

Project: Extra, Extra

extra, EXTRA

Three-Pocket Purse (pictured on page 144)

DESIGNER KAREN MONTGOMERY

KIT: To order a kit of all fabrics and fusible fleece for three featured purses for \$45.50 ppd., contact The Quilt Company, 3940 Middle Rd., Allison Park, PA 15101; 412/487-9532; thequiltcompany.com. Chain and buttons not included.

MATERIALS FOR ONE PURSE

- $\frac{5}{8}$ yard each of main print and lining print (purse body and lining)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard accent print (handle, binding)
- 20" square fusible fleece
- 2 buttons in coordinating color, $1\frac{1}{4}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter
- 2 ponytail elastics in coordinating color
- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of $\frac{3}{8}$ "-wide metal chain (available at home improvement stores)

Finished purse: $8\frac{1}{2} \times 7$ "

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

CUT FABRICS

From *each* main print and lining print, cut:

- 1—20" square

From accent print, cut:

- 2— $2\frac{1}{4} \times 42$ " binding strips
- 1— $1\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strip for handle

QUILT AND BIND LAYERED SQUARES

1 With wrong sides together, layer main print 20" square and lining print 20" square with fusible fleece 20" square in between; the fusible side of the fleece should be toward lining. Following manufacturer's instructions, press layers together with an iron.

2 Quilt layered squares as desired. Designer Karen Montgomery machine-quilted each purse shown on page 144 with a different all-over design. Consider using a jagged stipple, parallel lines, wavy back-and-forth lines, or feathers.

3 Trim quilted square to 18" square. If you are unable to cut a perfect 18" square, cut the largest square possible. "For this project the size is not as important as the shape," Karen says. "What's most important is that the quilted layers are *square*."

4 Prepare accent print binding strips and stitch to quilted square. (For details, see Complete Quilt, *Pattern Sheet 1*.) When machine-stitching binding to quilted square, Karen recommends using a walking foot and adjusting your seam allowance so it is about one-third the width of the binding. This will ensure the finished binding will be the same width on the purse front as on the lining, which is visible when the pockets are open.

Project: Extra, Extra

5 Working from main print side, press binding away from quilted square. Using tip of iron, gently press corners to create a small miter at each corner. Turn binding folded edge to lining side of quilted square so it just covers the stitching line used to attach the binding. Hand-stitch in place.

ASSEMBLE PURSE BODY

1 Fold quilted-and-bound square in half diagonally with main print side inside to make a triangle. Measure longest side of triangle along fold and divide the measurement by 3. (If you started with a perfect 18" square, this measurement will be 8½" as shown in **Diagram 1**.) Measure the determined distance from each point of fold and mark. From each mark, measure and draw a 7" line perpendicular to bottom fold (**Diagram 1**). Stitch on marked lines through all layers, backstitching at both ends.

2 Referring to **Photo A**, reach between the layers on one side of stitched triangle. Hold on to the seam as you use your other hand to fold the point of the triangle back over center section, enveloping the center section and turning the point right side out (**Photo B**). Repeat to fold opposite point of triangle over center section. Hand-stitch point of triangle to bottom corner of center section to make purse body (**Photo C**).

FINISH PURSE

1 Position a ponytail elastic on lining side of a remaining point of purse body (**Diagram 2**). Machine-stitch across center of elastic several times using thread that matches binding. Fold point down to make a bag flap; position a button on outside of purse body just below point of bag flap. Hand-sew button in place, sewing through both layers of outer pockets. Repeat to add remaining ponytail elastic and button on opposite side of purse body.

2 Fold accent print 1½×42" strip in half lengthwise and press (**Diagram 3**). Open strip and fold each edge to meet at center fold line; press. Refold strip in half. Machine-stitch close to fold to make handle strip.

3 Weave handle strip through metal chain, leaving 4" of handle strip extending at each end of chain. Insert handle strip through first and last links of chain a second time to prevent chain from gathering.

4 Center one handle strip 4" extension on side seam inside purse body, aligning first link in chain with top edge of purse body. Pin in place. To secure handle strip extension, machine-stitch through all layers several times. Repeat to secure remaining end of handle strip to opposite side of purse body to complete purse.

