

Party Purse

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For questions/comments/corrections, feel free to e-mail Flora.

For a cute party purse that you can use to carry the “bare essentials” (your cell phone, credit card, lipstick, some cash, etc.), turn this EASY design into a show-stopper. *Cauti-
on: Making these purses will become addictive!*



SUPPLIES NEEDED (suggested sizes are approximate, and additional “common” sewing notions will be used):

TWO 7"x11" ovals of “party purse fabric.” You may use the attached pattern to cut these pieces. Be cautious as you position fabrics with a directional design. (I avoid fabrics with stripes for these purses.)

TWO 12"x14" rectangles of lining (to blend with the party purse fabric). This lining should match the thread color. Instead of *lining* for Piece A, you may use your party purse fabric, but it will need to be 12"x14".

TWO 12"x14" rectangles of Polymesh stabilizer. Choose either BLACK or WHITE according to your choice of thread color.

TWO ovals of batting. (See attached pattern.) If available, use BLACK batting with darker fabrics.

Your choice of THREAD. Note that FOR PIECE A, the BOBBIN thread should be the same color as the upper thread. For Piece B, the bobbin color won't matter.

Complimentary embroidery designs entitled “PartyPursePieceA.ART” & “PartyPursePieceB.ART” (from Flora).

DECORATIONS: ONE decorative button (those with a shank work best), optional fringe and purse strap. The latter may vary from fancy purchased chains, to converted bracelets, to heavy duty 60" boot laces, etc.

Bernina Embroidery Machine (for the .ART file) with a large oval hoop.

STEPS FOR PIECE A: (PURSE BACK AND TOP FLAP):

1. **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 adhered with an adhesive spray (505) between the two layers.) After hooping these two, cut a piece of batting (according to the attached pattern) and spray **both sides**. Position it **EXACTLY CENTERED** atop the two hooped fabrics. (This small size keeps the outside edge from “bearding” later, because the batting will be completely **INSIDE** the design with no “overhang” around the edges.) Next place the **WRONG SIDE** of a piece of party purse fabric atop the batting. (These top two top layers of fabric will **NOT** be hooped.) **SUMMARY:** This “fabric sandwich” will consist of (a) one layer of lining, right side DOWN, adhered to (b) one sheet of stabilizer—and both hooped, (c) an inner piece of batting positioned in the exact **CENTER** of the design—with 505 on **BOTH** sides, and topped with (d) a piece of party purse fabric (right side UP).

2. **STITCHING:** Open the “PartyPursePieceA.ART” design in your machine and **STITCH STEP ONE AND TWO ONLY**. Remove the hoop from the machine, **BUT DO NOT REMOVE THE FABRIC FROM THE HOOP**. Carefully and closely trim away the **TOP TWO UNHOOPED LAYERS** (the party fabric and the batting—if any shows). Cut it as **CLOSELY** to the stitched outline as you can, taking care not to snip the stitches.

3. Return the hoop to the machine, and stitch the two remaining steps.

4. 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 slit(s), 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 PIECE B: (PURSE FRONT - BOTTOM):

5. Do Steps 1-4 above with “PartyPursePieceB.ART.”

STEPS FOR FINISHING THE PARTY PURSE

6. FOLD Piece B 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).

7. Join Piece A to Piece B 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.

8. The two outer slits are used as openings for the purse strap. Tuck your chosen purse strap to the **INSIDE** of the purse by placing each end just inside the cut slits. Stitch the strap firmly in place. Note: There are several ways to stitch this in place, but my favorite (for fabric straps) is to pull through a couple extra inches of the strap through each slit, sew a narrow satin stitch atop the **BACK** half of the existing slit, and hand baste the **END** of the strap *inside* the purse pocket (where this hand stitching will be hidden). Other methods will work as well.

9. 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, and this will 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.

FOR FLEECE PURSES (or ultra-suede, or other non-fraying heavier fabrics):

THIS IS SIMPLE: Cut **FOUR** 12"x14" rectangles of fleece. No additional linings or batting will be needed. Hoop **TWO** of the rectangles, and stitch the PartyPursePieceA.Art design, and stitch the remaining two rectangles using the PartyPursePieceB.Art design. **NOTE: IN EACH CASE, CONSIDER OMITTING THE OUTER SATIN STITCH STEP (the third of the four embroidery design steps).** After each stitched design has been completed and removed from the hoop, trim by leaving a **ONE-INCH OUTER BORDER** outside the design. Fold Piece B in half and stitch it to the bottom of Piece A. Make a self-fringe by snipping the outside border.

SOME ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS:

- If you want to change the quilting pattern, import the embroidery design to your computer screen, and highlight the stitches in STEP 2, **RIGHT CLICK** (to get object properties), then click on the **FILL STITCH** (tab). Adjust as desired, but note that a very, very **LOOSE** stitch is needed for this quilted effect. The stitch chosen for this design was **BLACKWORK #B0080a**.
- For **pre-quilted fabrics** omit Step 1 of the embroidery design. These fabrics vary, but most can be stitched with only **ONE** layer at a time (12"x14" rectangles, without lining or batting), and will require only **TWO** of these rectangles of pre-quilted fabrics. However, you will need to wait until the end to trim the outside edge.
- If you prefer to use a purse snap instead of a button, don't stitch the final section of the PartyPursePieceA.Art design. Likewise, if you choose to attach the purse strap onto the purse in a different way, don't stitch that corresponding section of the design. If you don't want the “hidden pocket” in Piece B, omit the section that looks like a long buttonhole.
- If you use a colored thread that is a different shade from your dominant fabric (such as red thread on denim fabric), you might want to stitch **EMBROIDERY DESIGN STEP 1** twice to help the thread pattern show up.
- Feel free to pull these two designs into your computer and change whatever makes you happy! There are **bazillions** of creative ways to embellish, decorate, embroider, and modify this party purse. Have fun!