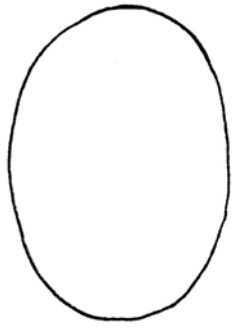


Shirley Adams

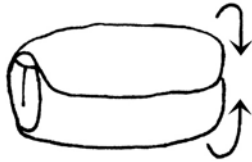
The Sewing Connection



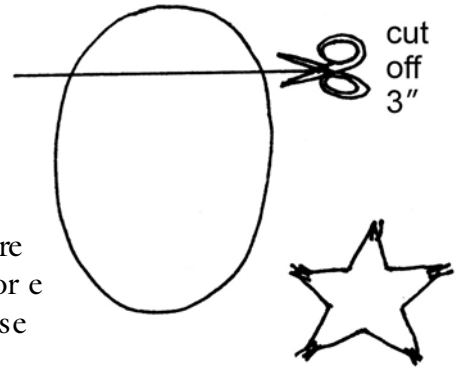
Platter Purse



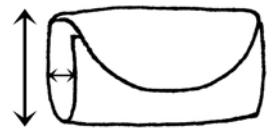
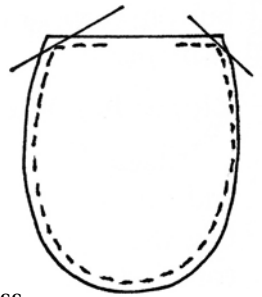
From your kitchen comes this fantastic little purse – the Platter Purse. We have done several of these over the years, but they never get stale. Now I always have said that ‘Homemade is only good when it comes from the kitchen’. In this case, it is especially true.



sequined fabric and I hand stitched a large sequined fleur-de-lis on the front. Some embellishments are better added before sewing the purse together.



Right sides together, stitch all around the perimeter a shallow seam of 1/4" or less. Leave an open space for turning right side out in the center of the flat side. Turn right side out and finger press the edges. Turn open edges to the inside and press flat all around. On machine, with clear monofilament nylon thread (or whatever is least visible) edgestitch to flatten edge firmly.



Pick any platter, meat, bread, your choice. If you haven't a platter, just draw an oval and we will proceed. At the outset, I would like to warn all creative people that these little bags are addictive. Once you've made just one, you won't be able to stop as these are made with just small pieces of fabric and embellishments.

The Basics - With just 4 layers of fabric:

The outer fashion layer, fused to its wrong side is a layer of fleece. A thick fleece 1/4" is fine if a large enough bag is being made. Thinner fleece 1/8" is preferable else the fabric become unwieldy and hard to handle.

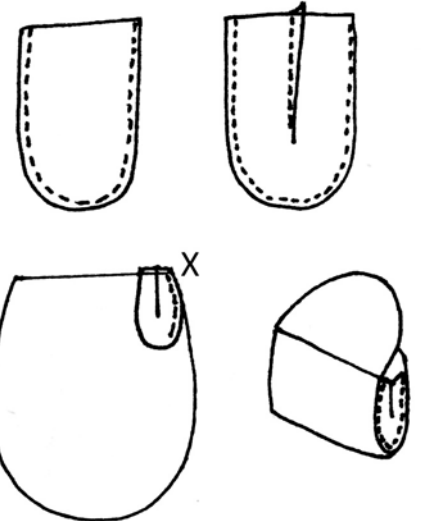
The lining layer can be a new piece of fabric or a leftover scrap from a blouse you've made. Back the lining with a fusible interfacing.

Cut these 4 layers the same size, using your platter or pattern. Stack (fusible sides together of fabrics that can be joined) and cut out with a rotary cutter on a cutting mat. If so, press the platter down hard, upside down, to hold securely all edges while you cut out. Or pin securely the layers, trace your pattern and cut out with shears. A third alternative is to do your fusing first then cut out.

