

Beaded Mesh Purse

Project by viewer guest Ann Culpepper.

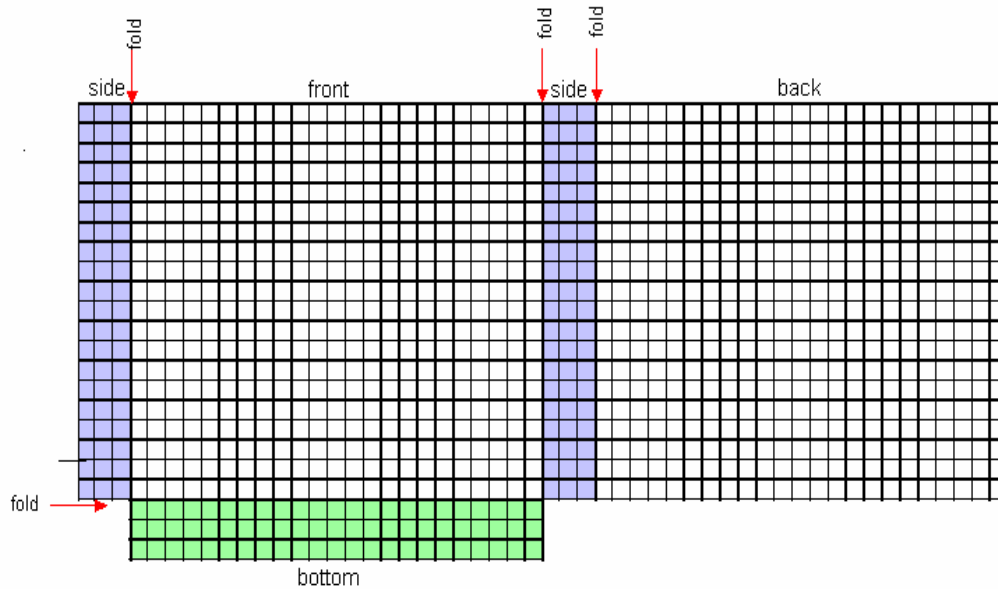
Materials:

1/2" hole plastic mesh
beading line
sketch of design
black 8mm plastic faceted beads
dark rust 8mm plastic faceted beads
taupe 8mm plastic faceted beads
scissors
large-eye embroidery needle
large black button
black elastic pony-tail rubber band (with no metal attachment)
black braided cording for strap
black tape
black lining fabric
tape measure
ruler
card stock
double-sided tape
sewing needle and thread

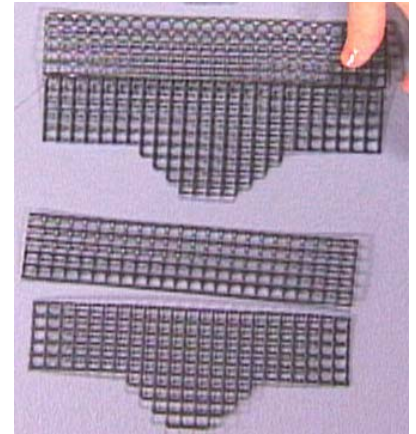
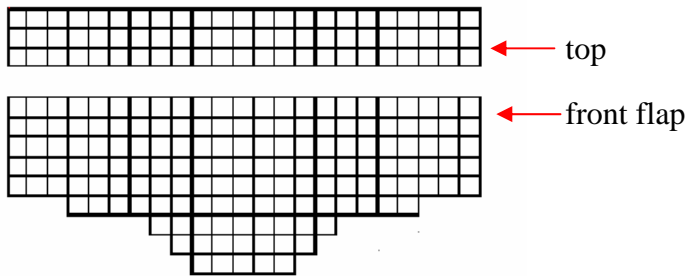


Steps:

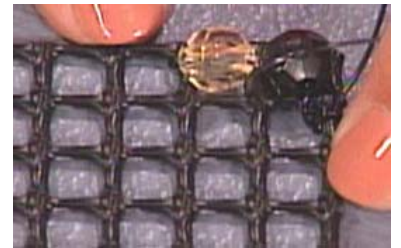
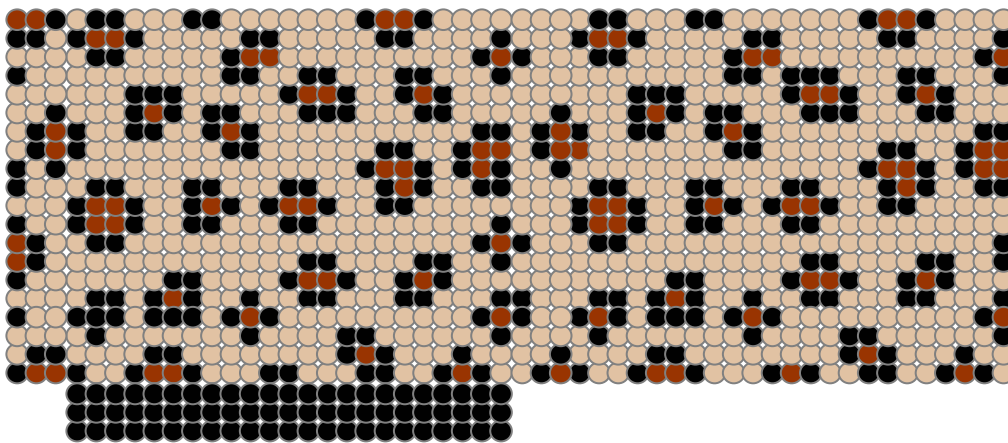
1. Determine desired size for purse and cut pattern from roll of plastic mesh. In the example below, the purse is 3 holes wide/deep, 23 holes across (front and back), and 3 holes wide for bottom.



- Cut pattern for purse top flap (two sections) from plastic mesh (23 holes wide to match front of purse) as follows. These two sections will be sewn together after beading to create a "hinge effect" for front flap:

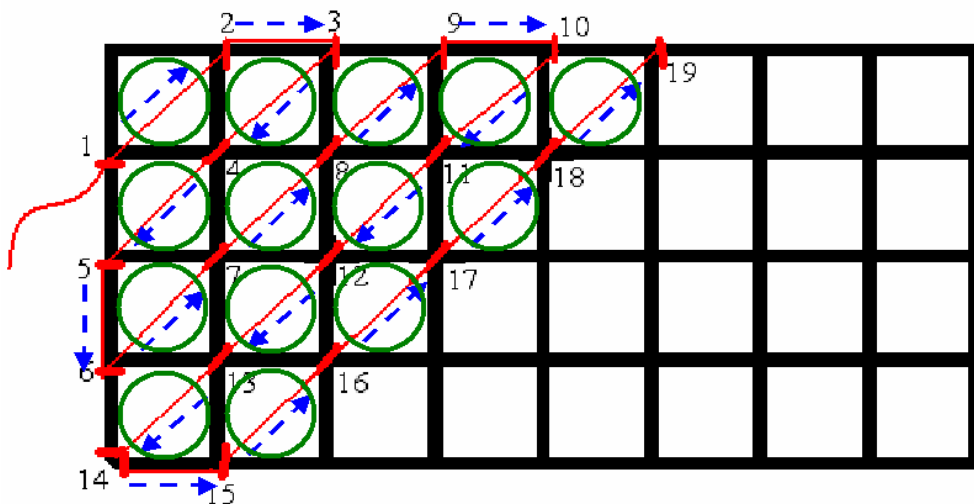


- Cut approximately 24 inches of beading line and tie to mesh underneath and outside first hole in top left corner of mesh (below).

