



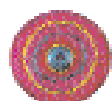
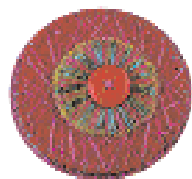
starburst handbag

HOW LONG?

embroidery: 3-4 evenings

construction: 2 hours

This small handbag is appliqued with circles and decorated with a variety of hand embroidery stitches in shiny rayon floss and retro buttons gleaned from charity shops. The bag has box corners and is closed with a magnetic clasp. The shape is kept simple to show off the decoration.



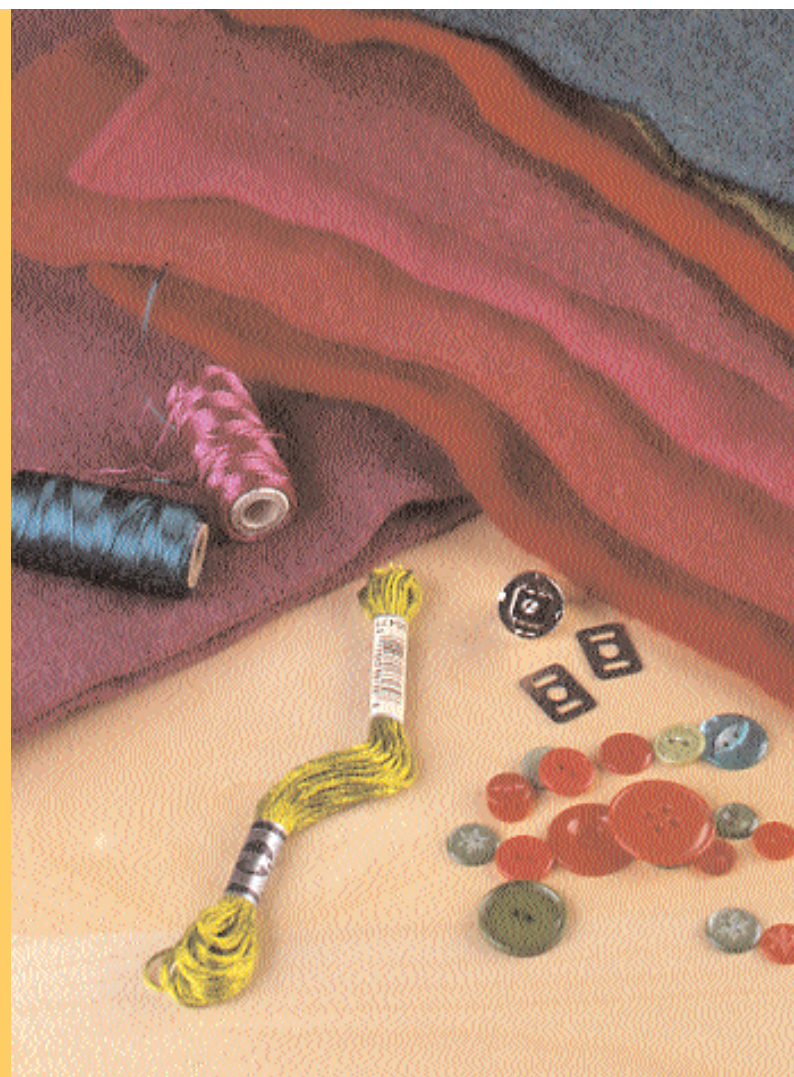
It is an ideal project for those who have mastered some simple hand embroidery stitches and feel ready to have some fun making a larger project.

MATERIALS

- ♥ paper for making patterns
- ♥ 80 x 40cm (32 x 14 in) piece of felted knitting in dark pink and matching polyester sewing thread
- ♥ smaller pieces of felt in other shades of reds, pinks and greens
- ♥ selection of red, pink and green hand embroidery threads
- ♥ selection of red, pink and green buttons
- ♥ magnetic clasp

EQUIPMENT

- ♥ Small Handbag template from page 120
- ♥ circles templates: 2 x 12cm (5 in); 5 x 6.5cm (2 1/2 in); 5 x 6cm (2 1/4 in); 4 x 3.5cm (1 1/2 in)
- ♥ dressmaking and embroidery scissors
- ♥ quilting pins
- ♥ large-eyed needles
- ♥ sewing machine
- ♥ overlocker (optional)