Roll Up With End Gussets – 7/8 Platter

On the lining layer, add pockets. To the outside layer, add embellishments. Bar tack, glue, fuse, use the appropriate method for attaching your embellishment. A blue clutch for television was of

Roll up the purse as it will be when finished. Measure the side openings for width and length. Cut U shaped pieces that size plus 1/4" seam allowances all around and fuse interfacing to their backsides.



Stitch, leaving top open for turning. Turn, press, fold top sides inward and press. Edgestitch all around. Lining side up, stitch a vertical slim dart in each end piece. This is so that, when purse opens and closes, the ends will automatically fold in.



Begin stitching the end at X corner into purse. No pins needed, edge stitch stopping every few



stitches in needle down position to re-adjust edges together as you turn and complete the U. Secure the flap with Velcro, button, snap or whatever you like for a fastener. Magnets work well too.

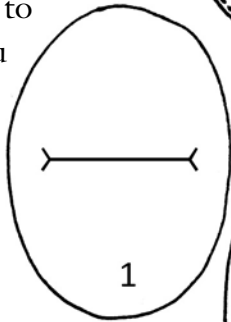
Zipper Bag With Flange

Two units comprise this type. The lining and zipper are one unit, the embellished outer bag the second. Attach by topstitching the outside unit around the zipper tape to connect. Interface both unit backsides with fusible in the usual way.

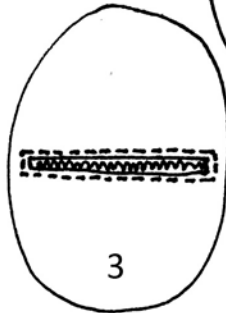
1. At lining center point, slash a long line, angling short diagonal slashes out at corners.



2. Press 1/4" edges to backside so you have a 1/2" wide open window.

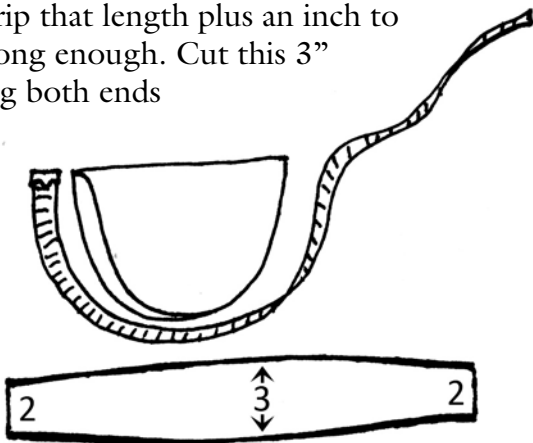


3. Gluestick or pin zipper underneath, centering in window. This will be the wrong side of the zipper showing on the lining side. The zipper pull-tab will be usable on the interfacing side of the lining.

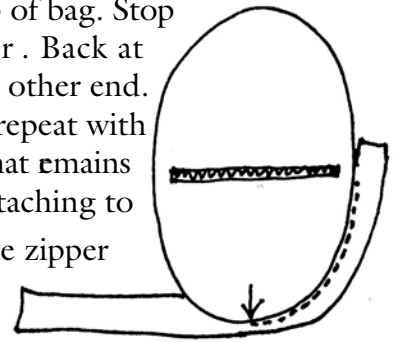


The outer flange will give the bag depth. Measure the purse when it is folded in half at the zipper. Cut this flange strip that length plus an inch to be sure it is long enough. Cut this 3" wide, tapering both ends down to 2".