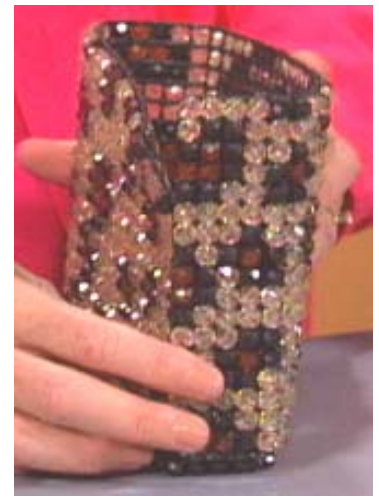


Following color pattern here, attach the first bead in the top left position of mesh by wrapping beading line around mesh joint (below). Attach the beads on the mesh in a diagonal fashion, until all beads are attached.

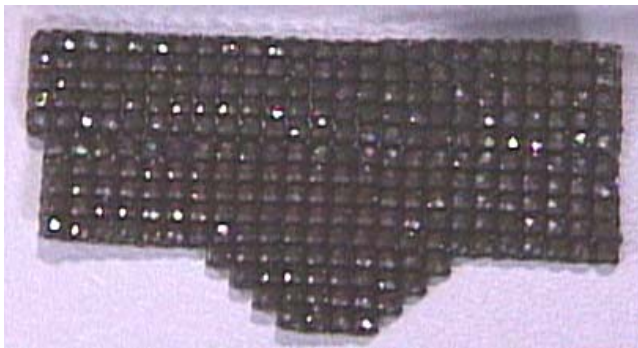
Tip: When tying on new line and ending line, leave approximately a 1-1/2-inch "tail" and run this end through beads last worked to hide.



4. After all beads are attached and all ends of line are tucked in, bend in the completed mesh at sides, back and bottom to form purse box. Sew seams with large-eye needle and beading line.

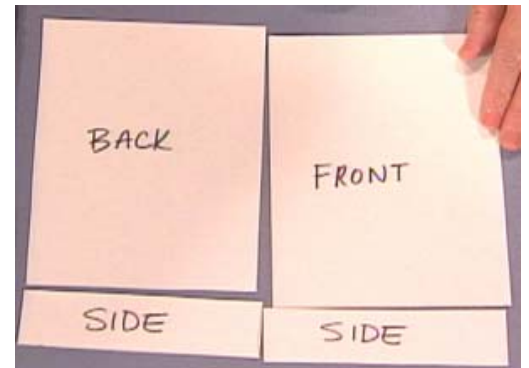


5. Attach black beads to top and front flap sections. With beading line and large-eye needle, sew two sections together to form “hinge effect” for front flap. Then, sew this joined section to top back of purse.

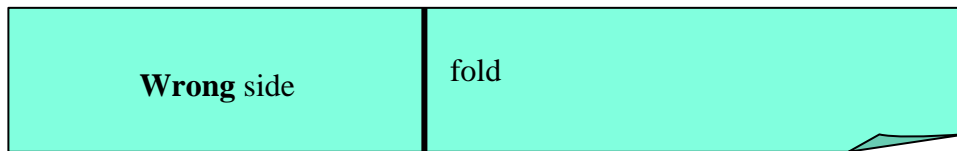


6. With beading line, sew large button on front of purse in the center and approximately 2 inches from bottom.
7. Weave elastic rubber band in and out of center mesh hole on lower center section of front flap, pulling one end through the other to form loop (this will go around button when closing).
8. For the purse lining: Cut out card stock pieces for front, back, two sides and bottom to match purse.

