

Fireworks Clutch

This stylish clutch purse will be perfect for your next girls' day out, or a night on the town! This clutch is fairly easily constructed with only a few pattern pieces, and the reinforced sides give an elegant curved shape that you can dress up or down with whichever fabric you choose.



Purse Dimensions are 12½ inches wide x 8 inches high and approx. 2½ inches deep.

You Will Need:

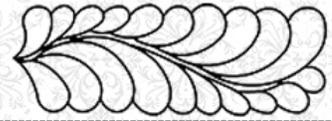
Fat Quarter of fabric for bag outer

½ metre (½ yard) plain colour fabric for contrast details and lining

½ metre (½ yard) medium weight fusible interfacing

Fat Quarter of light weight fusible pellon

Piece of template plastic measuring 12½ x 16½ inches for stiffening, plus small amount to make shaping template.



2 x small magnetic clasps

Small amount of heavy-weight fusible interfacing for inserting clasps – if no heavy, medium-weight will work fine.

Bag Construction:

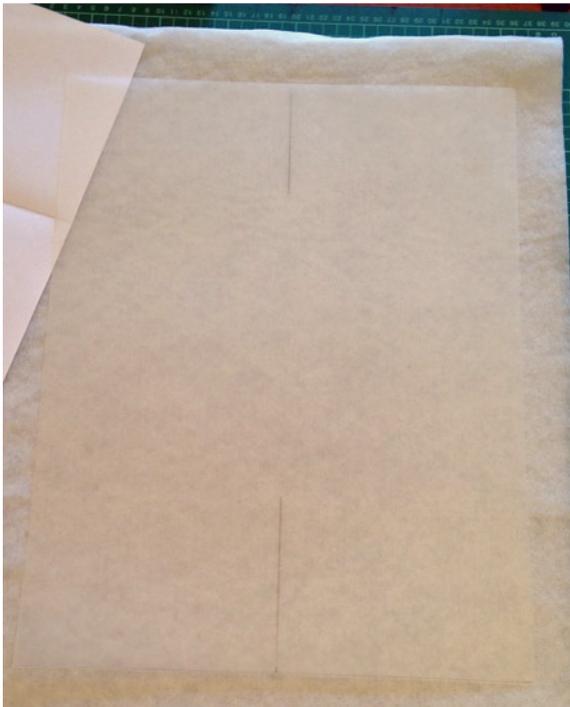
Please read all instructions fully before beginning. All measurements are in inches, and unless stated otherwise, a ¼ inch seam allowance has been used.

Referring to the attached Cutting Guide, carefully cut the required bag pieces from the bag fabrics, pella and interfacing as required.

Use your iron to fuse the interfacing and then pella to the wrong side of the bag outer pieces as indicated in the Cutting Guide. The lining is also interfaced.

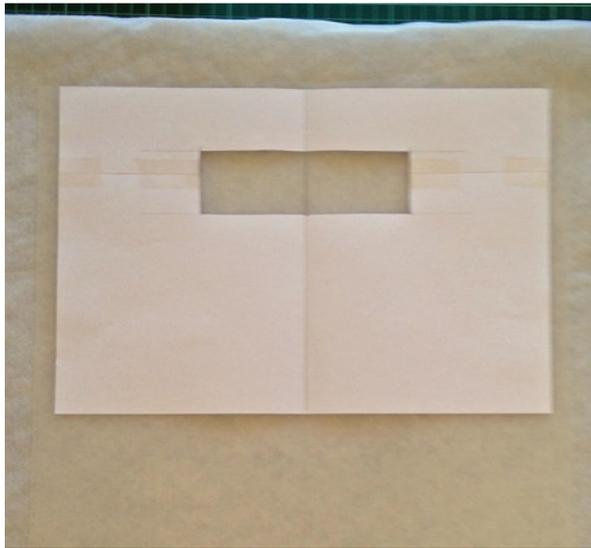
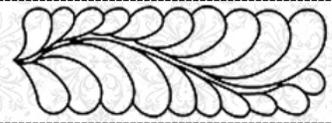
Construction:

Start by preparing all of the different pieces before assembling your purse at the end.

