

Coin Purse

up-cycling vintage embroideries



- by Lynda Worthington

Probably all of us have at least one piece of vintage embroidery far too lovely to throw out even though it has a hole in the fabric, or perhaps a rust spot. It could be a piece of great sentimental value.

Here's a way of getting it out of the back of that drawer, into full sight, and being utilised in something you'll be viewing / using often.

Of course, you don't have to use this purse for coins - it's up to you what you place in it.

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This lovely piece of embroidery (which appeared to have been a handkerchief, although it was of very fine fabric) was donated by a member of The Embroiderers Guild, Victoria to be up-cycled into an item and then donated back to the Guild for sale in the annual Gift Boutique (run during the Guild's annual exhibition).

I auditioned it against a cream fabric background:



(More info about the Guild is at www.embroiderersguildvic.org)

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Materials: Piece of vintage embroidery; Cotton fabric, 16 x 24cm; Satin lining fabric, two pieces each 16 x 13cm; Thin batting piece, larger than 16 x 24cm (will be cut back to size); 18cm zip; Sewing thread, pins, hand-sewing needle, sewing machine, scissors.

Method:

Position your piece of vintage embroidery onto the cotton fabric and pin into place.



Stitch using tiny hand stitches, removing pins as you go and trim off excess fabric.



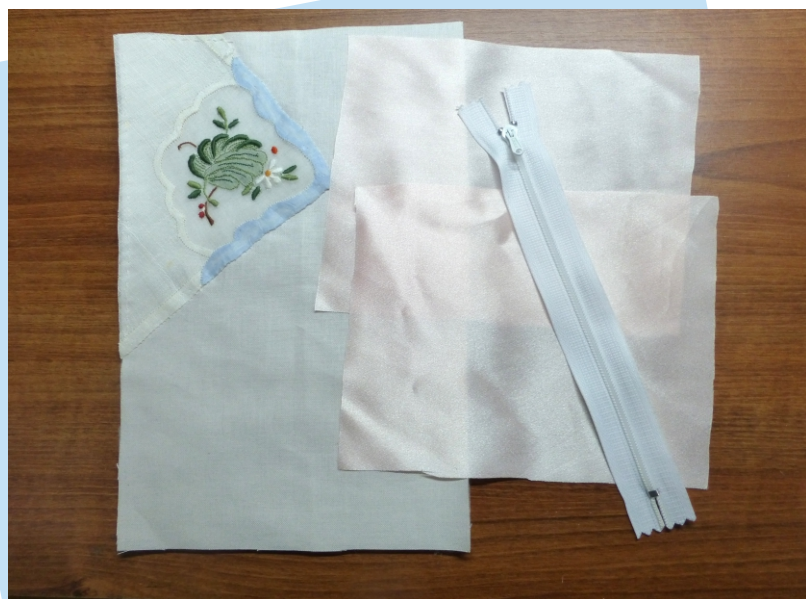
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Place onto thin batting and trim batting to the size of your cotton fabric.



Now we'll be constructing the purse - so gather your lining pieces and the zip. Seam allowances of 1cm have been allowed on all sides, and 1.5cm for the seam at the bottom of the lining pieces.



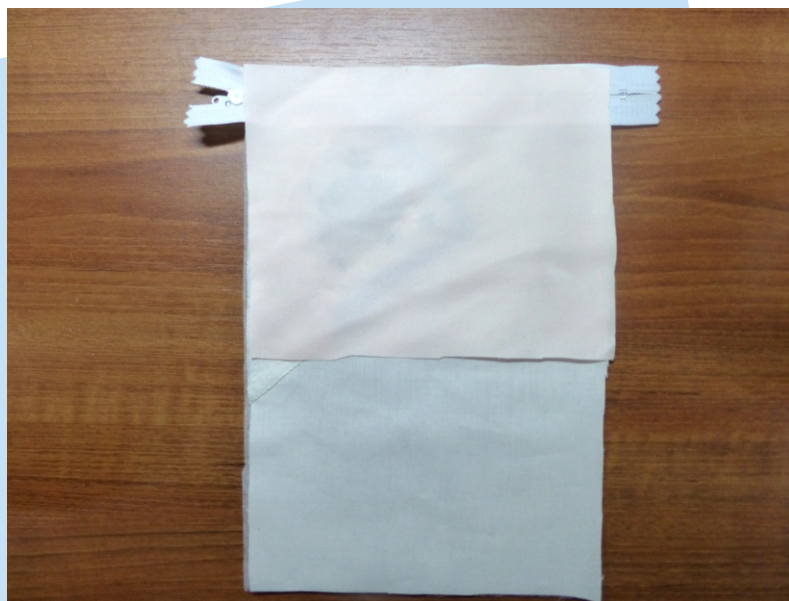
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Place closed zipper along one short edge of the batting-backed fabric, right sides together (centre the zip along the edge). Using a zipper foot, sew close to the zipper teeth.



Place one piece of lining right side down on top of this, aligning edges, pin and flip work over. Sew along the previous stitching line. Now, pin the lining and embroidered work back away from the zipper to prevent getting caught during the next step.



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Place the remaining side of the zipper face down on the right side of the other short side of the main fabric, ensure work is aligned and repeat previous step, leaving out the final sentence. Remove pins.

OPEN THE ZIPPER AT LEAST HALF WAY (MOST IMPORTANT!!!)



Place lining panels right sides together.

Using a 1cm seam (widening out to 1.5cm at the bag base), sew around the lining edge from zipper end to zipper end, leaving an opening of approximately 10cm on the edge opposite the zipper. Be careful not to catch the zipper in the seam - just sew as close as you can to the zipper.

Join open side edges of the embroidered work together using a 1cm seam, again being careful not to catch the zipper.

Trim all corners.

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Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the lining, using the opening in the zipper. Push out all corners of the embroidered section. Close the opening in the lining either by hand or machine.



Lightly press your finished bag.



If you would like to create purses for the Gift Boutique and help the Guild's fundraising, please feel free to send them in. If you have pieces of vintage embroidery which you would like to give to a good home, also feel free to send them in and they will be up-cycled for the Gift Boutique.

Send to:
The Embroiderers Guild, Victoria
"Attention Gift Boutique"
PO Box 508
Malvern VIC 3144
AUSTRALIA