

Little Shoulder Purse

Carol A. Brown

The instructions are for a lined purse with a zipper at the top and D-rings for attaching a strap. The pattern at the end of the instructions is for a 7" x 7" x 3" deep purse. To create a pattern in a different size and to add optional pockets to the lining, please see the corresponding sections of these instructions. Fabric requirements may vary, especially if you turn the pocket pattern 90° as suggested in the pocket section.

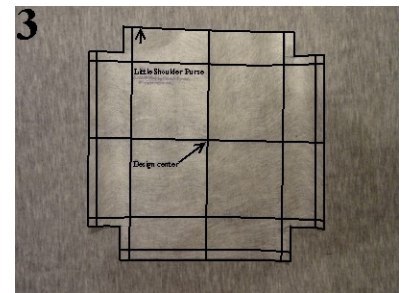
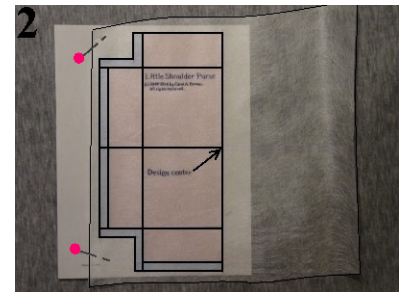
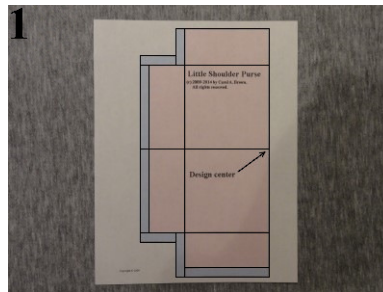
Materials (for 7" x 7" x 3" deep purse):

1. Outer fabric (such as doe suede, poplin or light denim), 45" - 60" wide: 3/8 yard.
2. 45" wide quilt fabric for lining: 1/3 yard.
3. Fusible fleece: 1/3 yard.
4. One nylon coil zipper, 12" or longer.
5. Metal D-rings, 1 1/8" wide: 2.
6. All-purpose thread.
7. *Fancy Swirls* design of your choice. I recommend the 5 1/2" size.
8. Embroidery thread for machine embroidery, embroidery bobbin thread.
9. Medium weight cutaway stabilizer to fit hoop.
10. Pattern tracing material: 11-1/2" x 11-1/2" or enough for your own size of pattern.



Prepare pattern:

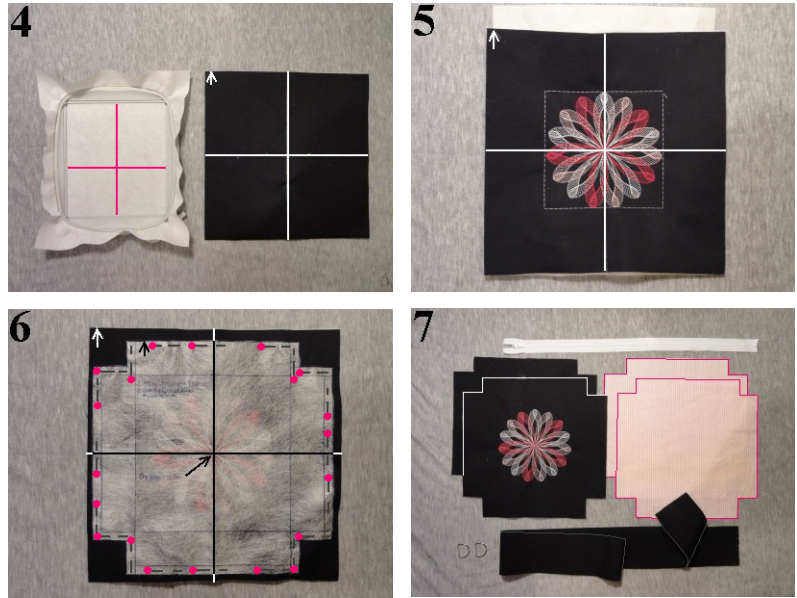
1. Print pattern half included with these instructions. (Fig. 1)
2. If you prefer, you may draft a pattern in the size you want, using the dimensions as a guide. See section at end of instructions.
3. Draw a vertical line down the center of a piece of pattern drafting material at least 11-1/2" by 11-1/2" (for this size of pattern).
4. Place the pattern tracing material on top of the pattern half. Align the right edge of the pattern half with the vertical line and pin in place.
5. Trace the pattern half. (Fig. 2)
6. Unpin the pattern.
7. Fold the pattern tracing material in half along the vertical line. Pin together.
8. Trace the second half of the pattern.
9. Label the design center. Note that there is no seam allowance on the top edge of the pattern; this is not a mistake. The exposed portion of the zipper will add to the seam what the seam allowances for the zipper seams subtract. Mark the top of the pattern with an arrow facing up. (Fig. 3)



Cut, Mark and Embroider Little Shoulder Purse:

1. Cut 3" wide strip of outer fabric for tabs and strap, on crosswise grain. If your fabric is 45" wide, cut an additional strip that is 12" long.
2. For embroidered front of purse, cut one 11-1/2" square. Cut another for the back of the purse. You may embroider this piece, too, or leave it blank.
3. Cut two pieces of fusible fleece the same size.
4. Steam the fleece to prevent later shrinking.
5. Steam stabilizer to prevent later shrinking.
6. Fuse a piece of fleece to the wrong side of each square of fabric, following directions for the fleece.

