



## Purse making instructions Page 1

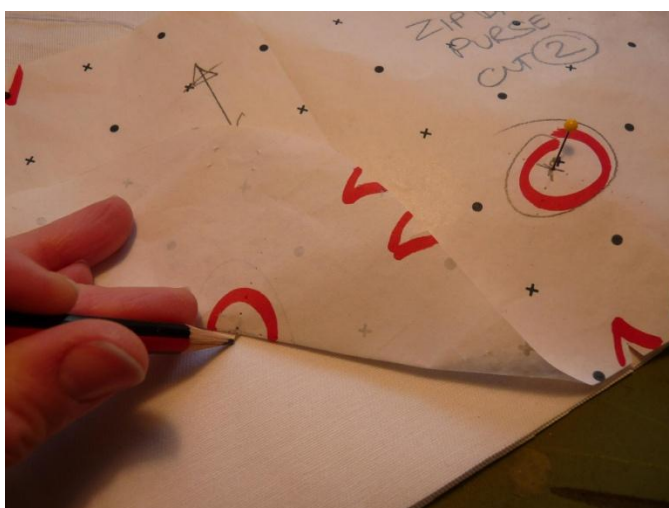
### Pin And Cut

Place pattern on the straight grain of folded fabric and cut out 2 layers at once slowly and accurately



### Mark Notches

Wherever red V is marked on pattern, make a single snip at right angles to your raw edge - must be MAXIMUM 0.5 cm (half a centimetre) deep - any deeper and you risk it fraying into your sewing line!



### Mark Dots

Stick a pin through both layers in the centre of circles marked on pattern. Take out rest of pins and mark the wrong side of the fabric with these points with a dot using a pencil (or pen that disappears).

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**n.b. – the darts on your pattern and sample may be on the curved corner** instead of at the bottom, this is fine, use the same technique explained here, but follow the location given by the notches and dots on your pattern.



### **Pin Darts**

Fold darts, matching the notches and folding so that the fold meets the dart point dot you marked. You can draw lines for your first couple of darts in pencil/chalk for ease of sewing – then try the next 2 without marking. Do pin them all though.

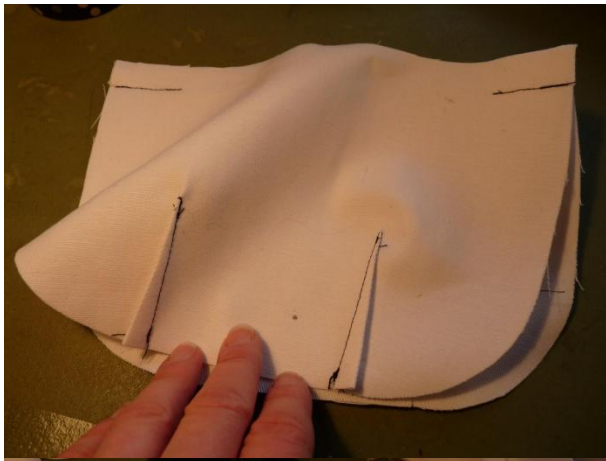
### **Sew Darts**

Sew the darts, starting at the wide end, with a size 2.5 to 3 stitch, backstitching at both ends – or leave the ends and tie a reef knot instead. Make sure you sew all the way to the end each way. The dart point you've marked on pencil shows where to stop sewing. SNIP threads off at your work if you don't want to trim it later.

### **Press Darts**

When you've sewn all 4 darts, press the darts on one piece inwards and the darts on the other piece outwards. This is to reduce bulk when you sew them together.

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### **Sew Top Edges To Create Gap For Zip**

Place the 2 pieces of the purse together – right sides together, and stitch top edge with a 1.5cm SA (seam allowance), from notch on edge to dot/below notch on top edge. Back stitch beginning and end of each piece of stitching.



### **Neaten the edges of the gap where you will pin in the zip:**

To fold over the gap edges evenly: CHALK a line 3cm down from top edge and fold/press open the top seam along line you just sewed and to meet the chalk line where there is no sewing (same technique you used to fold edges of bag straps). This way the gap turning and the sewn edge will be 1.5cm.



### **Place Zip**

Place zip behind the folded edges (with right side of zip and purse facing you) with head of zip showing.

