
Sew a Wristlet Clutch with Ashley Nickels

Chapter 1 - Sew a Wristlet Clutch

Overview

- Hi, I'm Ashley Nickels. I'm a modern quilter and a sewing and quilting instructor. I'm gonna show you how to make a really simple zipper clutch, with a wristlet attachment. You'll learn a really easy way to attach a zipper, you'll also learn how to make some simple credit card slots, and finally, I'll show you how to make a detachable wristlet, which makes this bag really comfortable to carry. (inspirational theme music)

Materials

- For this clutch, you're gonna need two different fabrics, one for the exterior and one for the interior, cut at an eight by 10 inch rectangle. I've chosen a canvas for my interior and a linen for my exterior. You'll need a rectangle that's cut to four by 18 inches for the credit card slots, along with a piece of fusible interfacing that's cut to the same measurement. We're gonna need a strip that is 10 by 1 1/2 inches for our accent finishing. And a strip that is 14 by three inches, along with fusible interfacing at the same measurement for the wristlet. A nine inch zipper, an iron, and an ironing surface. A ruler, a rotary mat and a rotary cutter, some thread, some scissors or snips, a lobster claw clasp or similar clasp for the wristlet, a zipper foot attachment for your sewing machine, and of course, your sewing machine. And finally, some pins.

Make credit card slots

- The first step is to construct the credit card slots, and to do that, I'm gonna take my four inch strip here and I'm gonna iron it onto the fusible interfacing, and you want to make sure that you have the right side of the fabric facing up, and the side of the interfacing that has sort of like texture to it, little pellets almost, is the side that's the fusible, so make sure that that's facing up, and you'll need either a steam iron or a regular iron with a squirt bottle, because you'll need some moisture for this fusible to work. And you just very calmly applying pressure, go all the way down the length of the strip a few times. Cut two pieces that are six inches, and then the last piece I'm gonna cut to five inches, so it will be slightly shorter. One, two, and then I'm gonna bring this over to cut it to five, and we have a little, a little leftover, little bonus, all right, now we are ready to sew. To sew one of these together, we're gonna take right sides together, fold into half, and we're gonna sew a quarter inch, a little less actually than a quarter inch on either side. Let's look at what that is gonna look like on the machine. The quarter inch is at the edge of my foot, so I'm gonna take it over slightly, and I'm gonna start with a back stitch, 'cause my machine sometimes has trouble with small seam allowances, there we go. (whirring) And then the same on this side, I just flipped it over, flatten it out, again, not a full of quarter inch seam allowance, a little less, start with the back stitch. (whirring) And now we're gonna turn it, you can snip these little threads. And on this end too. And now, we're gonna turn this piece and press it, making sure that our corners, I can use my snips here to just make sure that those corners get poked out, and I'm gonna press it with my iron. Go ahead and complete the other two credit card slots in the same way, and I have mine here all ready to go, and the next step is to put them into the lining. And to do that, I'm going to take the short one, right, the one that was five inches, and we're gonna put it on top of one of the six inch ones, like that, and then, I'm gonna take this third one, and kind of evenly spacing them out in that kind of way, and then I'm gonna tuck

this tail under. You see how that folds over, so as to hide those seams. This is just a really easy technique I invented myself, and then I'm gonna put it in exactly the middle of this piece of lining. And then, I'm gonna use a couple of pins to make sure it's secured. You've got a few layers of fabric here, so might get a little tricky, but persevere. And this is a really good time to test a credit card in these slots to make sure we're on the right track, so I'm gonna take this other wallet I have here and I'm gonna grab a card and I'm just gonna see how I'm doing, and I'm looking pretty good, so I'll notice, I'll make note that I'm gonna sew pretty close to this edge, so it's gonna be, again, less than a quarter inch seam allowance on here, and then I just can kinda check this one too, looking good, and now we are ready to sew, and we're gonna sew three sides, one, two, and then three. It's really important here to start with a back stitch, a couple of back stitches, actually, and to back stitch over every seam here, and I'll show you what I mean. So I'm gonna start above the floral, the floral credit card slot, and then I'm gonna back stitch a couple of times, just to make sure it's nice and secure before I move down, and again, like I said, I might have smaller than a quarter inch seam allowance, and I wanna make sure that I catch the edge of the next credit card slot, back stitch twice, maybe, 'cause these credit card slots get a lot of action, so you wanna make sure they're nice and secure. And then this one got a little wrinkle, so I'm gonna back stitch a few times. (whirring) And make sure it's flat, and again, you have a lot of seams here, so you're actually sewing through a lot of fabric, so go slow. And then here at the corner, I'm also gonna do a back stitch before I turn, and then I'm gonna turn like that, I'm gonna do another back stitch. I just like to make sure that these are really secure, and I don't really mind that I can see the thread. It's not important to me, keep going. (whirring) And here I've got a lot of seams that kind of got stacked up here, so I'm gonna get a little, okay, some back stitches before I turn, and again, I'm gonna take these pins out, I'm gonna do a back stitch down here, just securing these as best I can. (whirring) And then again, when I get to this joint here, I'm gonna back stitch a few times, keep going, and I think I got a little off center here, so I'm gonna go back, and then this last one, again, you wanna make sure you secure it nicely, okay? And now we're gonna check again with our credit card to see how we did. So here we go, let's check this first one, that one looks good, I'll snip those threads later. That one looks great, and this one as well. And if you notice that your credit cards are fitting a little too loosely, go ahead and add another seam to make it fit more snugly.

