



Margaret Moorehead's

Virtual Sewing Guild OnLine Class

Happy Handbag



Supply List:

- * Fabric (See Fabric Preparation below)
 - Fabric 1: Cork or Real Leather
 - Fabric 2: Lining and pockets
 - Fabric 3: Quilted Fabric for Purse
- * Wonder Tape or Glue Stick
- * Construction Thread
- * Pins
- * General Sewing Supplies
- * 18mm Rotary Cutter (Optional)
- * Zippers:
 - Three 9” zippers (pockets)
 - One 14” or 15” zipper (top closure)
- * Webbing for strap 1” wide (Nylon)
 - Length should be to your liking.
 - (I used 36” which is not long enough for a “cross body” bag)
- * Hardware for attaching straps
 - Metal rectangle that will accommodate the 1” webbing
 - (This is optional)

Equipment List:

- * Sewing Machine in good working order
- * Presser feet
 - regular sewing foot
 - 1/4” foot
 - Stitch in the Ditch Foot
 - Open Toe Foot
 - Zipper Foot
- * Sharp scissors
- * Thread snips
- * Rotary Cutter, Mat, Ruler
- * Fabric Marking pen or chalk
- * Iron
- * Non-stick pressing sheet
- * June Tailor Pressing Board
- * Top Stitch Needles size 80 or 90

Note:

Please use the video in conjunction with these instructions. There is a lot of “bonus” information in the videos that explain why things are done a certain way, and tips to getting the best results possible on your project

Cork or Leather	Purpose	Size	Quantity	Stabler/ Notes
A	Zipper Components	12" x 2"	3	
B	Purse Side Panels	10 1/2" x 2"	2	
C	Outside quilted pocket upper trim (binding)	1 1/2" x 12 1/2"	1	
D	Bottom Purse Accent Piece	12" x 8"	1	
E	Zipper Pulls	8 1/2" x 1/8"	4	ends cut at an angle so they can be inserted into the zipper pull
F	Loops to attach hardware for straps	3" x 1"	2	Optional
G	"Binding" for top of purse	1 3/4" x 35"	1	

Recommended Fabrics:

Cork

Real Leather (Glacé Lamb Skin or Suede pigskin, kid skin (2 oz))

Not recommended for these techniques: Cow hide, deer hide, vinyl, polyurethane.

Lining Fabric	Purpose	Size	Quantity	Stabler/ Notes
H	Pocket Bag	8 1/2" x 13 1/2"	1	won't show
I	Purse lining and inside pockets	36" x 13 1/2"	1	

Quilted Fabric	Purpose	Size	Quantity	Stabler/ Notes
J	Purse Body	12" x 21"	1	
K	Outside Patch Pocket	12" x 5 1/2"	1	

Margaret's Hints:

Why a topstitching needle?

Topstitch needles have a larger eye and a deeper channel to protect the thread from skipping stitches on the leather and cork

No leather needles because they will damage the fabrics.



Getting Started

Cut the fabric to size according to the chart above and label them.



Margaret's Hints:

If this is the first time you are working with leather or cork test your fabric. Iron it, stitch on it, rip stitches out...just get to know it.

You will be using a longer stitch every time you stitch on the cork or the leather. This will make sure you don't perforate the leather or cork, and give you prettier and more professional results

Always use a nonstick pressing sheet when ironing the cork or leather



Preparing the 3 Zipper Components

Use leather piece A
Cut a rectangle 1/2" x a scant 9 1/2"
Draw a line 3/4" in from each long edge (these lines will be 1/2" apart)
Measure out from the center scant 4 3/4" towards each short side
Double check the measurement of these lines
Cut out this rectangle with scissors or with an 18 mm rotary cutter and ruler.



Position the closed zipper so the teeth are centered in this cut out.
Apply glue stick or wonder tape to the edges of the zipper.
If using glue stick be sure to iron dry so you will not "gum up" your machine.



Top stitch on the leather or cork using a longer stitch length.
Choose the foot and the placement that works for you.
I used my zipper foot and the stitching is about 1/2" from the cut opening of the cork or leather.
Sew Across the short ends being sure to back tac.