Pin the fold of the fabric a couple of millimetres away from the zip teeth all the way down the left side of the zip

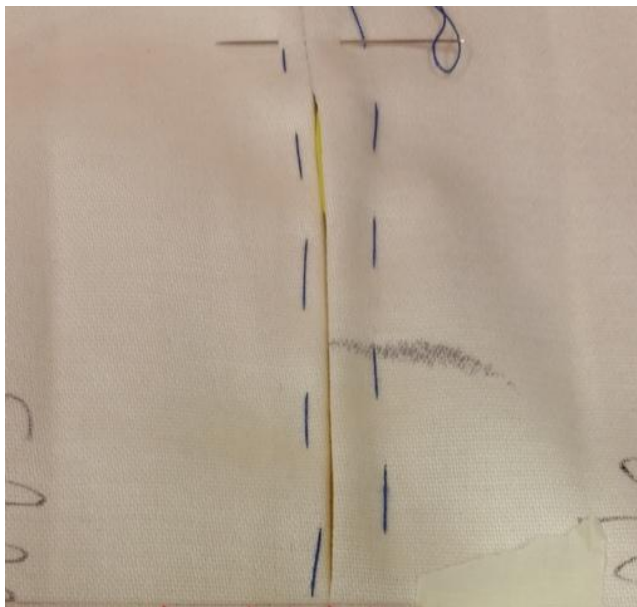




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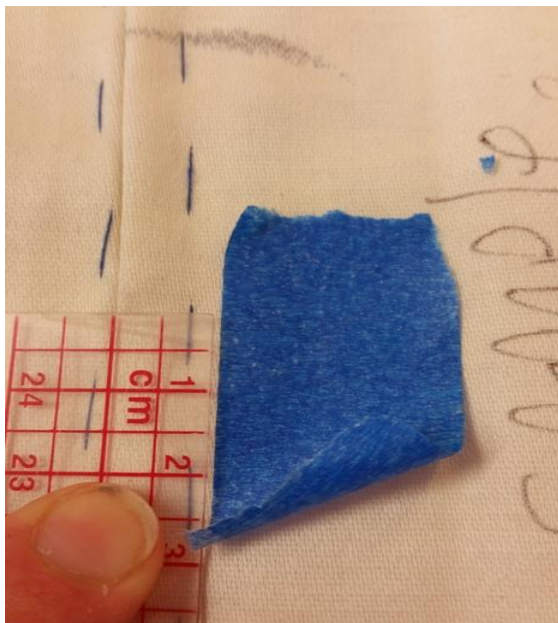
### Pin the 2<sup>nd</sup> (overlap) side

Then bring the other side of the purse's folded edge to meet the first so the zip is covered up. Pin the second side 1cm ish away from the fold. It should look like this, ready to hand baste (tack)



### Hand baste in your zip,

stitching 3 stitches on the spot at start and end to secure (instead of a knot) – more or less over the pins. Keep your stitches and gaps no longer than 1cm, preferable slightly shorter, so it holds it in well when you remove the pins



**Create a guide for sewing the wider overlap side (you will next sew a line 1cm from the edge on the wider side so a guide is needed to stay straight):**

Grab your masking tape and grader ruler and tape a line of tape 1.1cm from the fold on the wider side that overlaps the zip (the 2<sup>nd</sup> side you pinned)

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**NB: these pics show pins but you will have basting and masking tape and no masking tape (much better)!**



### Zip Sewing Tips!

- Tap your machine pedal when you sew instead of putting your foot down hard - it slows you down and gives you way more control, you can even sew a stitch at a time this way!
- While sewing the first side, keep your eye glued to the distance between the edge of the zip foot and the folded edge of fabric next to the zip (approx 1mm) – keep that distance the same all the way down that side.
- While sewing the second side (tape guide side) look at the needle, not the foot, and have it sew right next to the tape but not on it
- If the fabric seems to stretch as you sew and suddenly you have a 'hill' of fabric as you approach the next pin, pinch the zip/fabric in front and behind the bit you are sewing and tug against your own grip from each end – this will stretch both a little and help even them out while you sew, until you're back on track.