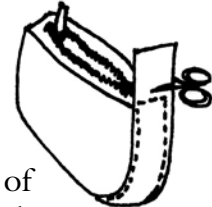
Interface. Right sides together, begin in the bottom center and stitch out to end of strip,



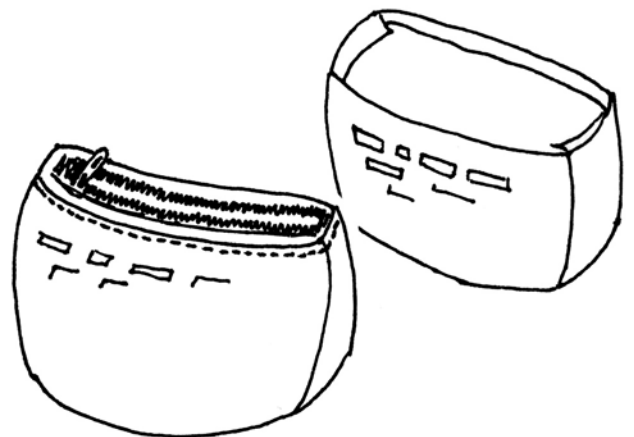
which is the center top of bag. Stop a little short of zipper. Back at center, repeat with the other end. Unzip the zipper and repeat with the second edge. All that remains is the end stitching, attaching to the 1 1/2" opening in the zipper area. Trim off excess strip. Lining unit is finished.



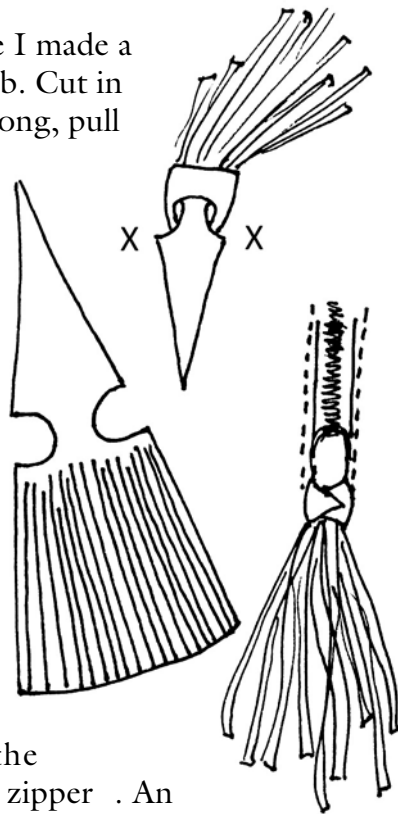
I used micro-suede for this bag and will embellish the outer unit with the same type of fabric. Using a buttonhole cutter, I made irregularly spaced slashes in horizontal rows. Through these holes I wove long thin strips of magenta, red and purple micro-suede. Because this fabric does not ravel, I did not finish the edges. If using a ravelly fabric, make machine buttonholes and weave through them finished ribbons, fabric tubes, bias tapes. Fuse a backing onto this to hold weaving in place. Finish this outer unit with its flange same as the lining unit. Instead of pressing the flange seams open, I found it easier to just edgestitch them flat, manipulating the curved seams under the presser foot while progressing.



When both units are finished, turn under the outer bag open top edge. Insert lining with zipper unzipped, inside the bag. Pin folded edge of purse on top of zipper tape. Edgestitch all around, attaching two units together.



From micro-suede I made a tassel for the zipper tab. Cut in this shape, about 5" long, pull the point through the hole in the zip tab with pliers and wrap the X points around the shredded suede and secure with a few hand stitches.



I made a suede and leopard print purse with an African flavor. I made this purse the same way as the other, but the direction is reversed. The platter's center fold is at the bottom and the flange on top has the zipper. An additional wide tab folds over the

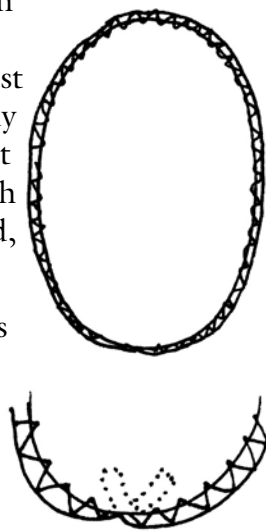
flange, end Velcro closing. Wood carvings from the Ashanti people are stitched to this tab. Small treasures, man-made or by nature, just ask to be attached to these bags.