Patch Pocket

Attach the cork or the leather to the top of the quilted fabric that will form the pocket on the side of the purse that does not have a zipper.

TEST on a scrap to get your stitching positioned correctly.

Attach the cork/leather using a longer stitch length, right sides together using a generous quarter to a half inch seam.



Attach wonder tape or glue to opposite edge of the wrong side of the cork/leather. Fold cork/leather to the back side of pocket, encasing the seam allowance. Hold the cork/leather to the back of the pocket with the wonder tape or glue.



Attach the stitch in the ditch foot. Line up the blade on the foot in the ditch and stitch in the ditch. (Be sure to use the long stitch length.)



Position the edge of the patch pocket (K) that has the leather/cork on it is 1 1/2" away from one 12" cut edge piece "I"
(Wrong side of the Patch Pocket to the right side of the purse fabric)
Pin in place and stitch the opposite edge (the raw edge of the quilted fabric of the patch pocket) with a generous 1/4" seam



Baste the sides of the patch pocket (K) to the purse (J)
Find the center of the patch pocket (from right to left) and stitch from the raw edge of pocket up to the patch pocket edge that has been finished with the leather/cork.



Use stitch length that is generally used when stitching on fabric only.
You will be stitching through the pocket and the quilted purse fabric (J)
When you get to the "ditch" where the cork meets the quilted fabric, pivot your fabric and stitch on each side of the center line to reinforce the top of the pocket.
Be sure to tie off
You have now divided your one large pocket into two smaller pockets.



Attaching the Leather/Cork Bottom Accent Piece

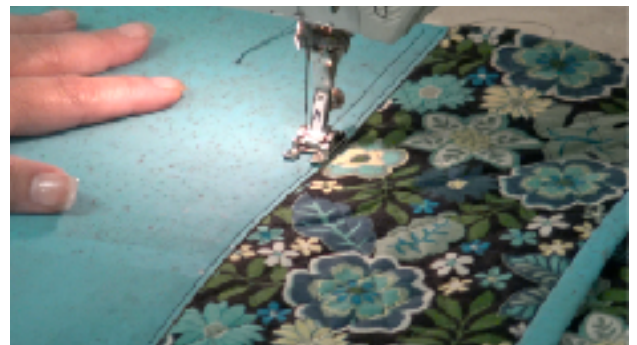
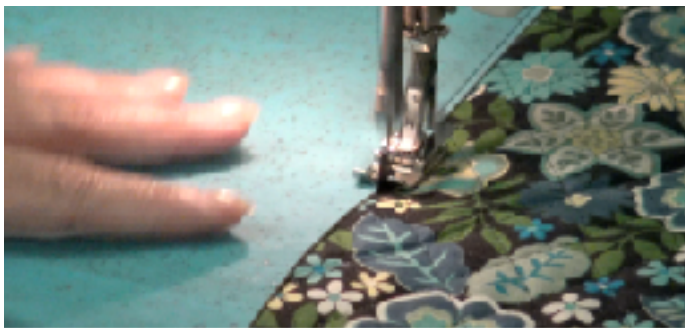
Find the center of the cork/leather and the center of the quilted purse fabric. Center the cork/leather wrong side of the leather/cork to the right side of the quilted purse fabric.

Glue or Wonder tape the cork/leather in place.