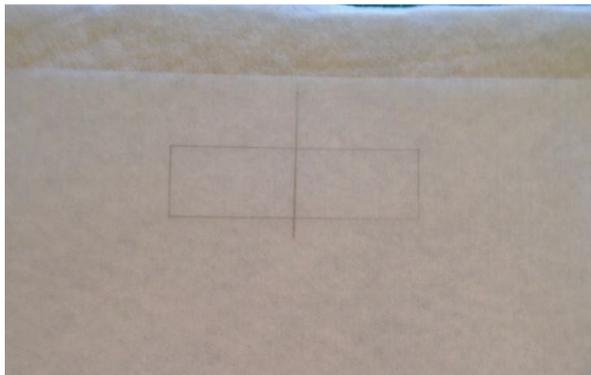


First mark the handle placement on the large template plastic sheet. This plastic sheet is inserted into the bag to give the stiffness required for it to hold its shape.

Use your ruler to measure and mark the halfway points at both top and bottom (on the 12 ½ inch sides) as shown. (A lead pencil will work fine.)

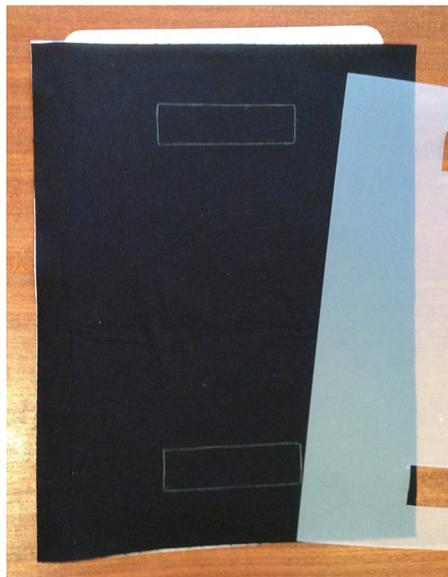


Using the attached Handle Guide as a template, align the marked top line with the cut edge of the template plastic, and match up the marked centre lines also.



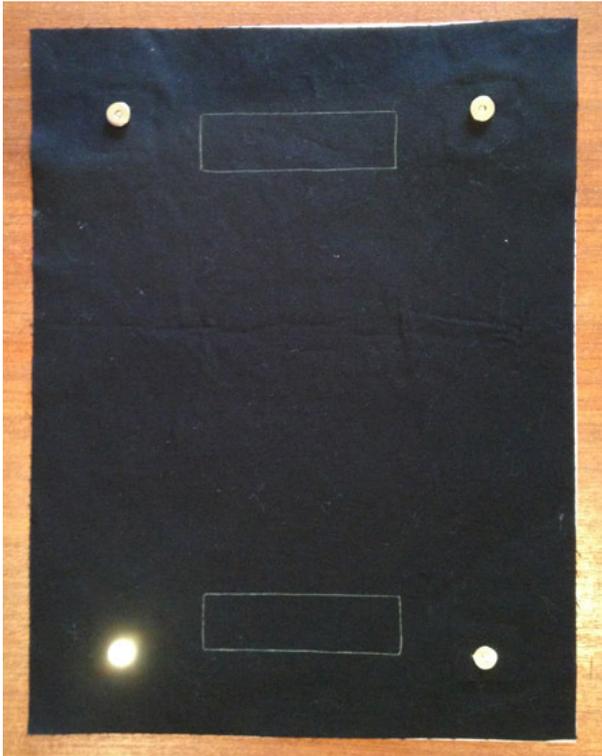
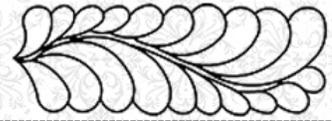
Draw around the inside edges to mark the handle placement at each end of the plastic.

