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Eileen Roche provides the details for finishing purses all by machine.






Please continue to page 4 for project instructions.

Partners



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Leaf Bag

Embroidery Products

Designer Handbags by Eileen Roche available at www.dzgns.com or your local sewing machine dealer

By Eileen Roche

Materials

Two 17" x 10 ¼" rectangles fabric for bag body
Fat quarter of fabric for tab, corner trims and strap connectors
Two 17" x 10 ¼" rectangles lining fabric
1 yd. 1" wide ribbon or twill tape
Purchased straps
One magnetic snap
Four feet
Two 17" x 10 ¼" of Peltex Sew-In
9" x 11" piece of Décor Bond (tab)
9" x 11" piece of batting (tab)
Shape 'n Create by Clover
Tear-away stabilizer
Temporary spray adhesive

Finished Size: 15" (bottom width) x 9" (height) x 11" (top width) x 1 ¾" (depth)

Complete instructions for embroidering the corner trims, creating the Scallop Tab and constructing the bag are included on the Designer Handbags DVD.

Step 1. Prep

Cut two 17" x 10 ¼" rectangles of bag fabric and baste each one to a piece of Peltex Sew-In. Use ¼" seam allowance on all four edges. Set aside.

Make four corner trims (two in mirror image) and four strap connector appliques. Hoop tear-away stabilizer and the appliqué fabric in the largest available hoop. Load as many repeats of ScallopCornerApp and ScallopConnectorApp into the hoop. Stitch the appliqué pieces. Rehoop as necessary until you have four connectors and four corner trims. Remove from hoop and trim close to the stitched outlines. Set aside.

Step 2. Corner Trims

Follow the instructions on the Designer Handbags to embroider the corner trim designs on the bottom corners of the bag front and back.

Step 3. Strap Connectors

Hoop tear-away stabilizer in a 5" x 7" hoop. Select the ScallopConnector design (this design also comes in a merged version for large hoops). Stitch color 1, the placement guide on the hooped stabilizer. Since one end of the strap is already attached to the bag on the sample, I have rotated the design so that the bulk of the bag will extend over the arm of the machine.



Spray the wrong side of the bag front with temporary adhesive.

Place the top of the bag on the stabilizer aligning the center of the bag with the stitched vertical line and the bag edge with the horizontal stitched line. Finger press the bag to the stabilizer.



Stitch color 2, the placement guide for the connector and strap.



Slide a 5" loop of seam tape, fabric or ribbon through the ring on the strap. Position the loop on the stitched outline. Stitch color 3, the strap tackdown.



Place the prepared ScallopConnectorApp over the connector outline. Consider spraying the wrong side of the applique with temporary adhesive to hold it in place. Stitch color 4, the applique tackdown.



Stitch colors 5 and 6, the details on the strap connector. Stitch color 7, the snap placement guide, on the bag front only.



Repeat all steps for the bag back (omitting the snap placement guide).

Step 4. Finishing

Place the bag front on a cutting mat. Use a quilter's ruler to mark 2" from the side at the top of the bag. Do this on both sides of the bag front. Connect the 2" mark with the bottom corner and trim off the excess fabric to create a fashionable shape. Repeat for all four sides of the bag.



Cut out the notches at the bottom corner of the bag. Sew the bottom seam with $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Nancy Zieman provides excellent tips on bag construction in the Designer Handbags DVD. Watch the video and read the e-book for details.

Add additional definition and strength to the bag bottom with Shape 'n Create following Nancy's Tips on the DVD. Sew the side seams. Fold the notches at the bottom corners and stitch the corners with $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

Sew the lining, right sides together, with $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Slip the lining inside the bag, wrong sides together. Baste the upper edge.



Pin and baste the tab to the bag back.



Bind the top. Flip the tab to the bag front and snap in place. Wow! You're done – what a great job!

