

BOOMbox at Home

No-Sew Dice Bag

This simple drawstring bag is a great way to start using fabric. The basic design produces a bag you can use to hold dice, miniatures, coins, or other small objects. For an additional challenge, add decoration with embroidery or make a larger bag to hold bigger items.

Supplies

- Scissors
- Pencil
- Ribbon, yarn, or cord
- Felt (12" x 12" or larger)
- Fabric of choice for lining (12" x 12" or larger)
- Pins
- Large bead (optional)
- Tracing paper (optional)
- Embroidery floss (optional)
- Embroidery needle (optional)
- Embroidery hoop (optional)



Embroidery

- Sewing is not necessary to make this bag, but embroidery, or decorative stitching, can add some extra character and customization. If you do want to add embroidery, it's a good idea to do so before assembling the bag.
- Decide on the design you'd like to embroider. Some options you might want to consider are your name, your character's name, dice, or symbols. Draw out the design on tracing paper.
- If you are using a thicker fabric like felt, you may not need an embroidery hoop. If you are using a thin or stretchy fabric, you will want to use an embroidery hoop to hold the fabric taut while you work. This prevents wrinkles or movement in the fabric that might mess up your design.
- After placing your fabric in the hoop, if you are using one, position the tracing paper where you want your design to be and pin it in place. Remember to account for the shape of the bag. For this project, it may be a good idea to fold your circle in half and position your design about 1 inch above the fold. If you prefer, you can also draw your design directly on the fabric with chalk, a washable marker, or a fine-point pencil or pen that will be completely covered by the thread. However, these methods don't allow as much flexibility for making changes to your design as the tracing paper does.

- Thread your needle. Embroidery floss is made up of 6 strands. It is up to you whether you want to separate the threads and embroider using only 2 or 3 strands at a time or just use all 6. Using fewer strands is like using a fine-point pen.
- Stitch your design through the felt and tracing paper. Don't worry if the tracing paper tears a little. It will be removed in the end.
- When you're finished stitching, gently tear away the tracing paper. It should come away easily without damaging the stitching.

Assembling the Bag

- Use a dinner plate or other round object to trace a large circle on your felt. The size of your circle will determine the size of your final bag. Carefully cut out the circle.
- Repeat with the lining fabric.
- If you'd like, add embroidery to the felt circle.
- Pin the two circles together, right sides out. If needed, trim the edges so the circles better align.
- Cut 24 slits around the edges of the circles. The slits should begin at least ¼" inside the edge of the fabric.
- Starting from the felt side, thread your ribbon, yarn, or cord through the slits.
- Trim the ends of your cord. You can choose to tie a small knot at each end and manually tie and untie the bag, or you can thread both ends through a large bead and tie the ends together. You can then slide the bead to open and close the bag.

Want to explore more?

- Check out [this guide](#) to 15 basic embroidery stitches. The example bag on the previous page was embroidered using back stitch and a french knot.
- Looking for an extra challenge? [This dice bag](#) requires some sewing but is beginner friendly.

What will you learn today?

Send a photo of your project to mycreation@skokielibrary.info and we may feature it on social media.