

EMBROIDERED HANDBAG COVER

By Louis Carney

This segment is all about a double-duty wardrobe packing less by accessorizing your daytime looks to take you from the boardroom to the ballroom!

SUPPLY LIST:

Purse/bag: Select a convertible bag- one with a detachable strap works well. One with a magnetic closure is the simplest to work with.



Fabric: Select a complimentary color that will be used for all the accessories- I chose a silk dupioni, but the only limits are you imagination! Don't forget to purchase a matching lining fabric or double the face fabric to use as lining.

For embroidered wrap- measure both the width and circumference of the bag.

For embroidered flap- measure bag from top to bottom with the flap closed.

Threads: Be creative, [the threads](#) can act as an accent or be the total focus.

Stabilizers: A firm but [pliable stabilizer](#) will work best- a mid to heavy wt tearaway is ideal.

Needles: Needle size/type is based on the weight of fabric and use- select a needle appropriate to the selected fabric. I prefer a 80-90 topstitch- for medium to heavier weight fabrics so that I can use a variety of threads successfully.

Notions: Velcro- ½ - 1 yd of half-n-half (1 side sew in, 1 side stickyback) should be enough- depends on the size of bag. Crystals/hot fix wand-if desired, Applique scissors or Hot cut tool to cut fabric right to the stitches- only if making a front flap applique, basic sewing supplies.

[Sewing/Embroidery machine](#)

EMBROIDERED WRAP:

- 1) Measure width and circumference of bag, with the flap closed.
- 2) Cut fabric and lining 1" larger on all sides
- 3) Select/sew an embroidery design that will fit the cut fabric- If using a Brother embroidery machine with the Border function, you can select a decorative stitch to fill the fabric, instead of a standard embroidery design- see your instruction book/local Brother dealer for details. Some functions are also demonstrated on YouTube.
- 4) Cut the Velcro into ¾" sections- the "sew in" side will be attached to the lining and the "stickyback" side will be adhered to the bag
- 5) Sew the Velcro to the lining along all sides at 2-3" intervals- don't forget you have cut the fabric 1" larger. When attaching the Velcro, use a straight stitch with a small stitch

length. Sew around all sides and make an "X" through the center. To make sure the stickyback is in the same position, attach to the sew in Velcro.

- 6) Attach the lining to the embroidered front in "pillow" fashion- place right sides together stitch around 3 ½ sides- leave an opening to turn to the right side- Start sewing on a side, rather than in a corner. **TIP:** The heavier the fabric the bigger the opening.
- 7) Turn inside out and push corners out with a wedge tool or other pointed notion- be careful of using a seam ripper, as you may puncture your fabric.
- 8) Stitch the opening closed with a straight stitch close to the edge.
- 9) If your bag has a turn closure, measure the distance of the closure to the edge of the flap- this is the distance to measure on your wrap to add a buttonhole so that the bag will still securely lock and close. Select/sew a buttonhole, through all the layers, sized to fit the closure.
- 10) Open flap of bag and lay fabric with lining and Velcro side facing the right side of bag to adhere.

EMBROIDERED FLAP APPLIQUE:

These directions are using the Applique function on [Brother embroidery machines](#)- see your local Brother dealer/instruction manual for more information.

- 1) Measure the front of the bag, with the flap closed, top to bottom.
- 2) Select an embroidery pattern and size to fit the bag measurements.
- 3) Hoop stabilizer and embroider the design- baste the fabric to the stabilizer.
- 4) When the design comes to the "tack down" stitch of applique, remove the hoop from the machine- BUT NOT THE FABRIC FROM THE HOOP.
- 5) Place the lining fabric on the back of the hoop, making sure all the tack down stitches are covered. Tape or spray adhere to stabilizer.
- 6) Finish stitching the embroidery and remove from hoop once completed.
- 7) Use the Hot cut tool to trim away the excess fabric around the design- follow the directions included with the Hot cut tool. **TIP:** you can "hot cut" rayon/metallic embroidery threads right next to the stitches without burning- other threads will need to be "hot cut" away from the threads, as not to melt. This may leave some small "hairs" next to the design that will have to be trimmed with scissors.
- 8) If your bag has a turn closure, measure the distance of the closure to the edge of the flap- this is the distance to measure on your applique to add a buttonhole so that the bag will still securely lock and close. Select/sew a buttonhole, through all the layers, sized to fit the closure
- 9) Cut Velcro into ½" sections- stitch to applique through all layers, on the lining side.
- 10) Attach "stickyback" to sewn in Velcro and stick to bag