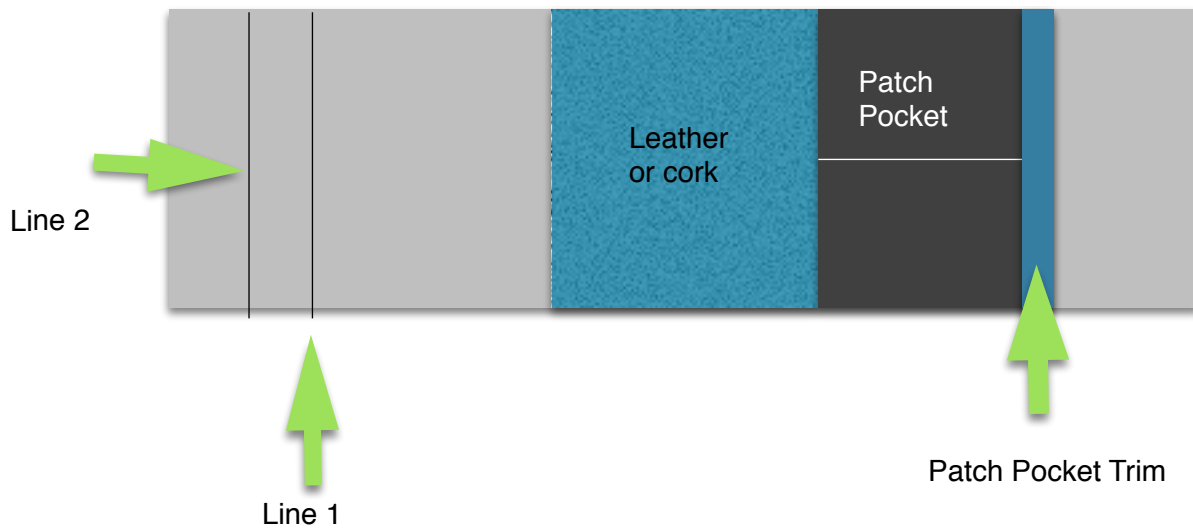
Use the stitch in the ditch foot and edge stitch along both raw edges (not the sides) of the leather/cork

Add another row of topstitching to add that professional look.

(The open toe foot works great for this)



Attaching the zipper component to the outside of the purse

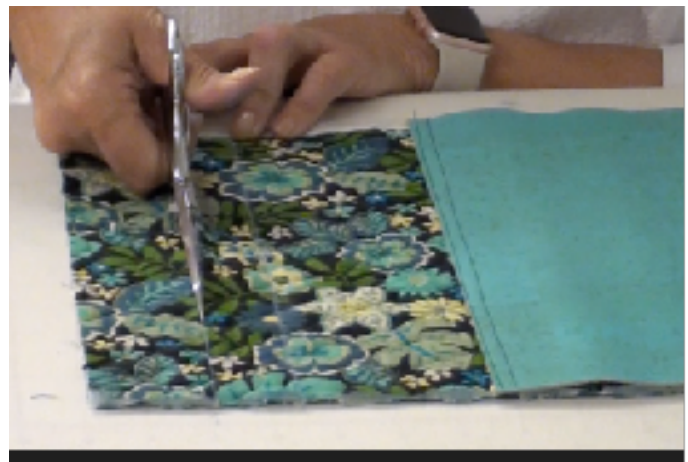


Draw 2 lines on the side of the purse without the patch pocket.

Line 1: 3 1/4" from the cut edge

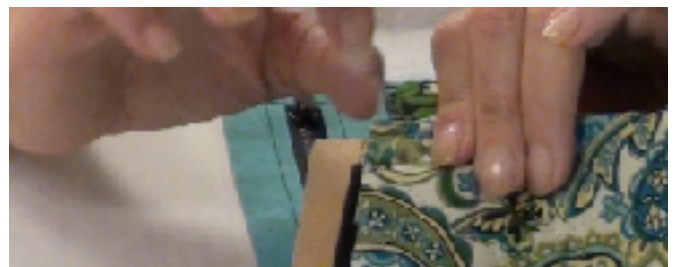
Line 2: 2" from the cut edge

Cut on line 2, the line that is 2" from the raw edge, and set this strip aside.

