

Placemat Purse



Take a plain placemat and turn it into the perfect bag. You'll love it so much, you'll want to make another -- so here are the instructions for two variations of the **Placemat Purse!**

Cloth placemats are available everywhere, from department stores to dollar stores. Selections include a wide variety of colors, fabrics, textures, and patterns. Choose one that matches your favorite outfit and customize it with designs and embellishments.

Create embroidered straps for your purse, or buy handles for it at a craft store. The tortoise-shell handles used in the example were purchased at Joann's.

Placemat Purse #1

Hen Purse w/ embroidered handles

Supplies Needed:

- ** Rectangular fabric placemat
- ** 1/2 yard lightweight canvas for lining
- ** 1 1/2 yards of 1 1/2 inch wide cotton canvas strap
- ** Medium weight, cut-away stabilizer
- ** Sticky-back, tear-away stabilizer
- ** Air-erase pen
- ** Temporary spray adhesive

Optional:

- ** Bead trim

Placemat Purse #2

Striped Purse w/ tortoise-shell handles

Supplies Needed:

- ** Rectangular fabric placemat
- ** 1/2 yard lightweight canvas for lining
- ** One pair of purse handles
- ** Medium weight, cut-away stabilizer
- ** Air-erase pen
- ** Temporary spray adhesive

** Double stick tape

Designs Used:

** [Animal Print Hens Triptych - 5x7 inch](#)
also available in [6 x 10 inch](#)

** [Daisy Border](#)

The finished size for this purse, not including the straps, is 13 x 9 1/2 inches.

Designs Used:

** [Autumn Leaves Circle \(Redwork\)](#)
[4.65 x 4.85 inches](#) also available in
[3.69 x 3.84 inches](#)

The finished size for this purse, not including the handles, is 12 x 9 1/2 inches.



Placemat Purse #1

Hen Purse with Embroidered Handles

To help with positioning the design, print a template of the design in your embroidery software.

Fold the placemat in half widthwise, wrong sides together. Place the template 4 inches from the top edge of the placemat to the center point of the template. Using an air-erase pen, poke a hole in the center point of the template and mark the fabric. Also, mark the horizontal and vertical axis points on the fabric.



Remove the template and draw lines connecting the horizontal and vertical axis points.

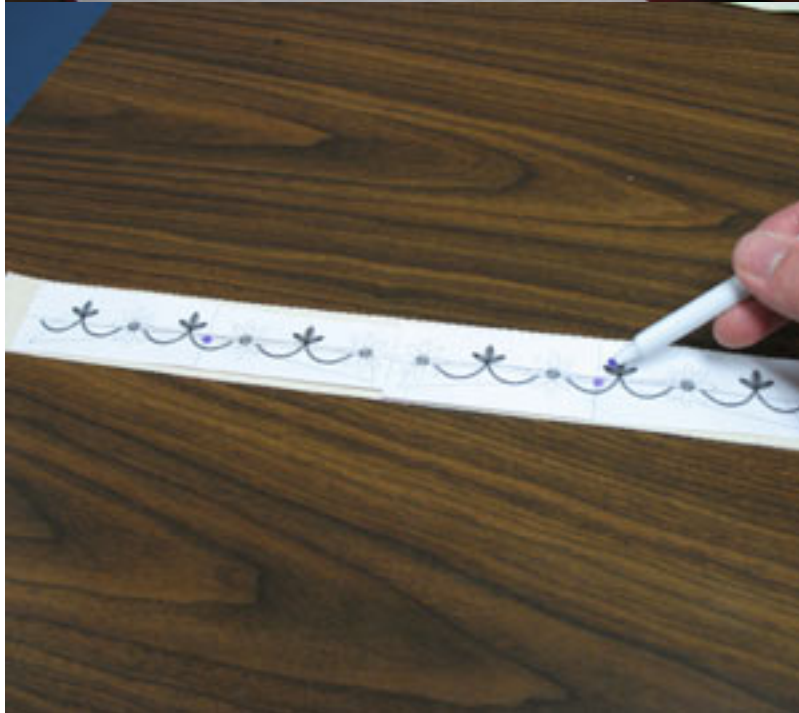
These lines will be used for hooping.

Spray temporary adhesive on a piece of medium-weight cut-away stabilizer and smooth the placemat on top of the stabilizer. Hoop the placemat and the stabilizer together by aligning the marks on the hoops with the lines on the fabric.

Attach the hoop to the machine, load the design, align the needle over the center point, and embroider the design.

