

109-3

Linda Augsburg demonstrates how to use t-shirts to create bags, totes and messengers.

Watch the video for this project online at:
<http://youtu.be/eOgjk7wKpVs>



Please continue to page 2 for project instructions.

Partners



<http://www.brothersews.com>

Bias-Trimmed T-Shirt Purse

Adapted by Linda Augsborg from an Indygo Junction pattern



When I'm making t-shirt purses, I want a simple flat-fronted design so the logo or artwork can be the focus. This purse pattern only had two small pleats to make the purse more spacious, so it fit the bill. Since t-shirts are knit and need some stabilizing, I like the softness of tricot fusible interfacing for t-shirt purses that don't need to stand-up on their own, like this purse.

Materials:

- T-shirt (mine is an adult medium)
- Fusible interfacing*, two pieces larger than your purse pattern (width varies)
- Lining fabric, 44"-wide, 3/8 yd.
- Fabric for bias trim, fat quarter or 44"-wide, 1/2 yd. (to be cut on the bias)
- Matching button
- 6" piece of narrow elastic/ribbon
- Matching thread
- Scissors
- Pins
- Needle for hand-sewing
- Iron and ironing board
- Teflon-coated pressing sheet
- Sewing machine and basic sewing tools
- Rotary cutter, self-healing cutting mat, and clear plastic gridded ruler

* Use fusible non-woven interfacing if you want your purse to have more structure and stiffness. Otherwise, use knit-friendly interfacing just to stabilize the knit fabric of the t-shirt. When placing pattern, make sure that the directional stretch of the t-shirt runs in the opposite direction of the directional stretch of the knit-friendly interfacing. This will give you a more stable but still drapey t-shirt.

Instructions:

Prep:

1. Wash t-shirt; do not use fabric softener. Dry as desired.
2. Copy or print the pattern. Make a complete pattern by making a second print out or copy and taping the two halves together on the "place on fold" line. This will make it easier to properly place the t-shirt's design.
3. Photocopy the t-shirt motif. If you plan to use the design on the back of the t-shirt, copy that too. Note: You might want to make more than one copy so you can cut out a few to determine best placement.



4. Place the pattern on the photocopy and cut out several versions to determine placement of purse pattern on t-shirt.



Make the purse:

5. Place your Teflon-coated pressing sheet on your ironing surface. Place your t-shirt face-down on the pressing sheet, making sure that the entire screen-printed image is contained within the pressing sheet area. Cut a piece of fusible interfacing larger than the pattern. Place the fusible interfacing on the t-shirt, having the fusible side of the interfacing toward the wrong side of the t-shirt. Fuse the interfacing to the wrong side of the t-shirt and let cool.



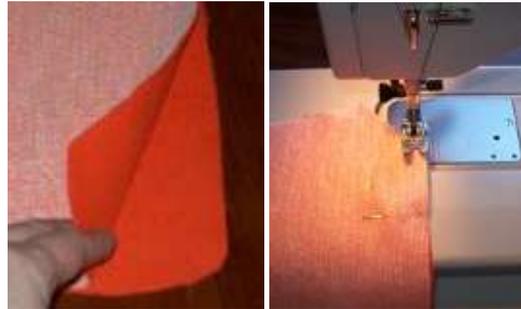
6. Place the pattern on the front of the t-shirt, placing as previously determined, and either pin the pattern in place or trace around the pattern and cut out the piece. Repeat to cut the back of the purse from the back of the t-shirt. Cut two same-sized pieces from the lining fabric.



7. Transfer the tuck markings at the top of the pattern onto the two purse pieces and the two lining pieces. On each piece, fold the tucks, matching the dashed lines. Then pin and baste across the top to hold the tucks in place. Repeat on each piece.



8. Place the bag pieces right sides together. Sew the side and bottom edges using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press seams open and turn right-side out.



9. Sew the lining pieces together in the same way, using a 3/8" seam allowance, but do not turn right-side out.



10. Insert the lining into the bag, wrong sides together and seams aligned.



11. Fold the elastic or ribbon in half. Center the ends on the top raw edge of the bag back and baste in place.



(Note, in this step's photo, the bias strip is already attached, but yours isn't yet.)

12. Cut bias strips of fabric (see Bias Strips section below if you need extra assistance) 3-1/2" wide. Sew strips end-to-end to make a 70"-long strip.



- Press the strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together.



13. Pin the binding strip to the curved upper edge of the purse front, right sides together and raw edges aligned. Sew the binding to the purse using a 1/2" seam allowance. Trim the excess binding strip.



Turn the binding to the inside, over the seam allowance. Slip-stitch the binding in place along the seamline. Repeat for the back of the bag.



- Starting 1" before one side seam, pin the remaining bias binding strip from the side seam to the top edge of the purse, right sides together and raw edges even. Measure 18" from the top of the purse and start pinning again at the other side of the purse, being sure not to let the strip twist. Continue to the top edge of the back, measure 18" again, and start at the top of the back, pinning toward the point where you began.



Where the two ends meet, trim the fabric strip $\frac{1}{2}$ " beyond the side seam. Using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, sew the strip to the purse, beginning and ending at the side seam. Fold the ends over each other and slip-stitch the ends together for a smooth join.

- Fold the bias strip onto the lining side of the bag, concealing the seam allowance, and slip-stitch. Fold the loose 18" sections in thirds to make a handle the same width as the binding. Topstitch each handle close to the edges, backstitching at the beginning and end where the handle meets the bag.
- Sew the button in place on the front of the bag aligned with the loop.

Cutting bias strips

On woven fabric, the diagonal of the fabric is called the bias. Cutting on the bias (diagonally across the fabric) provides the most stretch from a woven piece of fabric.

- Cut a square or rectangle of fabric at least 18" x 22". Place your ruler diagonally across the fabric an equal distance from one corner.
- Cut along the edge, then cut bias strips the width called for for your pattern.
- Trim the diagonal ends so they are parallel.
- Match up the cut ends so the strips form a right angle and the seam allowances extend beyond the strips. Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam and press the seam allowance open.

The Bias-Trimmed T-Shirt Purse is an adaptation of the Pocketbook Purse by Amy Barickman of Indygo Junction and is presented here with their permission. Though this pattern is no longer available from Indygo Junction, visit [Indygo Junction's website](#) for more great patterns that could be adapted in this same way.

For other projects shown in this segment on It's Sew Easy on PBS, including the t-shirt apron, go to [FaveCrafts.com](#) and [download the free Recycled T-Shirt Purses and Apron eBook](#).



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