

Simply Charming

This simple purse is created from a charms pack or 5" squares. Options are given for interior and exterior finishing as well as handles to make your purse "one-of-a-kind".

Supply List

1 charm pack or minimum of 14 – 5" squares in at least 6 fabrics for body of purse

½ yard of coordinating fabric for lining (This will also be enough for pockets and handles if you choose this finish.)

Batting at least 18" x 24"

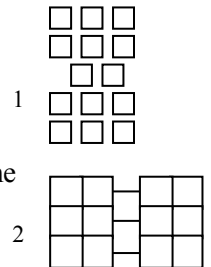
Optional finishing materials:

Handle options: purchased purse handles, 1 yd grosgrain ribbon, drapery cording

Other finishing options: Velcro, large snap, or magnetic closure; buttons or decorative trim

Step 1 - Purse Body:

1. Select 14 charms (or 5" squares) and lay them out in 5 rows with 3-3-2-3-3 as shown at right.
2. Stitch blocks to form rows together. Then stitch rows together with the 2-block row centered on the 3-block rows. This is the purse front.
3. Lay purse front, right side up, on batting. Pin or baste in place, then quilt as desired. Trim batting to the same size as purse front.
4. If you wish to have a pocket on the outside of you purse, now is the time to make it. Place two charm squares right sides together (RST). Mark 3½" from one edge. Stitch down this line. Using a ¼" seam, stitch across the bottom and up the other side. Turn right side out, fold in raw edges about ¼" and finger press. Fold another charm RST to form a triangle. Stitch around raw edges, leaving about a 2" opening for turning. Turn right side out, fold in opening, and press. Lay pocket (rectangle) down with open edge at the bottom. Center triangle along top edge and fold corners to back of rectangle. Pin triangle to rectangle and edge stitch top edge only. Place pocket where desired on front and edge stitch around sides and bottom, reinforcing at both top edges.



Step 2 – Lining

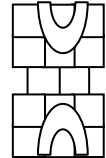
5. Lay purse front on lining fabric, right sides together. Cut lining to the same size as the purse.
6. Determine how many and what size pockets you wish to have on your purse. You may use the purse lining, extra charms or another coordinating fabric. **Note:** *If you wish to make handles out of the lining fabric, cut them before you cut the pocket pieces.* To make pockets from the lining fabric, determine the sizes you want. Example: If you want a pocket that is 12" wide and 4" tall, cut a piece of fabric 12½" x 8½". Fold right sides together so the pocket is 12½" x 4¼". Starting at the folded edge, stitch down the side and across the bottom – leaving a 3" opening along the bottom edge for turning. Clip corners, turn the pocket right side out, and press.
7. Position the pocket where you want it on the lining only and pin in place. Do not pin the lining and pocket to the purse front. With the open edge at the bottom, stitch about ⅛" from the edge around the pocket, catching the opening in the stitching. If you want divided sections, draw them with a fabric marker and then stitch these lines also. Make other pockets on the other side of the lining if you wish.
8. If you are going to put inside fasteners such as Velcro or a snap, stitch these to the right side of the lining about 1" from top. If you are using a magnetic closure, attach these per manufacturers instructions.



Step 3 – Put it Together

9. Before you begin putting the bag together, it's necessary to know the type of handles you will be using. If you are using fabric, charms, ribbon, or other "soft" handles, use steps under A - C. If you are using "hard" purchased handles, use steps under D.

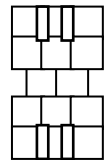
A. Charms handles: Sew 2 sets of 4 charms together to form two 20" strips. Fold in half lengthwise and press. Fold each edge to the center pressed line and press. Insert narrow strip of batting inside one of the folds. Top stitch both edges of the handle. Baste handles to the front and back of purse where marked on the diagram.



B. Fabric handles: Cut 2 strips 5" x 20". Follow steps in A above.

C. Grosgrain ribbon, drapery cording, etc.: Cut 2 lengths of ribbon, cording, etc. to 20" or desired length. Attach to bag front and back as in A.

D. "Hard" purchased handles: Lay the purchased handles on the purse and mark the location. You will need to make fabric loops the width of the "connector" on the handles. Measure the width of the opening on the "connector". (a) For handles with "connectors" at each handle base, measure the opening width, multiply by 2 and add 1/4". Cut a piece 11" x this width. Fold in half lengthwise and fold in the raw edges so your strip is approximately 11" x 1". Edge stitch both long edges. Cut 4 pieces approximately 2 1/2" x 1". Stitch tabs as shown on the diagram. (b) For handles with one long "connector" on each handle, measure the opening width. Cut 2 pieces the width by 2 1/2". Fold in half, right sides together and stitch the short ends together. Turn right sides out and press. Center along edge of purse and stitch in place.



10. If you plan on having a loop and button closure, apply this now. Measure your button. Multiply this by 2 and add 1". (Example: If your button is 3/4", the measurement would be 2 1/2".) Using either a charm or a scrap of fabric, cut a piece of fabric 1 1/2" x the measurement above. *Note: Do not cut a loop piece any smaller than 1 1/2" x 2 1/2"*. Fold in half lengthwise and press. Open up and fold the edges into the center. Press and stitch close to the edge. The loop should be approximately 1/2" x 2 1/2" or longer. Baste this to the center of the bag back – between the handles.
11. Stitch side seams of purse and press seams open. Match the side seam of the purse to the center of the bottom. Sew across the corners to form a box bottom.
12. Repeat step 11 with the lining. If you are using "soft" handles, leave a 3" opening in one of the side seams. If you using "hard" handles, stitch the lining seams closed. Sew across the corners to form a box bottom.
13. If using "soft" handles, place lining and purse body right sides together. Make sure the handles and button tab are tucked between body and lining. Pin the top edge and stitch 1/4" around the top. Turn right side out through opening in lining. Press top edge and then top stitch around top edge.
14. If using "hard" handles, press in top edges of lining and bag about 1/4". Slip handle tabs into handle openings and then fold the tabs down. Stitch the tabs down. Place bag and lining wrong sides together. Pin edges and edge stitch. Then top stitch around top again about 1/4" below edge stitching.
15. Stitch on optional buttons on exterior pocket and/or for button tab closure.