### Sew Zip

- Using a zipper foot clipped onto the right side of the bar so the foot is pressing down on the fabric, not on the zip
- IF you have a metal end on your zip Mark where the metal ending if your zip is with a pin so you can sew just past it before sewing across at 90 degrees (next instruction).
- Open zip
- Start 0.5cm (see sample purse!) above the zip head,
- **Look at stitch width on sample purse** - stitch the zip with a top stitch 2 mm from the fold, right over the basting stitches – stop half way with needle down, lift presser foot, close zip, put presser foot back down, continue to end.

### Finishing 1st Side Of Zip

When you get to the end, (end about 0.5cm after the zip gap in the fabric ends if you've not already marked for the metal bit), with needle down deep in cloth, lift the presser foot, pivot the fabric 90 degrees, and sew across the bottom end to reach the masking tape, to create one end of a rectangle

n.b. When you get to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> side of zip, stop with the needle in, close the zip, lift the presser foot, turn the fabric and sew across the top to meet your start point. Backstitch to secure.

Stop with needle in

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**NB: these pics show pins but you will have basting and masking tape and no pins (much better)!**



### Sew 2<sup>nd</sup> Side Of Zip

The stitch on the overlap side will be 1cm from the fold, right up the edge of the masking tape (look at sample purse)

The zip will be closed from doing the first side.

Sew the second side, slowly so that you stitch right next to the masking tape all the way up. Stop half way, this time to open the zip and then continue sewing (stop with the needle in, lift the presser foot, undo the zip, place the presser foot back down and carry on sewing the line).

When you reach the beginning, pivot with needle in as before and sew across to where you started. At the top of the first side. Backstitch

Take purse off the machine and trim all threads short

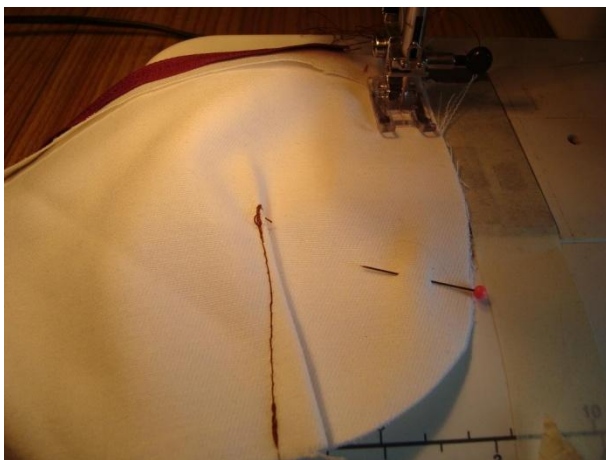






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Remove masking tape and  
unpick the basting  
Zip should look like this!



### Stitch the sides together

Open the zip. Now fold the  
purse so the right sides are  
together on the inside (purse  
is inside out) so you can sew  
round the edge before turning  
through. Do a 1 cm seam  
allowance. Backstitch both  
ends as usual.



**To stitch nice smooth curves** on the  
corners, sew as far as you can, turning  
the fabric as you go, keeping to 1cm  
SA...and when it becomes too difficult  
to keep to 1cm SA, stop with the  
needle in. Lift the presser foot and  
turn the fabric slightly, put the  
presser foot back down and continue  
sewing your curve. You can keep  
doing this until you have completed  
the curve.



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**Trim the seam allowance**  
round the curve down to 5mm  
(so the edges sit smoothly  
once purse turned through to  
right side).



### **Zig zag**

– on thin fabric use a 3-step zig  
zag or an ordinary zig zag with  
a zig-zag foot  
-On thickish fabric you can use  
an ordinary zig zag

Now edge-zigzag the edges  
together (use a medium width  
so it doesn't zag over your  
sewing line!) to stop the fabric  
fraying

**Press your seam allowance** to  
one side as much as possible  
using the sleeve board and  
iron.





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**Then turn purse through** to right side, folding in top corners before turning purse right way out.

**Push corners through** with point of closed scissors if necessary once purse is right way out.

**Why not decorate your purse** with a bow or rose? Sew a few stitches by hand to secure the thread, then stitch the bow in place (if you're clever you can hide the stitched behind the middle wrap of the bow), sewing a few more stitches behind it when you have finished to stop the thread unravelling.



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**Your finished purse!** Well done, what are you going to put in it?

You could make more as gifts or have a go at a lined one with your tutor's help (instructions are in our purse envelope in the classroom)



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