

Silver Evening Purse

This small-mid sized evening purse is a very quick and easy one to make, and these instructions will show you how to draft your own pattern as well, to suit the size purse frame that you have. Ours is an 8 inch frame, with a simple sewn base, and a fabulous sparkly accent fabric. This fabric purse is simply glued to the frame for a speedy and gorgeous result!



Purse Dimensions are 10½ inches wide at the base x 7½ inches high, and 1½ inches deep.

You Will Need:

Fat quarter – ½ yard fabric for purse outer

Fat quarter – ½ yard fabric for purse lining

Fat quarter – ½ yard light weight fusible pellon

Fat quarter – ½ yard light weight fusible interfacing

Metal purse frame – ours was 8 inches across the top and approx. 2½ inches down to the side hinges

Fabric or strong adhesive glue to glue the frame to the fabric bag

Optional – length of chain if your frame allows for chain to be fitted for an over-the-shoulder-bag.

Bag Construction:

Please read all instructions fully before beginning. All measurements are in inches, and unless stated otherwise, a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance has been used.

Referring to the attached Cutting Guide and using your template, carefully cut the required bag pieces from the bag fabrics, interfacing and pellon as required.

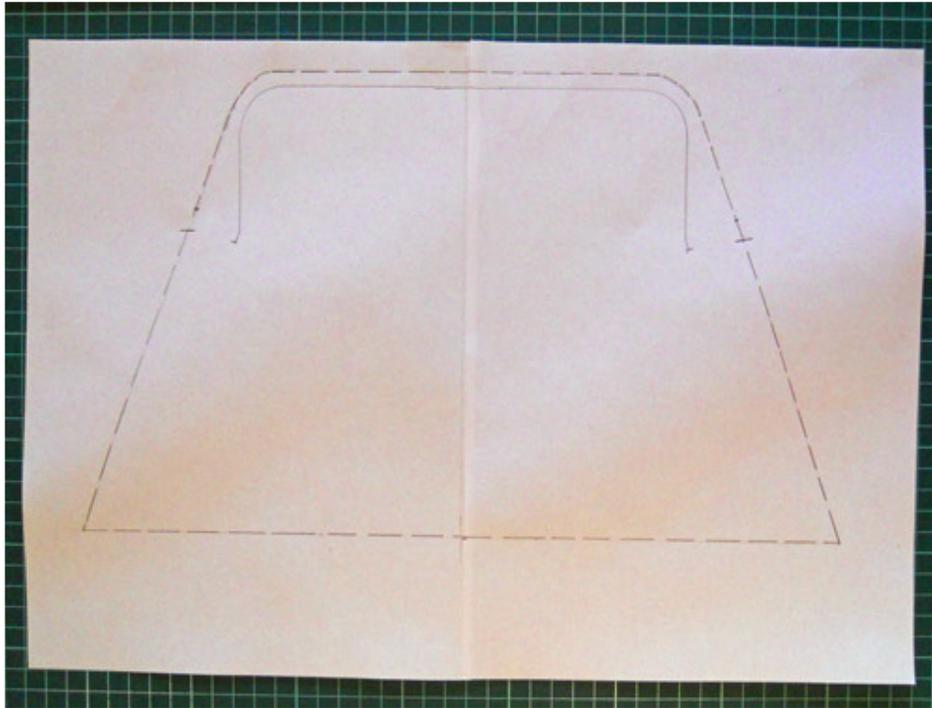
Pattern:

This simple purse pattern is easy to draft, and you should be able to draw up a pattern to suit the size purse frame you purchase.



On a plain sheet of paper, trace around the shape of your purse frame, as shown above.

Working from the curve at the top corners, pencil in your $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance across the top, shown by the dotted line above the purse frame.



As shown above, the rest of the pattern is drawn in. Mark straight lines down the sides following along from the seam allowance curve at the top of the frame. The length of these will determine the height of your purse – we measured down about 8½ inches for the height, which includes the allowance for the folded up base too.

To allow the purse to keep a pleasing shape when it is made up, our base line is 14 inches long. This is to give the purse a nice plump look when it is finished.



Mark the hinge points as shown above too. Line up the curve of your frame with the curve at the top of your pattern and angle it so the side of the frame runs along the marked edge of the pattern.

Mark the hinge point, and add another $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch down the side for good measure. You will sew each side of the purse to this point.

That's it! Now cut on that dotted line to make your purse side template.

You can adjust this as you like from here – if you want a fuller purse, add more width across the base, and if you want a longer/deeper purse, just add more length.

Assembly:

Using your template, cut two bag outer pieces, cut two lining pieces, cut two pellon pieces and cut four light weight interfacing pieces. Mark the side hinge points on the pieces with a lead pencil dot.

To prepare the pieces for construction, iron the light weight interfacing to the wrong sides of the purse outer pieces, then fuse the pellon on top of that. Iron the light weight interfacing to the wrong side of the purse lining pieces also.

With right sides together of the outer fabric pieces, sew down both sides and across the bottom to join the two panels together.

To make the purse base, pinch together the bottom corners – align the side seam on top of the bottom seam, mark down $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the sewn corner point and sew across that line at right angles to the other seams. Repeat for the other corner and trim seams before turning right sides out.

Make the lining in the same way. With right sides together then sew the lining pieces together, leaving most of the middle of the base seam unsewn, to turn the purse through later.

Form the base in the same way as you did for the purse outer. Sew the corners and trim.

Place the purse outer into the lining, matching side seams and marked hinge points.

Pin and sew around the top of the purse panels, taking care to sew down to, but not past the marked hinge points. (It is easier to sew each side separately.)

Turn the purse right sides out through the hole and pin and topstitch the lining side hole closed.



You may find it helpful to press the top seams on your purse now so they are nice and flat before glueing them into the purse frame.

Add the metal frame to finish. Carefully apply your glue to the inside of the frame and using a pointed tool (like a knitting needle or wooden skewer), push the top of the fabric purse into the frame well and leave glue to set. Again, you may find it easier to do one side and allow it to set for a little while before you turn it over and glue the other side of the frame.

If your frame has little hooks, you can choose to attach a metal chain if you'd like to finish.

