

# Retro circle purse



A SEWING PATTERN BY



# retro circle purse

SEWING TUTORIAL

## retro circle purse

This purse design was just kind of a crazy experiment I had to create a purse that opened out on the side instead of on the top. It's finished off with a mod-like circle design done in reverse applique.

DIFFICULTY: ■ ■ ■ ■ □ □ □ □ □ □

The pieces are pretty straightforward, but the reverse appliqué and installing the zipper are a bit of a pain and take some time.

MAKES:

one 10" x 16" purse

## MATERIALS & TOOLS

- ½ yd. of medium weight fabric for outer bag (denim, twill, or canvas is good, I used faux suede here)
- ½ yd. of lightweight fabric for lining (I used quilting cotton)
- 10" x 10" scrap of accent fabric for appliqué (I used two different colors and decorated both sides)
- 12" zipper (at least)
- Matching sewing thread
- Sewing needle
- Complementing thread for topstitching
- Basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

1. Print out the project pattern, pages 8-11
2. Assemble the printed pattern pieces
3. Lay out the pattern pieces on your fabric and cut them out
4. Mark the fabric pieces with the guidelines from the pattern

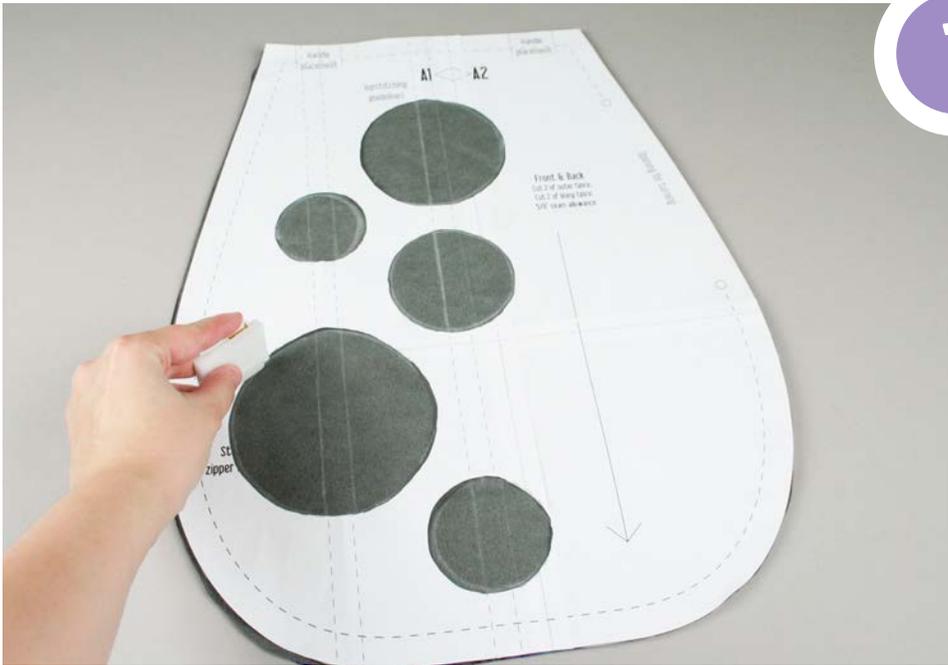


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1

Mark the topstitching lines onto your front (and back, if you like) outer fabric. I found it was easiest to cut out the circle shapes and trace them onto the fabric that way.



2

Cut your accent fabric into several squares that fit over the circles. Something like 4", 3½", 3", & 2" (x2), respectively.