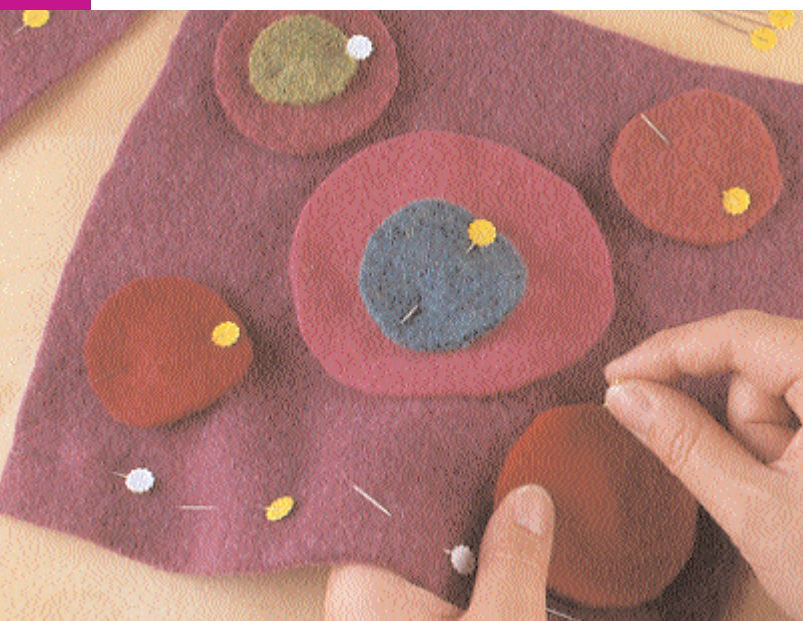
Once made, you should ensure the handbag is dry cleaned or gently hand washed only, as machine washing will felt the bag still further causing it to shrink and distort.



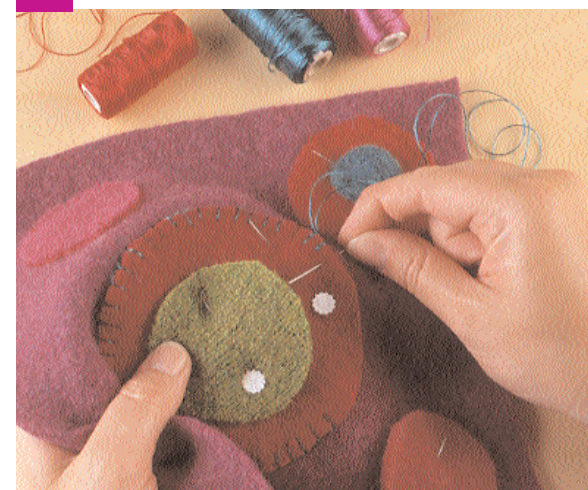


1

1 Enlarge the templates. You will need patterns for the main part of the bag, top band and the handles. Fold the fabric in half and pin the pieces on it. Make sure the top band pattern is placed on the fold. Cut through both layers of felt around each pattern piece, leaving the fold of the top band. Cut out 16 circles from the pieces of pink, red and green felt using the templates.



2

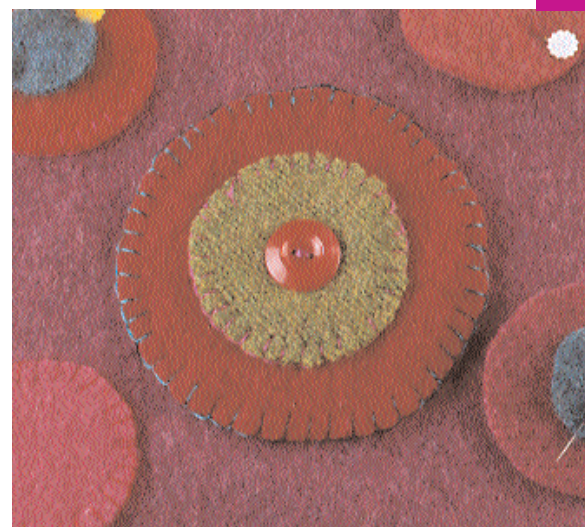


2 Mark the fold at the bottom of the bag by making a line of pins 2.5cm (1 in) up from the bottom of the main piece, front and back. Pin the two 12cm (5 in) circles on the front and back of bag. Pin smaller circles onto the central circles and in two of the smaller circles on each side.

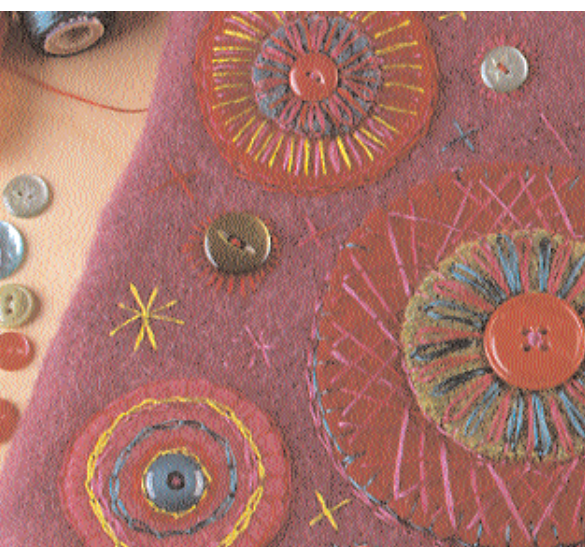
3 Using short lengths of hand embroidery thread, appliqué the large circle onto the background using blanket stitch.

