

A bag for all reasons

Lisa Lam

"Thank you Lisa for bringing such lovely style to our bag making world!" – Amy Butler



12 all-new bags and purses to sew for every occasion

The Pleated Purse-Frame Purse

This darling purse looks as cute with jeans as it looks 'knockout glamorous' at a swish wedding. The secret to the different looks lies in your choice of fabrics. For a sweet daytime look, plump for your favourite cotton brights and a pretty flower brooch. For a special occasion go for luscious satins, silks and a sparkling brooch.



Design details Pleats, a pretty brooch and the shiny metal frame will make you belle of the ball!



Interior view Use a contrasting lining and it will be a nice surprise each time you open your purse.



Flat bottom A slightly flattened bottom gives the purse more definition and a pleasing 3D shape.

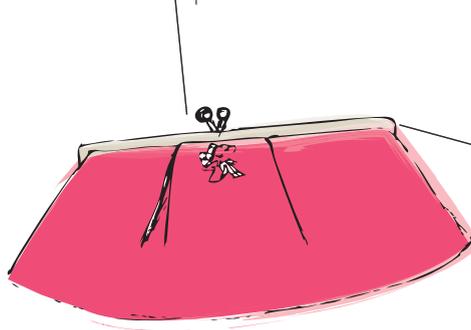
Features you'll love

Purse frames look oh-so professional – the metal frame will instantly bring your purse to the next level. No one will believe you made it!

Roomy enough for your essentials while still looking glamorous and chic

Frame closure snaps shut and is super secure

Quicker than you think to make – fix up one of these clutches in under an hour



Learn how to glue fabric purses into purse frames and never look back!

Finished size: 25 x 11cm (9⁷/₈ x 4³/₈in)



You will need

- 1 piece of fabric for exterior, 45.5cm (18in) x 56cm (22in) wide (1 fat quarter)
- 1 piece of fabric for lining, 45.5cm (18in) x 56cm (22in) wide (1 fat quarter)
- Sewing threads to match the fabrics
- 1 piece of woven fusible interfacing, 50cm (½yd) x 90cm (35½in) wide
- 1 piece of single-sided fusible fleece, 50cm (½yd) x 90cm (35½in) wide
- Rectangular purse frame, 8 x 15cm (3 x 6in) (see Need to know)
- Brooch, approximately 4cm (1½in) square
- Paper cord or cotton piping, 61cm (24in) (optional, see Step 15)
- Good-quality fabric glue (such as Gutermann Texbond)
- Disappearing marker
- Pointy (but not sharp) tool such as small scissors or Clover Hera/ Appliqué marker
- Ruler
- Pressing cloth
- Masking tape (optional, see Step 10)

Need to know

- For this project, I recommend quilt-weight cotton, baby cord, laminated cloth, home dec weight cotton, silk/satin, denim and canvas.
- If you are using delicate fabrics such as satin or silk for your exterior, I suggest you double up on the fusible interfacing. Also, only pin in the seam allowance to avoid scarring the fabric with pinholes.
- The fusible interfacing is applied to the WS of the exterior fabric.
- The fusible fleece is applied to the WS of the lining.
- All seam allowances are 1cm (¾in) unless stated otherwise.
- The main body pattern piece is given in the pull-out section and includes the seam allowance.
- The pattern will only work for a 15cm (6in) wide x 8cm (3in) high rectangular frame. This is a classic shape that is quite easy to obtain (see Suppliers).

Preparation

Cut the fabric pieces as follows (see pull-out section for pattern pieces):

From the Pleated Purse-Frame Purse (Main Body) pattern piece

- 2 x exterior fabric
- 2 x lining fabric
- 2 x woven fusible interfacing
- 2 x fusible fleece

Transfer all pattern notches and markings to the fabric with a disappearing marker

Also cut:

- 1 piece of woven fusible interfacing, 4cm (1½in) square, for the brooch reinforcement

The exterior

1 Interface the pattern pieces – iron the woven fusible interfacing pattern pieces to their respective WS exterior pattern pieces. If you are working with satin/silk, iron on two layers of woven fusible interfacing (one layer at a time). Iron the brooch reinforcement interfacing square to the WS centre top edge of one of the exterior pattern pieces.

2 Make concertina folds for the pleats – take one of the exterior pieces. Using the pleat pattern markings as a guide, fold and pin the concertina pleat on the right-hand side. See **Fig a**. Repeat for the pleat on the left-hand side. Repeat to make two pleats on the other exterior pattern piece. Topstitch along all pleats with a 3mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in) seam allowance to secure them in place.



Fig a Concertina fold the pleat and pin the pleat in place.

3 Stitch the exterior purse – bring the exterior pieces RST, match all edges, pin and stitch along the bottom and side edges. See **Fig b**. Iron the seams open.