3

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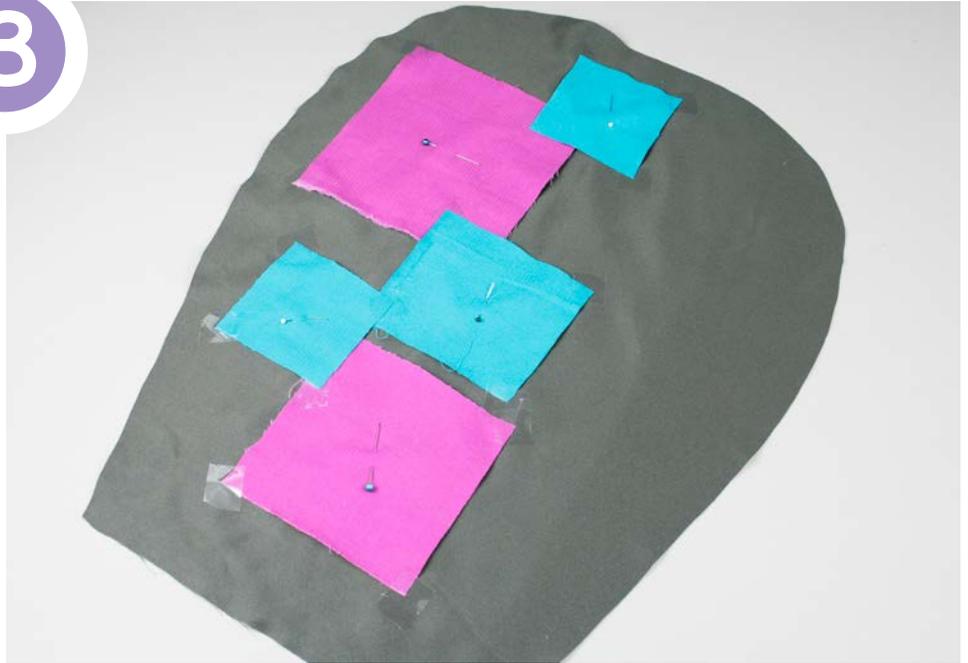
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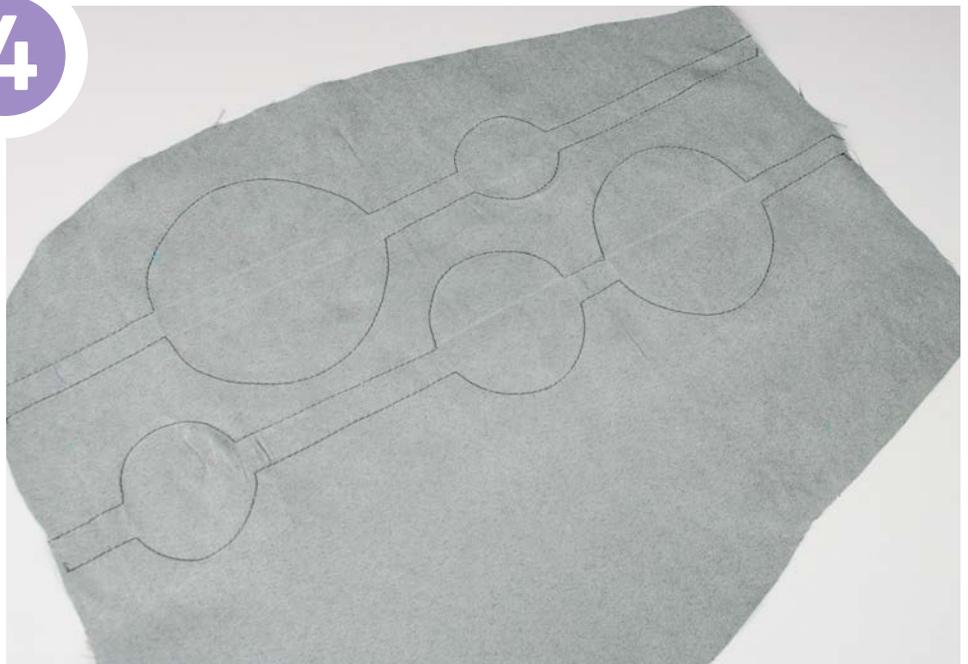
Layer your accent fabric squares over the back of your outer fabric with all right sides facing downward. The squares should cover the corresponding circles from the pattern guidelines. I held mine down with scotch tape along the corners and pins in the middle.