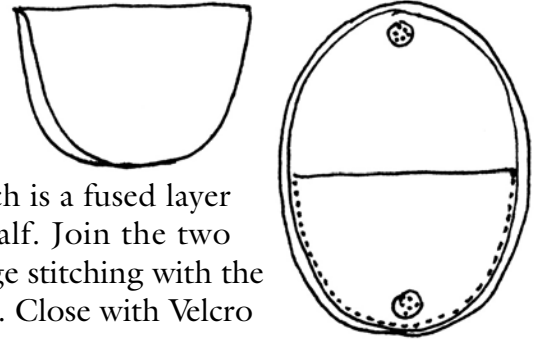
Platter And A Half

Make one whole platter by the same method as the rolled 7/8 platter, 4 layers fused 2 and 2. Stitch, turn, press. Instead of just stitching it flat, try zigzagging a satiny cord to it in the same operation using monofilament nylon. The easiest way to accomplish this uniformly is by using an edge-joining foot whose "rudder" underneath keeps the two, purse and cord, perfectly aligned.

The ends of cords like this will fray miserably if left exposed. Leave a little hole between stitched layers where starting and stopping. Enclose a 1" cord end inside the

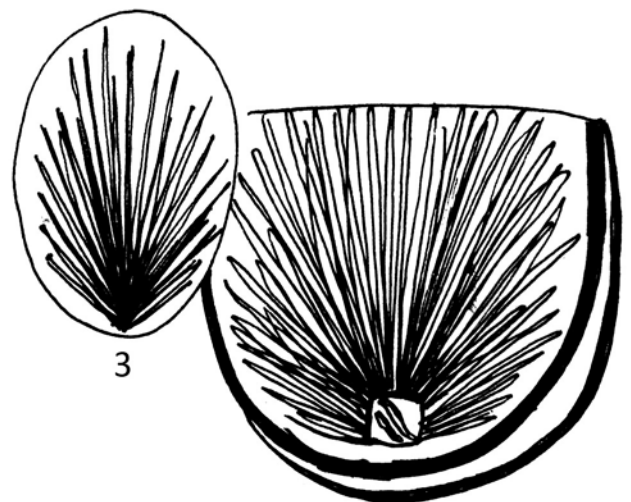
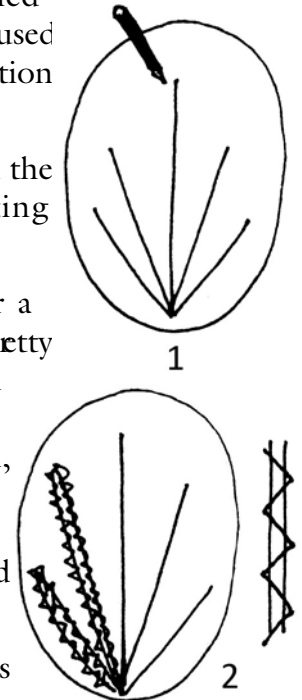


beginning and ending. Do the same for a half platter which is a fused layer folded in half. Join the two units by edge stitching with the clear thread. Close with Velcro or snaps.



This purse was embellished through the outer layer and fused backing before any construction took place.

1. A few lines were drawn on the suede surface, sunbursting from center bottom.
2. Use an embroidery or a cording foot, and couch pretty novelty yarns over drawn lines. Couching is zigzag stitching over cord, yarn, narrow ribbons, etc., to hold it in place. Use monofilament clear thread so it won't show.
3. Fill all spaces to your heart's content then construct the purse.
4. When finished stitch a spectacular button at the center.



Quilted Rectangle, Cord Border

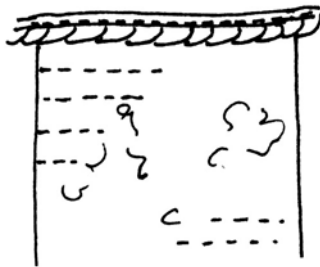
The rectangular bag wasn't a platter pattern at all. It was the back cover of Sewing Connection Series 6. The back cover of each series book features a close up photograph of the cover jacket fabric. I had quilted a 12" x 16" piece of cotton paisley with metallic thread just for that photograph. Why waste? Why not recycle and repurpose?



