



Tea Towel Purse* With A Secret Ingredient!

One tea towel - At least 16" X 25"
3/4 yard of coordinating fabric (lining)
3/4 yard Batting

And Our Secret Ingredient:

24" piece of Broken** 1" wide metal measuring tape.
Amazingly, you can cut this metal tape with regular paper scissors. Pull the tape to its end and cut from mechanism. Discard the outer casing and roll up tape or cut it into pieces to share with friends!

Straps:

Cut two 4" X 36" pieces of lining fabric for straps. Press in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Open and press edges to middle. Cut two batt pieces 1" by 36". Tuck a batt into each strap as shown. Top stitch strap. Stitch four rows of stitching on each strap.



Straps

Purse:

Trim towel to 13" X 24", removing hems. Cut a piece of batting the same size.



Floating Pocket

Cut 13" X 28" piece from lining. Layer with towel and batt, centered and quilt as desired.



Quilt the Layers

Position strap about 2" in from either long edge and tack in place.

Floating Pocket:

Cut a 6" x 18" piece of lining fabric. Fold in half and stitch around raw edges, leaving an opening on one long side to turn. Clip corners and Turn. Press. Fold nearly in half as shown. Stitch sides, catching opening. If desired, divide into two pockets with one line of stitching. Tack in place between straps.

Finishing:

Press each short end of purse lining in 1/4" as shown. Press each short end in again, turning under 1 1/8" forming casing for measuring tape and to just overlap quilted section and to catch the strap ends and pocket. Pin in place. Stitch.



Cut Strip Ends

Fold bag in half, matching at top and stitch one side seam only. Finish seam with a zigzag stitch and matching thread.

Before stitching second side, trim two measuring tape pieces to be 1" shorter than casing length, "snowballing" the ends with paper scissors (Cutting little triangles from each corner.) **Wrap the ends in a bit of masking tape so they don't cut your fabric!** Insert the pieces into casing as shown. Note the numbers should face the same as the lining.

Next carefully stitch the other side seam and finish in the same way.

Box the bottom of purse if desired: Turn purse wrong side out. Match side seam to center bottom. making a triangle. Stitch across the triangle about 1 1/2" - 2" in. Repeat for other side of purse. Trim if desired.



Insert Tape Strips

**** Okay, maybe the retractable metal measuring tape doesn't have to be broken, but it will be when you finish with it!**