

Quick and easy Shopping bag with storage pouch,
made from a T-shirt



Start with a heavy-duty T-shirt. A school gym shirt or college sports shirt works great.



Cut both sleeves off. Make sure you LEAVE THE SEAM on the shirt.



Both sleeves cut off



Trim the neckline into a square-ish shape. This makes the handles even on both sides.



Take the two cut-off sleeves. Turn one inside-out.



Slide the right-side-out sleeve into the inside-out sleeve so the two right sides (outsides) are together.



Line up the two sleeves so the hems are together, nice and even. Note the seams are along the same sides (one inside, one outside).



Sew the two sleeves together about 1/2" in from the cut edge.



The doubled sleeve will become the “storage bag”.



Trim two tiny holes on either side of the sleeve seam...



(two holes in hem)



...and one hole on the opposite side of the sleeve.



Three holes shown.



Cut a piece of cord so when it's folded in half it is slightly longer than the width of the sleeve.



Thread the cord into the hem of the sleeve. I used a straw to guide it through.

(Slice the tip of a straw into an angle. Slide the cord into the bottom of the straw a few inches. Pinch the straw where the cord is to pull it through.)



Slide the cord from a Hem hole to the Opposite hole.
Slide the cord back into the Opposite hole and out the other
Hem hole.



Tie a knot in the cord.



Fold the bottom of the shirt and sew a seam across the whole thing. Having the fold at the bottom will make the bag stronger than if you simply sewed the shirt closed.

You might want to sew this seam twice anyway. It will be carrying the weight of everything you put inside of the bag.



Attach the sewn sleeves back onto the shirt:

Make sure the sewn sleeves are inside out. Pin the hem (without the cord) along the side of the bag, just under one arm... er, I mean under one handle.



Sew the sleeve(s) in place, using a stretchy stitch.
This is the storage pouch.



Here's the inside of the bag, with the storage pouch underneath.



Turn the bag right side in. It is ready to be used now. Or you can decorate the cut edges with ribbon or other decorations.



Ready to put your bag away? Turn it inside out.
Take the sewn sleeves and...



..stuff the T-shirt bag inside.



Pull the string and your bag is nicely tucked away in the storage pouch.