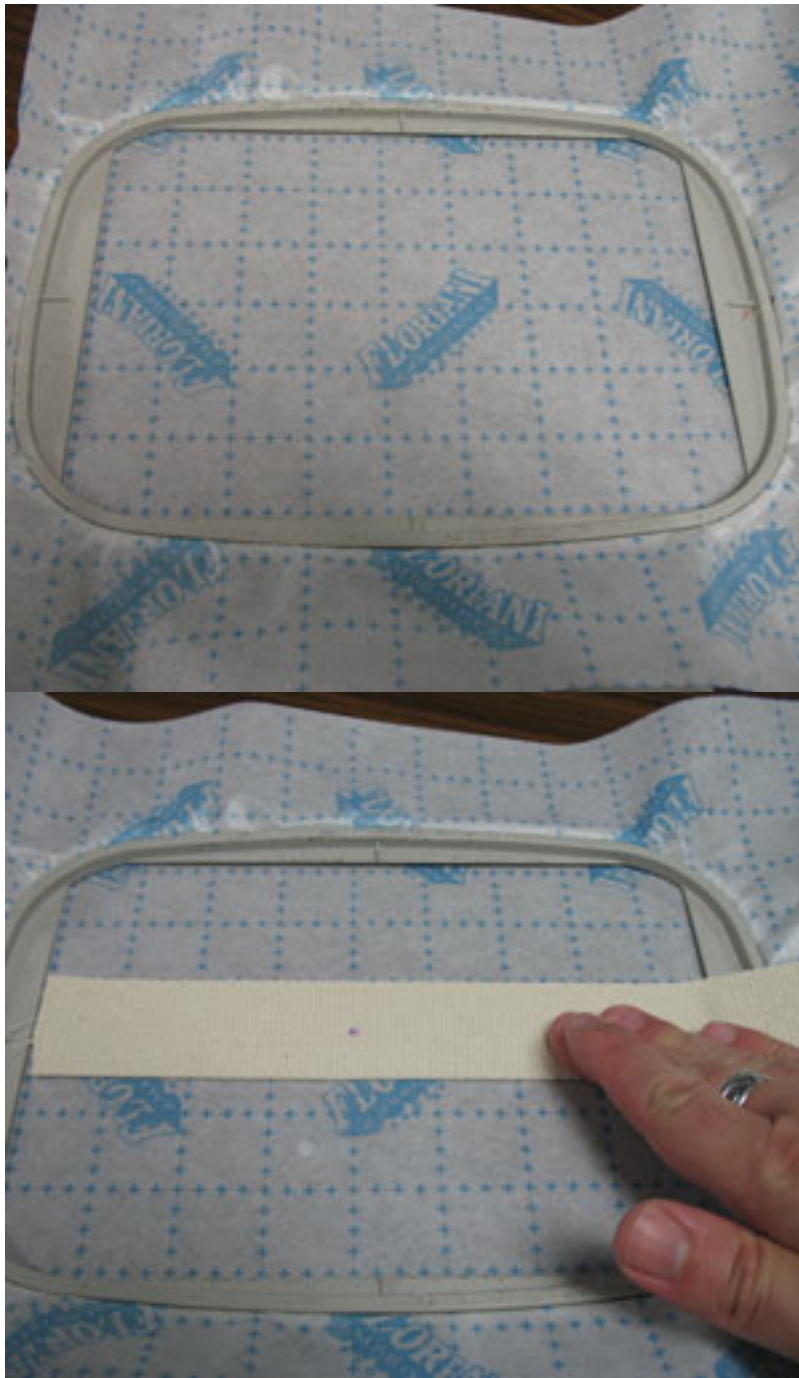


After the design has been embroidered, trim away the excess stabilizer. Leave about 1/2 inch of stabilizer around the design.



Cut four 14 inch strips of the canvas strap. Print two paper templates of the border (daisy) design. Trim around them to make them more manageable for marking.

Place the templates on one of the canvas strips. Center them within the strip by measuring equal distances between the edges of the strip and center of the templates. Poke a hole in the center of the fabric and mark the fabric.