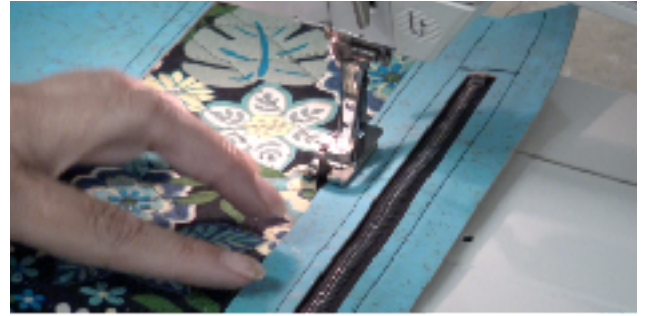


Line up the bottom edge of the zipper cork/leather component on Line 1
Glue or use Wonder Tape to hold in place

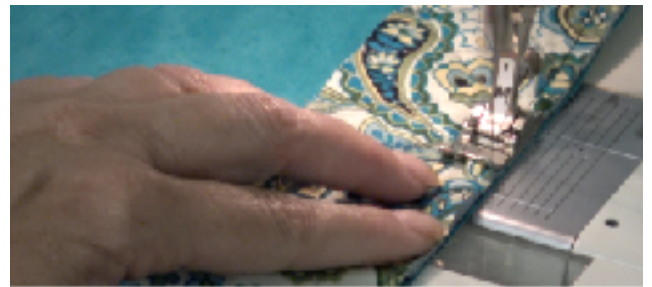
The other side of the zipper component will extend beyond the fabric when you look at it from the wrong side



Stitch using a longer stitch length, with the stitch in the ditch foot and the needle position moved to the side so the stitching will go on the leather/cork. You will be stitching through the leather and the quilted purse fabric (J)

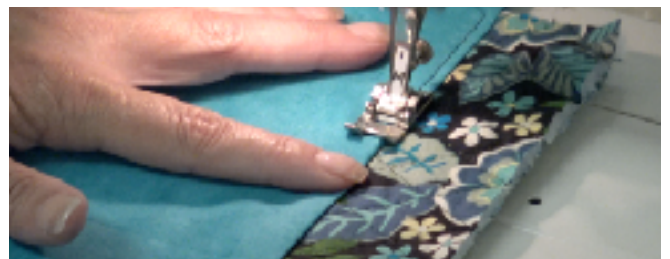


Find the center of the pocket fabric (H) (fold in half so the pocket is 8 1/2" x 6 3/4" and iron to form a crease to mark the center)

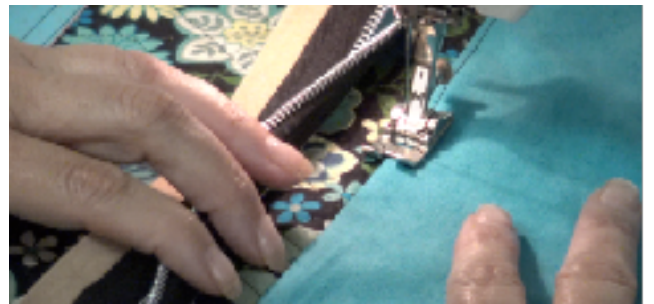


Right Sides Together, using a 1/4" seam allowance, and a regular stitch length, stitch one 13 1/2" side of the pocket (H) to one edge of the 12" x 2" strip (The piece that you cut off of the purse quilted fabric).

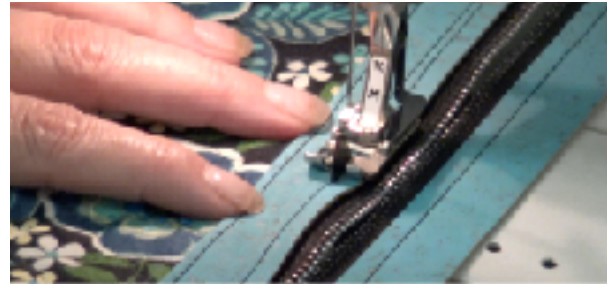
Topstitch through the lining and the seam allowance.