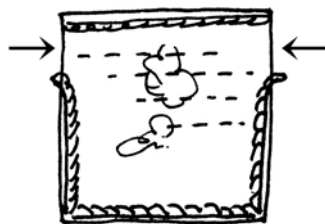
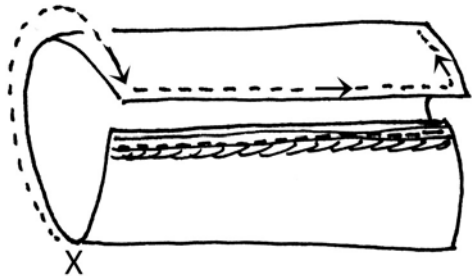
Quilt fabric to a fleece backing. Stitching from one edge to the other, a wide presser foot is used as a gauge for uniform $\frac{3}{8}$ " spacing.

Fuse an extra layer of fleece on backside for extra firmness.

Stitch fat cord attached to braid along one edge, right sides together. This will be the inside top edge of bag. Use zipper foot and left needle position to get close to cord.

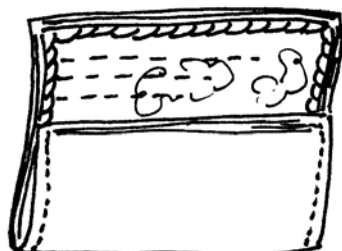


Start at lower fold X and stitch another length of cord around other 3 sides of purse in same fashion, but leave blank the arrow-marked places. Clip corners of braid so the attached cord will corner smoothly.

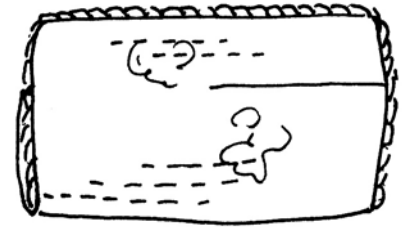


Right sides together, fold bottom up and stitch side seams while following existing stitching line from cord as a guide.

Turn bag right side out and press.

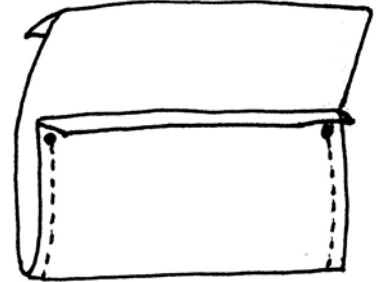


On the flap, turn braid-cord over so now the cord extends beyond the finished bag edge. Press



Reinforce lining fabric with fusible interfacing the same size as the original purse rectangle.

Fold its lower part up and stitch side seams, right sides together, leaving unstitched a seam allowance above dots.



Press the side seams open and press under seam allowances on all open edges.

Fit lining inside bag, pin all edges together. Because of the fat cord, it may be a good idea to whip down the lining edge by hand rather than machine.

A purchased gold filigree front and button closes this purse.

How many Platter Purses can you use? They can match your every outfit. Donate for auction items to your local shelter, church bazaar, and school fundraisers. Birthdays, proms, wedding, graduations. If you overproduce, begin your own business.

Look for other purse programs within The Sewing Connection series. Series 1 has a simple clutch, Series 9 and 10 have Bucket Bags, Series 5 has the clever and stylish Hobo Bag. Shirley also offers purse pattern kits for the Butterfly Bag, the Chameleon, the Double Clutch and an Embellished Patchwork bag. Alternative Patterns 407 has 4 purse styles.

Visit www.sewingconnection.com/Purse01.html to see a sample of just a few of Shirley's bags.

Visit www.sewingconnection.com/clutch01.html to see Shirley's available purse patterns.

From Shirley Adams, each season of The Sewing Connection is available on 2-disc DVD sets
800-237-4475

~ www.sewingconnection.com ~

