

Family Art from Home

Brown Paper Bag Sami Pouch

by Radka Apostalon

Sámi People are reindeer herders living in the north of the Scandinavian countries and Russia known for their beautiful and functional 'duodji' (handicraft). The pouches are made out of reindeer skin, embroidered in bright colors and sometimes decorated with beads. Inspired by this traditional art form, you will make your own pouch out of a brown paper bag.



Supplies Needed

- Brown paper shopping bag or brown butcher's paper
- Hot glue or Elmer's glue
- Stapler
- Paint, brush
- Scissors
- Ribbon, string
- Skewer
- Hairpin (optional)

How to Do it

1. Cut the brown paper into two 7x 10 inch pieces and several smaller ones that will serve as decoration of the pouch itself. Crumple tightly, spread and gently smooth to flatten the strips. Repeat until the creases are not pronounced. Treat the smaller brown paper pieces with paint and if you prefer more colorful rendition, paint all the pieces. Let dry. If tassels are desired, make a "fringe" out of the smaller painted pieces.

2. From the two large pieces, cut out two identical pouch shapes with round corners. Fold and glue the top of both pieces to create a channel for the ribbon after final assembly.



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3. Cut out decorative shapes from the painted pieces and glue them on the pouch piece. Alternately the decorations can be also painted directly skipping the decorative gluing altogether.

4. Attach both pouch pieces, using hot glue or a stapler except for the ribbon channel. Make sure the decorative side is facing inside.

6. Once you are finished gluing, turn the pouch inside out carefully so the seam is hidden. Push out the seam from the inside so the pouch can 'puff up'.

7. Roll tassels and secure their ends with a small drop of glue to prevent unrolling. Set aside.

8. Push a skewer through the ribbon channel first to make sure it can get smoothly through. Guide the ribbon through the entire channel. If it is difficult to do, use a hairpin as a needle for the ribbon to guide it through.

9. Attach the prepared tassels to both ends of the ribbon with the hot glue.

The pouch can carry your treasures, a small birthday gift, herbs or a small token close to your heart.