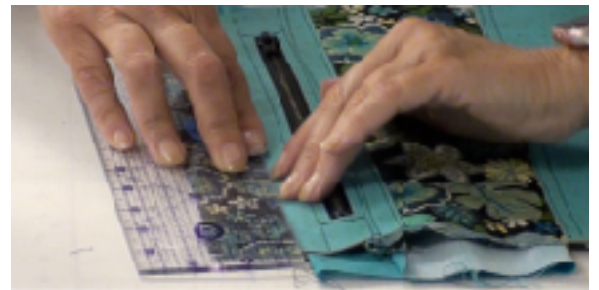
Sew the other 13 1/2" pocket edge RST to the cut edge of Piece J, the quilted purse fabric
Press the seams toward the pocket fabric.
Topstitch through the lining and the quilted fabric only



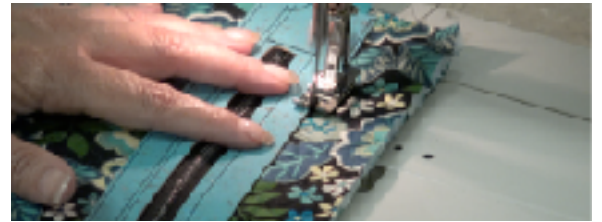
Behind the top section of the zipper area, (the part that has not been stitched in place yet) you will fold the pocket and the quilted fabric down, so it is out of the way, and you will topstitch through the leather/cork and the area that is folded down. (Stitch in the ditch foot and longer stitch and needle position of your choice.)



Attach wonder tape or glue, to the other edge of the zipper component.
Line up the top edge of the zipper component so it is 1 1/4" from the cut edge of the 2" strip that is attached to the pocket.
Press the tope edge of the zipper component in place so the glue or wonder tape will hold it securely while you stitch.

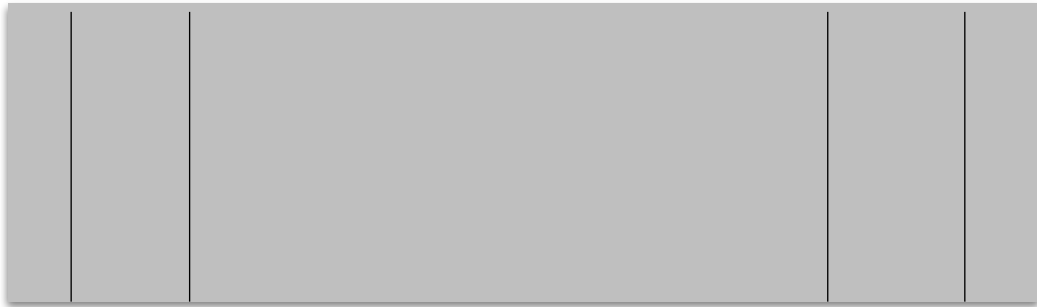


Edge stitch (top stitch) along the leather/cork zipper component edge, using the longer stitch length, the stitch in the ditch foot and the needle portion of your choice.
Be sure your pocket is in the correct position and is not getting caught in this stitching.



Baste the sides making sure the pocket is positioned correctly.

Purse Lining

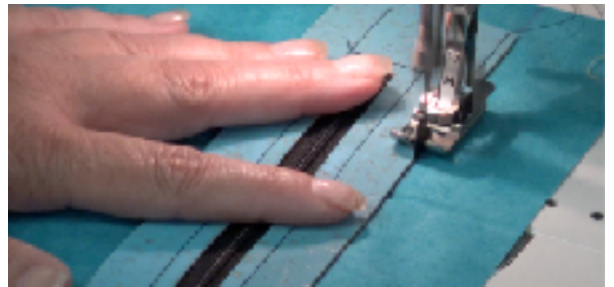


Draw 2 lines on each end of your lining fabric with your water soluble marker
Line 1: 1 1/2" from cut edge
Line 2: 11 Inches from cut edge

Attach glue or wonder tape to both sides of the zipper component.

Remove the protective paper from the wonder tape, from the top edge of the zipper component.

Line up the top of the zipper component on the 1 1/2" line making sure it is centered from right to left



Topstitch using a longer stitch, the stitch in the ditch foot and the needle position of your choice.