Attach zipper and construct bag

- Now we're gonna start constructing the bag and the first step is to attach the zipper. I'm going to take one piece of the lining and one piece of the exterior, and I'm gonna put them together right sides together. And this linen doesn't necessarily have a right or a wrong side but just double check on the fabric that you choose. We're gonna line up these two pieces, and remember that my canvas is my interior and my linen is my exterior. So when I put the zipper in, I wanna make sure that the right side of the zipper and the right side of the exterior are facing each other. And then we'll line it up with this edge and make sure it's in the middle as best you can. Line it up with the edge and then place this lining down. And then we're gonna use a couple of pins to hold this in place. Make sure that you're lined up. This one looks pretty good. Do another pin in the middle. And then I'll do one more pin at the end. Double check that my three layers are lined up. I put my zipper foot on and reminder that you'll have to change the needle placement on your sewing machine when you attach the zipper foot. And I'm gonna start sewing using my zipper foot as a guide for the edge. And I'll start with a back stitch. And then I'll just complete this row, removing the pins. Just checking that all my layers are lined up. We're more or less good here. Taking my pins out as I go. And as I get to the

end I'll just remember to end with a little back stitch. What we'll do now is we'll open this up and then we're gonna do a top stitch along this top edge, making sure that our lining piece is still on this side so it doesn't get sewn. And before I do this I like to push this fabric up a little bit just to cover a little bit of the black of the zipper. It's totally up to you whether you do that. And I'll start with a back stitch. And then keep going all along this edge. Trying to keep the same amount of black showing as you go down, just so it looks even. Just using my finger to smooth this out. It can get a little bunched. And we'll end with a back stitch. And now this side is completed. You're gonna go ahead and do the same thing for the second side. You'll make sure that the right sides are together with the zipper in the middle. Make sure that the right side of the zipper and the right side of the exterior fabric are facing each other. You'll add some pins, take it to the machine and sew along the edge. And then the last thing you'll do is do a top stitch along that edge of the exterior fabric. Now we're ready to complete the construction of the bag. So let me show you how I like to prep for that. I'm gonna take the right sides together on both of these sides and before I do anything else I'm gonna unzip this zipper about three-quarters of the way down. And then I'm gonna put the fabric back. And then the first thing I'm gonna do is I'm gonna pin at the zipper, meaning I'm gonna pin at these black tabs that are on either side. I do that because I wanna make sure that my zipper is very well lined up before I pin anything else. And on the other side. Don't stab yourself. Now I'm gonna put about three or four pins on either side just to make sure my fabric stays put. I'm gonna bring it to the machine and I've put my quarter-inch foot on my machine. And I'm gonna start at this edge which is the lining at the bottom of this lining edge. And you'll notice that my edges might not be completely lined up, and that's okay because the important thing was that our zipper was lined up. So keep that in mind as you're sewing. You might need to make that allowance as you're stitching in your seam allowance. So for example, I know that I need to do a little more than a quarter-inch seam allowance to make up for that on the bottom edge. And then I'm just gonna sew all the way around. And I'm gonna check as I go just to see. I'm pretty good on this edge until I get closer to the zipper with my seam allowance. The fabric shifts a little and that's why this happens, and it's really not a big deal. You just have to keep it in mind as you're sewing. And as I get close to the zipper, again I'm gonna check. I think I'm okay. And then as I sew over this zipper I'm gonna wait 'til the very last minute to take out my pin. And then I'm gonna do a really hefty back stitch, maybe a couple of back stitches just so this stays really nice and secure. And you'll notice that my seam got huge here, and that's because you'll notice that on this side I have a lot of extra on this top. That's just how it ended up happening. So I'm just gonna keep going straight. And get that guy out of the way. Check again and yeah, I'm gonna keep going pretty hefty on my seam allowance. I'm gonna check here. I'm pretty good. When I get to the corner where I think it's about a quarter inch, I'll turn it. And again it's a little bit bigger. And then you can see how my edges start to even out so then I can keep going against the edge. And then coming back up this side. And as you get close to this zipper side just keep in mind that this is the side where you have this metal sort of closure in your zipper. So careful not to get close to that or sew over it 'cause your needle will break and you'll not be very happy. And I'm gonna back stitch here 'cause I noticed I'm getting a little close. Then take my pin out and again I'm gonna back stitch a few times over this zipper so it stays nice and secure, and I'm gonna keep going. Okay, so here we are and you'll notice that I left this entire bottom edge unsewn because I'm gonna add bias tape later. Before I turn it I wanna snip this zipper tab 'cause it can get kinda bulky. Unzip this zipper and flip the bag inside out. And I'm gonna go ahead and push this lining in just to get a feel for what it looks like even though I know I'm gonna add the bias tape. It's looking good.

