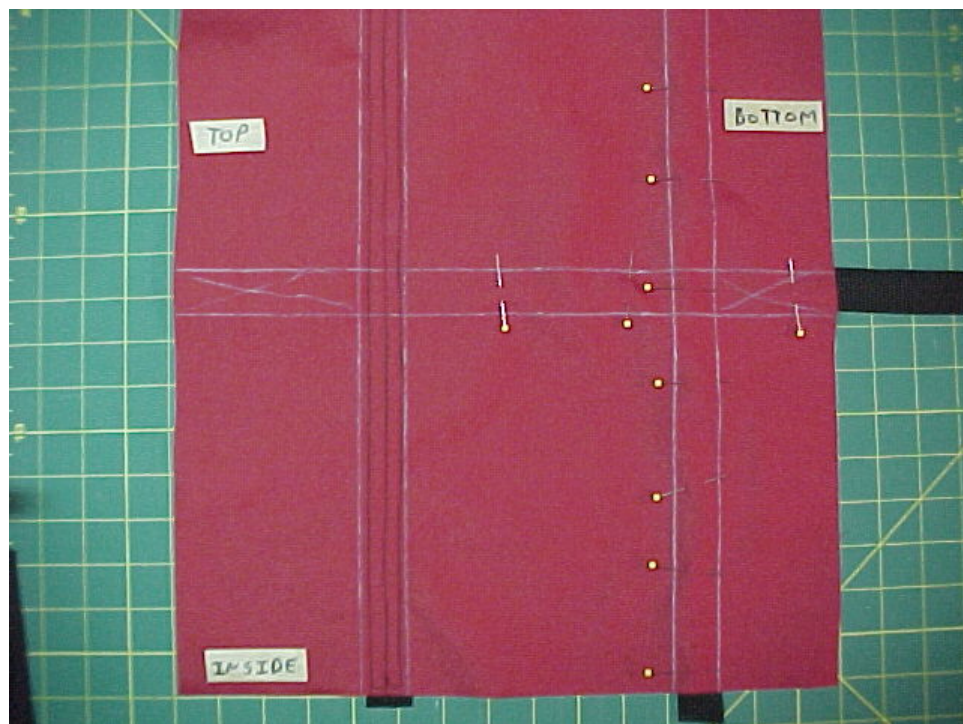
Flip the entire piece upside down. Thoroughly pin the webbing to the fabric. Remove the pins from the previous step once all the new pins are in place. You will be sewing from the wrong side through to the right side of the fabric. The wrong side of the fabric has a coating on it which makes it hard for it to slide as you are sewing.



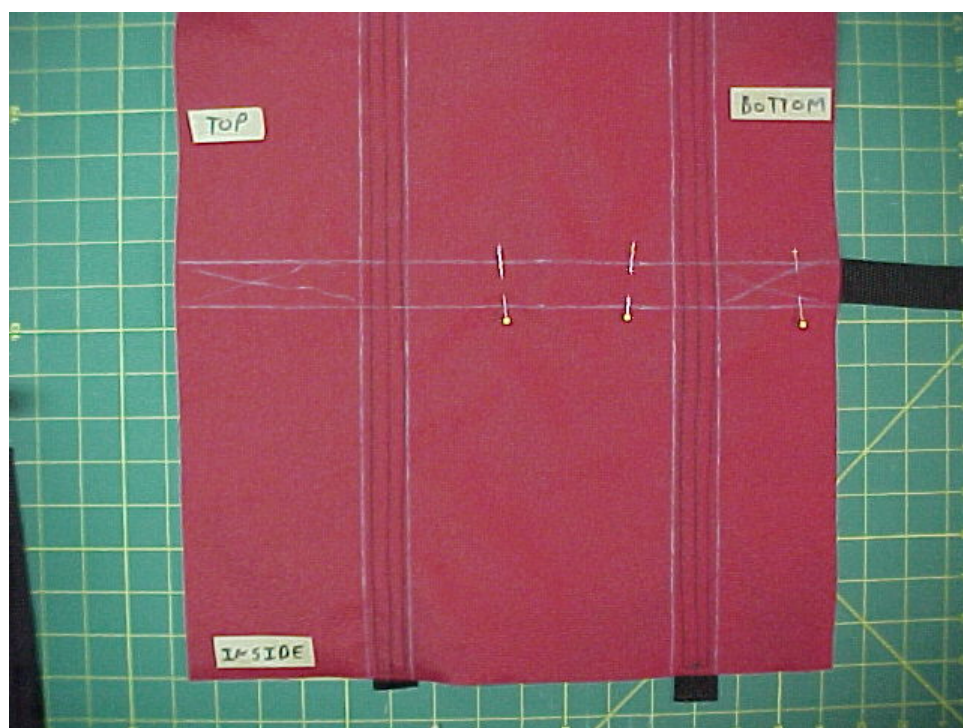
There will be three rows of stitching per piece of webbing. it is basically 1/8 inch from each side and once down the middle.



