Felted Wool Sweater Purse

Things You Will Need:

- Wool felted adult-size sweater
- 1/3 yard cotton lining fabric
- Measuring tape, ruler
- Scissors
- Straight pins
- Sewing machine
- Iron
- Hand sewing needle and matching thread
- 3 decorative buttons

Special Note: When cutting small pieces from thick felt, trace the shape on the paper side of freezer paper. Iron the wax side of freezer paper to the felt and cut out. Peel off the freezer paper. This will provide a crisp, detailed edge to your cuts.

What To Do:

Step 1

Cut these pieces from a wool felted sweater.
- Purse body-(2) 9" x 12"
- Handles-(2) 2 1/2" x 22" from sleeves
- Large and small flowers-use pattern

Cut these pieces from cotton fabric.
- Body lining-(2) 9" x 12"
- Inner pocket-(2) 5 1/2" square
- Handle lining-(2) 2 1/2" x 22"
- Loop closure-(1) 2" x 4 1/2"

http://crafts.lovetoknow.com/wiki/Free_Felting_Patterns
Step 2

Place the two pocket pieces together with the right sides facing and pin. Sew around the pocket using a 1/4-seam allowance. Leave a 2-inch opening in the center of one edge. Turn the pocket right side out through the opening and press. The opening in the seam is the bottom of the pocket. Lay one body lining piece on your work surface with the right side facing up. The top and bottom edges are the 12-inch sides. Center the pocket on the lining piece with the bottom of the pocket above the bottom of the lining edge. Pin the sides and bottom of the pocket. Stitch the pinned edges as close to the pocket edge as possible. This will attach the pocket while closing the opening in the pocket’s bottom seam.

Step 3

Place the felted purse body pieces together with the right sides facing. Pin the sides and bottom. Sew using a 1/4-inch seam allowance. Sew the lining pieces together in the same way, but leaving a 5-inch opening in the center of the bottom seam. Do not turn the bodies right side out.

Step 4

Open one bottom corner of the felt body. Diagonally squeeze the corner, matching the side seam with the bottom seam. Pin the corner together. Sew across the pinned corner, 1 1/2 inches from the point. This creates a boxed corner. Repeat on the remaining corner of the felt body and the bottom corners of the lining body. Cut off the points 1/4 inch from the seam.

Step 5

Place a felted handle and lining handle together with the right sides facing and pin. Sew the long edges using a 1/4-inch seam allowance. Sew the remaining handle pieces in the same way. Turn right side out and press. Top stitch the long edges of each handle 1/4 inch from the edge.

Step 6

Fold the loop closure strip in half with the right sides together and the long edges matching. Pin the long cut edges together. Sew the pinned edge using a 1/4-inch seam allowance. Turn the strip right side out. Position the seam to run down the center of one side and press. The seam is the back. Top stitch along each long folded edge.
Step 7

Turn the felted purse body right side out. Center and pin the ends of one handle (lining side up) on the top edge, spaced 4-inches apart. Turn the bag over and pin the remaining handle. Fold the loop closure in half, matching the ends. Center the ends between the handles on one side of the bag. **Note:** If your purse has a desired front or back, pin the loop closure to the top edge on the back.

Step 8

Insert the right-side-out purse body inside the wrong-side-out lining bag. Match the side seams and the top edges and pin. Sew around the top edge using a 1/4-inch seam allowance. **Note:** The pocket in the lining should be on the back.

Step 9

Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the lining. Hand sew the opening in the lining closed. Press the top edge. Top stitch around the top 1/4 inch from the edge.

Step 10

Fold the loop closure from the back edge of the purse to the front to determine the button location. Hand sew a decorative button to the bag and insert through the loop to close. **Note:** Any size buttons will work for this project, but the button for the closure needs to be small enough to fit through the loop, but big enough to hold the loop in place when the purse is closed.

Step 11

Layer one small flower over one large flower. Place a decorative button in the center of the small flower. Repeat with the remaining flowers and button. Position the flowers as desired on a front, bottom corner of the purse. Attach the flowers to the purse through the buttons to the inside of the lining. Take several stitches through all layers to firmly secure the flowers to the purse.

**Note:** Pattern is on the next page.
Large Flower
Cut 2

Small Flower
Cut 2

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