7. Mark horizontal and vertical centering lines with removable chalk or pen. If the fabric has a nap, mark an arrow in a corner, pointing to the direction you want to be at the top of your purse.
8. Mark centering lines on hooped stabilizer. Use marks on the hoop or a provided template as a guide. (Fig. 4)
9. Embroider your design, centered on your piece of fabric. Remove excess stabilizer. (Fig. 5)
10. Repeat for the back of the purse, if desired.
11. Place pattern on embroidered fabric so that the top of the pattern is toward the arrow on your fabric. (The top extension has no seam allowance so is shorter than the sides and bottom.) Align the centering lines on the pattern with those on the fabric. Pin in place. (Fig. 6)
12. Cut out the pattern.
13. Cut out the back of the purse. Be sure the nap (if any) runs in the same direction as for the front and that the pattern is pinned parallel to the grain line.
14. Cut two lining pieces from purse pattern.
15. Figure 7 shows everything you will need to make the purse.

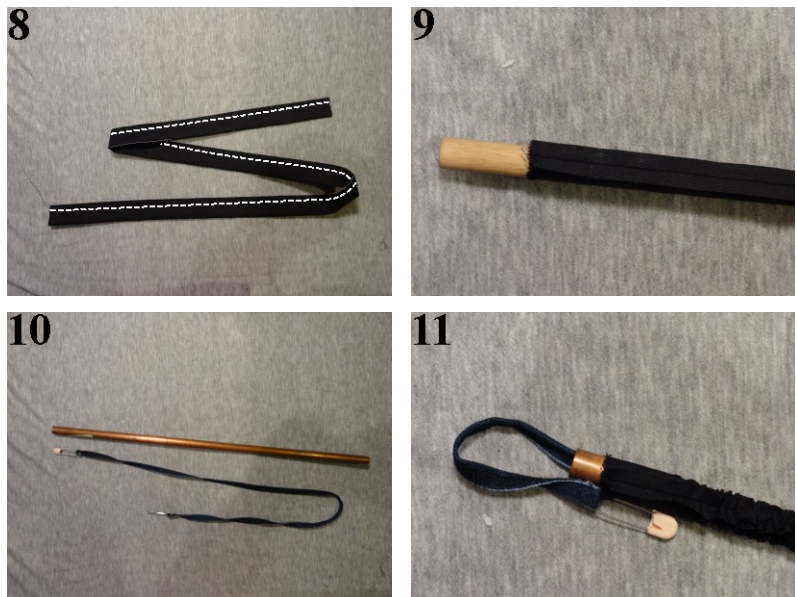


General Information:

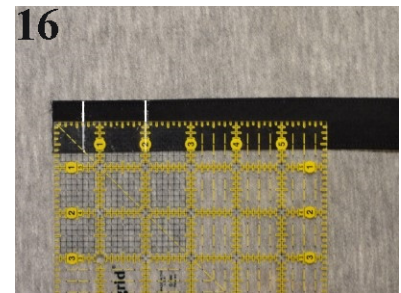
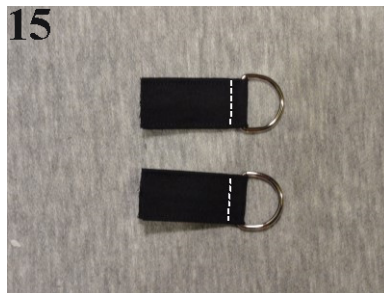
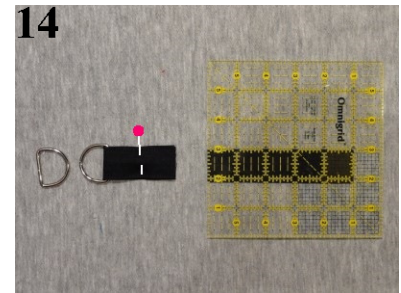
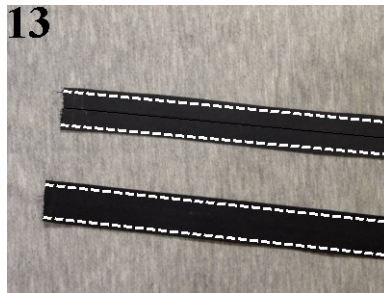
1. Zipper seams are 1/4".
2. All other seams are 3/8".
3. If necessary for fabric, finish raw edges with a multi-step zigzag or a narrow zigzag stitch.