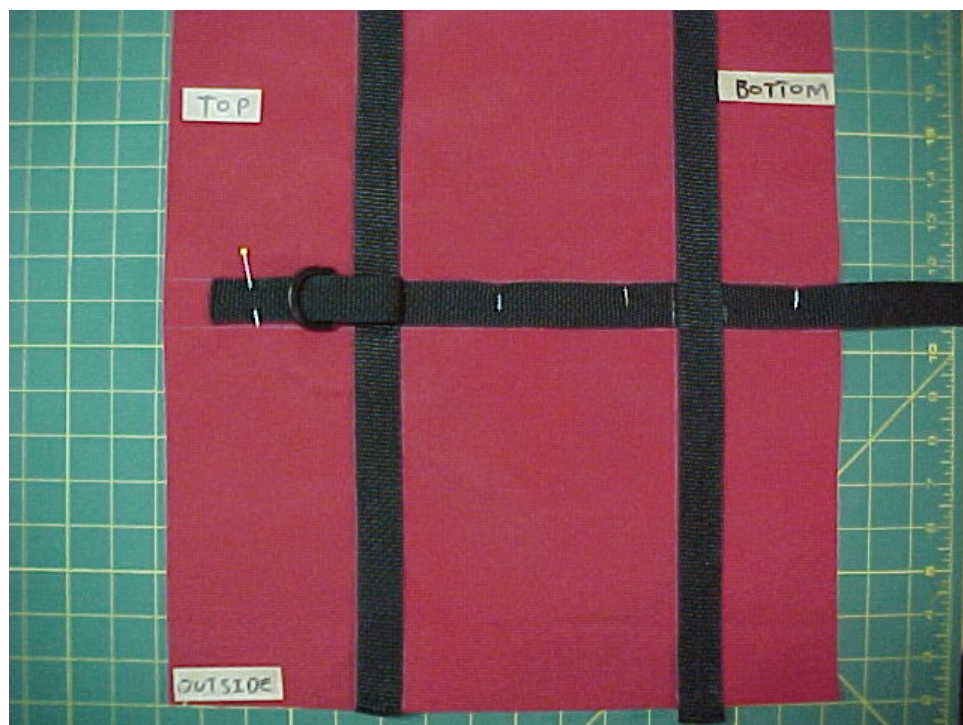
Stitch the left hand vertical line.



Stitch the right hand vertical line.



Flip the material over and pin the right hand tail of webbing through to the other side of the D ring. You do not want to sew your future handle to the other piece of webbing.



Flip the material back over and stitch only the middle piece of the horizontal webbing.



Sewing the side edge:

Pin the right sides of the material together matching up the webbing.



Stitch 1/4 inch along the edge. This edge will eventually be stitched two more times later on for extra strength.



Trim edge clean to a 1/4 inch from your stitched in case of a mistake (it happened to me).



Take a piece of 1 inch twill tape and pin it to the edge of the bag by folding it in half. Be patient as this can be upsetting if you are all thumbs ;) The twill tape is used to give you a nice clean edge. It will also prevent fraying of the material.



Stitch along the twill tape about an 1/8 inch down **each** edge of twill tape. This completes the edge stitching of the bag with three strong stitch lines. It should not come apart.



