

The Handle Purse

This set of instructions will allow you to construct a handle purse of your very own.

Materials needed:

- Two identical oval placemats (quilted from cotton/polyester fabric with two “right” sides)
- Two bar-design handles (the width should be approximately the width of the placemats)
- Eyelet (1 inch wide, 1 yard)
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Iron
- Pins
- Basting needle and thread
- Sewing machine

*A hot iron will be needed for pressing; children should be supervised.

Refer to the glossary or a sewing book to clarify unfamiliar terms.



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Section 1: Preparation

1. Slide one of the placemats through the thin hole/slit in one of the handles until the placemat just fills the entire width of the slit.
2. Repeat this with the other placemat and handle. **See Visual 1.**
3. Hold the two handles together and have the short end (flap) of each placemat facing outward on each side. *This is to give you an idea of what the purse will look like when it is finished.*
4. Put a pin through the short flap of each placemat to mark where it was folded over to fit inside the slit of the handle. *This is so you can remove the placemat and **press the fold** (refer to the glossary for a definition of pressing).*
5. Remove the handles from both placemats.
6. Press the folds of both placemats. **See Visual 2.**
7. Remove pins. *Careful, they may be hot.*
8. Slide the placemats back through the handles as in step 1. *The pressed fold will help hold the placemats in this shape.*

Section 2: Eyelet Trim

1. Fold eyelet trim in half.
2. Cut eyelet at the fold.
3. Fold one piece of eyelet trim $\frac{1}{2}$ " inch from the edge on both sides.
4. Do the same with the other piece. **See Visual 4.**
5. **Baste** the eyelet trim around the curved edge of the small flap of the placemat.
This step is necessary to hold the eyelet trim in place on the placemat so it can be stitched neatly. See Visual 3.
6. Begin stitching just beyond the handle (back stitch several times at the beginning and the end to secure the stitching.) over the basting stitch through the eyelet and both layers of placemat (to secure the eyelet trim to the placemat).
7. Stitch all the way around and stop stitching when you get to the other side of the flap and reach the handle (and can go no further).
8. Repeat steps 3 through 7 for the other half of eyelet trim on the other placemat and handle.

Section 3: Putting It All Together

1. Put placemats and handles together with the flaps of the placemats and their eyelet trim facing out.
2. Pin purse around the outer edges to secure the placemats together for accurate sewing. *Use as many pins as you find necessary.*
3. Starting 2 inches beyond (below) handle, stitch (back stitch several times at the beginning and the end) the curved edge of the placemat. **See visual 5.**
4. Stitch all the way around the placemat (using the **bias tape** as your guide) until you reach approximately the same point you started (but on the opposite side of the placemat).
5. Clip loose threads and press.
6. Enjoy your handle purse!

Glossary

Baste: Use a wide, straight stitch to secure pieces of fabric together, usually followed by another more securing stitch.

Bias tape: The already existing stitches on the edge of a fabric that can be used as a guide.

Eyelet trim: Eyelet lace that is used as a trim to decorate the edge of a fabric.

Press: Use gentle downward motions with an iron on a fabric to crease it.

Reinforced stitching: Reverse a forward stitch so the stitch is more secure and won't come unraveled (usually performed at the beginning and the end of a stitch).

Right side: The side of the fabric that is to be seen at the end of the project.

Wrong side: The side of the fabric that is to be hidden inside the project (usually has fainter color than the right side).

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Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research, extension, and resident education programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of Congress May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Legislature. T. R. Alter, Director of Cooperative Extension, The Pennsylvania State University.

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