Bias tape

- To make the bias tape, I'm going to show you a really easy way to do that. I'm going to take my strip of fabric that is 1 1/2 inches by 10 inches. And I'm going to turn it right side down. And with my iron, I'm going to simply iron it in half all the way down. Make sure it's nice and even. You can even use a little steam if you're so inspired. And wait till it cools a little. It's going to be kind of hot. Open it up. And you see you have a nice crease here. And using that as our guide, we're going to fold in. Start with one side. Fold it in right up until the crease. Doesn't have to be perfect. And then I'm going to iron. Okay. And then we'll do the same thing with the other side. You'll fold it into the crease, and we're going to press it. And then the last step is going to be just to press it flat. So, we're going to fold it. And now, we have a nice piece of bias tape here, that we'll use to finish our bag. To attach this bias tape, I'll bring this lining over. And the first step would be to fold over about a quarter inch. And then also make sure that my seam here is lined up. And then I'm just going to sandwich the bias tape over this edge. And I'm going to put a pin there to hold it in place. And again, this is done because we want to add this accent color, okay? It's also a really easy way of finishing an open edge, using bias tape. And then I'm just going to work this all the way down. It might take some finesse. Just make sure that it's sandwiching between both edges of the interior. Okay, I'll put another pin as I go. As I get to this edge, you'll see I have a lot more left over. It's because the 10 inches was generous. What I'll do is I'll just fold that whole thing over. I don't even want to cut it. This fabric is thin enough to where it's not going to add any more bulk. One more pin, and then I'll be ready to sew this on. It's really up to you where you want to sew. I like to sew closer to the edge of the bias tape. But that's up to you, and I'm going to start with a big old backstitch. And I might go over it a couple of times just to make sure that it is nice and secure. And you might need to pull your fabric through. Okay, and then just go all the way down the line. Pulling out your pins. And this last one, just make sure it's nice and flat. If you need to pull this up like I'm doing, just to make sure, go ahead and do that. And then, again, let's end with couple of backstitches. Then snip these threads. And then we'll notice how this edge is finished nicely with this accent floral bias tape.

Wristlet attachment

- I have here my three-by-14 inch strip, which you can see I have already fused with my interfacing. And I'm going to start constructing my wristlet in a very similar fashion to making bias tape. So, I will take right sides facing out, and fold in half. And then I'm gonna press this down, using my iron. And just careful that you're lining up the edge. I might use a little steam. Once I'm done with that, I will open this up, and I'm gonna take one side first, and I'm gonna fold this right up until that center crease that I just created, and I'll press this whole thing down, as well. Start in the middle if you need to and then go out to either side. And then back. And then I'll do the exact same thing on the other side. And the last thing to do is going to be press the whole strip together. And we're ready now to take it to the machine. Stitch two rows all the way down the side. And I'm gonna use less than a quarter inch on each side. And I'm just gonna go straight down one way, making sure that this stays together. Sometimes when you press something that has interfacing on it, it doesn't stay as well as it should. So just use your fingers to keep it held down. And then I'm gonna do the same thing down the other side. I just turned it. I'd like to trim these threads now. Our wristlet is almost done. The last thing to do is attach it to our clasp. What I'll do, I'm gonna take this end and you can see how it, in theory, doesn't fit, but I'm gonna make it fit because I like the way it looks. So, I'm gonna take this end through, and I'm gonna leave maybe an inch and a half. And I'm gonna kind of fold this and then

fold it again, so it kind of creates these nice uniform edges there. And this is where you will decide the length of your wristlet. And I recommend you take some time to figure out sort of what your preference is. If you want to make it shorter, or if you want to adjust the length, now is the time to do that. To finish this off, I'm gonna flip these over, push this one down. And then I'm gonna fold this guy over, almost halfway, or depending how much room you have. And I'm gonna use a pin to hold it. Now, you have a lot of layers here, so be patient, you might just get one way through. I'm just gonna hold it like that. And I'm essentially going to stitch a square in this area. And now keep in mind you have a lot of layers of fabric here, so just go slow. And I'll show you kind of how I do a little pattern, where I'll do a square. I get pretty close to the edge, turn. And I'm gonna go up to the edge of that fold, turn again, come back down, again, lots of layers here, be patient. Turn again, oops, gonna do one more stitch. Come back up. I'll probably do another square, and maybe come in a little closer. And obviously you can play around with a pattern. A lot of times you can do an X in the middle. It's really just about securing this section. And I'm just gonna do a little square within a square here. I like it because it adds a little bit of a pattern. And then I'm just gonna go back out to where I started, so that my threads are in the same place. And I'm done. And you can see my square within a square. It's not actually a square, look, it's a little bit lopsided, but that's okay. It adds a little character. And then I'm gonna trim these. And then, oh my goodness, this is ready to go on our zipper. And I like to attach my clasp to this lower hole on the zipper, and look at this, how it just opens this nice and smoothly. Do it one more time, show off those credit card slots. Now, you see how easy it was to make this clutch. It's super versatile. You can not only use it as your purse, but you could also use it as a pencil case, or even a makeup case. I hope you love it.