Sewing the bottom edge:

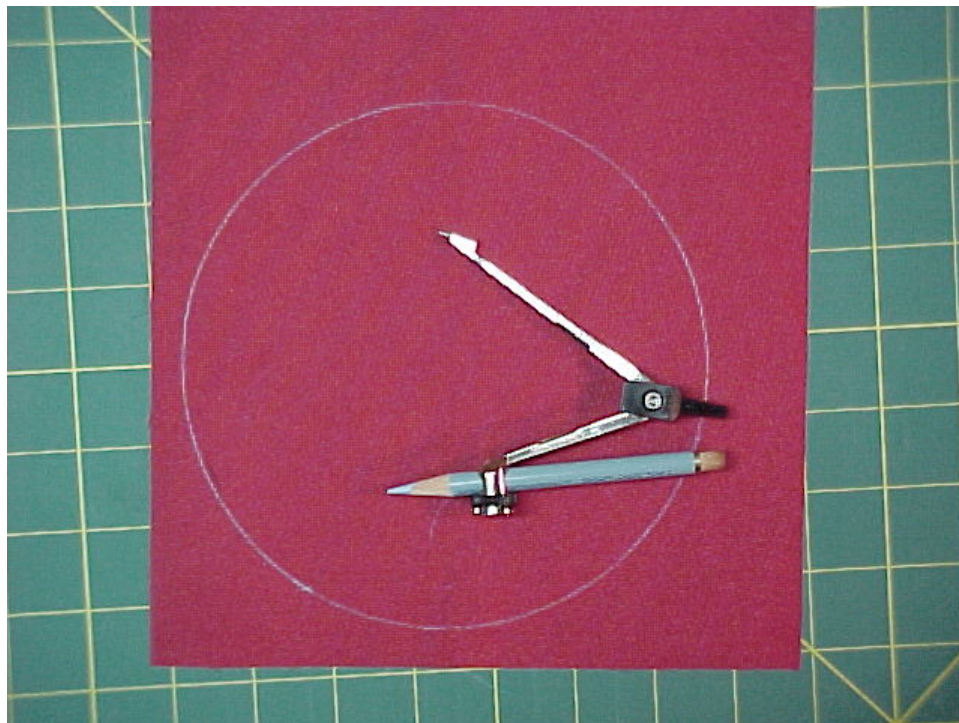
Turn the bag right side out. Carefully measure the circumference of the bottom of the bag.



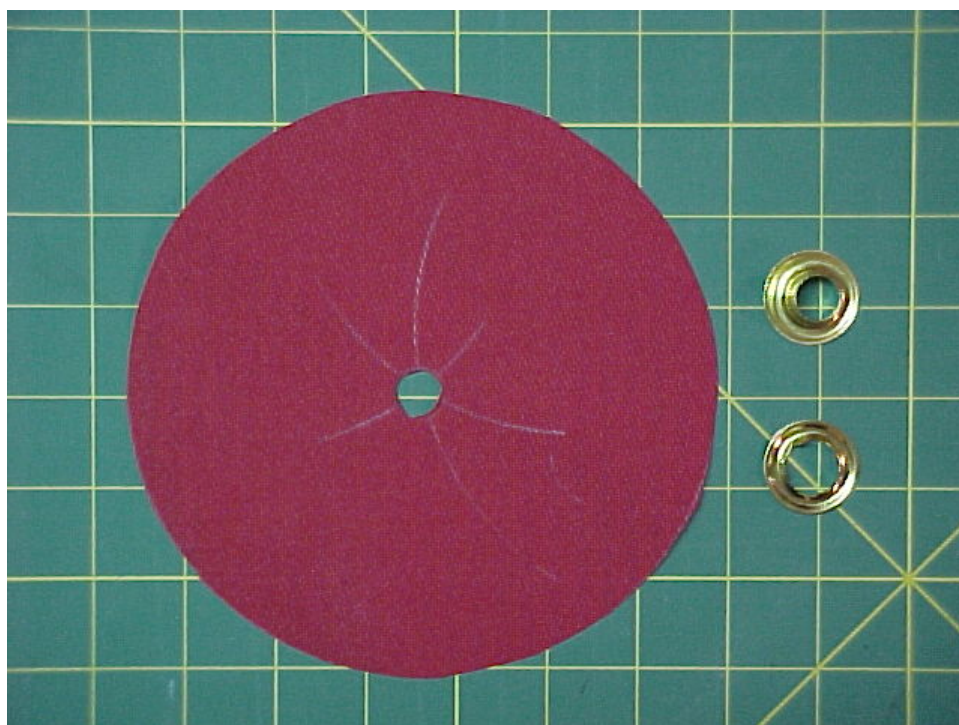
Take the circumference of the bag (in my case 17.25 inches)
and divide it by 3.14.