Cut out the inside of the marked handle shape at each end.



Use your cut plastic sheet then as a template to mark the outer and lining panels.

The plastic is slightly smaller than the fabric panels, so centre it as best you can on the right side of each panel and mark the handle placement.



Next, insert the magnetic clasps. Measure out 2 inches from each top corner of the handle marking, and make another mark for where to insert each half of the clasp, as shown.

Cut a square of heavy interfacing approximately 1½ inches square and iron it to the back of the lining piece on top of the interfacing and centred over the marked dot.

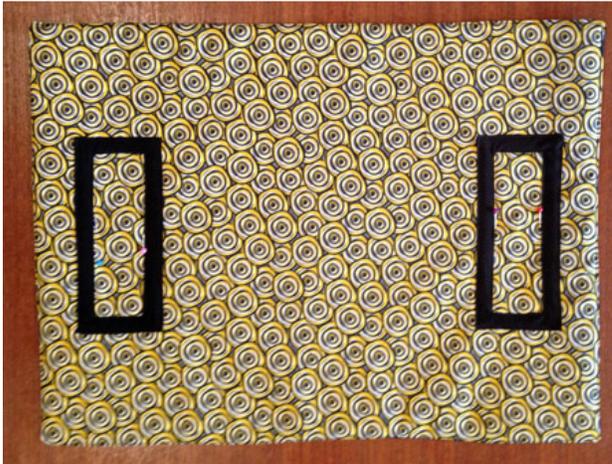
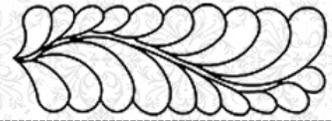
This will help protect the fabric in your bag and stop the clasp from wearing through with repeated use.

(You can use the medium weight interfacing here if you do not have any heavy weight, although the heavier weight gives better protection.)

Push the two prongs of the top half of the clasp (with the centre part raised) into the right side of the fabric to create indents, then use your unpicker tool to make two tiny slits in the fabric there, to push the clasp through. Make the slits smaller than the width of the prongs. Push the clasp prongs through to the back, turn the lining side piece over, slip on the 'washer' provided with the clasp and fold the prongs over onto themselves, over the back of the clasp. (Some of the smaller clasps will not allow this, so splay the prongs outwards instead.)

Cut another square of the medium weight interfacing and place it over the top of the folded prongs on the wrong side of your lining side. Use the iron again to fuse it in place, as another safeguard to protecting your bag fabric.

Repeat this with the other halves of the clasps as shown, taking care that both halves are the same at each end.



Using the included template, cut yourself a handle guide from template plastic to help you fold and press the inside of the contrast handle details.

Lay the plastic template on the wrong side of a fabric handle contrast detail piece and centre it. Use small scissors to carefully snip an angled cut into each corner of the inside of the handle.

Fold up the fabric over the edge of the plastic, and press to crease. Do this around all sides of the inside of the handle so you have a neatly creased and folded edge.

Remove the plastic template and fold over and press the outer edges to meet the inner folded edges, so you have a neatly pressed handle detail with about a ½ inch width. Repeat for the second handle detail.

Pin the handle detail pieces to the right side of the purse outer panel, over the marked handle placements you made earlier. Carefully topstitch around inner and outer edges with matching thread.

Check the alignment of both marked handles and with right sides together, pin and sew the outer and lining panels together, down both sides and across the bottom. Clip corners and turn right sides out and press edges flat.

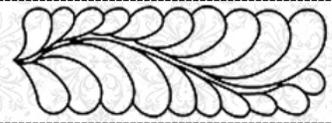
Slightly round the corners of your template plastic sheet before inserting it into the purse. (Trim each edge slightly to fit if required.) Check the cut out plastic handles match up with the marked ones on your outer and lining panels.