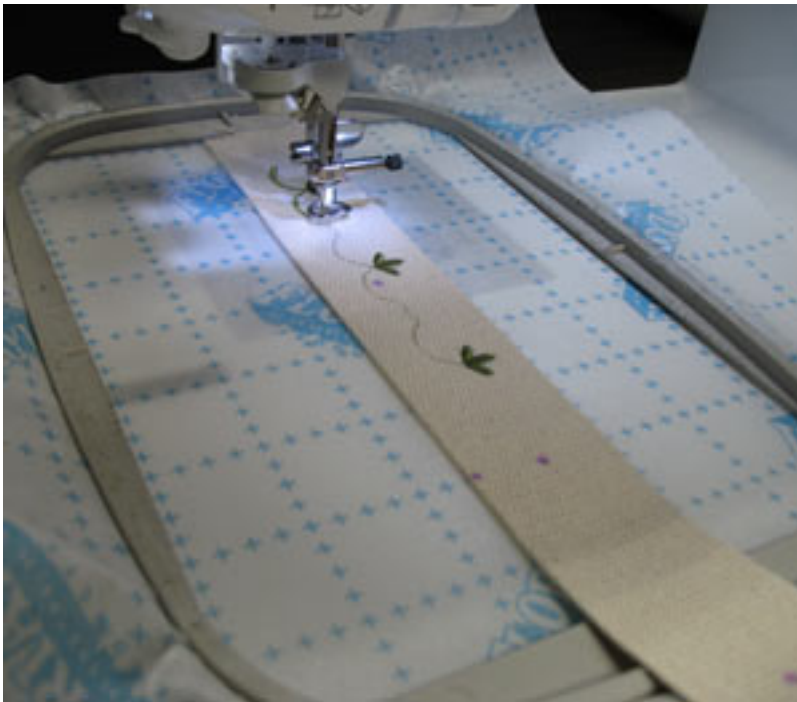


Hoop a piece of sticky-back, tear-away stabilizer. We are using Floriani's Wet 'n' Stick, which has handy lines printed right on the stabilizer.

Hoop the stabilizer by aligning the marks on the hoop with the lines on the stabilizer.

Blot the stabilizer with a damp sponge or paper towel to activate the adhesive.

Aligning one of the edges of the strip with a line on the stabilizer, lay the canvas strip on the stabilizer with one of the center points in the center area of the hoop. Press in place.



Attach the hoop to the machine, load the design, align the needle over the center point of the strip, and embroider the design. After the design has been embroidered, tear the strip away from the stabilizer.

Rehoop the stabilizer, activate the adhesive, and press the strip into place with the next center point in the center area of the hoop. Align the needle over the center point and embroider the design. After the design has been embroidered, tear away the stabilizer.



Embroider another strip as you did the first. Then, align a plain piece of canvas strip on the wrong side of each of the strips and pin in place.

Sew 1/8 inch seam along the outer edges of each of the strips.



Lay the lightweight canvas lining flat and lay the placemat on top, right side down.

Cut the canvas, with a 1/2 inch seam allowance on the sides and a 1 inch allowance on the ends.

Pin in place.



Sew seams along the long sides of the placemat. Leave the ends open.



Turn the fabric right side out and press the seams.

Optional:

Cut two strips of beaded trim to the width of the ends of the placemat.

Apply double-faced tape to the inside of the placemat, and press the trim in place with the bead side facing out.

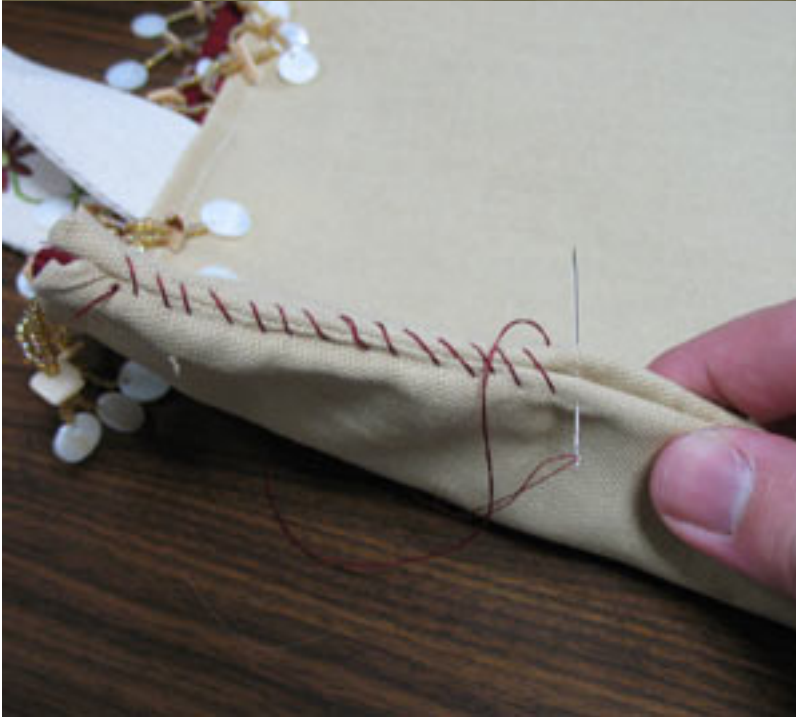
Add the embroidered handles in between the layers with the ends of the handles extending 1 inch in from each end of the placemat. Position the ends of the handles about 4 1/2 inches from the edges of the placemat.