3



Sew along the topstitching guidelines from the front of the bag, pivoting at all the corners to make the circle pattern.

4



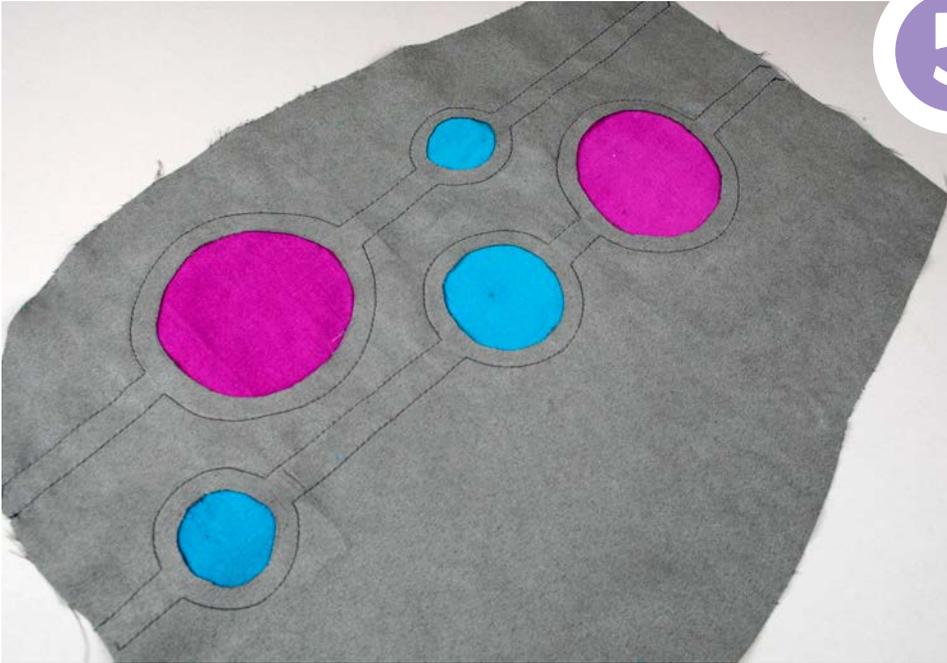
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5

Cut out the circles following the cutting guidelines inside the stitching to reveal the accent fabric underneath.



6

Insert the zipper along the left side of the bag fronts. Layer the zipper between the outer bag front and corresponding lining piece with right sides together. Sew along the zipper tape and stop at the square where the pattern indicates. Press the fabric away from the zipper. Repeat this with the back side of the bag and the other half of the zipper.

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Make the handles by folding under each long side by 5/8" and ironing it flat. Then fold over the entire strap lengthwise with wrong sides together and sew the folded edges together by edge stitching along the side. I applied some interfacing to mine since my faux suede was a little flimsy for a proper handle.

7



Baste the handles to the top of the bag where the pattern indicates.

8



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9

Open up the zipper, then flip the front inside out so the right sides are facing again. Sew along the top of the bag, going very carefully over the zipper. Trim the seam allowance corners and excess zipper tape. Turn the seam right side out, and press. Do the same thing with the back and it's corresponding lining piece.



