

ORIENTAL HANDBAG
By Esther Anderson
(Approx size 8" x 12")



This is a very simple bag design, which you can easily make in an afternoon. Have fun!

Fabric Requirements

- 8 by 20 inches Black and gold circles fabric
- 2 ³/₄ by 16 inches Black and gold writing fabric
- 8 inches of plain black fabric
- 150cm Gold cord
- Elastic loop
- One fabric covered or decorative button
- 8 x 25 inches needlepunch wadding
- 8 x 25 inches medium weight Iron On Vilene

Cutting Instructions (all measurements are in inches)

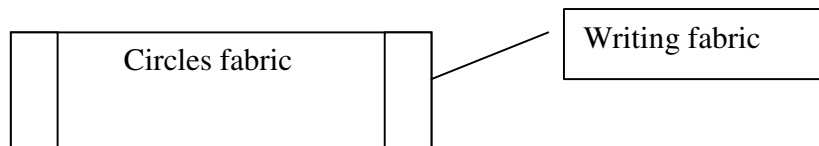
Fabric	Size	Cut
Fabric 1 – Gold Circles	8 x 20	1
Fabric 2 – Gold Writing	8 x 2 ¾	2
Fabric 3 – Plain Black	8 x 24 ½ 5 x 4	1 2
Vilene	8 x 24 ½	1
Wadding	8 x 24 ½	1

Making up

Use ¼ inch seams unless indicated.

Step 1

With right sides together, attach the two strips of the gold writing fabric to each end of the main fabric as shown below. Press the seams flat towards the main fabric.



When complete, iron on the vilene to the reverse of your fabric strip. Use a medium heat iron and a damp cloth to fuse in place.

Step 2 – Make the lining

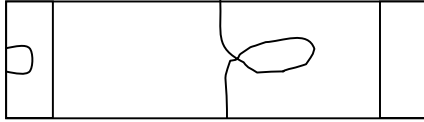
Take your two small bits of black fabric for the inside pocket and with right sides together sew around the four sides leaving a small gap for turning. Turn out, press and stitch the gap closed.

Position the pocket about 4 inches down from one end of the right side of the lining and sew in place around three sides, leaving the gap at the top.



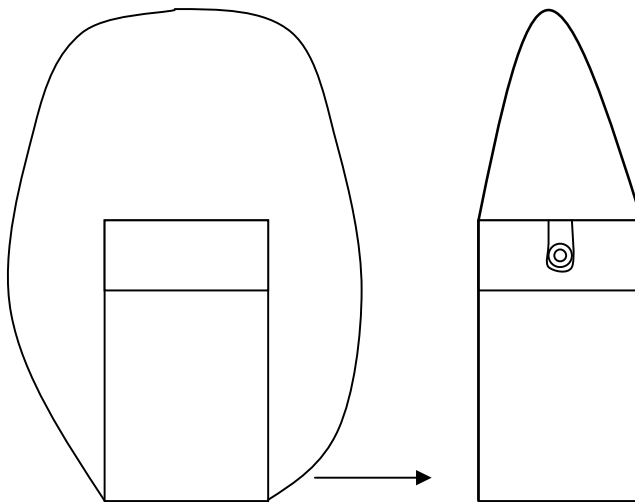
Step 3

With the right side facing up, fold the bag front in half to find the middle. Mark the middle with pins and then pin the two ends of the gold cord in place at the edges and sew across. Then position the small loop at the centre of the same end you placed the pocket at and stitch in place.



Now layer up the bag starting with the bag front/back right side up, then lining right side down then the wadding. Pin the layers together to hold in place and sew around the four sides leaving a 3-4 inch gap for turning. Use a **half inch** seam on the two short sides, and leave your gap along one of the long sides. Make sure the cord does not get caught up in the seams.

Turn the bag out and press well. Now fold the bag in half and hand sew the turning gap closed and then up the two sides. Pull your stitches in tightly, but just catch the edge of the lining fabric, this will leave you a small “furrow” to fit the cord into. Then using invisible thread stitch the cord from the base up the sides in the furrow, this time stitching into the patterned fabric. Hopefully you now have two neat sides edged with gold cord, which then becomes the handle as shown below.



Finally sew the button in place and use the loop to close the bag. You're finished!

Esther Anderson for Purely Patchwork, March 2008.