

Silk Necktie Purse

Step by Step Pictures for this project are available on the directions author's website @ www.lisalovestoquilt.com

Materials List:

- 1 silk necktie at least 56" to 58" long and 3.5" to 4" at the widest part
- 1/3 yard cotton fabric for lining
- 1/3 yard heavy muslin for stabilizer, cut in to two rectangles 8" x 12"
- 1 1/4 yard of cording for a long handle or 12" for a short handle
3/8" soft cording that can be easily sewn through the thickness works the best.
You can also use your tie scraps to cover a piece of 3/8" soft clothesline and zig zag together your own handle adding ribbon or decorative threads for more interest.
- 12" of 3/8" wide elastic
- 1" square of Velcro for a fastener

Note: 1/4" seam allowance will be used in the construction of the purse.

Cutting the Materials:

1. Starting at the large pointed end of the necktie, measuring from the point tip, cut 1 piece 6" long. This will be your purse flap. Lay it aside and do not remove the lining and interfacing from this portion of the tie.
2. Cut six equal 8" long pieces from the remaining tie. Do not include the small tip end as a piece. After cutting, put the small tip end aside for later. Take your 8" pieces and gently remove thread from the seams and the interfacings.

Discard interfacings and carefully press the pieces flat with an iron set on silk setting.

Note: A pressing cloth may be used to prevent scorching

Sewing the Purse Body:

1. Divide the six pressed silk pieces so that you have the two largest pieces for the center front and back. Use the widest center piece for the back and the next widest piece will be used for the front. The other four pieces are for the sides. Use the two narrowest side pieces for the back and the wider side pieces for the front. With right sides together, place the wide end of the side pieces to the narrow end of the top center back and center front. Sew the pieces, right sides together using a ¼” seam and gently press the seam towards the outside edges.

Note: *If the silk fabric is thin, using a single hole cover plate on your sewing machine when stitching will help keep the fabric from getting caught in the stitch plate opening. A small piece of fabric for a leader and ender will also help prevent this problem.*
2. Using the pattern template as a guide, check to see if the fabric that was just sewn together is large enough to cover the template. If not, adjust the template accordingly making it shorter or less wide. Using your silk pieces that were sewn together, cut out a front and back using the template.
3. Place the wrong side of the two silk pieces that you have just cut out on to the two muslin rectangles. Sew completely around all sides using a scant ¼” seam. Trim the muslin so it is the same size as the silk piece and clip curves if necessary.

Leaving the top opening unsewn, sew the two stabilized sections together with the silk tie sides facing each other. Turn right side out.
4. Take the 6” long pointed end of the tie (the purse flap) and mark the middle of the raw edge. Mark the middle of the back of the silk/muslin bag. With right sides and raw edges together, match up the middle markings and pin the flap to the muslin/silk purse. Stitch the flap to the outside edge with a scant ¼” seam to secure.
5. If the leftover small pointed end of the necktie is at least 2” long, you may wish to sew it on to the outside of the purse flap. This will give the flap a little more body for the Velcro closure. With right sides together and pointed end pointed in the opposite direction of the point of the big flap, position the small pointed flap where you desire. Stitch raw edges with a ¼” seam. Fold small pointed end over towards the big pointed end of the flap. This will hide the raw edged seam. Topstitch around the small pointed necktie piece to secure. ***Refer to the website picture if needed.***

6. Position one of the raw edges of the purse handle cording on to one of the outside side seams of the silk bag matching the raw edges. Secure with a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Repeat with the other raw edge of the cording on the other side seam. The handle will now be hanging down on the outside of the purse. *Tip: Pre-sew the cording's raw edges with a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam to help flatten and prevent the cord from fraying.*
7. If the pattern template size was altered adjust the lining to fit the altered template and cut out two lining pieces. With right sides together, sew the sides and bottom of the lining pieces together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, leaving a 3" opening in the bottom for turning.
8. Place the tie bag inside the lining, right sides together. **Make sure the flap and cording is between the bag and lining.** Stitch all around the top of the bag with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam. Turn the bag wrong side out pulling the bag through the opening at the bottom of the lining. Lightly press the outside edges being careful not to scorch the silk fabric. Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " around the opening edge of the bag. Slip stitch or machine stitch the bottom opening of the lining.

Casing:

Starting at one side of the linings inside seam and about $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{5}{8}$ " below the top stitching, stitch a casing seam, a little wider than your elastic. Open up one of the lining's side seams between your casing lines to insert the elastic. With a safety pin attached to one end of the elastic, pull the elastic through the casing. Overlap the two ends of the elastic and hand stitch or machine stitch the ends to secure. Arrange the gathers evenly and slip stitch the opening to close.

Finishing:

Secure the small piece of Velcro to the front of the bag and back of flap for a closure. Adjust for proper alignment and sew down to secure. Embellish the flap as desired with buttons, broaches, beads or anything that adds a personal touch.

Notes:

Silk Purse Template

10 1/4" WIDE

7"

