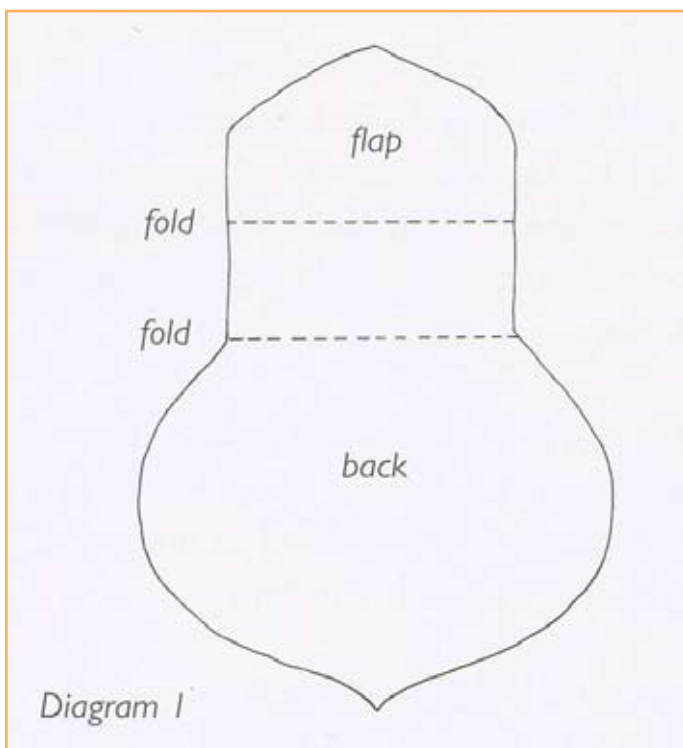


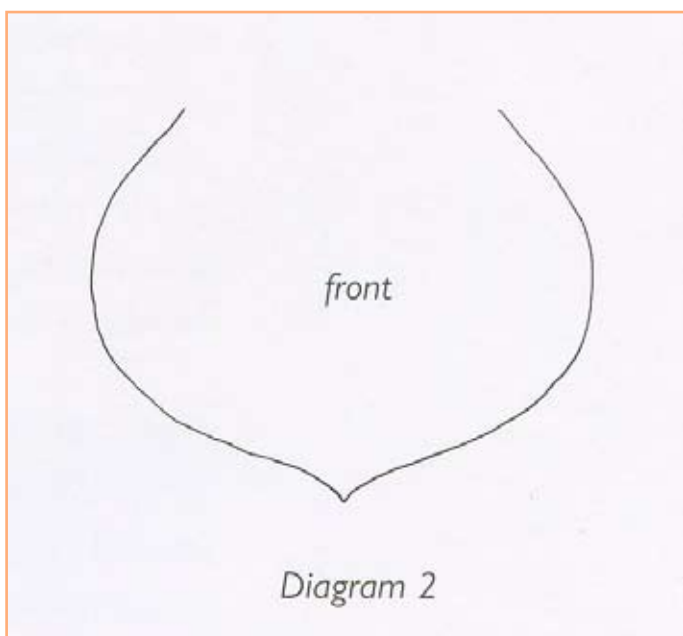
Gusseted Purse

By Linda Tudor

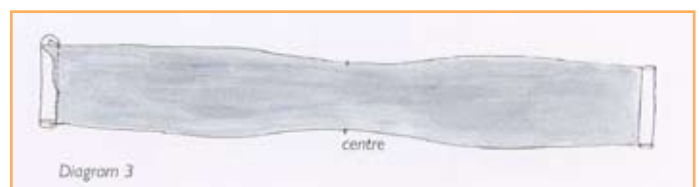


Materials Needed

- 50x50 cm (20x20in) silk fabric
- 3x20cm (8in) squares silk fabrics in contrasting colours
- 50cm (20in) square pelmet Vilene (Pellon)
- 50x50cm (20x 20in) lining fabric
- 50x20cm (20x 20in) Bondaweb (Wonder-Under)
- 140cm (55in) crossways binding, 2.5cm (1in) wide
- 50 small beads and 1 large beads
- Metallic machine embroidery threads
- 2m Jap gold thread
- Ribbon
- 1m thick soft cord
- 2 pieces silk, each 40x6.5cm (16x2.5in), in a contrasting colour
- Bondaweb to match



Step 1 First cut out the front and back panels in pelmet Vilene (Pellon) – see diagrams 1 and 2. Bond a piece of silk to the back section and machine-embroider in curvy lines, using metallic threads. Mark the centre front of the flap. Bond the lining to both the front and back sections. Cut two pieces of silk for the gusset and bond them together. Bind the short ends with small strips of contrasting fabric and mark the centre of the gusset, as shown in diagram 3.