Prepare strap and tabs:

1. Fold the 3" wide strip(s) of fabric for the strap and tabs right sides together lengthwise.
2. Pin and stitch just the long edge. (I use a scant 3/8" seam in order to make turning the strap easier.) (Fig. 8)
3. Press seams open using dowel or metal pipe. (Fig. 9)
4. Turn strap right side out.
5. HINT: I use a 2 foot length of 1/2" diameter copper pipe to aid in turning the strap. A FasTurn tube is much too short for this length of fabric. I attach a diaper pin to one end of a strong cord (or strip of selvage fabric) and a regular safety pin to the other end. (Fig. 10)
6. Insert the copper pipe into the fabric tube and bunch up the fabric as needed to fit mostly onto the tube. Drop the safety pin end of the cord into the pipe and pin the diaper pin to the edge of the strap fabric. (Fig. 11)

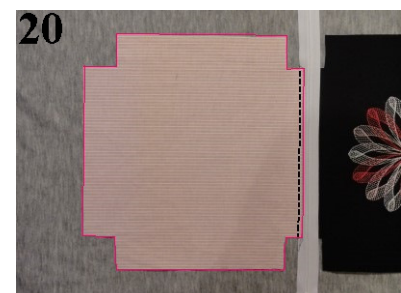
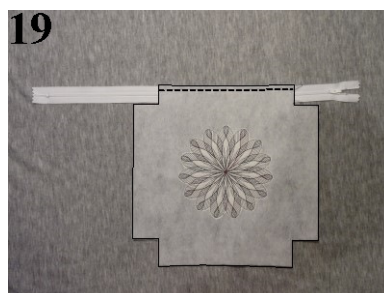
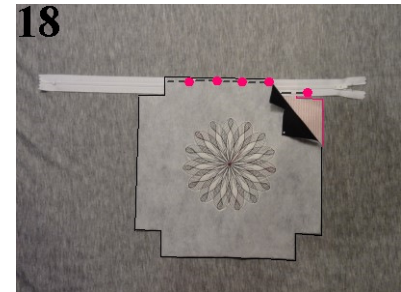
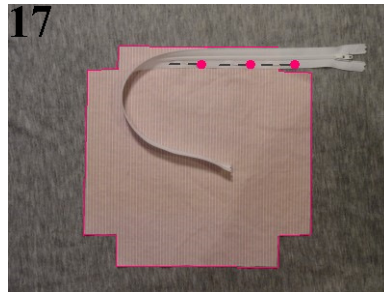


7. NOTE: If you have no copper pipe, wrap the strap fabric around the cord and pin the seam, making sure you cannot catch the cord in the stitching. Pin the diaper pin to one end.
8. Very carefully, pull the diaper pin end of the cord so that the strap fabric feeds into the tube. You may need to slide the fabric toward the opening with one hand while you tug on the cord with the other. Diaper pins do not pop open as easily as regular safety pins, but avoid excess tugging just to be sure.
9. Eventually, the leading edge of the fabric strap will emerge from the end of the copper pipe. Pull on the fabric rather than the cord or pin to finish turning the strap right side out. (Fig. 12)
10. Remove the diaper pin from the fabric. Press flat with seam centered on one side of the strap.
11. Top stitch the long edges. For best results, start from the same end of the strap for both lines of stitching. Stitching from opposite ends can cause a ripple in the strap. Instead, use a near-right needle position for the right side of the strap and a near-left needle position for the left. (Fig. 13)
12. Cut two 5" lengths from the 12" strip (if you have one) or from the 60" long strip. Fold each around the straight part of a D-ring so that the seams are to the inside. (Fig. 14)
13. Using a zipper foot, stitch near the D-ring. (Fig. 15)
14. With a removable marker or chalk, mark lines on the right side of the remaining strap, 2" and 5/8" from one end. Set aside for later. (Fig. 16)