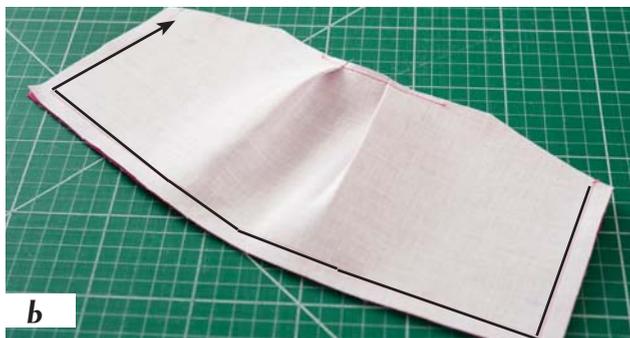


Fig b Following the line in the photo, stitch the exterior purse along the bottom and side edges. Be sure to sew several securing stitches at the start and end of your stitches.

4 Insert a flat bottom into the purse – grab one of the bottom corners, look inside the purse to match the side seam with the bottom seam neatly (so they align perfectly with each other). Squash flat to form a triangle. Draw a 4cm ($1\frac{1}{2}$ in) line at 90 degrees across the seam. See **Fig c1**. Stitch along the line you have just made. Ensure your beginning and end stitches are secure. Trim off the excess fabric 5mm ($\frac{3}{16}$ in) away from the seam. See **Fig c2**. Repeat with the other bottom corner. Iron all seams open and turn the purse RSO.

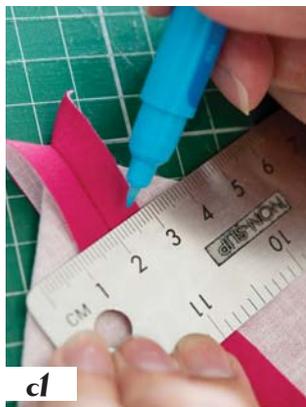


Fig c1–c2 Use a ruler to measure and mark a 4cm ($1\frac{1}{2}$ in) line that is 90 degrees to the side seam; trim the excess fabric 5mm ($\frac{3}{16}$ in) from the seam.

The lining

5 Interface the pattern pieces – iron the fusible fleece pattern pieces to their respective WS lining pattern pieces.

6 Make up the lining – make up the lining purse in the same way as the exterior purse as in Steps 2–4, except leave the lining WSO.

Stitching the exterior to the lining

7 Bring the lining and the exterior together – take the lining purse and measure and mark two points 5cm (2in) apart across the side seam along the top edge (each mark is 2.5cm/1in from the centre of the side seam). Repeat on the other side. See **Fig d1**. Insert the exterior RSO purse into the lining WSO purse. See **Fig d2**. On one side of the purse, open the seams of the lining and the exterior before bringing both together. See **Fig d3**. Match the side seams and top edges at the sides only and pin. Repeat on the other side.



Fig d1 At both side seams mark two points 5cm (2in) apart across the side seam top edge. **Fig d2** Insert the exterior purse into the lining purse. The RS of the two purses should be touching each other. **Fig d3** To reduce bulk at the sides open the seams on both the lining purse and the exterior purse before bringing them together.

8 Stitch the lining and the exterior purses together at the sides – using the 5cm (2in) marks you made in the previous step as a guide, topstitch both purses together at the side seams only with 2mm ($\frac{1}{16}$ in) seam allowance. See **Fig e**.

9 Stitch the lining and the exterior purses along the top edge – turn the purse RSO. Smooth out any bumps. Use a pressing cloth to iron the purse and the top edges at the side seams. The raw top edges of the purse sides are neatly concealed (whereas the raw edges of the top edges are left exposed). Neatly match the top edges of the purses. Take your time to match the pleats on the lining and the exterior purses. Pin and topstitch together with a 2mm ($\frac{1}{16}$ in) seam allowance. Start and stop your stitches at the ends of the side stitches (that you made in the previous step). See **Fig f**.



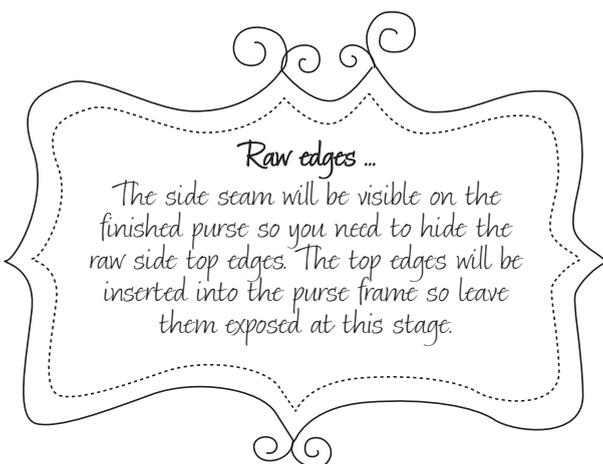
Fig e Only stitch 5cm (2in) across both side seams. The reason for this will become clear in the next step.



Fig f To start, place the needle into the final stitch of the side seam stitches.



Fig g To prevent gluing disasters, apply a band of masking tape all around the fabric purse if desired.