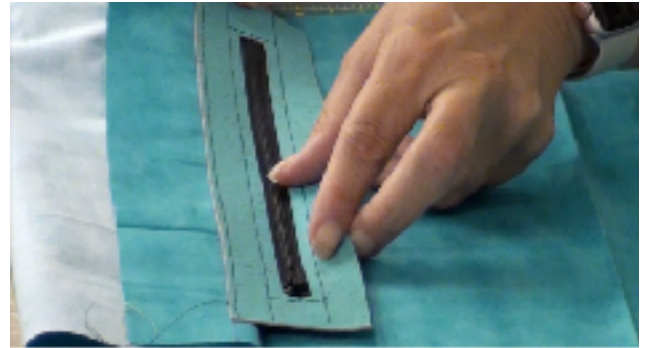
Remove the protective paper from the wonder tape on the unstitched edge of the zipper component.

Line up that edge of the zipper component on the 11" line that is marked on the lingo fabric and press in place.

Make sure the fabric that will form the "pocket" is in the proper position.

Top stitch the leather/cork component along the remaining edge

Topstitch along the short edges of the leather component, being sure to back stitch or tie off.



Repeat for the other end of the lining.

Stitch the lining side seams together using a 1/2" seam allowance and the regular stitch length, being sure to back tac at the beginning and end of the seams.



Attaching the purse side panels

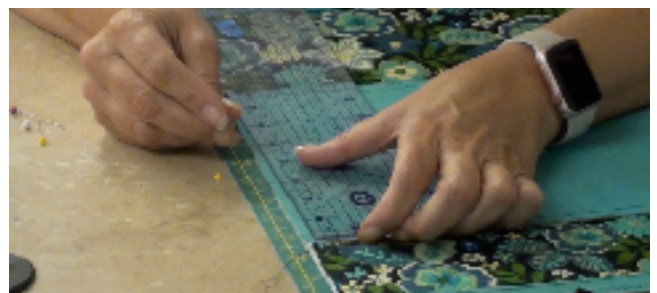
Make sure your pockets are positioned correctly

Trim to neaten up the side edges of the purse.

Baste the pocket that is created with the lining fabric in place

Measure in from each cut edge of the cork/leather 3 1/4" and mark with a pin (in the seam allowance.)

The distance between these marks should be 1 1/2".



Line up the side panel leather/cork piece (B) so the bottom edge is 1/4" past the first pin mark.

Stitch using a 1/4" seam allowance and a long stitch. (RST)

Stitch from the top of the purse down to the first pin



Stop with the needle completely in project (if it is not all the way down you may get a broken or bent needle)

Pivot the side leather/cork piece.

Stitch to the next pin.

Pivot the cork/leather piece and stitch back up to the top of the purse, making everything line up nicely.



Repeat for the other side of the purse.

Turn purse right sides out.

Trim top edge so it is even

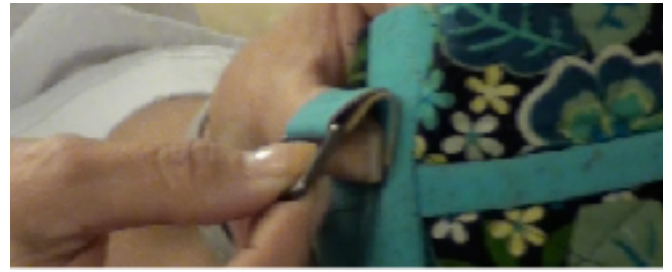


Tabs, Straps and Hardware

Cut the strap to the desired length.
Melt the edge of the webbing with a heat tool



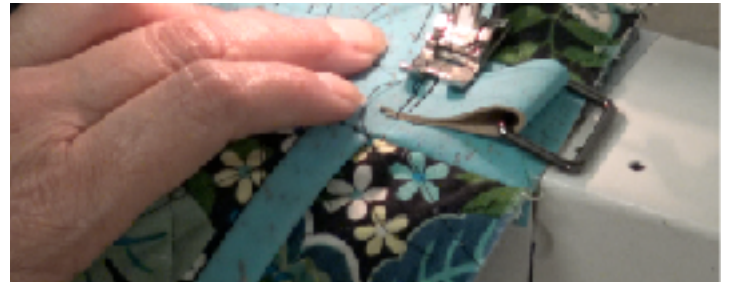
Put the 3" x 1" piece of cork/leather through the hardware and stitch it to the side of the purse near the cut edges of the cork/leather by lining up the folded edge of the leather/cork with the top cut edge of the purse and centered from side to side on the side panel of the purse.



