

Sewing Bags

ALLFREESEWING 



Tutorials You'll Love & 10 Free Purse Sewing Patterns

Sewing Bags: Tutorials You'll Love & 10 Free Purse Sewing Patterns

Copyright 2012 by Prime Publishing LLC

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without written permission from the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

Trademarks are property of their respective holders. When used, trademarks are for the benefit of the trademark owner only.

Published by Prime Publishing LLC, 3400 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL 60062 – www.primecp.com

ALLFREESEWING

Free Patterns To Keep You In Stitches

[Free Sewing Projects](#)

ALLFREECROCHET 
Free Crochet Patterns For Happy Hooking

[Free Crochet Projects](#)

ALLFREEKNITTING 
Free Knitting Patterns for Happy Stitching

[Free Knitting Projects](#)

favecrafts   

[Free Craft Projects](#)

FAVEQUILTS 
Quilts, Fabric, and More

[Free Sewing Projects](#)

ALLFREESEWING 
Free Patterns To Keep You In Stitches

[Free Quilt Projects](#)

ALLFREEBEADEDJEWELRY
"Learn to Make Fabulous Jewelry and More"

[Free Beaded Jewelry Projects](#)

AllFreeHolidayCrafts     
Creations and Celebrations for Every Occasion

[Free Holiday Projects](#)

ALLFREECHRISTMASCRAFTS  
Create The Christmas Of Your Dreams

[Free Christmas Projects](#)

ALLFREECROCHETAFGHANPATTERNS

Your #1 Source for Free Crochet Afghan Patterns

[Free Crochet Afghan Projects](#)

Letter from the Editors

Hi Sewists,

Whether you're just starting out or you've been sewing all your life, there's a certain gratification that comes from completing a sewn bag or purse. Maybe it's the fact that you can wear your new masterpiece out and about for the world to admire! Or, maybe you just love creating something that's as useful as it is cute. We've rounded up 10 of our favorite free purse patterns to create this eBook. Inside you'll find different kinds of bags and purses we think you'll love. From DIY clutches to beach bags perfect for summer, all of our tutorials are designed to lead you through each step. We hope you enjoy these fun purse and bag projects.

Happy Sewing!

You can find additional bags and purses, home décor ideas and more at www.AllFreeSewing.com.

Our eBooks, like all our sewing projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our sewing community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

Happy Sewing,

The Editors of AllFreeSewing

www.AllFreeSewing.com

Sewing Bags: Tutorials You'll Love & 10 Free Purse Sewing Patterns

Bright Beach Bag Pattern	5	Swimming Bag Tutorial.....	18
Burlap Purse With Shabby Rose.....	6	Vintage Pillowcase Laundry Bag Tutorial.....	23
DIY Envelope Clutch	8	Drawstring Pouch Tutorial	27
Not Just Another Pretty Purse	11	Girly Ruffled Sling Bag.....	31
Emergency Zippered Pouch	12		
Linen Travel Jewelry Bag.....	15		

- 1 1/4 yard pre-quilted fabrics (bag body and sides)
- 1/2 yard traditional cotton (pockets and binding)
- 1 1/2 yard cotton webbing

Bright Beach Bag Pattern

By: Jen Eskridge for Reanna Lily Designs

Use this beach bag pattern to create a quilted bag large enough to fit sun screen, flip flops, towels and other beach necessities. This beach bag features two large pockets on each end and is soft and machine washable.



[Download the PDF](#) to find all step-by-step instructions and photos.

Materials:

- 1 1/3 yard main fabric (bag body and binding)
- 7/8 yard fabric (side panel + pockets)
- 1 crib size pre-packed batting
- 1 1/2 yard cotton webbing (handles)
- I started with an old T-shirt and a yard of coordinating fabric. Originally I was going to use an old men's shirt for the skirt part, but this fabric matched too well to not use it.

NOTE: Make this bag even quicker by purchasing the following instead of the suggested materials:

Burlap Purse With Shabby Rose

By: Nancy for La Maison Reid

You'd be surprised to hear that you can make a lovely purse like the Burlap Purse With Shabby Rose for around \$5! Similar bags could set you back close to \$100. Use this free purse pattern to be both smart and stylish.



Materials:

- Burlap material for outside
- Cotton fabric for inside lining



1) I made this bag for about \$5.50. It was pretty easy to do. I started by cutting the bottom front and back. Cut two pieces 10" high x 18" wide. I made six pleats along the top, each pleat facing the center of the rectangle. After these were pinned in place I basted it on the sewing machine. Do this for both the front and back of the purse. Notice that the top is now curved. The piece that goes on top of this will need to be fitted. for mine because then it's already hemmed! You'll need enough fabric for 1.5 x your hip measurement, cut to about 20" in length.



