

Out-and-About Purse

Fabric is an exciting medium for the mixed media artist. Whether you incorporate it into your collages or use it to create sewn pieces, fabric can be a great means of expression.

In this project from *Mixed and Stitched* by Jen Osborn, you'll learn how to use fabric, ribbon and more to create an easy purse, perfect for anyone on the go. Whether you're new to sewing or have made dozens of bags, this project will inspire you to create with the fabrics you love and have fun doing it!

To learn more about or purchase *Mixed and Stitched* by Jen Osborn, [click here](#).

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Mixed and Stitched is published by North Light Books, an imprint of F+W Media, Inc.

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Like most women I have a thing for purses, but I hate carrying a honking-huge one around with me when I'm just out running a quick errand. For the longest time, my solution to this dilemma was to leave my purse at home, and just carry the essentials in my hot little hands. After making numerous runs to yoga classes, the market or school without a cell phone or lip balm, I decided that my method wasn't working. So, I came up with this pretty little bag that's small enough to grab on your way out the door, but still big enough to hold the things you need most. You could even make up a few of these in different colors to suite any mood by simply changing the fabrics to match the occasion.



materials

- ☆ fabric, ribbons and trims:
 - 4" × WOF* (10cm × WOF*) strip of large polka dot fabric (strap)
 - fat quarter (46cm × 56cm) of print fabric (bag bottom section)
 - fat quarter (46cm × 56cm) of small polka dot fabric (bag center section)
 - fat quarter (46cm × 56cm) of floral fabric (bag top section)
 - 11" × 15" (28cm × 38cm) rectangle of coordinating dyed fabric (lining)
 - 44" (112cm) of ¼" (6mm) wide coordinating ribbon (strap)
 - 12" (30cm) of ½" (13mm) wide coordinating cotton twill ribbon
- ☆ fabric leaf
- ☆ hot iron
- ☆ measuring tape
- ☆ pins
- ☆ scissors
- ☆ sewing machine
- ☆ sewing needle
- ☆ thread
- ☆ vintage buttons, charm and/or glass bead
- ☆ *WOF=Width of fabric from selvage to selvage should measure approximately 40" (102cm)

before you begin

✂ From print fabric, cut:

- (1) 7" × 15" (18cm × 38cm) rectangle

✂ From small polka dot fabric, cut:

- (1) 1½" × 15" (4cm × 38cm) rectangle

✂ From floral fabric, cut:

- (1) 3" × 15" (8cm × 38cm) rectangle



1 Start by creating the purse strap. Press the large polka dot strip in half lengthwise with a hot iron, wrong sides together. Open back up, and press the long raw edges in towards your fold about ½" (13mm). Finish by folding the strap back in half lengthwise, and pressing with a hot iron a final time.



2 Lay the ¼" (6mm) ribbon on top of the polka dot strap, along the open edge. Pin and stitch in place down the center of the ribbon. This not only attaches the ribbon to the strap, it also sews the strap closed. Continue to sew down the length of the strap every ¼" (6mm) until you have rows running down the length of the strap. (These rows of stitches are decorative, but they also help stabilize your strap.) Set the strap aside while you sew the body of the purse.



3 Lay the small polka dot rectangle on top of the print rectangle, right sides together, lining up the 15" (38cm) edges. Sew along one 15" (38cm) side using a ¼" (6mm) seam allowance. Press the seam open with a hot iron, and repeat to sew the flower fabric rectangle to the other side of the small polka dot section. Press the seams open with a hot iron and set aside.



If your fabric has an orientation, make sure you sew it on correctly to keep the orientation correct in the finished purse. Refer to the project photo on page 1 for help.



4 Pin the twill ribbon down the length of your purse front, lining up the left side of the ribbon 3" (8cm) from the left edge of the panel. Sew down both long sides of ribbon with a zigzag stitch to attach it firmly to your purse. You can use a decorative stitch or two instead if you're feeling daring!



5 Cut a $4\frac{1}{2}$ " \times 6" (11cm \times 15cm) rectangle from 2 of your fabrics to make the inside pocket. Place these rectangles right sides together. Sew along the 2 long sides and bottom, leaving the top open. Trim your seam allowance closer to the stitch line. Turn the pocket right-side-out through the hole.



6 Fold under the raw edges of pocket's turning hole, and press with a hot iron to secure. Center the pocket, right-side-up, on the left half of the lining fabric rectangle. The pocket's turning hole should be at the bottom. Pin the pocket in place.



7 Use a very tight zigzag stitch to sew around the sides and bottom of your pocket to attach it to the purse lining. Start and stop sewing $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) from the top of the pocket, and zigzag using a zero stitch length to secure. (Not stitching all the way to edge allows you to get in and out of the pocket more easily.)

notion

Make sure your pocket edge is riding down the middle of your presser foot opening so the zigzag goes beyond the pocket, grabbing the lining and covering the pocket's edge.



8 Place the lining panel on top of the outside panel, right sides together, lining up the top and side edges. Make sure that your pocket opening is facing up before sewing. Sew these 2 pieces together along the 2 sides and the top, leaving the bottom open to turn everything through.



9 Turn the purse right-side-out through the bottom hole, and trim the bottom edge so it is straight. Press the sides and corners flat with a hot iron. Then, fold the purse in half lengthwise so that the lining side is out. Satin stitch around the open side and bottom to close up your purse.



10 Turn the bag right-side-out. Turn the ends of the strap under about 1" (3cm), and pin the ends to the sides of the bag with the raw edges trapped between the strap and purse. The strap end should overlap the top of the purse by about 1" (3cm). Attach the strap by straight stitching along the sides and bottom of the strap ends, going over the same stitches multiple times.



11 Use a needle and thread to sew vintage buttons (I stacked 3 on top of each other), a fabric leaf (to make, sandwich quilt batting between pieces of fabric, cut out leaf shape and stitch leaf veins to hold the three layers together), and a charm at the top of the twill ribbon. Now you're done and ready to be back on-the-go!