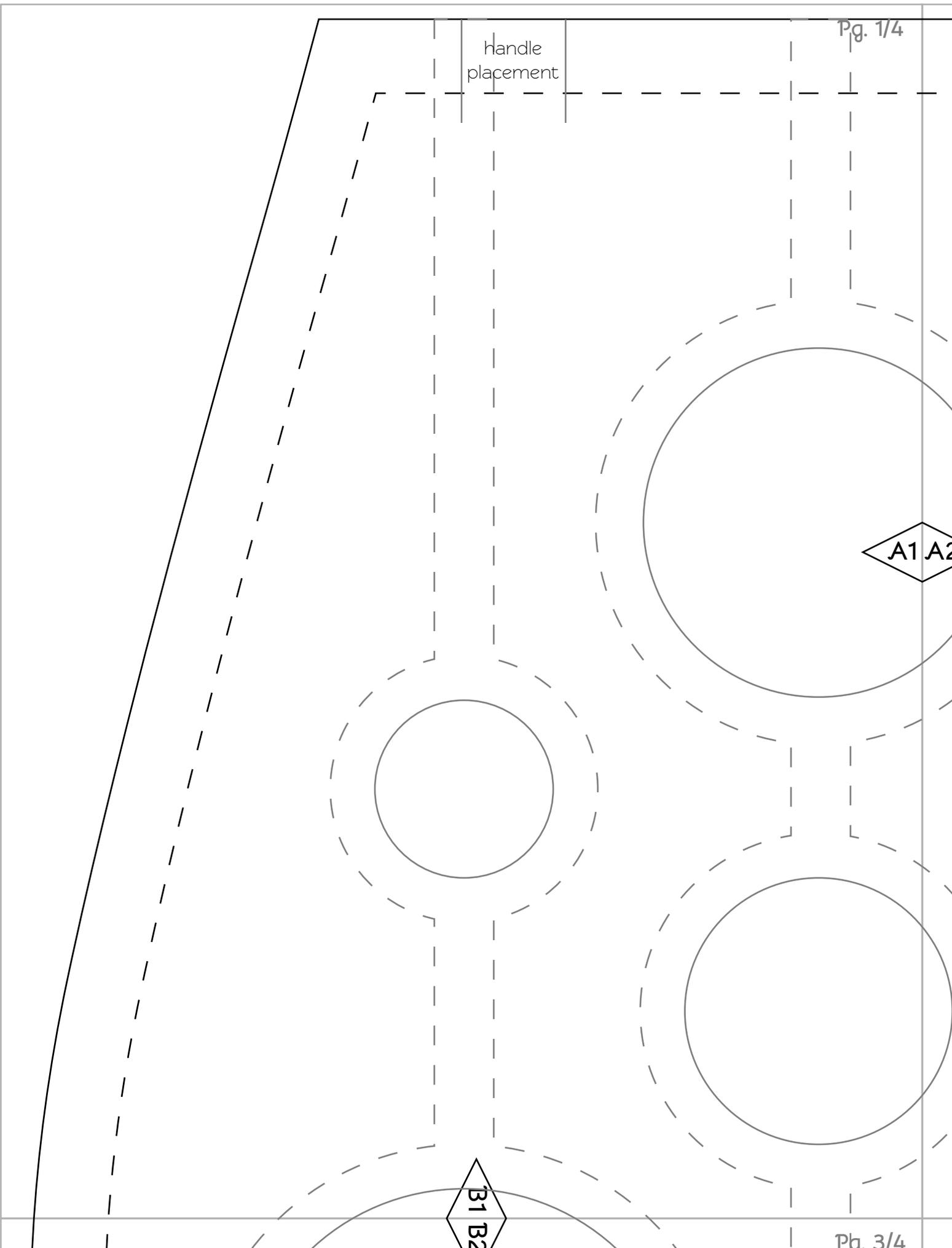
10

Separate the outer bag from the lining and match up the raw edges of the outer bag front and back and do the same thing with the lining. Your top seams from the previous step should match up, and when you pin it all together it should look something like. Stitch all the way around the perimeter of the bag, being sure to leave an opening in the lining as the pattern indicates. Sew very carefully over the zipper. Trim the excess zipper tape, turn the bag right side out, and press it flat. Also sew the opening in the lining closed with either a ladder stitch or by machine with an edge stitch.

handle  
placement

A1 A2

B1 B2



handle  
placement

A1 A2



# Retro Circle Purse

P A T T E R N

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## FRONT & BACK

- Cut 2 from outer fabric
- Cut 2 from lining fabric
- 5/8" seam allowance

opening for turning  
(lining only)

B3 B4

B1 B2

C1 C2

stop zipper  
here

reverse applique  
cutting guidelines

# Retro Circle Purse

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## HANDLES

Cut 2 of outer fabric  
5/8" seam allowance

B3 B4

C1 C2

