



RST = Right Sides Together

Mending Souls Dignity Purses

More pictures at www.LoveMendingSouls.org

****For Emergency Toiletries and Nice Enough for Job Interviews****
 This is Mending Souls's Bereavement Bag Option 2, with added Steps #9, 13-15.

Need: ♥ MS

Label

Body Outside	Cut 2 pieces 15" x 17" or one piece 29" x 17"	Home Décor/Upholstery, brocades, nice canvas
Lining	Cut 2 pieces 15" x 17" or one piece 29" x 17"	Thin Polyester solid color to complement Outer
Straps	Cut 2 pieces 4" x 36"	Same thickness as Body

If you start with 2 pieces for the Outer (or 2 pieces for Lining), then RST, sew one 17" side, 1/2" seam, to make 1 piece for Outside. Repeat to make only 1 piece for Lining (29"x17" each.) Then begin Step 1.

- Put Outside and Lining RST and sew 29" side which will be the TOP of the purse. Open.
- Rotate 90 degrees and fold in half. Trim so all edges match. While making sure to *match seams* where the Lining and Outside meet, put RST and sew the long side to make a tube.
- Turn out so the Lining is on the outside, with the Outside fabric tucked inside, and press.
- While still inside out (RST), sew the bottom edge of bag with zig zag (this will eventually show inside the purse.)
- Box pleats & Attach layers:** Still inside out, put side seam and bottom seam together. At the corners, mark 2" from the point and stitch across to form triangle. Fold triangle point inward and tack down. Turn right side out enough to lie flat, stitching from the Outside, stitch in the ditch the seam line across the bottom of the purse to attach the outer lining to the inner lining.
- Turn bag right side out. Fold Top Lining flap down over Outside 1", then iron this Lining "Trim".
- Make straps:** (1") by folding width in half, press, and then fold long edges to the pressed line, press again, and stitch both long sides. (Alternatively, you can hem sides 1/4" then fold in half.)
- Pin front strap, inserting 1" under the Lining Trim (3" from side seams.) Repeat for back strap.
- Create button loop** (12 x 1.5") in same manner as Straps #7. Bend loop, raw edges side by side, and tuck them in the CENTER under the back Lining Trim and pin. Measure button stop.
- Insert and pin folded MS Label under back Lining Trim (between button loop and a strap) on the back side. (Flat labels can go anywhere.) Strap edges should still be 3" from side seams.
- Topstitch all around (optional decorative stitches) the top edge locking in straps, button loop, and label. *Option if strap layers are too thick to stitch: notch out strap fabric under the trim fold.*
- Then flip up the straps and sew a box with an 'X' inside each strap to secure straps to Trim.
- Flip up button loop, then zig zag the two sides together up the point where the button can easily slide in and out of the loop (marked with a pin when measured button size).

14. **To shape** bag into a purse, push inward each side, at the top, by 1", fold over and stitch across (creates a dart.)

15. Test loop for button placement. Attach button on center front at top!



#1 Outside and Liner



#2 RST



#3 RST Tube



#3 Press



#4 RST stitch bottom zig zag



#5 Fold to line up seams



#5 2" from points



#5 Stitch across the 2" from point



#5 Fold inward, stitch in ditch from Outer



#6 1" fold over top = flap



#7 Belt Loop: fold to center



Button Loop Pin Stop



#8-10 Insert and pin straps, loop and label

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After top stitching around, #12 flip straps up, stitch box with "x" inside. Recheck button size by pin.



#13 Flip up button loop, close loop with zig zag up to the pin. #14 To shape purse, pinch 1" on side, sew



#15 Test for easy looping, sew button



Finished Front



Finished Back



Top View