

Milk Carton Coin Purse

free sewing pattern

by Caroline Fairbanks-Critchfield

Visit my blog to see how to make this in a step-by-step tutorial with photos! I also shared lots of information about fabric choices and what kinds of plastic work well inside the little purse.

Find all this and more at: www.sewcanshe.com/blog/2016/11/22/milk-carton-coin-purse-free-sewing-pattern

Finished size: about 2 1/2" wide and 1 3/4" tall.



Fabric and notions:

- about an 8" square of fabric (plus woven interfacing, if desired)
- 1 sew-on snap
- 1 small button
- needle and thread for hand sewing (in addition to machine sewing)
- a plastic container to cut up for the inside, or some scraps of Peltex stabilizer

Cutting:

The pattern pieces are on page 3 of this document. The outer lines are the fabric pattern piece, and the inner lines are the stabilizer pattern piece.

1. Cut 2 from the main pattern piece and 4 from the side pattern piece.
2. Cut a 1 1/4" x 2 1/2" strip to make the little hanging loop.

Cut and fuse interfacing to your fabric pieces, if using. Do not apply interfacing to the 1 1/4" x 2 1/2" strip.

3. Cut apart your plastic container. If possible, trace the inner line on your plastic, and then you can cut out the pieces. If the plastic is too opaque to trace through, cut out the inside patterns and trace around them on the plastic.

Cut out 1 from the main pattern piece and 2 side pieces in plastic.

Machine Sewing:

1. Place the fabric pieces right sides together and sew around the side and bottom edges using a 1/4" seam allowance. Leave the top curved edge open on the main piece and the straight edges open on the side pieces.
2. Trim around the sewn curved edges with pinking shears, or clip notches in the curves. Do not trim or clip the top curved edge on the main piece.

3. Insert the plastic or Peltex stabilizer pieces into the fabric pieces. Trim the stabilizer pieces, if needed to help them fit.
4. Tuck the raw edges inside and press them to help them stay. I was using a hot iron and I didn't have any problems with the plastic melting if I didn't stay in one place too long. Do not touch the plastic directly with your iron.

Make the hanging loop:

1. Fold the 1 1/4" x 2 1/2" strip of fabric in half, right sides together and sew the long edges together with a 1/4" seam allowance.
2. Use a turning tool, or attach a small safety pin to one end to help you turn the loop right side out.
3. Roll the loop in between your fingers and thumb to help if make a nice round strip.

The next steps are to sew the top edges of your pieces closed and then sew the sides to the main piece. If you used Peltex stabilizer instead of plastic, you can do this with your sewing machine. It is tricky, and mine looked a bit wobbily, so I like the hand sewn look best. But it is possible to sew this on with your sewing machine if you really want to.

If you do this, make sure you skip ahead and read on to see where to insert your hanging loop and how to sew on the snaps.

Hand Sewing:

Sit down, turn on something to watch (like a new Craftsy class) and get ready to finish this little purse by hand! I LOVE hand sewing if I have something good to watch (or listen to) while I do it. This was [Linda Maynards new class Sew the Perfect Fit](#) and it has so much great information!

1. Hand sew the openings closed on all three pieces.
2. Then line up the top edges on the main piece and one side piece. Sew the corners together securely and then continue sewing the curved edge of the side piece to the main piece. Curve the main piece to fit the little side piece as you go. I found it easier to just take one stitch at a time.
3. When you get to the other corner of the side piece, take a few extra stitches to secure the corner tightly.
4. Sew the remaining side piece on in the same way, except when you are about 1/2" from finishing, fold the hanging loop in half and insert the ends into the seam.

Finish sewing the seam together by sticking your needle through going back and forth.

5. Trim away the ends of the hanging loop on the inside to make it look neat.

Sewing the Snap and Button:

1. Hand sew the male end of the snap to the inside top of the purse, about 1/4" from the edge.

2. Fold the flap closed and make a mark where you want the other half of the snap to go.
3. Hand sew the other half of the snap in place. As you can see from the picture above, I like to sew through the plastic once or twice when attaching my snaps so they are secure.
4. Sew the button on the front and you're done! This button is just an embellishment so feel free to leave it off or use something else.