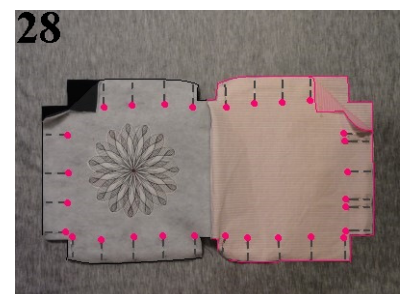
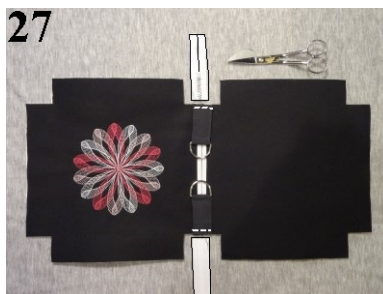
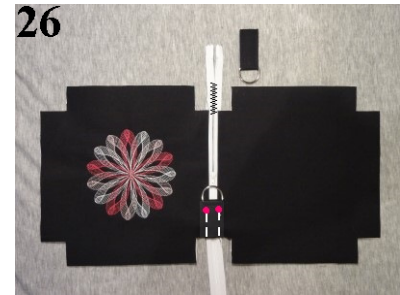
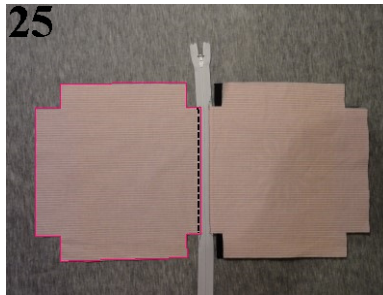
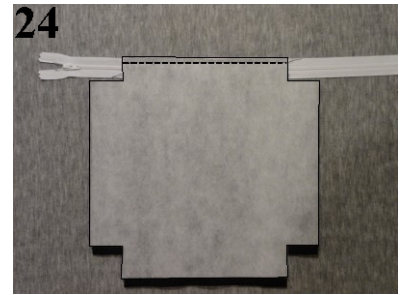
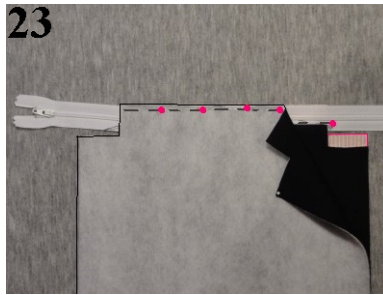


Build the purse:

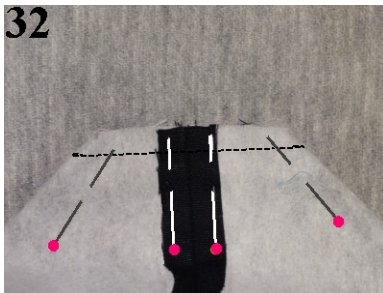
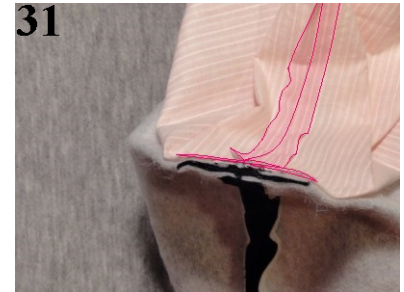
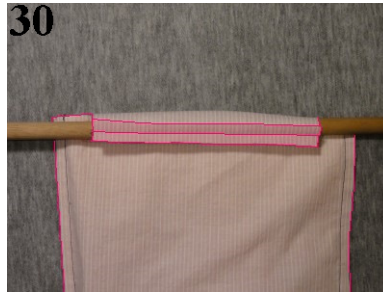
1. Add pockets now, if desired. See instructions provided below.
2. Place one piece of lining right side up on the table. Center the zipper right side up on the top edge. (Remember that the top edge is the one without the seam allowance added.) Pin in place on the zipper tape side that is farther from the raw edge. (Fig. 17)
3. Place the purse front right side down on top of the lining piece, making sure that the top of the purse front is matched to the top of the lining. Align the purse front and lining at the raw edges and cut out corners. Pin from the purse front side, close to the edge. (Fig. 18)
4. Stitch a 1/4" seam. Use left needle position and butt the left outer edge of the presser foot up against the zipper teeth. (Fig. 19)
5. Press the lining away from the zipper. Edge stitch near the fold of the seam, stitching only through lining and seam allowances. (Fig. 20)



6. Turn the purse section right side out. Match the raw edge of the purse front and lining. Press the purse front away from the zipper. (Fig. 21)
7. Place the second piece of lining right side up on the table. Center the completed purse section right side up on the top edge. (Remember that the top edge is the one without the seam allowance added.) Pin in place on the zipper tape side that is farther from the raw edge. (Fig. 22)
8. Place the purse back right side down on top of the lining piece, making sure that the top of the purse back is matched to the top of the lining. Align the purse back and lining at the raw edges and cut out corners. Pin from the purse back side, close to the edge. (Fig. 23)
9. Stitch a 1/4" seam. Use left needle position and butt the left outer edge of the presser foot up against the zipper teeth. (Fig. 24)
10. Press the lining away from the zipper. Edge stitch near the fold of the seam, stitching only through lining and seam allowances. (Fig. 25)
11. Turn the purse section right side out. Match the raw edge of the purse front and lining. Press the purse front away from the zipper. (Fig. 26)
12. Partially close the zipper so that the pull is within the area of the purse top. Bar tack the open edge of the zipper: to keep the zipper coils from shifting, start outside the purse area and stitch with an open zigzag, wide enough to span the zipper teeth. When you reach the seam allowance, stitch in reverse for a few stitches to secure. (Fig. 27)
13. Center one D-ring tab at each end of the zipper, with the raw edges even with the short sides of the top edge. Pin in place. (Fig. 28)
14. Stitch in place within the seam allowances. Trim excess zipper even with the edges of the bag. (Fig. 29)
15. Turn the purse so that the outer purse sections are right sides together and the linings are right sides together. Pin the matching layers together, keeping raw edges even. At the bottom of the lining, place two pins close together about 1-1/2" from each side edge. These double pins form "gates" to remind you where to baste. (Fig. 28)
16. NOTE: For a smaller purse, be sure to position the gates far enough apart to allow an opening through which you will be able to turn the purse right side out.
17. Stitch seams, beginning with the lining bottom seam. Start with a normal stitch length (2.5 mm) and stitch from the raw edge to the first gate. Backstitch to secure. Lengthen stitch to 6.0 (or select Baste stitch). Stitch to the second gate. Return to normal stitch length. Backstitch to secure and continue to the end of the seam. Backstitch to secure. For the remainder of the seams, stitch with regular stitch length, backstitching at beginnings and ends to secure. Clip top and bobbin threads at the beginning and end of the basted section of the lining bottom. (Fig. 29)