2) Now measure the width of top (above the pleats) along the curve line with a soft tape measure. Mine measured 13" but this size will depend on how deep you make your pleats. Cut two pieces of burlap 5" tall x width of your top (5" x 13" for mine).

When I went to pin this piece on, it appeared to be WAY too small. Don't freak out! Just follow the curve at the top and ease it into place. Sew these two pieces together. Now you can start on one side of the purse and sew down one side seam, the bottom seam and then up the other side seam in one swoop! Make your lining exactly like the outside and place it inside, wrong sides together.



3) Before you sew the lining to the outside make your straps. I cut two strips 22"x3". Sew with 1/2" seam and turn inside out. Put these in between the lining and the outside and sew it all up. On this tote I put the straps side to side rather than front to back like I did in the first Burlap Tote (Tutorial). This is more of a "purse" while the first one I made is more like a "tote."



4) Now make a shabby rose! It's easy to do and there are lots of good tutorials out

there.



DIY Envelope Clutch

By: Valerie for Insatiable Need

You'll be set back about fifty bucks for a similar store bought clutch. Create the DIY Envelope Clutch yourself and you'll save money and have a bag specially made for you! Learn how to make a clutch bag with this helpful tutorial.

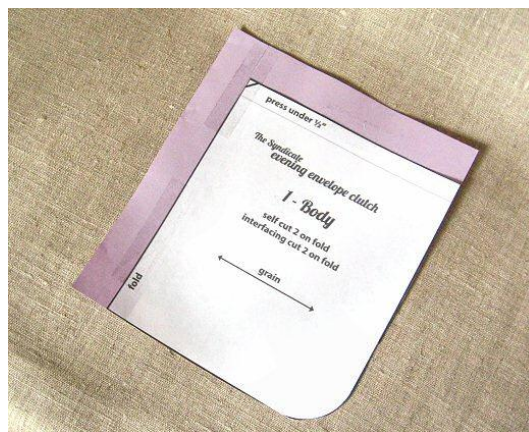


Materials:

- Zipper
- This clutch can be made from upholstery fabric, denim, corduroy, leather, suede, or vinyl
- Optional: colorful thread for topstitching, ribbon for embellishment

This is a variation of [my evening envelope clutch sewing pattern](#). My pattern includes a flap with optional piping and a magnetic snap closure, and is about medium-sized.

For this version, I wanted a trendier look, so I left off the flap, and made it a bit bigger. Oversized clutches have been all over the runways since last spring, and if the current runways are any indication, they're not going away anytime soon!



1. Alter the pattern:

It's super easy to adjust the size and shape of this clutch. I wanted mine to be a bit taller and a bit wider, so I just taped 1" strips to my existing pattern piece.

I also wanted to use a zipper, instead of the magnetic snap that the original pattern calls for, so I had to make sure it was wide enough to accommodate the 12" zipper I had.

Since I like to sew with a 3/8" seam allowance, I made sure my new pattern was wide enough to have at least a 1/2" clearance at either end of the zipper.

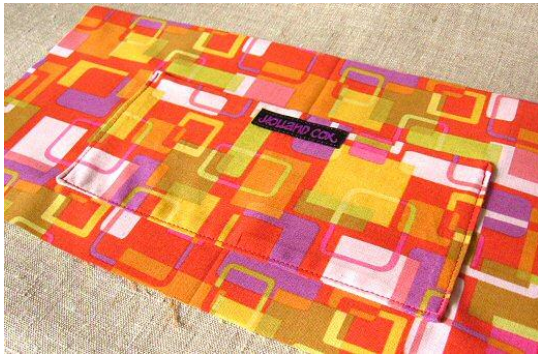


2. Cut the fabric:

This clutch is so simple that you could make it out of nearly anything... something really

heavyweight like upholstery fabric, denim, or corduroy, or something lighter like silk dupioni.

This clutch works great in leather, suede, or vinyl as well. Remember to use a Teflon or plastic zipper foot on your machine when sewing with leather. Or just stick a piece of frosted Scotch tape on the bottom of your regular foot. This prevents the metal foot from sticking to your leather, ultrasuede, vinyl or suede fabric.



3. Add a pocket:

For such a large clutch, you're going to need at least one pocket so your smaller goodies aren't floating around in the bottom of your bag all willy-nilly.

I used the pocket that came with the envelope clutch pattern, which is just a rectangular patch pocket. If you feel the need, make two instead of one. Sew one down the center to create two smaller pockets, for your iPhone or some other e-toy. Just one more way to further personalize your envelope clutch!



