

Curved Purses

First, make a little quilted piece, or start with a stiffish fabric and a lining. I use odd blocks and sampler pieces to make these, and they are good for using up those nice small leftover blocks... This piece should be about twice as long as it is wide, but the over all dimensions are elastic. The smallest purses can be made from a piece about 4 by 8 inches, and I have made really big ones.. A good size to start with is about 6 by 12 inches

Cut the sides parallel and the ends to a curve (use a plate, or a saucer, or a cup as a pattern)

At this point, if you want a washproof lining, add it to the inside, and stitch very close to the outer edge all round. Trim...

Use a thread to match the binding in the bobbin and on top of the machine
Bind the edge all round. I use commercial 1-inch bias binding, but you can cut your own if you wish. Start half-way along one long edge with the bias on the inside of the purse and the folded edge towards the centre.. Let the bias hang "half-off" the edge. Sew all round on top of the fold of the bias and trim any excess

Turn the bias to the outside of the purse and sew again, making sure the edge is nicely tight and neat.

Put the zip foot on your machine

Take a regular nylon zip, in a matching or toning colour and a least 4 inches longer than you need. Mark the starts and ends of where you want to place the zip with pins as shown.

Open the zip. Starting at the top, sew the zip to the bias edge from the outside. Put the zip tape underneath the edge (inside the purse) with the zip teeth just touching the edge, and sew as near to the edge as possible.. Pin if you feel the need. The zip will curve round nicely as you go. Start and finish with a few back-stitches.

Turn the purse over and sew the zip tape down again a little further in. I usually make teeny pleats in the tape as I go for neatness.

Making sure to match the placings, sew the other side of the zip to the other end of the purse.. At this point you will discover why the longer zip is handy.

Partly close the zip and turn the purse to the inside

Sew the remaining sides of the bias edges together with an overcast or embroidery stitch. Trim off any excess of zip and oversew the ends down neatly inside the purse.

Fold the corners as shown, and sew across the tip to make a nice neat squared bottom. On my cotton-lined purses I sew the points back towards the centre by hand to make a nice shape. On the ones I line with washproof fabrics, I sew twice and trim the seam points off

Turn the purse back out the right way, push into shape, and enjoy.. Make another?

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