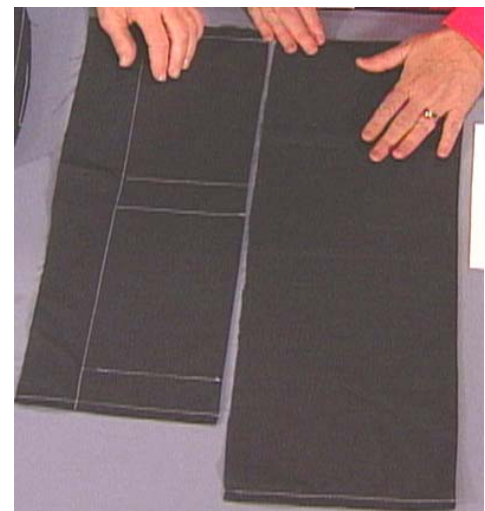
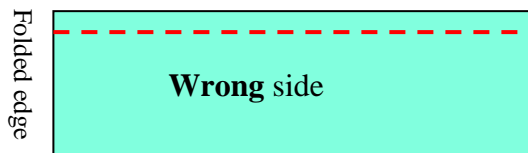
Tip: Be sure to cut pieces 1/4-inch smaller than purse sections on every edge (this makes it easier to fit inside purse when covered with fabric).



- Lay fabric flat. Measure width of purse, including all sides, and add 1 inch to total. Measure height of purse and add 2 inches. Cut fabric to these measurements. Fabric will be wide enough to go all the way around purse plus 1 inch and long enough from top to bottom plus 2 inches.



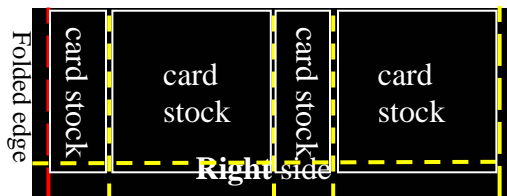
- Fold fabric in half on long edge, wrong side out. Sew 1/2-inch seam at top on long edge.



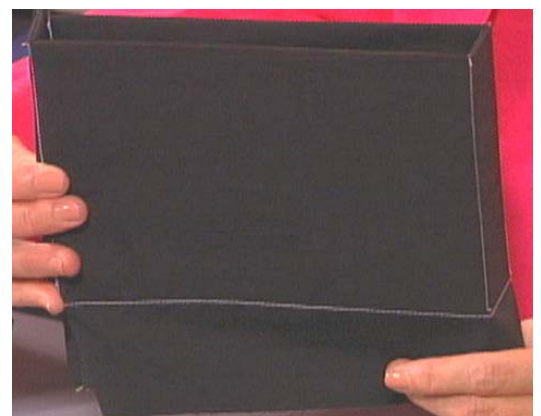
- Turn fabric to right side and press seam. Sew 1/2-inch seam down folded edge.



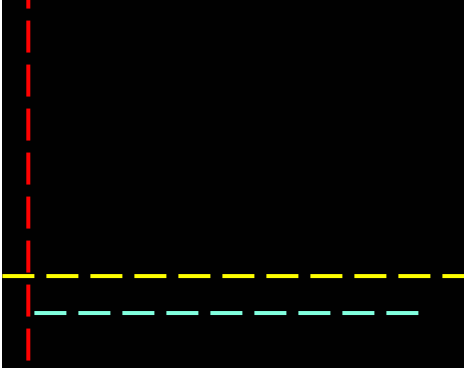
- Place 2-inch strip of double-sided tape on one side of each card stock piece and position inside folded fabric as shown. From top to bottom, sew seam in between each card stock piece. Sew across bottom as shown all the way across at lower edge of card stock.



- Fold over and sew left and right edges together (forming box). Trim seam close to stitching. Don't worry about raw edge, as it will not show when placed inside purse.



14. Shape into box form. Press together excess fabric at bottom until it forms flat bottom for purse lining and pin on each end. Sew this seam across starting 1 inch in and ending 1 inch short as shown. Stand lining box on flat surface and pull each unstitched end up over each side and whip stitch. (This will not show when lining is placed in purse.)



15. Cut black braided cording to desired shoulder strap length plus 8 inches and secure each end by wrapping with black tape. Tightly tie strap to each side of purse (through mesh), leaving approximately 3 inches from knot to place down between purse and lining.
16. Place lining inside purse. Whip stitch top edge of lining all around to top edges of purse.
17. Lastly, wrap fabric around bottom card stock piece, folding under edges, and sew. Place this piece in bottom of lined purse.

Alternative design:

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