

# Party Purses from Men's Ties

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- SUPPLIES NEEDED** (suggested sizes are approximate, and extra “common” sewing notions will be used):
- ONE Man's Tie** (Try to avoid those with a design requiring a specific orientation—such as printed words, etc.)
  - TWO 11"x15" rectangles of lining (to blend with the selected tie).** This lining should match the thread color as closely as possible. *Note: Only ONE of these two lining pieces will “show,” so feel free to get rid of some “ugly” lining (or other fabrics) if you wish. No one will see the lining for Piece Two. Sh-h-h-h-h!!*
  - TWO 11"x15" rectangles of Polymesh stabilizer.** Choose either BLACK or WHITE—whichever one better matches your choice of *thread color*.
  - TWO ovals of THIN batting.** (See attached pattern.) This smaller trimmed size keeps the outside edge from “bearding” later, because the batting will be completely INSIDE the design with no “overhang” around the edges. *If available, use BLACK batting with darker fabrics.*
  - Your choice of THREAD.** Note that the BOBBIN thread should be the same color as the upper thread.  
***IMPORTANT:*** *The COLOR of the thread will be the SAME through ALL of the steps in the designs, even though the color chart in the design shows many DIFFERENT SHADES. These different shades are “printed” in the designs (to force a separation in the steps for the designs), but you will use the SAME COLOR for all steps in both pieces. In other words, you never need to change threads!*
  - Complimentary embroidery designs** entitled “TiePursePieceOne.ART” & “TiePursePieceTwo.ART” (from Flora). (See below for alternative complimentary embroidery designs.)
  - ONE decorative button** (Those with a shank work best.) You may use snaps, but a button will still be needed for decoration and to hide any sewn-on snaps. I will often sew snaps onto both purse pieces, then I'll sew a button atop the snap. If you do this, you will not need to slit the bottonhole (or even stitch it if you prefer not to do so).
  - Optional fringe** (A yard will go around entire purse. Get 14" extra if the fringe is different on the reverse side.) Less than 14" will be needed if you choose to have fringe stitched only to the folded piece of the purse.
  - Bernina Embroidery Machine** (for the .ART file) with a large oval hoop.

## BEFORE STITCHING:

- From the WIDER end of the tie, cut an 11" section of the tie. Now cut another 11" section from the already-cut end. Gently “open” each of these **cut** pieces and iron out the seam allowances—but be VERY CAREFUL with the heat settings on your iron. It is easy to scorch tie fabric. *Note: For these two cut pieces, you will be discarding the tie's stabilizing fabric (or saving it for another project).*
- Alternative to the above: Open the first two feet of the wider end of the tie and use the provided template to cut the two tie pieces. Note: I find it easier NOT to trim the pieces first.*
- Leave the long remaining tie section unopened for the later purse strap, and HAND SEW the open/cut end so it LOOKS like the other (uncut) end.

## STEPS FOR TIE PURSE PIECE ONE: (TIE PURSE BACK AND TOP FLAP):

- A. **FIRST HOOPING:** In your large oval hoop, tightly hoop one layer of the **lining (right side DOWN)**, with a layer of Polymesh stabilizer atop the lining. (These two pieces should be very lightly sprayed with fabric adhesive (505) between the two layers before hooping.) Attach the prepared hoop to your embroidery machine.
- B. **STITCHING:** Open the “TiePursePieceOne.ART” design in your machine and STITCH STEP 1 (Placement).  
**Note 1:** *Remember that you do NOT EVER need to change the thread colors—even though the design shows several different shades.*  
**Note 2:** *Instead of using the provided design “TiePursePieceOne.ART,” you may substitute either of the two additional designs, “TiePurseWithStars.ART” or “TiePurseWithHearts.ART.” These two are offered simply for variety in these purses. The “...Hearts...” design has a cute heart design inside the solid fill.*
- C. Position your carefully trimmed piece of batting (according to the attached pattern) that has been sprayed on

**both sides** EXACTLY CENTERED inside the stitched placement oval. Next place the WRONG SIDE of the larger/wider piece of tie oval-cut tie fabric atop the batting. (These top two top items will NOT be hooped.) Check to make sure the fabric design orientation is the way you want it. STITCH STEP 2 of the design. *Note: Because of the delicacy of most tie fabrics, you might need to stitch this step slowly and to hold down the fabric as it stitches.*

D. Remove the hoop from the machine, **BUT DO NOT REMOVE THE FABRIC FROM THE HOOP**. Carefully and closely trim away the TOP TWO UNHOOPED ITEMS (the tie fabric and the batting—if any batting shows). Cut it as CLOSELY to the stitched outline as you can, taking care not to snip the stitches.