4. Insert the zipper:

Somehow zippers have gotten a bad rap...they are not nearly as scary as you might think! Don't be scared of zippers just because you're a new sewer!

My method for inserting a zipper in a handbag is super easy:

1. fold under and press a 1/2" hem along the top of the self and lining
2. line up the self and lining, wrong sides facing, so that the folded edges match exactly
3. pin the zipper tape in between these two layers
4. topstitch the zipper in place. Done!



5. Sew the bag together:

Can you believe we are almost done sewing!?! To sew the bag together, open the zipper all the

way, and then pin the self (the orange canvas on my bag) together with right sides facing, and do the same with the lining (the geometric print on my bag).

Remember to leave a hole in the bottom of the lining. Sew all the way around the bag, backstitching at each end of the opening, and over the side seams where the lining meets the self.

Turn right side out, close the hole in the lining, and that's it. You're done! Press your bag carefully and you're good to go!

Your finished clutch will be very, very flat, and ready to fill up with all your gear you need for a night on the town (or a day of errands...whatever).



Optional: Embellishments

I left mine plain (I rather think the bright "safety" orange speaks for itself), but this envelope clutch is ripe for all kinds of embellishments. You can really go wild with this if you want!

How about sewing on a wide strip of fabric in a contrasting color? Then you'd be even more on-trend, what with color blocking being so hot right now.

You could pin your favorite brooch to the bag, or even a wrap a necklace or a belt around your

clutch. (Check out the over-sized buckles on clutches at the spring 2012 Burberry Prorsum show last week.)



You could use topstitching thread to sew a design onto the surface of your bag, or use ribbon to add both a shot of color, and a contrasting texture.

Just remember to add any sewn embellishments to the bag before you insert the zipper (after you deal with the pockets in step three).

This bag took me about a half hour to make. With such minimal time investment, you could literally make one to wear this weekend!

[Pick up the envelope clutch sewing pattern](#) (it's an instant download PDF, so no waiting!) and make as-is, or with your own unique adjustments. If you do make changes, it would seriously make my day to see pictures of your version (or even if you don't)!

Not Just Another Pretty Purse

By: Sabra for Sew a Straight Line

Do you want to make something special? Something that's Not Just Another Pretty Purse? You've found the right project. With a unique shape, this purse can hold everything you need and is feminine and stylish.



Supplies:

- 1/2 yard main fabric
- 1/2 yard lining
- 1/2 yard interfacing or other stabilizer (I used fleece because I had it on hand and my other materials were thinner cotton so I needed something thick)
- 2 Magnetic closure/snaps

Optional:

Cell phone pocket:

-snap or Velcro, a closure of some sort

Zippered pocket:

-9 inch zipper

-material for pocket lining—two 10x10 pieces

-10 * 1.5 inch strip of medium weight interfacing

Key Fob:

-bag hook grabby thing—you know the kind that hold key rings

Covered Buttons:

-Covered button kit

-3*3 inch scrap of interfacing

False Bottom:

-fabric cut to fit the bottom pattern piece, *2

-interfacing or stabilizer cut to fit the bottom pattern piece

-plastic canvas cut to fit the bottom pattern piece, minus 1/2 inch on all sides

Piping:

-1/4 yard coordinating fabric -Corded elastic or other cording stuff

Download these PDFs for the patterns and instructions.

[PDF 1](#)

[PDF 2](#)

[PDF 3](#)

[PDF 4](#)

[PDF 5](#)

[Instructions](#)

Emergency Zippered Pouch

By: Lisa and Sarah for Spoonful of Sugar

The emergency zippered pouch is the perfect sized handy bag to store first aid supplies. Use the pouch to hold band aids or as a gift card holder. You can learn how to sew a zippered bag from this simple tutorial. Cute, easy and quick!



Materials:

- 4 charm squares (5 x 5 inches), two each for pouch outer and lining
- small piece of flannel for wadding
- scrap of white linen
- scrap of red homespun
- scrap of ribbon
- split ring
- 4 inch zipper



Cut Fabrics:

- White Linen - cut four squares, 1 x 1 inch
- Red Homespun - cut 2 squares, 1 x 1 inch; cut rectangle 1 x 2 inch.
- Outer fabric - cut 2 rectangles, 5 x 3 inches.
- Lining fabric - cut 2 rectangles, 5 x 3 inches
- Flannel - cut 2 rectangles, 5 x 3 inches
- Ribbon - cut one piece, 2 inches in length.