$17.25 / 3.14 = 5.49$ inches + 1 inch for seam gives a circle with a circumference of 6.49 inches.

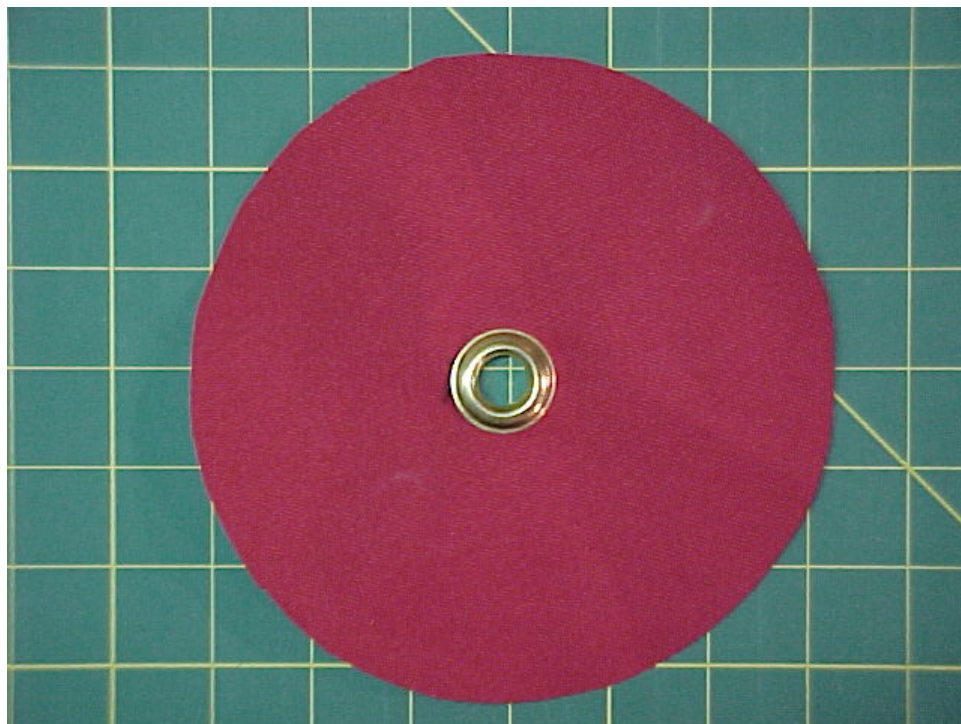
Make a circle using a compass set for your required circumference.



Punch a 1/2 inch hole into the centre of the circle using your grommet kit cutting tool.



Install the 1/2 inch grommet with the nice solid side of the grommet on the right side of the material.