Tuck in the top edges, pin and topstitch closed before continuing to topstitch around the other three sides of the purse. Sew slowly and carefully and you will be able to do this on your machine just fine.



Use your seam ripper to make a small slit along the centre of the handle inner and enlarge it with scissors.

Cut horizontally through both fabric layers to about 1 – 1½ inches from each end, then cut on a 45 degree angle into each corner.



Tuck the outer fabric over the plastic edge inside and fold under the lining to match, so you have a neatly finished inner handle.

Pin and topstitch carefully to finish each handle.

Now prepare the side gussets. With right sides together (one interfaced and one un-interfaced together), sew down each side and around the curved bottom. Clip around the curve, and turn the gusset right sides out. Press and tuck in the top seam allowances and press them too. Topstitch along the top edge to finish.

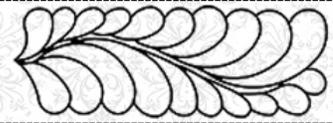
You can use your machine to sew in these side gussets if you sew slowly and carefully. The easiest way to do this is to match the centre point of the curve of the gusset with the centre point at the bottom of your purse. (Fold the purse closed to find the centre of the bottom curve.)

Start at the bottom centre point, and with your gusset on top of your purse, carefully topstitch the gusset to the purse along the edge. Sew a few stitches then lift your foot and move the gusset over to align again, sew a few more stitches and so on until you work your way around the curve and up the side to finish.

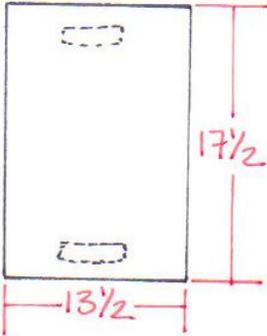
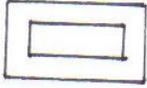
It is easier then to start at the top edge to sew in the other side. From the bottom point, 'walk' the fabric of the gusset around the side of the purse evenly, so you know where the top will sit. Pin the top, and again with the gusset on top of the purse, carefully sew the two together. This step will require a little manhandling to get the curve of the purse sewn, but again, take it slowly and you will have no problem.

Repeat for the other side gusset and you've finished!





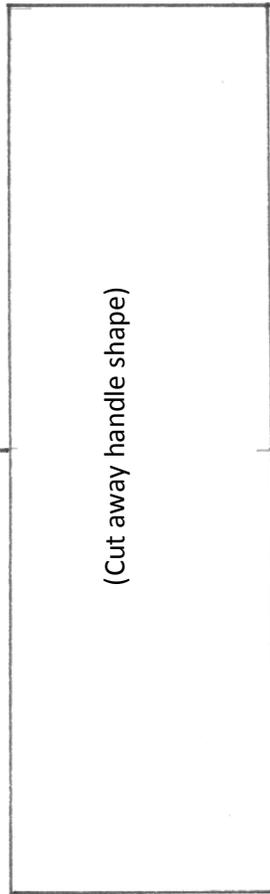
Fireworks Clutch Cutting Guide

	<p>Cut the required number of each piece according to the measurements on each diagram.</p> <p>* Please note – all measurements are in inches.</p>
	<p>Cut 1 outer fabric Cut 1 lining/contrast fabric Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing Cut 1 pellon Cut 1 template plastic (12 1/2 x 16 1/2 inches)</p>
	<p>Cut 4 lining/contrast fabric Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing</p>
	<p>Cut 2 lining/contrast fabric</p>