Sew Red Cross Path:

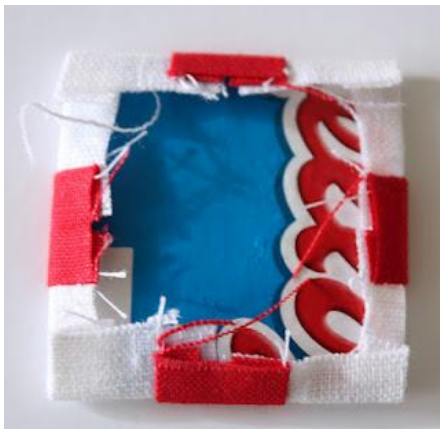


Referring to the photograph for placement, stitch a white square onto opposite sides of a red square. Press seams towards the red square.

Stitch a red/white unit to either side of the red rectangle. Press.



Cut a piece of cardboard that is 1 1/2 inches square. Lightly spray the Red Cross patch with spray starch. Place the patch wrong side up on your ironing board. Centre the cardboard square on the patch. Using the cardboard as a guide, press the seams inwards. Allow to cool and then remove the piece of cardboard. Your patch is now ready to stitch onto the pouch.



Install Zipper:

Layer a piece of the outside fabric onto a piece of flannel. Layer the zip on top with the right sides together and the long edge aligned, and stitch in place. Press, and then top stitch. Repeat for other side of the zip.



Pin the Red Cross to the middle of the pouch front and stitch in place. Fold the ribbon over the split ring and baste in place - referring to the photograph for placement.



I wanted a rounded bottom to my pouch so marked in some curved corners with a water erasable pen (I used a cotton reel as a template). With the zip open, and the wrong side of the pouch facing, pin in half. Stitch along sides and bottom of the pouch. Trim and clip corners.



With the right sides of the lining piece facing, pin together and mark the rounded corners. Stitch the lining sides and bottom together. Trim and clip corners. Press under 1/4 inch along the top edge.



Turn the pouch out the right way and press. Position the lining inside the pouch and attach in place by hand using a slip stitch. (For smaller pouches, I find hand stitching the lining gives a better result).



Linen Travel Jewelry Bag

By: Beverly for Flamingo Toes

Keep your jewelry safe and in one place when you travel. Learn how to make a drawstring bag that can hold your rings, necklaces, and bracelets in one compact bundle. Make this Linen Travel Jewelry Bag to match your luggage or use fabric that's a little more special.



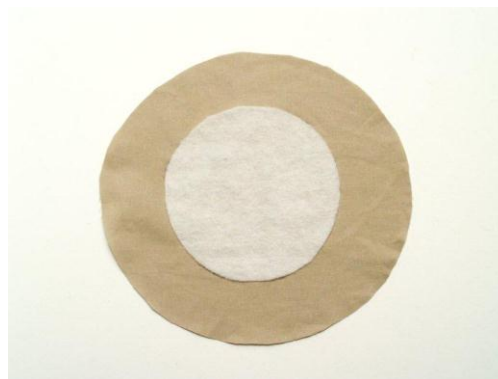
Materials:

- 1/2 yard for outside fabric
- 1/2 yard for inside fabric
- 7" circle of fusible interfacing
- Cording or Ribbon for Tie For a child's skirt, you can probably use a T-shirt that you have lying around, but for an adult skirt you'll need to get your hands on some jersey yardage.

1) Begin by cutting out your circles. Out of each fabric cut 1 – 18" circle and 1 – 15" circle.



2) On the wrong side of fabric of the small outer fabric circle, iron the circle of fusible interfacing in the center.



3) Place the small circles right side together and sew around the edge with a 1/2" seam allowance. Leave an opening for turning, clip the seam allowance all the way around and turn right side out.



4) Topstitch around the outside just inside the seam, making sure the openings are sewn closed.

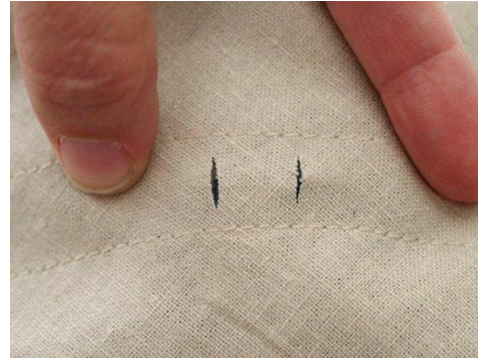
On your large circle, sew a circle 1 3/4" from the edge, then a second circle 2 1/4" from the edge. This will be your casing.

(If you are using wide or really thin ribbon, you can adjust this.)



5) Pull the outer fabric away from the lining inside the casing. Make two small slits in the outer fabric only.

Treat these with Fray Check.



6) Place your small circle, outer fabric up, on top of the inside fabric of the large circle.

