

Focus Fabric Purse From My Carolina Home

Making a purse out of one fabric takes on a little flair with an accent strip and a few buttons.



Fabric Requirements

One focus print 16-1/2 x 24 inches.

Two focus fabric strips 20 x 3 inches

One focus fabric 6-1/2-inches x 12-1/2-inches

Additional focus fabric scrap for outside pocket, dimensions to fit your phone

One solid color strip 2-1/2-inches x 24-inches

One solid color lining 16-1/2 x 24 inches

One solid color lining fabric 6-1/2-inches x 12-1/2-inches

Solid color binding strip approximately 70 inches long x 2-1/2-inches wide

Batting pieces - one 16-1/2 x 24 inches, one 6-1/2-inches x 12-1/2-inches,
and two 20 x 1-inch pieces.

One 15-inch strip of Velcro

Measure in from the left long side of the focus print 3-inches, and cut a 3-inch strip from the fabric. Move the 3-inch strip to the left and insert the solid color strip. Sew the strips together.

Quilt this piece with a solid color backing. Trim to size, 18 x 24 inches.

Make the straps next. Press one long edge of the handle strip about 1/4-inch to the wrong side. Lay the batting strip in the center of the handle on the wrong side of the fabric. Fold the unpressed edge over the batting, and then fold the pressed edge over the top. Sew two or three lines of stitching on the handles, with one stitching line close to the folded edge of the fabric to hold it closed.

Measure in four inches from the edge along the 18-inch side and place the handle end right sides together on the purse base. Do the same for the other end of the handle on the other edge of the purse. Pin and stitch. Repeat for the second handle on the opposite end of the base.

To make the inside pocket, cut a piece of focus fabric, a lining fabric and a batting scrap 6-1/2-inches x 12-1/2-inches. Layer your focus fabric right sides together with the backing fabric, adding the layer of batting on the bottom. Sew around the edge, leaving an opening for turning on the short side. Clip corners, turn and press.

Place the pocket four inches from the top edge of the inside side, making sure it is on the back side of the bag, centered from left to right. The back side will have the accent strip

on the right when the bag is folded up. Topstitch in place down one side, across the bottom and up the other side. Run one line of stitching through the center of the pocket unit from bottom to top to divide it into two sections.

Use a 15-inch strip of Velcro, sewing the edges down about 3/4-inch from the top of the bag. Sew all the way around the Velcro, putting softer side on the same side as the inside pocket.

For the outside phone pocket, measure the size of your phone, add one inch to both dimensions and make your pocket that size. Use the focus fabric on both sides, and no batting. Placing right sides together, sew with 1/4-inch seam, clip corners, turn and press. Position the pocket on the front of the bag, about 3-4-inches from the top, and 3-4 inches from the right side. Eyeball it to be sure its proportions look right with the placement. Stitch down the sides and bottom.

Sew the accent buttons on the outside front by machine, or by hand.

Fold the purse right sides together creating a bag 12x18 with the handle edges meeting. Sew the side seams with a generous 1/4-3/8-inch seam.

Cut binding strips for the raw edges inside and around the top. This should be about 40-inches for around the top, and about 15 inches for each side, to allow for overlap. Stitch the binding on one side of the purse inside seam. Fold the binding over the raw edge, folding the ends under first to create a finished end. Then wrap the long folded edge over, pin in place. Machine stitch down along the folded edge. Repeat for the other inside seam.

On the bottom, box the corners. Refold the bottom edge so the front and back are on the sides of the triangle created with the side seam down the middle. I measure up about 2 inches and draw a line across the point as a sewing line. Stitch on this line. Repeat for the other corner.

Bind the top edge of the purse by stitching the binding strip to the outside of the bag. Miter the joining point as usual. Then, fold the binding to the inside. You can then stitch this down as you like either by machine or by hand. Turn the bag right side out, and push the boxed corners out, smoothing the seam as you go.

To see step-by-step instructions with photos, see the blog post –
<http://frommycarolinahome.com/2018/06/27/focus-fabric-purse/>

Happy Sewing!!

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