Step 2 Now work the embroidery for the front. Cut four pieces of silk, slightly larger than the front panel, as shown in diagram 4, and machine embroider curvy lines as on the back panel, between the cut-back appliqué designs. Using Jap gold, couch down swirling lines (some examples of couching stitches can be seen in the image below). Bond the embroidery to the front section of the pelmet Vilene (Pellon), carefully making sure the embroidery is protected with a pressing cloth. Trim off the excess silk around the edge of the Vilene. Bind the

straight edge at the top of the front, as shown in diagram 4.

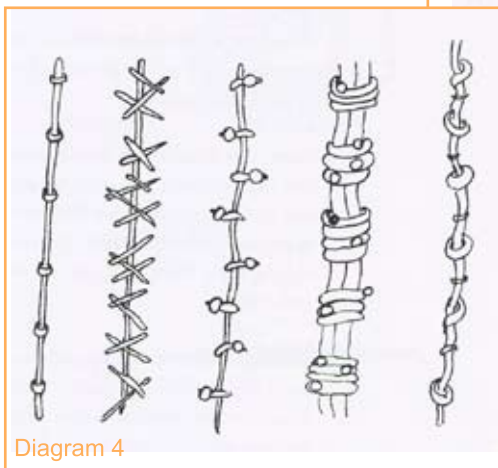


Diagram 4

Step 3 Placing wrong sides together, pin the centre of the gusset to the centre of the lower edge of the front. Pin, tack (baste) and stitch the gusset to the front panel from the centre up each side (see diagram 5). Pin, tack (baste) and stitch the other side of the gusset to the back of the purse, matching centres and incorporating a loop at the centre of the flap. Trim the seam allowances evenly and bind all the edges using crossways binding by placing the ends of the two strips at right angles to each other and stitching with the grain of the fabric. Add small beads to the flap.



Diagram 4

Step 4 Add a tassel at the bottom, stitching the points of the back and front panels together. The tassel illustrated is made from a piece of dyed and pleated silk that has been doubled over and bound with braid and then stitched to the purse. Small beads were added to the edges of the pleated silk to echo those on the flap.