On your small fabric circle, sew a circle just over the edge of the fabric batting in the center, sewing through both circles.



7) Draw 4 lines through the inside circle, like a pie. Sew down these lines. This will create the little pockets along the sides.



Here's what the back looks like.



8) Feed your cording or ribbon through the casing, leaving just a little bit through each hole. Knot the ends.



9) Make a little fabric rosette out of your inside fabric. Sew it to the outside just below the casing opening.



That finishes off your little bag!



Inside there are 8 little pockets that you can stash earrings in, you can put bracelets or other larger things in the center section.



This little bag would be great for makeup too!



Swimming Bag Tutorial

By: Jill for Creating My Way to Success

This Swimming Bag Tutorial is for carrying soggy summer swim clothes and toys. The key is to use waterproof fabric and a mesh bottom for drainage. Use bright colors so you can spot the bag anywhere at the pool and personalize it by sewing your child's name on the front.



First you need to cut the name letters out of the second colored piece of waterproof fabric.

Now I would highly recommend using fusible webbing to attach these letters to the main bag. Iron one side of the webbing to the back of the fabric - then you can write the letters on the paper backing and cut them out.

Materials:

- Waterproof fabric - I used Ripstop Nylon for one, and an old shower curtain for the other!
- 2 pieces for main bag 48 x 42cm (19 x 16.5")
- 1 piece for drawstring strap 90 x 10cm (35.5 x 4")
- 1 piece different color waterproof fabric for name, and fusible webbing:
 - 30 x 10cm (12 x 4")
- Mesh Fabric netting for base of bag.
 - (I used an old mesh laundry bag)
- 42 x 20cm (16.5 x 8") Step 1: Turn the T-shirt you are using for the main handbag inside out and lay flat. Fold in half lengthwise. Round the bottom by cutting only the bottom hemline about 5 inches up the side.



Unfortunately this means the letters slip around a lot when trying to stitch them into place!



If you use the fusible webbing - you peel off the paper backing and iron them onto the main bag using a damp cloth over the letters. This holds them in place and makes it much easier to stitch around the edges in either a tight zig zag stitch or the applique setting on your machine!

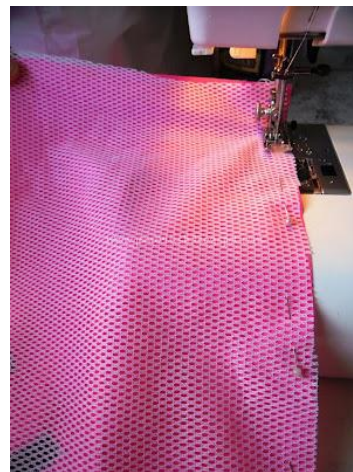


Now you're ready to put your bag together!

Pin the long side of the mesh/net fabric to the front main bag base - right sides together and stitch:

Step 4: Handles - Wrap each embroidery hoop with wide ribbon. Use hot glue to secure the

end and wrap tightly overlapping the ribbon.



Repeat this with the other long side of the mesh/net fabric and the other main part of the bag:





If you have an overlocker (serger), it's a good idea to finish off the seam edges to prevent fraying. If you don't have an overlocker (serger) you can use a zig zag stitch and trim the raw edge outside that.



You should now have a large rectangle with the mesh part in the center.

It is a good idea to finish all four edges of this rectangle to prevent fraying. Again if you have an overlocker (serger) use this around all edges. Otherwise you could turn the edges under twice and stitch with a regular machine to hide the

raw edges.



Now you need to form the casing at the top of the bag for the drawstring.

Fold down both top edges - wrong sides together about 5cm (2"). Pin and stitch along the edges.





Now fold the rectangle in half - right sides together to form your bag (inside out) Pin down the sides.



When you stitch the sides of the bag together - only stitch up as far as the casing. At the top, run some stitches sideways too and backwards and forwards a few times for extra strength:



Turn your bag out.

Now it's time to make the drawstring strap.

Take your long strip of waterproof fabric.

Fold both long edges in towards the center, then both sides in again to completely enclose the raw edges. Then stitch down the edges to hold in place. At either short end, fold the end under too to hide that raw edge.



Sewing Bags: Tutorials You'll Love

Now all that's left is to add the drawstring to the bag!

Use a large safety pin or a nappy pin to push the strap through your casing. Then tie the ends together:



And take to the pool...



And there you have one personalized swimming bag:



Then you'll have to make one for sisters, brother and friends.