Gluing the purse into the frame

10 Mask the fabric purse (optional) – if you are a bit nervous about glue oozing all over your purse when you come to insert it into the frame, you can mask the areas that will not be inserted into the frame. (This is optional – I’ve made hundreds of these purses so I’m quite happy to work without the masking tape.) Measure the height of the purse-frame channel (they are usually approximately 1cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$ in high) and apply masking tape all around the purse 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) (or the height of your purse-frame channel) down from the top edge of the fabric purse. See **Fig g**.

11 Glue the purse frame – when gluing the fabric purse to the purse frame it’s best to work with one side of the purse at a time. Apply glue to the channel of one side of the frame. Work from one hinge of the frame to the other. Be reasonably generous with the glue, but don’t overdo it (you don’t want glue all over the place!). See **Fig h**. Set aside and immediately begin gluing the fabric purse as described in the next step.

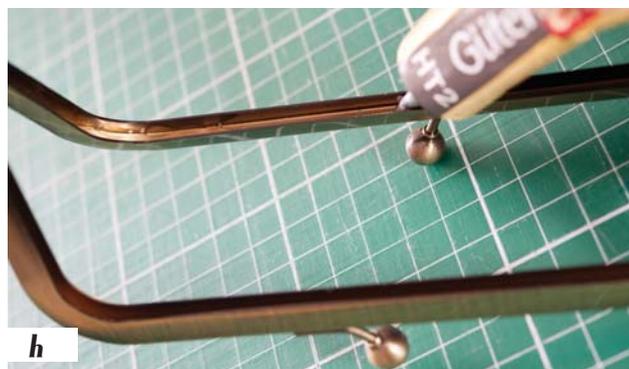


Fig h When applying glue to the purse frame, ensure that you do not miss any parts inside the channel. I like to ‘bunny hop’ the nozzle of the glue tube all along the frame as this pushes the glue into place along the frame.



12 Glue the fabric purse – apply glue to the very top edge of one side of the fabric purse. Start and stop applying the glue 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) away from the side seams (so you don't see dried glue on the sides of the finished purse). See **Fig i**. To prevent the glue going everywhere during the next step, allow the glue on both the purse frame and the fabric purse to go touch-dry for approximately eight minutes (I suggest you go and make yourself a nice cup of tea at this point!).



Fig i Begin (and end) gluing 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) away from the side seams; use the same bunny-hopping action with the glue nozzle on the fabric purse.

13 Insert the fabric purse into the purse frame – start by inserting the sides of the fabric purse into the purse frame, then work along the top edge. Use a pointy tool to poke and stuff the fabric purse into the channel of the purse frame. To ensure a strong bond between the fabric and the metal, firmly push the top edge of the fabric purse right into the channel of the frame. See **Fig j**. Finally, check that the fabric pleats are positioned centrally along the top edge of the purse frame. If they aren't, use the pointy tool to slide the fabric purse into a central position. Leave the glue to dry for 10 minutes.

14 Insert the other side of the fabric purse into the purse frame – work on the other side of the purse in the same way as in Steps 11–13. Leave everything to dry for 10 minutes. Remove the making tape (if using) and if necessary pick off any stray bits of glue from the frame. Pin the brooch to the centre top of the pleats on one side of the purse.



Fig j The purse sides go into the frame first. If any glue from the fabric ends up on the frame, don't worry – you can pick it off later. Work on the lining side first. Use your pointy tool to stuff the fabric firmly inside the metal frame. As you work, turn your purse over several times to check that both the exterior and lining side is firmly inserted into the frame.

15 Insert cord into the channel of the purse frame (optional) – look at the lining side of the purse. If there is a sizable gap between your fabric purse and the channel of the frame it is a good idea to stuff the gap. This will strengthen the bond between the fabric and the metal frame. For each side of the purse, cut a length of cord that is 2.5cm (1in) shorter than the length of the sides and the top edge (combined) of the purse frame. Working from the lining side, use the pointy tool to stuff the cord into the channel of the purse frame. See **Fig k**. All done! Now to enjoy that glow when you take your new purse out of your bag (with a flourish) and tell your friends that you made it yourself!



k

Fig k Use the pointy tool to stuff the cord into the purse frame channel on the lining side. Ensure that you push the cord firmly enough into the frame so that the cord is not visible on the purse.



The right stuff ...
 What you use to stuff the gap between the fabric and the frame depends on the size of the gap – use paper cord for smaller gaps and piping cord for bigger gaps.

Make it mine ...

Height – try making the purse pattern taller, say 5cm (2in) or so. This will give you a taller purse in which you can store more of your essentials. Be sure to widen the flat bottom so the overall shape remains in proportion (see below).

Widen the flat bottom – increase the length of the flat bottom line that is drawn across the seam (see Step 4) by say, 1–2cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ in). This will make the base of the purse deeper. If you make the purse taller (see above) this is a must.

Embellishments – have fun with different trimmings. Why not try swapping the brooch for fringing stitched along the top edge of the purse (the time to do this would be at the end of Step 9), or how about crochet flowers, pretty buttons or pearl beads?



This purse-frame purse looks almost too professional to be handcrafted. There's now nothing stopping you from making one for every day of the week!

Be sure to print at 100%

