

### **Directions for Monogrammed Purse with Bamboo Handles / September 2003**

(This project utilizes letters from our Asian Monogram Set 1.)

#### *Step 1. Print the instructions.*

These are .pdf files, and require Adobe Acrobat Reader software in order to view and print.

#### *Step 2. Review instructions and materials required (materials list at the end of these instructions).*

#### *Step 3. Create a monogram and merge designs.*

The Asian Monogram Set 1 consists of 55 designs (A-Z in two sizes, plus three circular borders).

We used the larger size letters (3/4" - 19mm) along with the medium-sized border ( 1 3/8" - 35mm) to create a single letter monogram.

Merge the letter of your choice, along with the border, within an embroidery software program. Once you are happy with the design, save it under a new filename.

For this project, we created nine copies of this monogram, enough to create an accent strip across the front of the purse, near the bottom. If you have a 5" x 7" hoop, you should be able to fit five designs in one hooping, and will have to rehoop for the other four. A large hoop will require a single hooping, a smaller hoop will require more hoopings.

#### *Step 4. Prepare the fabric and embroider the designs.*

(Note: the kit for this purse contains two bamboo handles with brass rods and endcaps, along with instructions and templates for constructing the handbag. Please refer to these instructions for handbag assembly)

Cut a piece of fabric for the outer layer 14" x 20".

Create a line on the right side of the purse fabric 2 1/2" above the center fold using Wonder ape. This line will mark the placement for the bottom edge of the monogram stripe.

Hoop all layers of stabilizers and fabric with tear-away stabilizer on the bottom.

We used ultrasuede for this project. If you are unable to hoop the fabric because of the nap (suede, velvet, etc.) spray hooped stabilizer with temporary spray adhesive and press the fabric into place on the top.

Check to see that the monogram stripe will be correctly matched and aligned to the top edge of the Wonder Tape.

Your hoop size will determine whether or not the monogram stripe can be sewn all at once, or will need to be sewn in sections. If rehooping is required, sew the first section, then move the fabric over for the second hooping. To successfully align the second hooping, overlap the first new monogram design with the last one stitched. Do not stitch - test the placement by lowering the needle to match stitch points, adjusting the layout with the machine's directional arrows as needed. When pleased, advance the design to the second monogram in the row and continue the embroidery.

To create an accent, change the thread to a contrasting color for one of the monograms. We chose the seventh one so that the contrasting monogram would be on the right side.

Be sure to leave room for a 1/2" (13mm) seam at each side.

*Step 5. Assemble the purse.*

Following the manufacturer's directions, select a lining fabric, with an additional piece for the inside pocket. Cut the lining fabric to 14" x 20" and the pocket fabric to 5" x 8".

Fold the pocket piece in half to 5" x 4", then fold under raw edges 1/4" on three sides. Top stitch to the right side of the lining fabric, centering and placing the pocket 3 1/2" down from the raw edge. Press down flat.

Pin the 14" x 20" pieces right sides together on all four sides. Leave a 6" opening on one side in the middle of the long seam to allow turning. Machine stitch the right sides together with a 1/4" seam all around before turning trim interfacing as close as possible, and trim corners. Turn and press, pulling corners with a pin. Top stitch opening together (this will be the seam)

Fold and pin top 14" edges down 1/2" to form casings, lining sides together. Top stitch the edge down.

Fold bag in half with right sides and casings together. Measure 3" down from the top mark and 1 1/2" from bottom mark. Stitch 1/4" seam between these two markings. Press seams open and pull out end opening into a triangle. Mark a straight line and stitch 3" straight across (1 1/2" on each side of seam.) Press triangle up to side seam and tack with needle and thread.

(Select beads of your choice for an optional embellishment. Stitch them to the center of the casing line before attaching the bamboo handle.)

Clear residue from the drilled holes of the two bamboo handles, and place them with the two rods and 2 caps in front of you on a hard surface. Lace open end of rod into one end of the handle, then through the bag casing, easing gathers as tight as possible, then through the other side of the handle. Repeat for the other side. Bend bamboo with pressure and insert into the other end of the handle. (You may need assistance from another person.) Screw on endcaps tightly.

***Congratulations! Your project is complete.***

Sources for Materials

*Stabilizer, Wonder Tape, Thread, Fabric*

Widely available at local sewing stores.

*6" Bamboo Handle Handbag Kit:*

Sudberry House

The company has local retail distribution, and also has secure online ordering:

<http://www.sudberry.com/catalog/bamboohandlesbrassclips.htm>