All ready to fill up with swimming gear:

Vintage Pillowcase Laundry Bag Tutorial

By: Jeni for In Color Order

Follow the Vintage Pillowcase Laundry Bag Tutorial and learn how to make a laundry bag. By using a pretty vintage pillowcase, you'll have a colorful bag that's great for storing dirty clothes while traveling. It's a quick and easy sewing project you'll definitely use.



Materials:

- 1 pillowcase
- 1 fat quarter or 1/4 yard of coordinating fabric
- Seam ripper
- Safety pin Step 1: Lay your fabric flat and cut a 27x27" inch square on the fold. Cut down the fold to create two 27x27" squares.



1) Cut two 2.5"x22" strips (or one 2.5"x44" strip if using yardage).



2) Join 22" strips using a 1/4" seam allowance with right sides together. Press seam open.



3) On each short end, fold over 1/2" and press.



4) Fold entire strip in half lengthwise, pressing as you go.



5) Unfold strip and fold both edges into the center fold line you just created, press.



6) Fold in half lengthwise and press. Topstitch along the open edge, stitching close to the edge. Backstitch at start and end.



7) Grab your pillowcase, and find the seam on the hem.



8) Measure your hem (mine was 3.5"), divide that number in half, this is your center. Mark a line .5" on either side of the center, giving yourself a 1" wide space.



9) Using your seam ripper, carefully rip the stitches between the two lines.



10) Depending on the seam allowance used by the pillow's manufacturer, you may need to flip under the seam allowance to create a clear opening. Use a pencil or turner (fancy word for a clean chopstick) to help. Pin in place if need be.



11) Extend your marked opening lines around the entire pillowcase. Use the top of the hem as a guide, using your cutting ruler and your marking tool of choice.



12) Sew on the line all the way along, backstitching at the start and end. Repeat on the second line.



13) Attach a safety pin to one end of your handmade "string". Insert the safety pin into the opening you created.



14) Wiggle it through all the way around to the opening.



15) Even out your ends and tie together in a tight knot close to the ends.



Drawstring Pouch Tutorial

By: Lelanie for To Sew With Love

With this Drawstring Pouch Tutorial you'll see all the steps to making a drawstring purse perfect for the gym, school, or the beach. Pick out your favorite pattern and make a bag that can be taken anywhere!

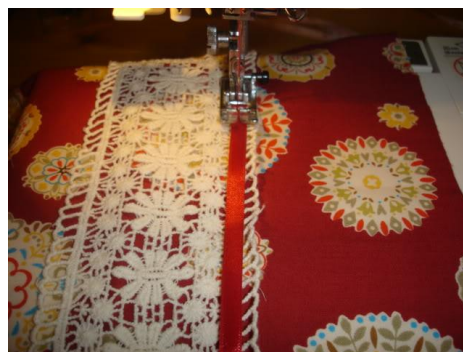


Materials:

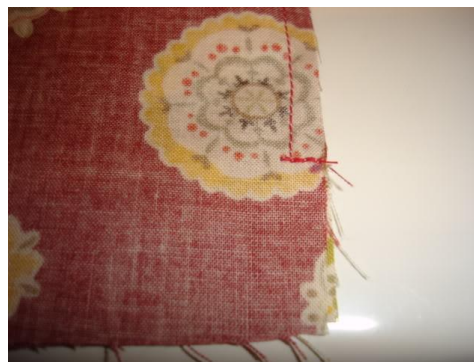
- 2 pcs. 28" x 9" fabric (exterior)
- 2 pcs. 28" x 9" fabric (interior)
- 3 pcs. base(1 exterior, 1 interior fabric, 1 batting) measurement: 27.5" circumference, 8.75" diameter
- 1 pc. 18" x 2" for short sling (exterior fabric)
- 2 pcs. 1" x 32" for drawstring (exterior fabric)
- lace and ribbon for embellishment
- thread and basic sewing notions

1) Get one of your exterior fabric and sew whatever embellishment you'd want to use. In my case I used a vintage lace I found in my stash and a satin ribbon. I also made a tiny bow from

the satin ribbon and added a small bead on its center and hand-sewn it on.



2) Get your rectangular exterior fabric pieces. Lay them right sides together and sew a straight stitch on one short side but do not sew all the way. Leave 1-inch unsewn (from the top) as shown below.



3) Cut along the short side of your sewn stitches. Well, it's more like of a clip than a cut. Fold the piece of fabric from where you've just clipped it, from the edge inwards. Fabric will be facing wrong sides together. I really hope my instruction makes sense... Sometimes, I even confuse myself when I read what I write... ^^)

Well, if you look at it from the right side of your fabric, it will look like this (I hope the picture helps):



Sew a straight stitch so you'll have this:



Do the same to the other side of your exterior fabric.

4) Get your round base exterior fabric and the batting. Sew them together using a basting stitch.



