

School Book Bag with fold over pocket

1. Cut one rectangle 30 inches x 14 inches for body of bag, two strips 22 inches x 3 inches for the bag handles, and one rectangle 21 inches x 8 inches for the pocket.

Use $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seams unless otherwise instructed.

2. To make the fold over pocket, stitch under $\frac{3}{8}$ inch on each of the short (8 inch) ends.

3. With the pocket lying wrong side down, fold the top of the pocket down 3 inches. Now fold the bottom of the pocket up until it overlaps the top by 1 inch. Pin in place, and sew side seams. Turn pocket inside out. Press.

4. On right side of one side of bag, center pocket at least 3 inches from top edge. Stitch along outer sides and bottom of pocket, leaving the top open as an additional storage pocket. Reinforce stitching at top corners.

5. For bag, fold rectangle in half, right sides together. Stitch sides, finishing seams with a zigzag stitch, French seams, or reinforce side seams by stitching twice. Make seams strong enough for the weight of books.

6. Turn top edge of bag under $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch, wrong sides together, and press. Finish raw edge by turning under $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and stitch hem in place.

7. Handles: Fold each strap in half, wrong sides together, then turn raw edges to inside of fold; press. Stitch together open side of handles near the edge; finish handles by stitching along opposite edge.

8. Position ends of one handle on same side of bag, with each end 2 inches from side seams. Repeat with other handle on other side of bag. Stitch in place, reinforcing attachment with a zigzag stitch diagonally. Make sure handles are securely stitched to bag.

9. Turn bag right side out and press.

