

Mary Ann's

# Little Circle Purse

This delightful reproduction of a 1950s child's handbag can be modernized using today's sewing techniques or modified to meet the daily needs of the fashion-conscious preteen. The pattern included is an appropriate size for the toddler to tween. Several button-on tiers can be made to change the bag for different holidays or special occasions. With so many possibilities for interchangeable and reversible button-on circles, we had to make a fun and funky version. Ashley Coulson, one of our staff designers, came up with the turquoise and brown version with a feathery beaded trim. The outer compartments do not really serve a functional purpose and are best used for creative machine embroidery, decorative stitching, hand embroidery or fabric prints. Using the circular attachment on the sewing machine quilter table simplifies the process.

**NOTE:** *We pictured Mary Ann's Sunday purse with Easter eggs for fun, but it is not intended for egg hunting. The design could, however, make a festive table centerpiece when a vase of spring flowers is set inside the center pouch. We'll show you how to construct the project; you decide how to use it.*

BY MARY ANN MILLER

REINTERPRETED BY ASHLEY WARREN COULSON





## Free Pattern: Circle Purse

### ON THE CENTERFOLD

- ▶ Circle Patterns



### IN THE ARTICLE

- ▶ Materials List
- ▶ Instructions

### MATERIALS

#### Fabric

- ▶ 1/3 yd fabric for purse
- ▶ 3/8 yd fabric for purse circle

#### Trim

- ▶ 1/2 yd trim (optional)
- ▶ 1 yd of 1/2-inch-wide ribbon, cut into two 18-inch pieces (for handles)
- ▶ Six 1/2-inch buttons

#### Supplies

- ▶ Lightweight sewing thread to match fabric
- ▶ Blue wash-away marker
- ▶ Lightweight tear-away stabilizer (optional)
- ▶ Fray Block™ (optional)

### CUTTING

All seams are 1/2-inch.

- ▶ Cut one 15- x 8-1/2-inch rectangle for purse.
- ▶ Cut one 15- x 6-1/2-inch rectangle for purse lining.
- ▶ Cut two small circles for purse bottom.
- ▶ Cut two large circles for button-on attachment. You can make each side from a different print for more options.

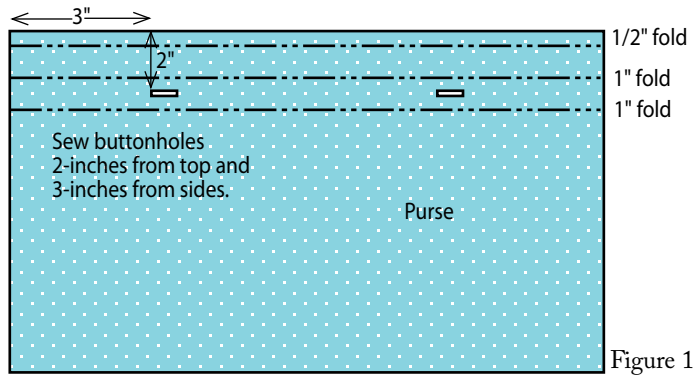


Figure 1

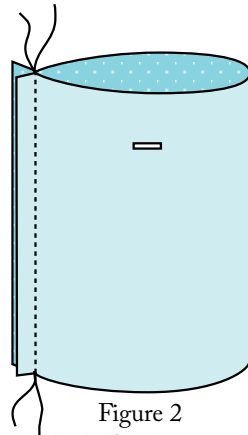


Figure 2

Fold in half and sew seam. Repeat for 6-1/2-inch lining rectangle.