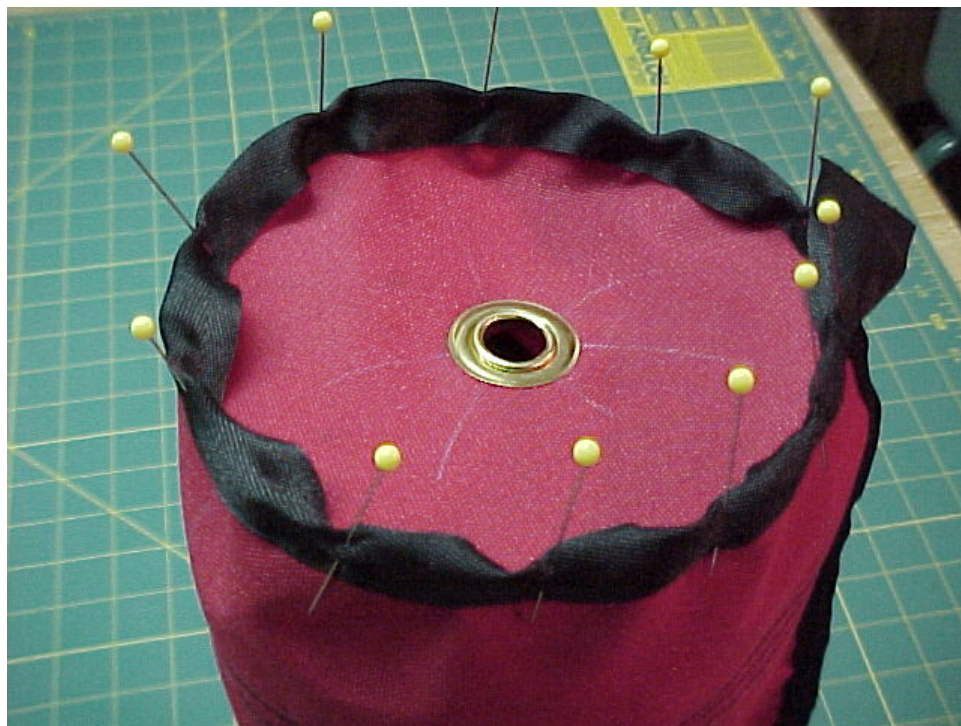
Turn the bag inside out and pin the circle to the bottom of the bag (be careful as it is easy to get a pin stuck in your fingers).



Stitch 1/2 inch from bottom edge of bag.



Trim edge clean by removing about 1/8 inch. Take a piece of 1 inch twill tape and pin it to the edge of the bag by folding it in half.



Stitch along the twill tape about and 1/8 inch down each edge of twill tape. This completes the edge stitching of the bag with three strong stitch lines. It should not come apart.



Turn the bag right side out. The bottom should look something like this.



Sewing the top edge:

At this point you can sew on the clip connector. The female clip on the right hand side can have a webbing fold over of about 2 inches. The male clip on the left hand side can be 1.5 inches. I would start by pinning the webbing to clips. Fasten the clips together and see how much room you have as they make your handle. Adjust as necessary.

Fold the left hand side out so it forms a 1.75 inch ring with the right side of the material meeting the right side of the material. You will see the coating of the inside of the material on the outside. The reason the material is folded to the outside is to prevent a gumming effect of the cord. The coated side of the material would wear off over time and slide around with cord.



The fold can be adjusted as required. You basically need about an 1/8 inch at the top edge of the grommet once it is installed. You will also need about an 1/8 inch below the grommet plus and extra 1/4 inch for folding over to make a clean edge.

Install the 3/8 inch grommet and cord. Keep the cord as close to the underside of the outside top edge of the bag.



Pin the top edge of the bag. Make sure you fold under the 1/4 inch below the grommet.





Stitch 1/8 inch from the 1/4 folded under edge. Make sure you do not sew the material to the drawstring cord.

Install cordlock.



Take remaining 7 inch piece of webbing and pin it on both sides of the edge of the bag. This will make a place to put your thumb as you are repacking the bag with rope. I am right handed and placed thumb handle on the left hand side of the bag as the handle is facing away from me. The thumb handle in the following picture is for a left handed person.



Stitch a 1 inch square section of the webbing at the bottom raw edge of the thumb handle (not the loop end). Make sure you do not sew the handle to the drawstring cord.



Installing the rope:

Cut a circle out of the closed cell foam. It should be a snug fit in the bottom of the bag. Cut a 1/2 inch hole in the centre of the bag.

Take one end of your rope. Measure about 2 feet of rope and tie a knot. Slide a large washer onto the rope. Slide the foam circle onto the rope. Insert the end of the rope through the 1/2 inch grommet at the bottom of the bag. Adjust as necessary.



Tie a knot at the end of the rope with a loop large enough to grab with your hand.



Optional belt:

An optional belt can be made for the above completed bag.

Attach female end of clip to one end of webbing with 1.5 inch fold over and stitch.

Slide 1 inch slider onto free end of webbing.

Slide male end of clip onto free end. Take free end of webbing and back feed it through bottom side of slider. Pull some of the webbing through with 1.5 inch fold over and stitch.

Look at any of those fanny pack wallet carriers if this does not make sense.



Bag and belt with unfastened clips.



Belt attached to bag.



Belt separated from bag with bag clip fastened forming small handle.



That's it. Your done:)