

Bouclé Lace Purse

Making Fabric from Sulky Blendables Cotton Thread

Modeled by Tess Love and Brighty



by Jim Suzio - Designer

Jim Suzio is an award winning artist and designer from Pittsburgh, PA. Having no formal training in sewing or embroidery, he is also a self-taught digitizer, creating several unique and inventive methods that combine both machine and thread. His daughter, Meri Katharine, is his constant source of inspiration. His teaching skills have taken him across the United States, Canada and Australia, and as a result, he has created his own line of embroidery designs.

The purse can be made manually using free-motion techniques, or Jim offers it as an in-the-hoop, digitized design for computer embroidery on his website: www.jimsuzio.com

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Materials:

- Sewing Machine and accessories
- Extra wound bobbins
- Sulky Fabri-Solvy (water soluble) Stabilizer
- 14/90 or 16/100 Topstitch Needle
- Sulky 12 wt. or 30 wt. Cotton Blendables or Solid Colored Cotton Thread - best to use 12 wt. in the needle and matching 30 wt. in the bobbin
- 2 - 3/4" Self-Covered Buttons
- Spray Starch
- Marking Pen
- Paper Template
- Press Cloth, dry iron and pressing surface
- Card Stock
- General Sewing Supplies

Tips:

When starting a new color or loading a full bobbin, hold the needle thread and, using the hand wheel, make one complete turn to bring the bobbin thread up to the top. Allow the machine to take a few stitches over these thread tails to secure them in place. Clip the thread tails.

Do a test stitch/sew-out of your thread color choices. Place your darker colors in the bobbin and your lighter ones on top and see how they stitch out. Then, try them the opposite way. (Since machines vary, you may learn the "perfect" method for your machine.)

Can't decide on what color to use? Then choose your four favorite Blendables, with one color for each of the color stops (and a single one for the bobbin). That way, you could use your purse/clutch to match or complement as many as five different color story outfits!

Make a Pattern:

1. Create a template for the body of the purse by drawing a rectangle on card stock that is 8-1/2" x 13" (round off the corners on one of the short sides to create the front flap of the purse).
2. Cut three 11" x 15" pieces of **Sulky Fabri-Solvy** Stabilizer. Place one layer of **Fabri-Solvy** on your pressing surface and lightly spray it with spray starch. Cover with a second layer of **Fabri-Solvy**, and then the pressing cloth. Press with a dry, hot iron to bond the two layers of **Fabri-Solvy** together. Repeat with the third layer by lightly spraying the starch, then adding another layer of **Fabri-Solvy**. Press the three layers together, and then allow them to cool.
3. Center and trace your purse pattern onto the **Fabri-Solvy** sandwich using a fabric marker.

Set up your Sewing Machine:

- Wind a few bobbins with the Sulky 30 wt. Blendables color that you want for the “inside” of the purse
- Select a straight stitch
- Insert a 14/90 Topstitch Needle for 30 wt. or a 16/100 for 12 wt.
- Thread the top with either a 12 wt. or 30 wt. Blendables
- Insert a 30 wt. Blendables Bobbin

Begin Stitching:

1. Straight stitch on the traced pattern all around the *Fabri-Solvy*.
2. Select a stipple stitch (or similar) and then stitch along one long side of the straight stitched pattern, having this stitching within the body of the purse.
3. At the end, stop with the needle down and turn your *Fabri-Solvy* half-way around to stitch back, allowing the stippling stitches to overlap one half of the previously stitched width.
4. When you reach the starting side again, turn and repeat (overlapping half the previously stitched width as before). Continue until all of the purse pattern is covered in stitches.
5. When completed, repeat in the opposite direction by pivoting the *Fabri-Solvy* 90° and stitching along the narrower side. Continue stitching (as you did in the above steps) to fill within the purse pattern area. This is like “weaving” your fabric, using the stippling stitch to create the fabric.

6. Check your work. If you see a lot of “open areas,” (where there is no stitching), then pivot your project 90°, and restitch as before (you may need to do this three or more times to create a heavy enough “body of fabric” for your purse).

Make the Buttonhole and Straps:

1. Make a buttonhole (sized to fit your buttons) on the side of the purse with the rounded corners. Center the bottom of the opening of the buttonhole one inch from the centermost part of the rounded end. Set aside when completed.
2. Cut a piece of *Fabri-Solvy* 9” wide by the length of your strap, plus eight inches. From this, cut (3) 3” wide pieces. Spray starch/press them together as before. On the *Fabri-Solvy*, draw a pattern for the strap that is 1” wide by your desired length, plus six inches. Round off the ends of the strap.
3. Straight stitch the drawn pattern (as before for the body of the purse) then, to reinforce it and keep it from stretching, straight stitch 1/4” apart up and down the length of the strap.
4. Stipple stitch the strap as you did for the body, working up and down the length, then across.
5. When completed, trim the stabilizer close to the stitching.
6. Fold the purse in thirds, with the rounded end (flap) on top.

7. Crease the lower portion to find the bottom of your clutch/purse (about four inches in on the short/straight edge). Match one end of your strap with a rounded end of the strap (right sides up). Set your machine for a reinforced zig-zag stitch. Tack the two (bottom of the purse and the curved edge of the strap pieces) together, then continue to seam them together (butting the edges together as you go) until you reach the edge of the bag. Tie the threads, clip, go back to your starting point, and seam the other half of the strap in the same fashion. Add some reinforcing stitches when you reach the end. Repeat for the other side.
8. Trim away the excess stabilizer and cut open the buttonhole.

NOTE: *If you want self covered/matching buttons, cut additional **Fabri-Solve** stabilizer, three times the size of your self covered buttons. Using the guide on the back of the buttons, draw a circle, then fill within the drawn circle with stippling stitches as you did for the purse and the strap. Wash out the stabilizer (as before) and then cover your buttons as normal (do this wet to allow for ease of stretching). If you are using metal self covered buttons and you see some of the metal peeking through the stitches, line the buttons first with a lightweight fabric that matches/complements your thread colors, then add the stitched button "fabric" you just created.*

Remove the Stabilizer:

1. Fill a large container with warm water and a few tablespoons of liquid laundry detergent. Place your completed purse in the sudsy water, agitate a few minutes, then let set (to soak out all of the stabilizer). Agitate again, drain, rinse, and allow to dry. If the purse is still very stiff, repeat the washing instructions.
2. When dry, fold the purse as normal, determine where your button should go, and hand sew it on. Since your purse is reversible, add a button on the other side, directly behind this one.

Create a Clutch Version:

1. To create the clutch version of the purse, simply omit the strap section completely when you have finished your stippling.
2. Once you have the clutch folded, select a zig-zag stitch (standard or reinforced) and sew the sides of the clutch together. Finish as instructed above (washing out the stabilizer as well as attaching the buttons).

*Enjoy your new reversible
Bouclé Lace purse!*