5) Get your exterior rectangular pieces, now sewn together and attach it to the base. Make sure the side where you have the 1-inch folds on each side is on top (not to be attached to the base). It is where you'd be inserting your drawstring later. Sew a straight stitch then zigzag stitch to keep the edges from fraying.



So, you'll have this:



6) Follow the same procedures for your interior fabric but remember to leave 2 inches unsewn on either side of your rectangular piece so you can turn your pouch inside out later on. Also, you can add your tag while you're doing this step.

7) Get your long sling piece, fold it crosswise, right sides together. Sew a straight stitch on each long side leaving one end unsewn (the other end is folded).



8) Turn it inside out and topstitch. You could also iron it first before topstitching.



9) Attach each short side of your handle on your exterior fabric. Mark the center of each (rectangular) piece of your pouch and pin your handle, aligning the edges. Sew a basting stitch.



10) Get your two pouches pieces (exterior and interior). Arrange them aligning the top edges so they'll be right sides together and sew them together. Make sure your sling or handle is well hidden inside so it won't get caught and get sewn.



11) You remember I told you to leave 2" unsewn on one side of your inner fabric? Turn your pouch inside out through it.



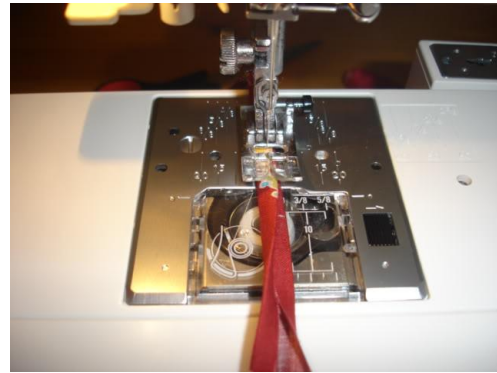
Then topstitch on your pouch's top edge leaving 1/4" seam from the edge.



12) Sew a straight stitch 1/2" away from the topstitch you just did.



13) Get your drawstring pieces and fold it lengthwise in 4, as if you're making your own bias tape. Sew a straight stitch all through it's entire length. You could iron it first or just fold as you go.



14) Insert each drawstring to your pouch. I inserted a bead then made a knot on each end. Make sure you insert it in such a way that you have a knotted and beaded end on each side of your pouch.



Now, you have a drawstring pouch! Easy-peasy, right?

Girly Ruffled Sling Bag

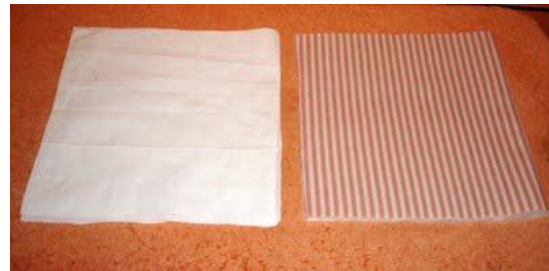
By: Lelanie for To Sew With Love

Learn how to sew your own purse, but not just any purse, a Girly Ruffled Sling Bag. If you're looking for a WOW factor this purse has it with many patterns, intricate details, and layers of ruffles. Make it for yourself or a loved one.



Materials:

- 1 fat quarter Japanese linen
- 2 squares out of old muslin curtain (approx. 9.25" x 9.5")
- 1 linen bias tape 32" x 1.5"
- scrap fabrics of different sizes for ruffles: (2 pcs. 22" x 2" and 3 pieces 18" x 4")
- lace
- interfacing
- velvet ribbon
- zipper



1) I cut my fat quarter linen into 4 equal-sized squares and cut 2 squares from the muslin curtain of the same size as my linen squares. I ironed-on interfacing on each exterior fabrics (this is however optional).



2) I took 2 linen squares, folded them in half crosswise and ironed them. I will use it for the bag's pockets.



3) I took one of the pocket pieces, looked for the top center and sewed on one velcro piece.



4) The pocket piece looked like this after I have sewn on the velcro.



7) I turned it inside out.



5) Since I wanted this to be pretty as this will be the exterior pocket, I have sewn on also a lace and velvet ribbon.



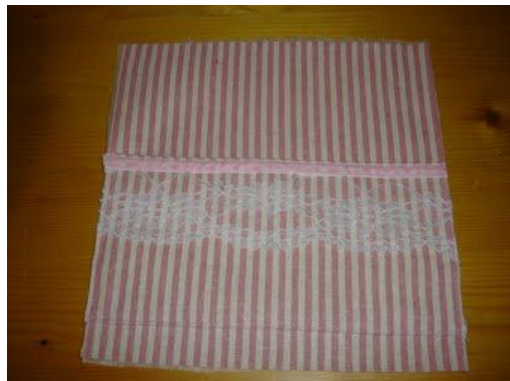
8) Since I wanted for the pocket to show and not be sewed together with the bag's base, I left 1" space from the bottom edge of the linen square (which will be one side of the bag), marked the area where the velcro should be and sewed it on.