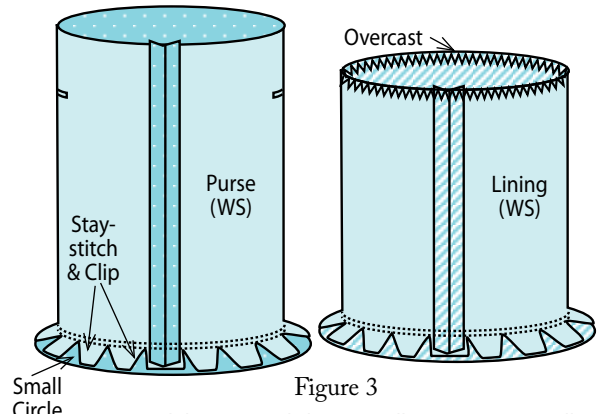


Figure 3

Stay-stitch bottom and clip seam allowance. Sew small circle to bottom with right sides together. Repeat for lining. Finish top edge of lining with an overcast stitch.

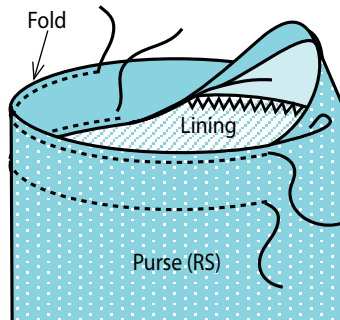


Figure 4

Place lining inside purse wrong sides together with seams matching. Fold purse top edge 1/2-inch and again 1-inch. Pin over lining and stitch.

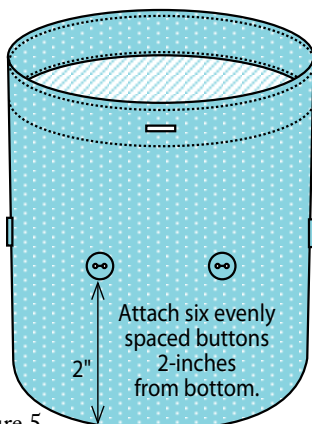


Figure 5

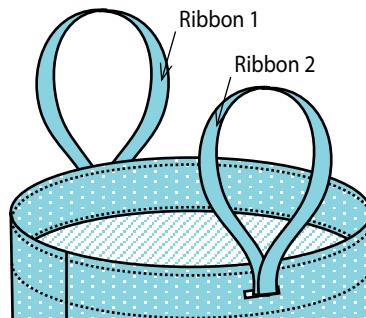


Figure 6

Run both 18-inch ribbons through casing; knot ends and encase knots inside purse casing. Pull ribbon loops through buttonholes to draw up purse.



Add decorative trim to the edge to make it fun

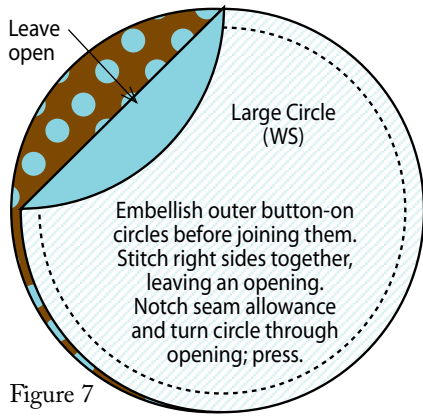


Figure 7

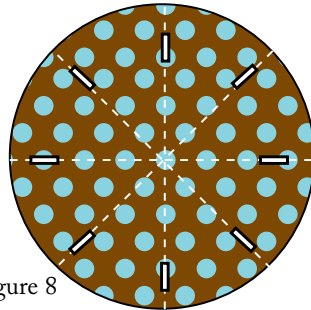


Figure 8

Hand stitch opening to close. Mark and stitch buttonholes with tear-away stabilizer beneath. Remove stabilizer and button to purse. Create as many different versions as you like.



#### About the designer

Mary Ann Miller lives with her husband, Avon, just north of the Olympic Mountains in Washington State. She recently retired after 30 years as a certified public accountant and is now pursuing her two passions, sewing and writing. Mary Ann has been sewing since she was 8 years old. She is a Palmer Pletsch educational associate, a clothing & textile advisor with the Kitsap County Extension Agency and teaches children and adults to sew at Viking Sew and Vacuum in Port Angeles.