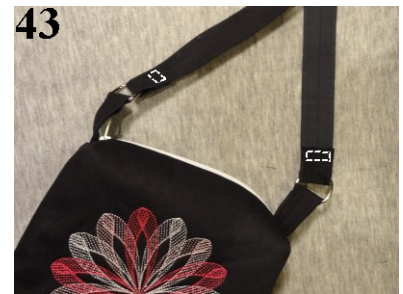
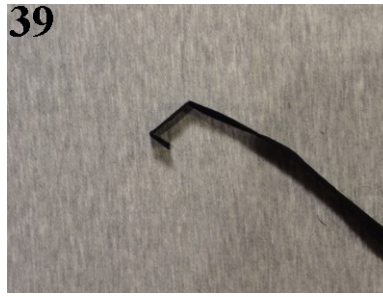


18. Press seams flat. Press seams open using a dowel. (Fig. 30)
19. Remove the basting from the lining bottom seam.
20. On each upper corner, refold the purse so that the zipper is centered under the side seams of the outer purse and the lining. Keep raw edges even. (Fig. 31)
21. Pin through both layers. Turn the purse around so that the lining layers are on top. Match the raw edges and seams of the lining to those of the outer purse. Pin through all layers with the outer purse on top. Stitch seams, backstitching off the first fold and then stitching forward. Because of the bulk of the zipper and the strap tabs, the seam will be very thick in the middle. When you come to the thickness, use a hump jumper to keep the presser foot level and stitch very slowly. If necessary, turn the hand wheel to control the stitching. Stitch off the fabric at the far end of the seam and stitch backwards back onto the fabric. Make sure the seam allowances of the lining and outer purse side seams remain open and flat. (Fig. 32)
22. Refold the bottom corners of the lining so that the seams meet in the middle. Pin in place. Stitch or baste 1/4" from the raw edges, making sure the seam allowances remain open and flat. You need not backstitch. (Fig. 33)
23. Refold one bottom corner of the outer purse so that the seams meet in the middle. Fold the bag inward at the top edge to bring the outer and lining bottom corners together. Align the raw edges and pin through all layers. (Fig. 34)
24. Repeat for the second bottom corner.
25. Stitch bottom corner seams, backstitching off and onto fabric as in step 19 above. (Fig. 35)
26. Turn purse lining side up. Turn purse right side out through the opening in the lining bottom. (Fig. 36)
27. Slipstitch the opening closed by hand. (Fig. 37)
28. Open the zipper completely.
29. Turn the purse right side out. Tuck the lining into the purse and straighten the corners. (Fig. 38)



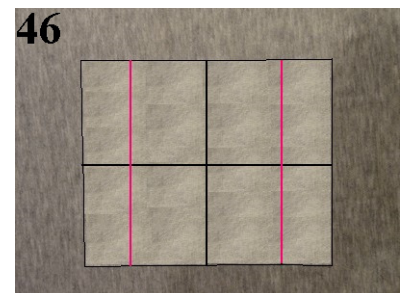
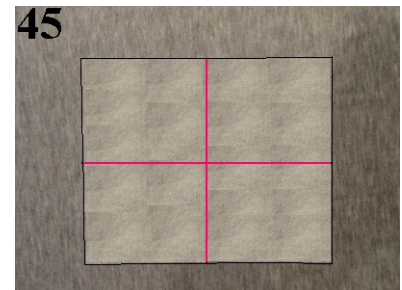
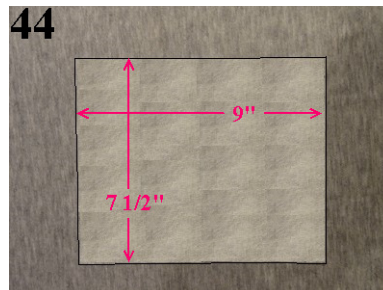
Add the strap:

1. At the marked end of the strap, fold on each marked line and press creases. (The seam of the strap will be to the inside of the folds.) (Fig. 39)
2. Wrap the marked end of the strap around one of the D-rings so that the short end is toward the inside of the purse and the D-ring is 2" from the raw edge. Tuck in the raw edge at the 5/8" crease and pin in place. (Fig. 40)
3. Wrap the free end around the second D-ring. Try on the purse. Adjust the length of the strap as desired. Mark the strap at the edge of the D-ring. (Fig. 41)
4. Add 2" to the length and cut off the remainder. Mark a line 5/8" from the new raw edge.
5. Press creases at the 5/8" and 2" marked lines as above. (Fig. 42)
6. Making sure there are no twists in the strap, wrap the free end around the second D-ring. Fold the raw edge in at the 5/8" crease and pin in place.
7. At each end of the strap, stitch a rectangle through all layers. (Fig. 43)

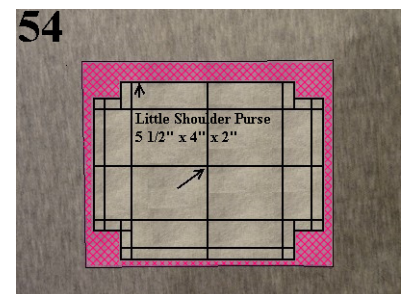
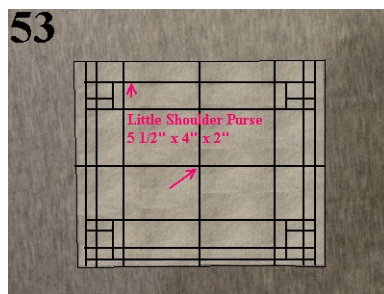
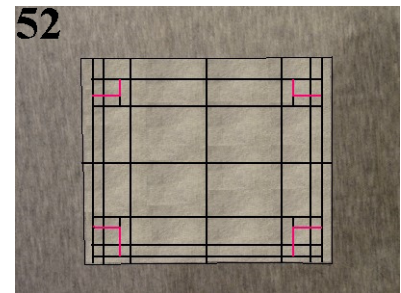
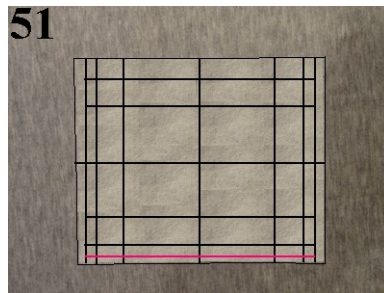
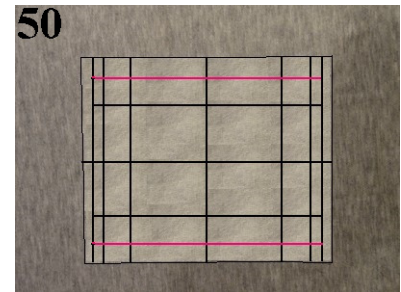
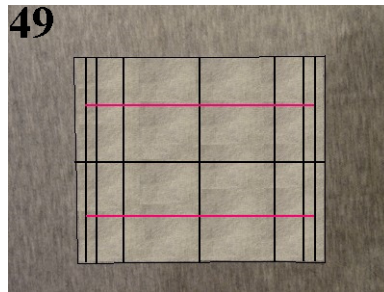
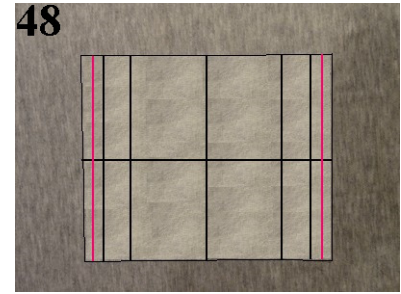
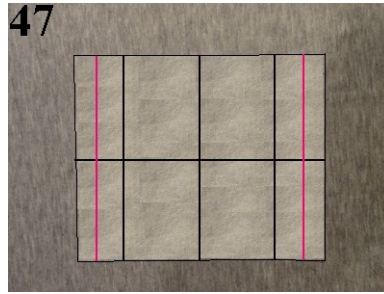


Draft Pattern for Shoulder Purse:

1. You need three measurements in order to create your own purse pattern: WOF = width of front _____, HOF = height of front _____, and DOP = depth of purse (from front to back) _____. (In Figure 31 you can see that the width of the corner is smaller at the raw edge than at the seam line. DOP should be at least 2" so that the zipper and tabs will fit in the openings.) If you are planning to embroider a particular design on your purse, be sure to allow open space around the design. *We'll use 5-1/2" WOF x 4" HOF x 2" DOP as an example. The lines to be added in each step are drawn in pink.*
2. Cut a piece of pattern tracing material with width = WOF + DOP + 1-1/2" and height = HOF + DOP + 1-1/2". *We need pattern tracing material 9" x 7-1/2" for our example.* (Fig. 44)
3. Draw lines down the vertical and horizontal center of the pattern tracing material. Make sure the lines are perpendicular to each other. *Draw a line 4-1/2" from a 7-1/2" side and another 3-3/4" from a 9-1/2" side.* (Fig. 45)
4. Draw lines parallel to the vertical center line, each 1/2 of WOF away from the center line. *Draw the lines 2-3/4" from the vertical center.* (Fig. 46)



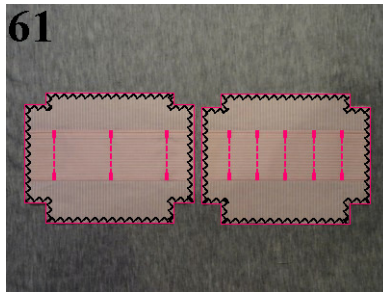
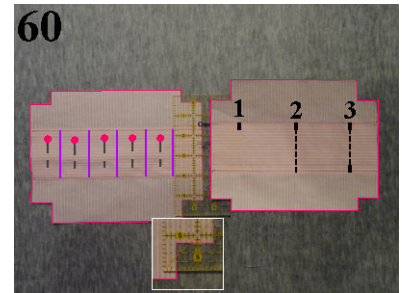
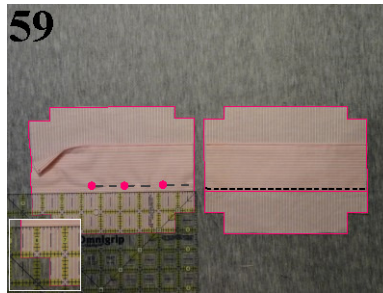
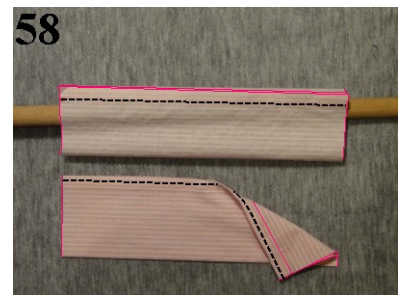
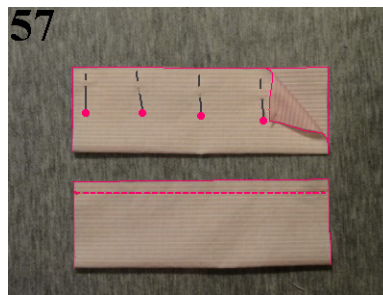
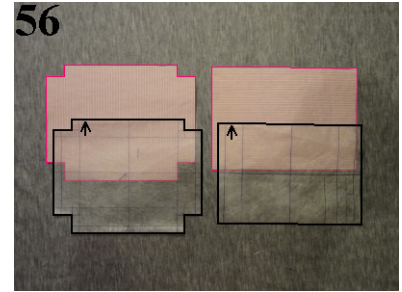
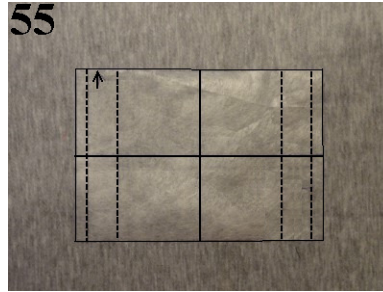
5. Draw lines parallel to these new vertical lines, each 1/2 of DOP away from the lines. *Draw the lines 1" beyond the previous lines.* (Fig. 47)
6. Draw seam allowances 3/8" away from the outer lines. (Fig. 48)
7. Draw lines parallel to the horizontal center line, each 1/2 of HOF away from the center line. *Draw the lines 2" from the horizontal center.* (Fig. 49)
8. Draw lines parallel to these new horizontal lines, each 1/2 of DOP away from the lines. *Draw the lines 1" beyond the previous lines.* (Fig. 50)
9. Draw a seam allowance 3/8" away from the bottom outer line only. (Fig. 51)
10. Add 3/8" seam allowances to the corner edges. (Fig. 52)
11. Label pattern. Draw an arrow to mark the top of the pattern and another to mark the intersection of the horizontal and vertical center lines as Design Center. (Fig. 53)
12. Scribble or cross hatch the area outside the usable pattern so that you know which lines to follow for cutting. (Fig. 54)
13. Cut out the pattern.
14. Determine how much fabric you need:
Height of pattern + 3" for the strap + a little extra in case the fabric isn't straight.
If you use 45" wide fabric and won't have at least 12" to the side of the pattern, then allow another 3" for fabric for the tabs.



