

Sewing Saturday: Drawstring Fish Bags

July 9th at 10:00 am in the Taylor Public Library Meeting Room.
This is a free program with some extra supplies.

This is a fun project with options as to design and colors. Pick out some cute cotton fabric or funky buttons for eyes.

Included in this project are patterns for:

1. Short & simple fish bag
2. Longer & more decorated fish bag
3. Options for fins: best suited for the larger fish bag

What is required:

1. One or two fat quarters of cotton fabric
2. White felt for eyes
3. Black felt for eyes OR 2 large matching buttons
4. Fusible fleece: not much—to keep the fins in shape!
5. Sewing machine—one that actually works. The instructor will bring 2 extra sewing machines.
6. Other sewing notions such as pins, fabric scissors, seam ripper, etc.
7. Pencil or chalk to mark fabric
8. String or thin ribbon for the drawstring

Included here:

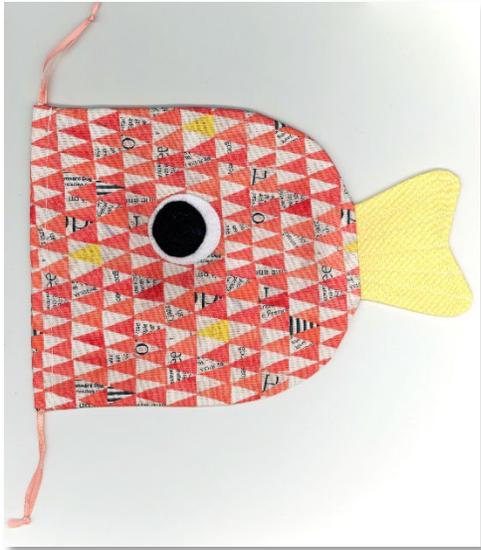
1. Templates for fish bodies (short and longer)
2. Templates for fins & eyes
3. Some sewing instructions on the template themselves.

If you don't have all the supplies listed above, don't panic; the instructor will bring some of these. Walmart has the basics needed in their rather meager sewing/craft area.

How to use the templates:

The templates should be printed out on card stock—the idea here is to trace the outline of the template and then use that tracing as your stitching line. That means you will NOT cut the line, but cut around the tracing, giving yourself some room to sew. You can trim it down after all the stitching is done. Please double check with the instructions on the templates.

Why are there 1-inch squares? Because sometimes your printer will not print out the exact size. That makes a big difference to how everything matches up. Those squares help you double check.



Example 1.

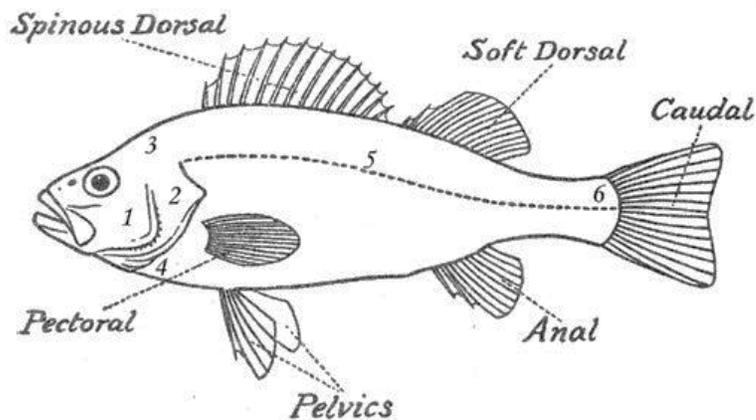
Here is an example of the short & simple fish drawstring bag. There's a tail fin, eyes and a huge gapping mouth. When you pull the drawstrings, the bag closes and the fish has puckered lips.

Example 2.

The blue fish is the longer fish bag and has more fins. Some of these elements need to be attached before the bag is stitched together—it is harder to get the pectoral fins on once the bag is sewn together.



For actually anatomically correct fin names & placement, please see the diagram below. However, we are making cute fish with or without a lot of fins, so don't get too hung up on it!

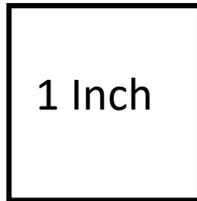


Smaller Fish

Center for Eye



1 Inch



Center for tail fin



Cut 2 out of cotton fabric.

Attach eyes and pectoral fins if desired before sewing the body together.

Pin finished fins and tail inside the seam line.

Place each right side to right side and stitch around with a 1/4" seam allowance, leaving the mouth open. Stop seams at the triangles and reinforce.

Before turning right side out, Iron the seams open from the triangles to the end of the drawstring channel. Iron the 1/4 fold on both sides of fish. Then turn in 1/2" fold to make the channel. Stitch the down the fold again, creating the drawstring channel.

1/2" Fold—stitching line for drawstring channel



1/2" Fold

1/4" fold

Larger Fish

Center for tail fin

1 Inch



Center for
Eye

Cut 2 out of cotton fabric.

Attach eyes and pectoral fins if desired before sewing the body together.

Pin finished fins and tail inside the seam line.

Place each right side to right side and stitch around with a 1/4" seam allowance, leaving the mouth open. Stop seams at the triangles and reinforce.

Before turning right side out, iron the seams open from the triangles to the end of the drawstring channel. Iron the 1/4 fold on both sides of fish. Then turn in 1/2" fold to make the channel. Stitch the down the fold again, creating the drawstring channel.

1/2" Fold—Stitching line for drawstring channel

1/2" fold

1/4" fold

Fins and things: For the eyes, please note that you cut to the edge. For the other fins, what you see is the sewing line, so cut extra around the template so you have enough room to sew around the shape.

