

FEATURED PROJECT sweater purse

Notes

Swatches

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Sweater (Ladies' or Men's, shrunken or felted)
½ yard woven cotton print
1 set of circular or oval purse handles
Water soluble marker
Baby Lock sewing machine
Coats and Clark Dual Duty XP sewing thread
The KIT (Sewing Kit essentials)

SEWING

1. Cut body of purse from washed and shrunken/felted sweater, incorporating the neckline as the opening of the purse. 16" x 16" is a good general size; your purse can be cut to whatever dimensions will fit your needs. Set aside the arms and scrap pieces.
2. Lay out the cotton lining right-side facing up. Place the cut sweater face up on the lining, centering the neckline opening. Draw around the opening of the neckline. Set the sweater aside, and cut the circle open in the lining. Clip the circle all the way around, about ½" in to the body of the lining.
3. Lay the sweater/purse out flat again, wrong side facing up. Place the lining back over the sweater and tuck the raw edges under, around the opening of the neckline, pin securely.
4. Stitch the lining to the sweater/purse around the neckline edge. Remove pins.
5. Fold the sweater/purse in half with right sides facing and the lining showing. Mark the bottom and top sides of the sweater/purse using a dinner plate to make a smooth curve.
6. Pull the sweater taut between the linings and pin the edges.
7. Stitch around the edge of the purse on markings. Trim the extra fabric and sweater knit. Clean finish the raw edges. Turn the purse right sides out.
8. For handle casings, cut two strips from sweater remnants that measure 7" across and 6" from top to bottom, using the ribbing along the 6" edge for a nice finish.
9. Fold both 7" side edges of each strip under. Stitch. Repeat for the second strip.
10. Pin the raw edge of each strip to each exterior side of the purse opening (what had been the neck opening of the sweater) right-sides together, stitch securely.
11. Loop the strip through a purse handle and pin the ribbed edge over the seamed edge of the strip inside of the purse, stitch securely.

QUICK FELTING HOW-TO

If the sweater has been washed and felted, normally it becomes so dense that it will not unravel. So, cutting the sweater apart and re-piecing it back together with exposed seams can add a really fabulous look. Look for large sweaters made from 100% wool; these can be felted to add more body to the purse before it is sewn. To felt a sweater, run it through the wash cycle with very hot water; allow the sweater to agitate for along period of time, then place it in the dryer, on high heat, until dry. The sweater will shrink, sometimes to half the original size and become very dense.

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