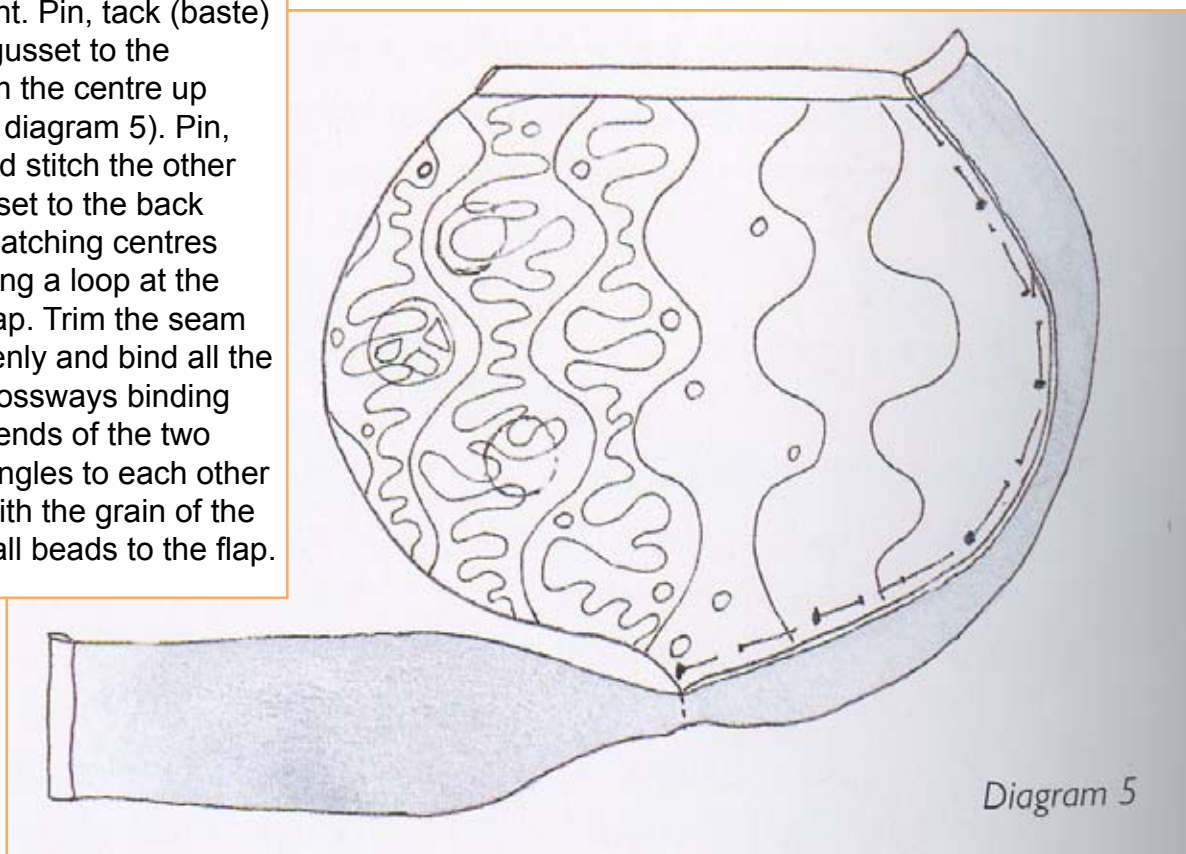
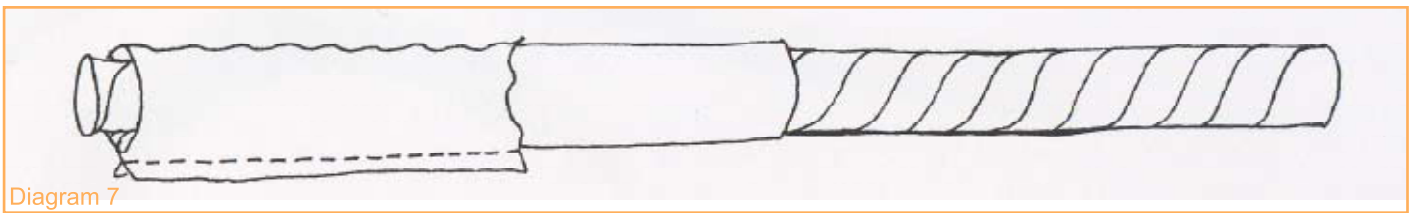
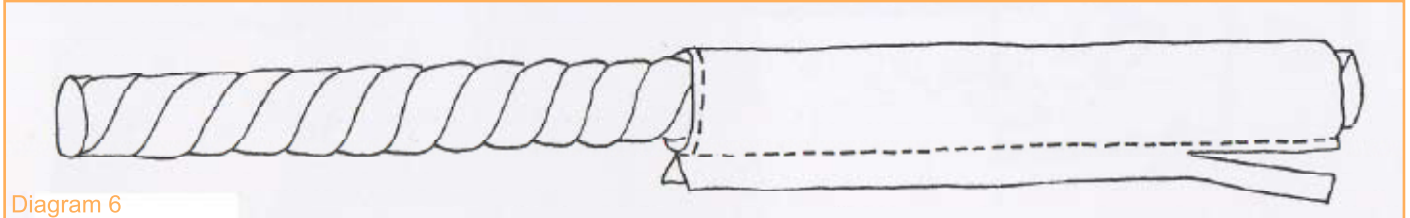


Diagram 5

Step 5 Make a handle of the required length, using soft cord and a long strip of silk fabric. Cording can be covered with the fabric used in your purse to make a matching handle. Cut a length of fabric slightly longer than the desired handle and a length of cord twice as long as the fabric. The fabric should be wide enough to wrap around the cord, plus seam allowances. Fold the fabric in half, lengthways around the cord, with right sides inwards, aligning the cord and fabric at one end. Sew along the cord, stitching through the fabric only. Stitch across the end with the extra cord protruding, as shown in diagram 6. Trim off the seam allowances and pull the cord through, slipping the fabric over the extra cord (see diagram 7).



Step 6

Either stitch three or four beads in a row or one long bead across the gap between the front and back panel on each side. Attach the handle by looping each end of the covered cord over the beads and secure by wrapping. To secure, take a length of thread and make a loop 5cm (2in) from one end, leaving a free end. Lay the loop along the cord to be wrapped and wind the thread around the cord and towards the loop. Pass the end of the thread through the loop and pull the free end so the thread disappears under the wrapped section, as in diagram 8. For further embellishment, wrap small sections of the cord handle at intervals with threads or ribbons.