Fold the lining in, aligning it with the ends of the placemat and pin in place.

Make sure the trim is outside of the layers.



Using a zipper foot, sew a seam right along each of the ends. Sew back and forth over the handles to reinforce them.



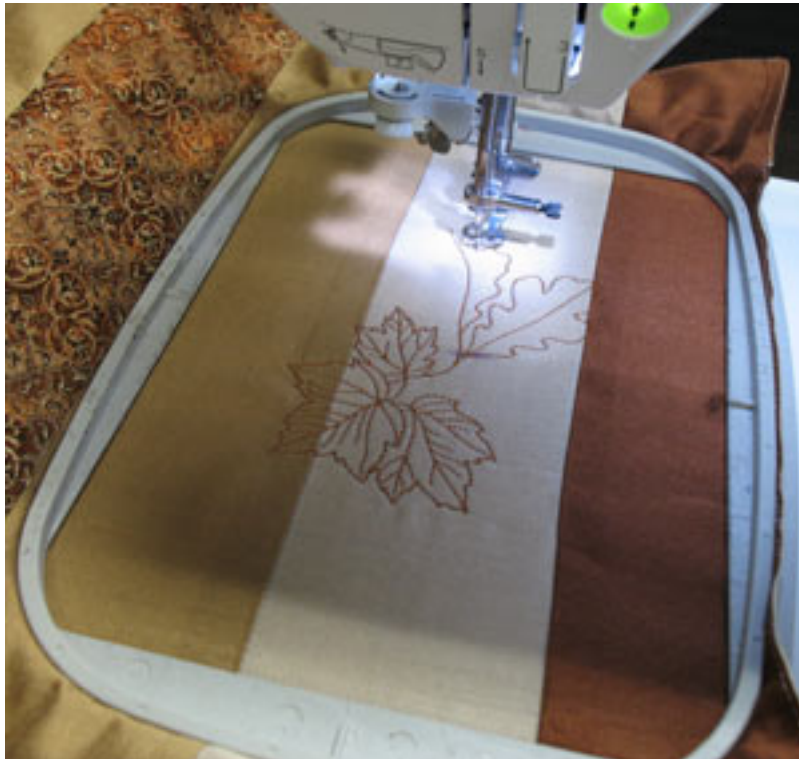
Fold the placemat in half, right sides together.

The fabric was too thick to stitch with the machine, so we hand sewed the sides using a whip stitch.

After the sides are sewn, turn the purse right side out.



And there you have it -- so fast and fun to make, you can stitch one for every outfit and occasion!



Placemat Purse #2

Striped Purse with Handles

To help position the design and mark the fabric, print a template of the design from your embroidery software. Cut around the template to make it a manageable size. Measure and mark the center point and the vertical and horizontal axis points.

Hoop the placemat and the tear-away stabilizer together by aligning the marks on the hoop with the lines on the fabric.

Attach the hoop to the machine, and load the design. Align the needle over the center point, and embroider the design. When the design has finished embroidering, tear away the excess stabilizer.



To make loops for the handles, cut four 2 x 4 inch pieces from the lightweight canvas. Fold the pieces lengthwise toward the center and then fold again by bringing the side folds together.

Sew a seam along the side of each loop.



Thread the loops through the ends of the handles, bring the ends of the loops together, and sew in place at the ends of the loops.

Lay the lightweight canvas lining flat and place the placemat on top, right side down. Cut the canvas, with a 1/2 inch seam allowance on the sides and a 1 inch allowance on the ends. Pin in place. Sew seams along the long sides of the placemat, leaving the ends open.



Add the handles to the purse by placing the loops in between the layers on the ends. Measure equal distances between the edges of the placemat and loops of the handles.

Fold the lining fabric in, aligning it with the ends of the placemat and pin in place. Using a zipper foot, sew a seam along the ends. Sew back and forth over the loops to reinforce them.

Fold the placemat in half, right sides together and sew together.

We used a zigzag stitch along the sides to finish this purse.

Turn right side out.



Another great look -- and another fast and fashionable purse.

Another super idea:

Add interior patch pockets to hold your cell phone, keys, pen, coupons, or sunglasses!



[Click here for a printable version of these project instructions.](#)

You'll need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. If you don't have it, you can download a free copy by clicking on the icon below.