Add Optional Pockets to the Lining:

1. For the provided purse pattern, WOPF = width of pocket fabric = 10-3/4" wide. For a different size of purse, WOPF = WOF + DOP + 3/4" for seam allowances _____. For our sample purse, 5-1/2" WOF x 4" HOF x 2" DOP, the WOPF will be 5-1/2" + 2" + 3/4" = 8-1/4".
2. For the provided purse pattern, HOP = height of pocket = HOF (height of front) - 1-1/2" = 7" - 1-1/2" = 5-1/2". For a different size of purse, HOP = height of pocket = HOF (height of front) - 1-1/2" _____. This measurement determines the maximum height for the pocket. Larger pockets would get in the way of the corner seams of the purse. If you make your purse smaller, make a note of the amount you subtract from HOF. For our sample purse, 5-1/2" x 4" x 2", HOP will be 4" - 1-1/2" = 2-1/2".
3. HOPF = height of pocket fabric = 2 x HOP + 3/4" for seam allowances _____. For the provided purse pattern, HOPF = (5-1/2" x 2) + 3/4" = 11-3/4". For our sample purse, 5-1/2" x 4" x 2", HOPF = (2-1/2" x 2) + 3/4" = 5-3/4".

4. Draft a pattern WOPF x HOPF. Draw grain lines in both directions. Mark one WOPF edge with an arrow pointing up. For the pocket for the provided purse pattern, mark a 10-3/4" edge with the arrow. *I marked one of the 8-1/4" edges of my sample pocket pattern with an arrow facing up.* (Fig. 55)
5. Cut two pockets from the pocket pattern. If you have a striped fabric and want the pocket stripes to be perpendicular to the lining stripes, use the horizontal line on the pattern as the vertical grain line. (Fig. 56)
6. Fold each pocket rectangle right sides together so that the WOPF length edges are together. Pin and stitch just that edge with a 3/8" seam allowance. (Fig. 57)
7. Using sleeve board, press both seam allowances to one side. (Fig. 58 top)
8. Turn pockets right side out. Fold the pockets so that the raw edges of the seams are at one fold. The seam will be 3/8" from the fold on one side. Press pockets flat. (Fig. 58 bottom)
9. The seams will be on the wrong side of the pockets, near the opening. Top stitch the top edge from the right side. You may stitch one or two lines or use a decorative stitch, as you prefer. (Fig. 58 bottom)
10. Place linings on table, right side up, and with the top edge of the piece away from you. (The top is missing the seam allowance so is shorter than the sides and bottom.)
11. Place a clear ruler across the bottom, so that the edge of the ruler is 1 1/8" from the bottom edges of the sides. This will place the pockets 3/4" from the bottom of the finished inside purse. *If you subtracted a different amount from HOF to determine HOP, then place the ruler 3/8" + half that amount from the bottom edges of the sides.* (Fig. 59 left)



12. Place the pockets on top, top stitched edge toward the top, and pocket seam facing the linings. Align the bottom edge of the pocket with the ruler. Pin in place. Repeat for second lining and pocket pieces. (Fig. 59 left)
13. Top stitch the bottom of the pocket with one or two rows of stitching. (Fig. 59 right)
14. Mark vertical divisions where the sides join the center of the purse. These divisions will be 1 7/8" from the side raw edges for the provide purse pattern. *For other purse sizes the distance from side raw edges will be 1/2 DOP + 3/8".* You may mark additional lines, as you prefer. (Fig. 60 left)
15. Stitch these lines, beginning at the bottom of the pocket. Start with a bar tack at the bottom. (Fig. 60 right, #1)
16. If your sewing machine has an automatic trim cut after bar tacks, disable this function. Switch to a straight stitch and cancel the starting Fix stitches. Stitch to the top of the pocket and stop with needle down. (Fig. 60 right, #2)
17. Rotate the fabric and switch back to the bar tack. Cancel the starting Fix stitches. Beginning at the top edge of the fabric, stitch a bar tack. If available, press the trim thread button. (Fig. 60 right, #3, rotation not shown)
18. Pin the pocket opening to the lining. Finish all raw edges except the top with a 3-step zigzag stitch. (Fig. 61)
19. Continue with purse construction as you would without the pockets. (Fig. 62)

Strap Alternatives:

1. Without the strap, the purse makes a nice pouch for lingerie or other soft goods. Omit the D-rings but do add tabs at the ends of the zipper; they will make it easier to open and close the zipper because you will have something to grasp. You can make the tabs shorter so that they become loops instead.
2. Attach a loop at one end of the zipper and a tab with D-ring at the other. Attach a wrist strap to the D-ring.
3. For a removable strap, attach swivel clips to both ends of the strap instead of stitching the strap directly to the D-rings. You can clip the strap to the purse's D-rings.
4. Attach a swivel clip to a wrist strap to make it removable. You can then choose between two removable straps.