4 Appliqué a smaller circle into the centre of the larger circle with blanket stitch, then sew a button into the centre.

4



5



6

5 Using hand embroidery thread in a range of colours, decorate each circle using running, stab, lazy daisy, herringbone and cross stitch. Outline buttons and circles with chain stitch. (See stitch instructions on pages 16-18.)

6 Stitch random buttons between the circles and sew around these with stab stitch. Fill in the remaining areas with more decorative stitches, such as star stitch and cross stitch.

making up

7 Place the right sides of the bag together and pin. Select a stretch stitch, such as an overlock or zig zag stitch on your sewing machine, or use an overlocker to stitch around the bottom three edges. Stitch right on the edge as the seam allowance is only 4mm (1/4 in).

8 To make a flat bottom, fold and pin the side seam to the bottom seam at each bottom corner, 4cm (1 1/2 in) in. Stitch across the corner at an angle of 45 degrees using an overlock or stretch stitch and trim close to the stitching. Turn the bag the right way out.



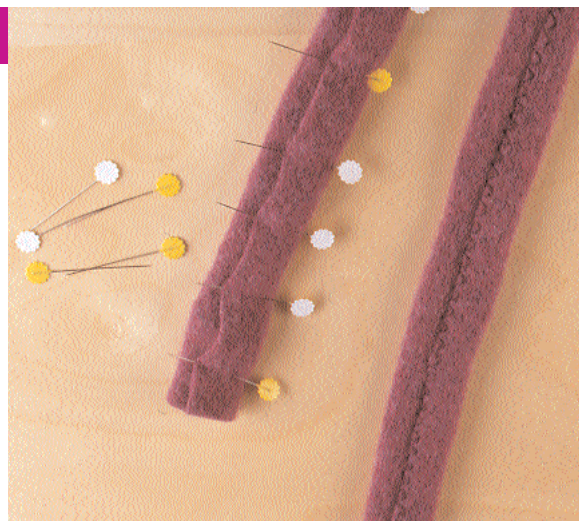
7



8



9



11 Take the top band and join it into a circle by stitching the two ends together using the overlocker or stretch stitch.

12 Fit the magnetic clasp in place following the manufacturer's instructions. Fit one half over the back seam, 1cm (½ in) in from the edge and the other half exactly opposite at the centre of the band.

11



12



10



9 Fold the handles lengthways so that the edges meet in the centre. Pin and stitch down the middle using a stretch stitch on the sewing machine.

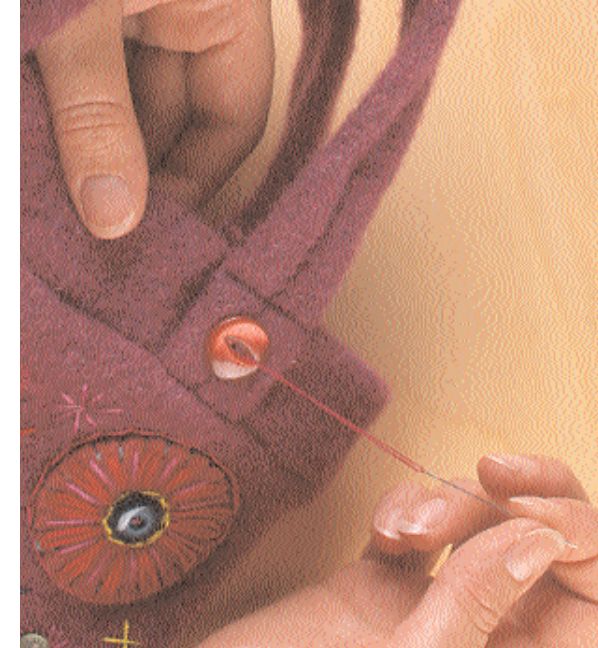
10 Position the handles upside down on the right side of the bag, with the ends of each handle at the top of the bag. Make sure the handles are evenly placed on both sides of the bag. The ends should protrude slightly from the top. Pin them in place.



13

13 Fold the top band in half lengthways, wrong sides together and right sides out. Pin the two edges of the band to the right side top edge of the bag, making sure the edges are flush and that your magnetic clasp is correctly positioned. As there are now five layers of felt to stitch through, test your machine first to make sure it can cope. If it can, stitch around the top edge using an overlock or stretch stitch. If your machine will not stitch this many layers, hand stitch the layers together using blanket stitch.

14



15



14 Trim the ends of the handles so they are flush. Turn the band up so that the sides of the magnetic clasp meet and flip up the handles. Fix the base of each handle to the bag with a few stitches by hand and sew a button there.

15 Roll the seams out with your finger tips, then press carefully using a steam iron and a cloth following the instructions on page 20.