6) I positioned my piece right sides (of the fabric) together as shown above and sewed a straight stitch, leaving 1/4" seam from the edge.



9) I then attached both pieces together by sewing a basting stitch on each side (just to be sure I'd be catching all layers later) and sewed on the bottom part of the pocket.



This is what I had so far.



10) I took one ruffle piece, folded it lengthwise, right sides together and sewed a straight stitch. I did the same to the other 3 ruffle pieces. I then turned them inside out and ironed them.



So I had these.



11) I sewed a gathering stitch on each piece by setting my stitch length to the longest possible (mine's 5.0) and sewed a straight stitch without backtracking. I did the same to all pieces then gathered each piece by pulling on the bobbin thread.



12) I took the last piece of linen and marked where my first ruffle would go. I used a disappearing fabric pen.



13) I then pinned the ruffled fabric and adjusted the ruffles as I went on pinning.



14) I then sewed it on. The stitches on the side are basting stitches while the top are stitches with backtracks.



I did the same to all ruffles.



15) On the last ruffle piece, I sewed on a velvet ribbon.



16) I attached the interior pocket using the same steps as attaching the exterior pocket. The only difference is that this pocket doesn't have any Velcro on.



17) I have attached fabric end covers on my zippers (shown here how). I placed the linen bias and zipper (facing down) as shown above.

I later found out that this is not the ideal place where the sling should be placed as I will show you later on. You would have better results if you place your sling piece 1/2" away from the edge (which I did on the second sling bag I made).



18) I placed on top of it the muslin piece with the pocket, right side down and pinned.



19) I replaced my presser foot with my zipper foot and sewed them together with a straight stitch.



I then topstitched.

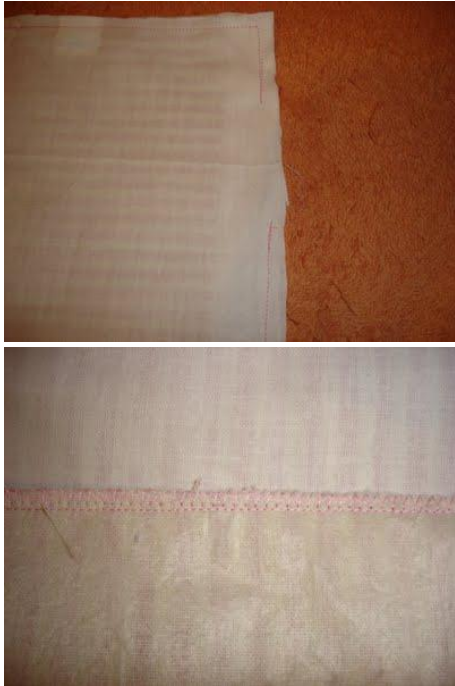


20) I followed the same steps to attach the zipper to the other side of the bag.



21) I pinned both linen pieces together and muslin pieces together as shown below. And sewed them by leaving 1/4" seam from the edge.

When you get to the zipper area, you have to sew just beside it but not sew through it. I left 2"-3" unsewn on my muslin piece so I can turn my bag.



I wanted the sling bag to be roomy enough for my daughter's snacks. So I clipped the edges as shown above.



So I had these (above).

22) I wanted to strengthen my stitches and prevent the linen fabric from fraying so easily so I sewed a zigzag stitch on all sides except the unsewn area.



Turned it inside out and sewed by hand the unsewn part.



23) I made a special zipper puller with beads and buttons.



This cute butterfly will be hanging on the bag, too.



Sewing Bags: Tutorials You'll Love & 10 Free Purse Sewing Patterns



Included in this eBook:

- Beach totes & swimming bags
- DIY clutches
- Handy bags for traveling



A special thanks to our contributors:

Jen of [Reanna Lily Designs](#)
Nancy of [La Maison Reid](#)
Valerie of [Insatiable Need](#)
Jill of [Creating My Way To Success](#)
Sabra of [Sew a Straight Line](#)
Lisa & Sarah of [A Spoonful of Sugar](#)
Beverly of [Flamingo Toes](#)
Lelanie of [To Sew With Love](#)

Sign up for our [free sewing newsletter](#) and receive more low-cost collections, free sewing projects, quick tips, home décor ideas and more right in your inbox every week.