SEWING A PURSE LINING

Fun Crochet Designs by Lisa Mills

**This instructional gives directions for lining the
Rippled Shells Purse and other purses of a similar shape.**

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NOTES FROM THE DESIGNER:

Creating a lining for handmade purses is not an exact science.

Everyone crochets a little differently. More or less tension, slightly shorter or longer stitches. Even variances in materials will cause the exact same pattern to result in size and shape differences.

Because of this, I cannot offer you the kind of traceable pattern you would buy at the fabric store. What I will offer you instead is a tutorial on how to create your own patterns for purses. Once you understand the basic fundamentals of designing your own lining patterns, you can use these skills to create a lining for any size or shape purse you might crochet.

I have several of these tutorials available, including a video, so if this one is not quite right for your purse, check out some of the other ones.

Video for my Clutch and Coin Purse patterns:

http://funcrochetdesigns.com/crochet/index.php/helpful-tips/

Round Tote Purse Lining:

http://funcrochetdesigns.com/crochet/index.php/helpful-tips/

As always, I am available to answer questions or offer assistance on my patterns via my email on my website.

Happy crocheting!
Lisa Mills
http://www.funcrochetdesigns.com

MATERIALS:
1. ½ yard of fabric
2. Thread to match purse exterior color
3. Stitch Witchery fusible web tape ¼" width
4. Optional 7" zipper for interior pocket if you want one
5. Sewing machine

INSTRUCTIONS:

Start by ironing your material. Fold it in half with right sides together and lay it on your cutting surface. Lay your purse flat on the material with the bottom edge of your purse aligning with the fold in the fabric.

Cut your fabric ½" wider than the purse on either side. And leave about ¾" of fabric allowance above the top edge of the purse.

The next step is to refine the shape of the lining. With the purse lying flat, measure the height of the bottom panel.

Measure Bottom Height

Starting at the top of the bag, follow the curve of the purse and draw a line ½" from the edge of the purse. This is your seam allowance. As you near the bottom, draw a vertical line the same height as the bottom panel as shown below. Repeat the process on the other side of the purse. Cut along the lines you have drawn.

If you want pockets on the interior of your purse, it is easiest to set pockets before there are any seams sewn. So that is the next step. I explain the installation process for two types of pockets. Choose one or both methods or skip the pockets and continue with the next step.

This is the beauty of sewing your own purses. You get to make all the choices! I wanted a zipper pocket on one side of the lining and a regular pocket to slip my phone into on the other side.

For the zipper pocket installation, I followed this YouTube tutorial, which explains the process better than I could hope to in this written tutorial. I highly recommend watching it. I was so intimidated at the prospect of trying this method, but once I did, it was so easy that I include this type pocket in all my new purses.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1pQ19a8pMM

I recommend that you measure down from the top edge of your lining around 2.5 - 3 inches. This will allow for a 1 inch seam allowance at the top while placing your zipper about 1.5 to 2 inches from the top of your lining.

The next step is to set in a regular pocket if you want one. Determine the dimensions you want for this pocket. I chose 8" wide X 5" high. Multiply your height times 2. You will fold it in half to give your pocket a nice finish inside and out and add some thickness to it. Add ½" to each dimension and cut out a rectangle.

Pocket width + ½" (Pocket height X 2) + ½" I cut a piece 8.5" x 10.5"	

Next, fold the fabric in half top to bottom with right sides facing each other. Sew a ¼" seam down either side of the pocket. Turn the fabric inside out and use a pencil or other pointed object to work the top corners out to a point. Along the open edge, fold a ¼" seam allowance to the inside of the pocket and iron. You can iron a piece of stitch witchery fusible bonding tape between the two layers of fabric if you'd like. It makes it easier to sew.

Place your pocket on your lining 2.5 to 3 inches from the top edge of the purse with the folded edge up and the open edge down towards the bottom of the lining. Make sure it is level. Stitch around 3 sides (the right and left edges and the bottom) staying just 1/16" or so from the edge of the fabric. If you want a divided pocket, you can sew a vertical line up the middle of the pocket piece as well.

Now that your pockets are in, you can begin to assemble the lining pieces. Fold your sidewall lining in half with right sides facing and sew the side seam using a ½" seam allowance. Sew down the side seam to the start of the vertical line but leave the vertical line unsewn.

Iron the seam open. At this time, you can also fold down your top edge ¾" to 1" and iron. If you want to use a piece of Stich Witchery fusible bonding web tape to hold the top seam allowance, you may do so.

The next step is to form a rectangular panel in the bottom of the lining to conform with the shape of the base of the purse. If you haven't already, press the fold at the bottom of the lining so that you have a nice crease to serve as a guideline. Fold the side seam to the interior of the purse and align the seam with the crease in the base of the purse. This will create a triangular corner at the edge of the base. Place several pins to hold the pieces in place. Repeat this process on the other side.

Measure the base of your purse to find the width. Now go to your lining and mark lines to indicate the width of the base on the lining. Be sure to center the measurement so that the lining remains symmetrical. Now stitch along those lines, making your lining the

same width as the base of the purse. I like to do a double line of stitching so that it is well reinforced. Trim off the excess material.

Your lining is now done. Pin the lining and the zipper into the top of the purse. I have a video explaining how to do this on a smaller purse. The concept is the same for any sized purse. Watching the process done is a better explanation than anything I could write here.

http://www.funcrochetdesigns.com/crochet/sewing.shtml

When you have the lining and zipper pinned in place, take the purse to your sewing machine and run a stitch around the top edge of the lining. I like to sew about 1/16" from the edge.

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For my final step, I tack the bottom of the lining to the base of the purse with a few whip stitches in each corner. This keeps the lining secured and fitted.

Visit my store on
Etsy.com
to see other patterns
as well as completed
purses, clutches, and
makeup bags
I have for sale.

FunCrochetDesigns

Other **Fun Crochet Designs** You Might Enjoy:

Berry Buddies

Ornaments or playpals, they are so cute!

Mermaid Gloves

Soft, feminine and easy to make!
Just half a skein so use your yarn stash.

Spanish Rose Shawl

A drapey, feminine design!
Made from easy-to-obtain Simply Soft.

Raised Diamonds Cinched Tote

Photos demonstrate the Raised Diamonds technique that produces an amazing textured design!

Visit **www.funcrochetdesigns.com** to view these and other great patterns.