E. Return the hoop to the machine, and STITCH STEP 3. This step includes (a) the OUTER SATIN STITCH around the complete piece, (b) the buttonhole, and (c) the PLACEMENT CIRCLE for the left piece of the strap.

F. Carefully “eyeball” where the tie strap should fit atop that stitched placement circle. Now stitch STEP 4. This step allows you to make sure your tie strap is positioned correctly. As you begin this step, you will be able to see if that end of your strap is actually where you want it to be. If it ISN'T, then stop the stitching, rip out the loose stitches, and reposition it. Go back to the beginning of Step 4 and re-stitch until you are satisfied.

G. Stitch Step 5. This step stitches the satin circle around the left piece of the strap, and it continues to stitch the placement circle for the right end of the strap. Next, follow the concepts explained in “F” above with this right strap circle, and stitch Steps 6 and 7.

H. Remove the hoop from the machine, and remove the fabric from the hoop. Trim any remaining jump stitches from both front and back, then CAREFULLY cut open the buttonhole slit, and trim the design VERY CLOSELY to the outside edge WITHOUT snipping any of the satin stitches. This will serve as your outer edge, and if you see any undesired fabric “bearding” on the outside of your satin stitches, trim carefully and/or touch them up with a fabric pen.

## **STEPS FOR TIE PURSE PIECE TWO:** (FOLDED PURSE FRONT)

I. Do Steps A-D above (using “TiePursePieceTwo.ART”), then stitch Step 3 of the design. *If you do NOT want the pocket, stop the stitching before that “buttonhole” section begins.* Repeat Step H (above) with this purse section.

J. FOLD TiePieceTwo EXACTLY in half, with right sides out. At this point any optional fringe MAY be sewn just **inside** this shape by tucking the top of the fringe between the edges of the two folds and stitching it in place. For BEADED fringe, use Foot 4, with the needle position to the extreme right (or left).

## **STEPS FOR FINISHING THE TIE PURSE:**

K. Decide if you want an outer fringe, and cut/position it according to the desired final appearance. A fringe that extends ONLY around the folded TiePursePieceTwo may be “tucked” inside the folded pocket. With the (optional) fringe in place, join TiePursePieceOne to TiePursePieceTwo by positioning them together and stitching at the outer edge (on the inner edge of the satin stitches). Consider stitching this twice if you think the purse will receive lots of use, and always reinforce the beginning and ending of the seam (at the two places that will get the most stress). If NO fringe is used, a zigzag topstitch may be added for reinforcement, if desired.

L. Sew on a button in a position to match the long buttonhole. This buttonhole will likely be LONGER than your chosen button—intentionally designed in this fashion to allow more “slack” for fuller purses. Position the button at the “top-most” point for an EMPTY purse—to give it the most slack when the purse is filled. It is slightly more awkward to sew on this button AFTER the purse has been sewn together, but the positioning can be more accurate at this time. Take caution not to catch the bottom of the *inner pocket flap* while sewing on this button.

## **STEPS FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE NOT TO EMBROIDER:**

This will be simpler than it looks—just take the two template shapes and cut the fabrics as described. INSTEAD of using the complimentary embroidery designs, do your choice of free-motion stitching for the quilting, edging, and buttonholes. Because you aren't restricted to these design sizes, feel free to make these purses any size—as long as your tie fabric permits. HAVE FUN!!!



# Template Shapes for Party Purses

Use the inner oval to cut out a  
plastic template for the  
**BATTING** for each  
purse section.

(This is the EXACT size for the batting pieces.)

Use the shape of the **OUTER**  
oval to make a  
plastic template for the  
purse fabric.

(These fabric pieces are slightly larger  
than needed and will be trimmed  
after stitching Step 2.)