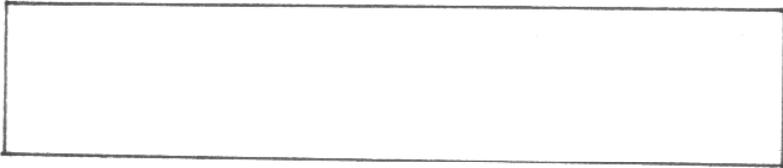
Fireworks Clutch

Handle Marking Guide

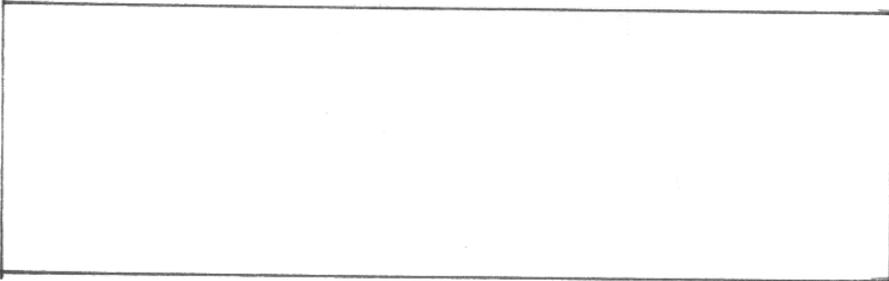
Align line with template plastic top / bottom cut edge

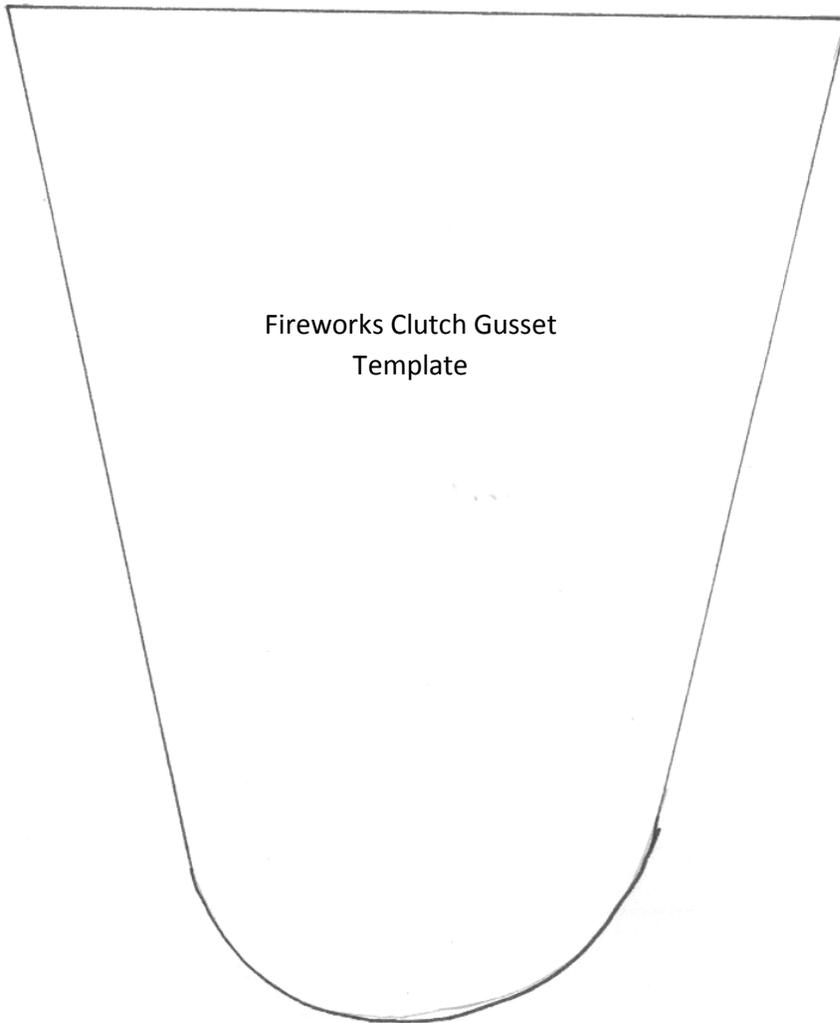


Handle Fabric Contrast Detail



Template Plastic Handle Guide





Fireworks Clutch Gusset
Template