Use a long stitch length and stitch across and back, move the presser foot up a bit and then stitch across and back a second time.

Tie off

Repeat for the next side



Finishing it up!

Have the purse right side out.

Place the lining inside the purse so the wrong side of the lining is touching the wrong side of the purse.

Center the lining seams in the center of the purse side leather/cork panels.

Pin the top of the lining to the top of the purse all the way around

Stitch in place using a regular stitch length.

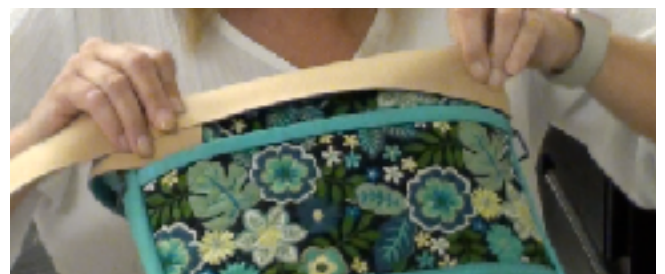


Attach the cork/leather using a longer stitch length, right sides together, using a generous quarter to a half inch seam.

Cut the first edge at an angle and just overlap the cork/leather when you get back to the beginning and cut off the excess

Attach wonder tape to opposite edge of cork/leather

Fold cork to the back side of pocket encasing the seam allowance and hold the cork/leather to the inside of the purse with the wonder tape



Attach the Stitch in the ditch foot and stitch the cork/leather in place using a long stitch length

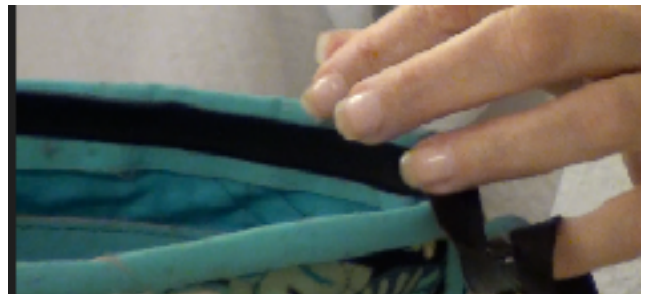


Slide the ends of the straps through the hardware on the side of the purse and stitch the straps securely



Top Zipper

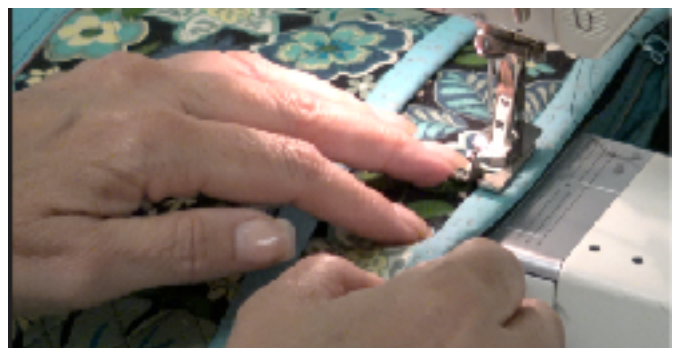
Pin the zipper, one side at a time to the inside of the purse
Line up the zipper with the teeth near the top of the binding and the edge of the zipper tape covering the “stitch in the ditch” stitches.
Starting at the seam where the quilted fabric meets the side leather/cork panel, and ending at the opposite seam.



Stitch in the ditch to secure the zipper in place, back tacking at the beginning and the end.

Tuck the excess zipper into the opening at the top of the purse

Insert strips of cork or leather (E) into zippers and tie them for a designer detail.



Fill your purse, pop it on your shoulder
and head out for a day or evening of



*From my sewing machine to yours,
Happy Creating*