Project: Extra, Extra

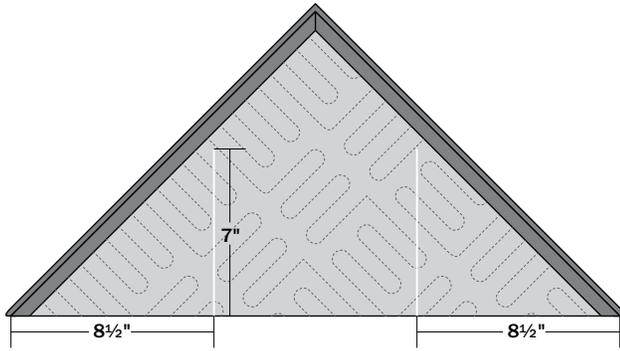


Diagram 1

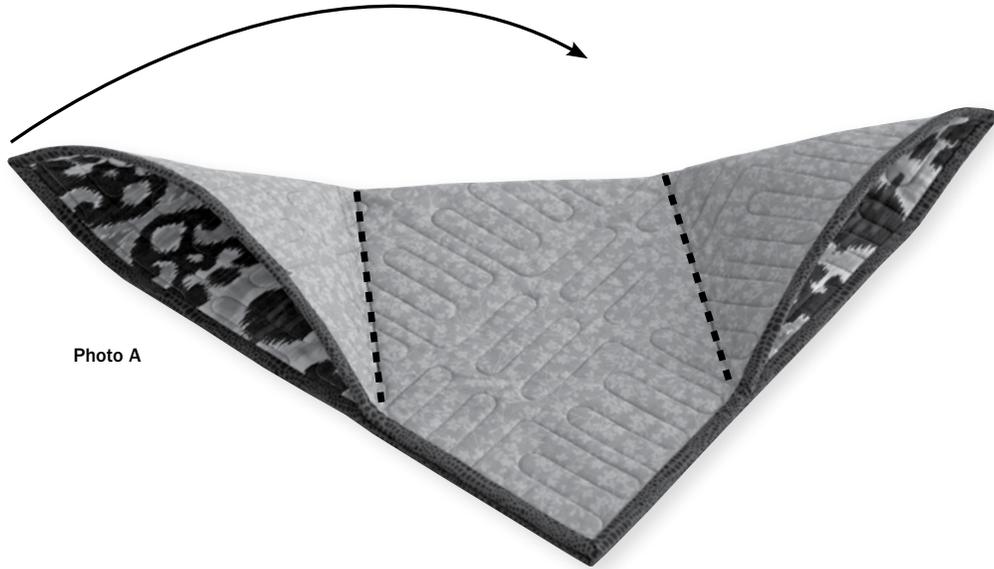


Photo A

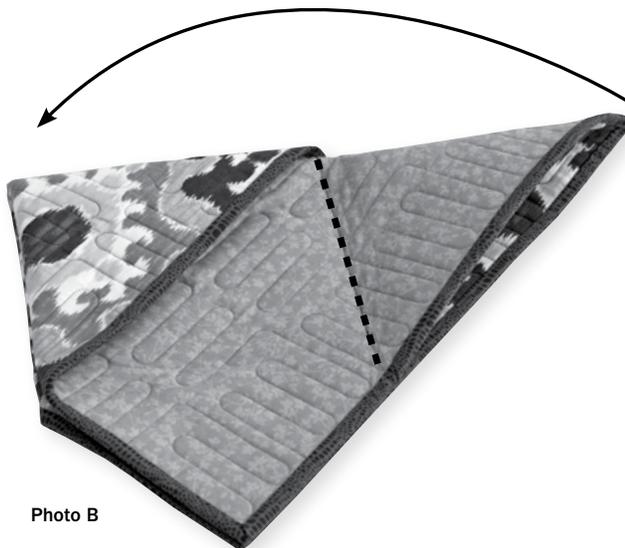


Photo B

Project: Extra, Extra

Hand-stitch in place.

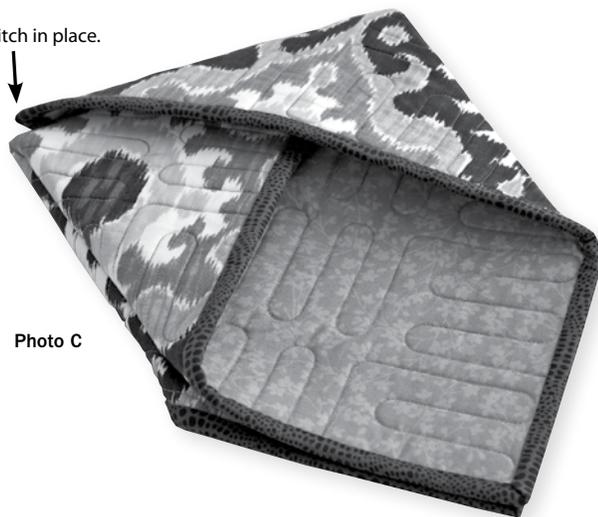


Photo C

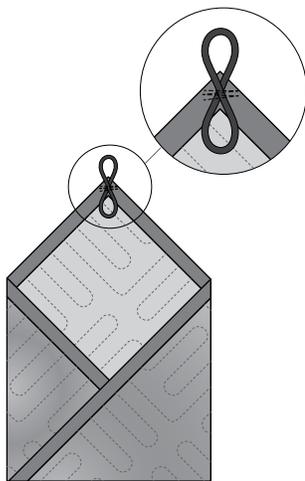


Diagram 2

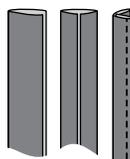


Diagram 3