SEWING CINCHED TOTE PURSE LINING

Fun Crochet Designs by Lisa Mills

This instructional gives directions for creating and sewing a lining for the Raised Diamonds Tote Pattern.

SEWING CINCHED TOTE PURSE LINING

Fun Crochet Designs by Lisa Mills

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 demonstrating lining my Clutch and Coin Purse patterns:

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

Regular Purse Lining Instructions:

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

SEWING CINCHED TOTE PURSE LINING

Fun Crochet Designs by Lisa Mills

INSTRUCTIONS:

Start by taking measurements. Lay your purse flat (or as flat as is possible for a round bag) and measure across the width of your purse. Double that measurement and add one inch.

(Width X 2) + 1 inch = Lining wall width

Next measure the height of the sidewall. I wanted to line the area from the ridge just above the diamonds to the base of the diamonds. Add 1.5 inches to this measurement for seam allowances.

Height of side + 1.5 inches = Lining wall height

Now measure the diameter of the base of your purse. Add one inch to this measurement.

Circular base diameter + 1 inch = Lining base

Now, go to your cutting board and cut out your pieces. You want a long rectangle and a circle. My measurements for this purse ended up being a rectangle that was 34 X 9.5 inches and a circle that measured around 9 inches in diameter. I found a pie pan that was 9 inches around and traced it on my fabric with a pencil to make it easier on myself.

These are the pieces of fabric I started with. The rectangle shown below is folded in half.

The next step is to add your pockets to the lining walls. I wanted a zipper pocket in this purse. I followed this YouTube tutorial, which explains the process better than I could hope to in this written tutorial. I highly recommend watching it.

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"

Next, fold the fabric in half with right sides facing. 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 to the inside of the pocket and iron. You can use a piece of stitch witchery fusible bonding tape to secure the edge 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.

Iron the seam open. At this time, you can also fold down your top edge ¾" to 1" and iron.

Since my Cinched Tote purse designs are somewhat bowl shaped inside the purse, I need to adjust the sidewalls of my lining to taper down to meet the base. Warning: You may experience flashbacks to high school math class while reading the following section. I apologize. Try to bear with me.

The circumference of my base is the exact diameter of the base times Pi (3.14). The circumference of the bottom of my sidewall is my long width measurement minus the seam allowance.

For me, the math looked like this:
The circumference of my base was 8" (without the 1" seam allowance) times Pi. That comes to 25.13 inches. We'll call it 25". It doesn't have to be exact, just as close as you can make it.
The circumference of my sidewall was 34" minus the 1" seam allowance, or 33".

I need to reduce the 33" circumference of my sidewall to 25" to match it to the base. I am going to do this by creating a series of pleats or tucks to remove some inches from the bottom edge of the sidewall.

Subtract the circumference of the base from the circumference of the sidewall to get the total number of inches you need to reduce.

Here's my math: 33" – 25" = 8"

I want to make 4 tucks or pleats. Each one needs to reduce the sidewall by 2". You may do as many pleats as you want. I recommend at least 4.

Mark 4 equidistant points (or however many pleats you intend to make) along the base of your sidewall. These are easy to find by folding the lining into quarters and marking the folds.

Now, fold the lining right sides together in those locations and press the fold. Measure inward from that fold half the distance of your first pleat. Mark in pencil along the bottom edge.

I want a two-inch pleat, so I measured 1" inward and penciled my mark. Now measure up the fold from the bottom edge about 3 inches and mark. Draw a diagonal line from the mark on the bottom edge to the mark along the fold. Run a seam along that line at a diagonal. This will create a pleat and taper your lining down to the base. Repeat this process on all pleat locations.

When you are done with the pleats, the dimensions of the bottom of your sidewall should be very near the dimensions of your circular base.

I trimmed some of the extra material off my pleats and pressed the remaining material open to eliminate fabric bulk in those locations. Leave at least ¼". I often use some Fray Check to help reinforce the area.

Next, pin your circular base to the bottom of your sidewall, right sides together. The dimensions should be very close. I had less than a ½" extra material in my sidewall and so I made several very small pin tucks to adjust. You could also unpin the pieces and deepen one or more of your pleats to adjust for the extra if you think that would be a better option. Pin all your seams open and flat so you don't create unnecessary bulk.

When the base and sidewall are pinned to your satisfaction, stitch around the edges of the base, using ½" seam allowance. If you chose to insert a zipper pocket, remember to pin the pocket material up out of the way so you don't accidentally stitch it into your seam.

Now that the bottom seam is sewn, you should have a bowl shaped insert for your purse like the one shown on the next page.

8

SEWING CINCHED TOTE PURSE LINING

Fun Crochet Designs by Lisa Mills

If you haven't already folded the top edge allowance down and pressed it, you need to do so now. Remember, we allowed ¾" to 1" allowance for that top edge.

Now drop your lining into your purse and pin the top edge of the lining along the ridge below the rings that the straps weave through. You will likely need to stay at least ¼" distance from the rings to avoid getting a ring under your presser foot, which would complicate the sewing process.

When you have the lining pinned, 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.

For my final step, I tack the bottom of the lining to the base of the purse with whip stitches. I tacked this purse in eight locations around the base to keep the lining fitted and secure.

Hopefully, my instructions weren't too difficult to follow and you were able to translate them to implement on your purse.

SEWING CINCHED TOTE PURSE LINING

Fun Crochet Designs by Lisa Mills

Visit my store on
etsy.com
or craftsy.com
to see other patterns
I have for sale.

FunCrochetDesigns

Fun Crochet Designs by Lisa Mills

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 Clutch

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

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