

# Convertible CLUTCH

{ by Sara Lawson }

Accessorize for fall with a cute and clever fold-up clutch.



## Supplies

**Finished size: 10"x12" unfolded; 6"x10" folded**

- $\frac{1}{4}$  yard or one fat quarter each of exterior fabric & lining (A & B)
- $\frac{1}{3}$  yard of coordinating fabric (C)
- Coordinating all-purpose thread
- 1 yard of fusible woven interfacing
- $\frac{1}{4}$  yard of fusible fleece
- $\frac{1}{3}$  yard of heavyweight fusible craft backing (See "Sources.")
- $\frac{1}{2}$ "-diameter magnetic snap
- $1\frac{5}{8}$ "-wide metal buckle with tongue

## Cut

Download the **Convertible Clutch pattern** at [sewnews.com/web\\_extras](http://sewnews.com/web_extras).

**From fabric A**, cut two exterior panels. Or to create a patchwork panel, refer to "Pieced Perfection" below.

**From fabric B**, cut two interior rectangles.

**From fabric C**, cut four side panels, two lower straps, two upper straps and four handles.

**From the interfacing**, cut two exterior panels, two interior rectangles, four side panels, two lower straps, two upper straps and four handles.

**From the fusible fleece**, cut two exterior panels and two snap backings.

**From the fusible craft backing**, cut eight handle linings and four side panels.

## Fuse

**Fuse one interfacing exterior rectangle** to each fabric exterior rectangle wrong side following the manufacturer's instructions. Fuse one fusible fleece exterior rectangle to each exterior rectangle wrong side.

**Fuse one interfacing interior rectangle** to each fabric interior rectangle wrong side.

**Fuse the corresponding interfacing** pieces to the lower- and upper-strap wrong sides. Fuse one interfacing handle to each fabric handle wrong side, and then fuse one handle lining to each handle wrong side. Repeat to fuse two additional lining layers to each handle. Fuse one craft backing strip to each side-panel wrong side.

## Construct

Use  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowances unless otherwise noted.

**Stitch one handle**  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each long outer edge, carefully following the curve. Stitch  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the

## PIECED PERFECTION

Create a unique clutch by piecing scraps from your stash for the exterior purse panels.

- To create a diagonal patchwork design (as in the featured sample), cut twenty 2" x 20" fabric strips. For each panel, piece 10 strips along the long edges with right sides together. Rotate each pieced panel to a 45° angle, and then cut a 9" x 10" rectangle (A).
- To create a checkerboard effect, cut twelve 3" x 3½" rectangles from two contrasting fabrics. For each exterior panel, piece 12 rectangles into a grid of three columns x four rows, alternating the fabric colors and using  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Trim the grid perimeter to measure 9" x 10".
- For a striped clutch, cut six 3½" x 10" fabric strips. For each exterior panel, piece three strips along the long edges, using  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Trim each pieced rectangle to measure 9" x 10".





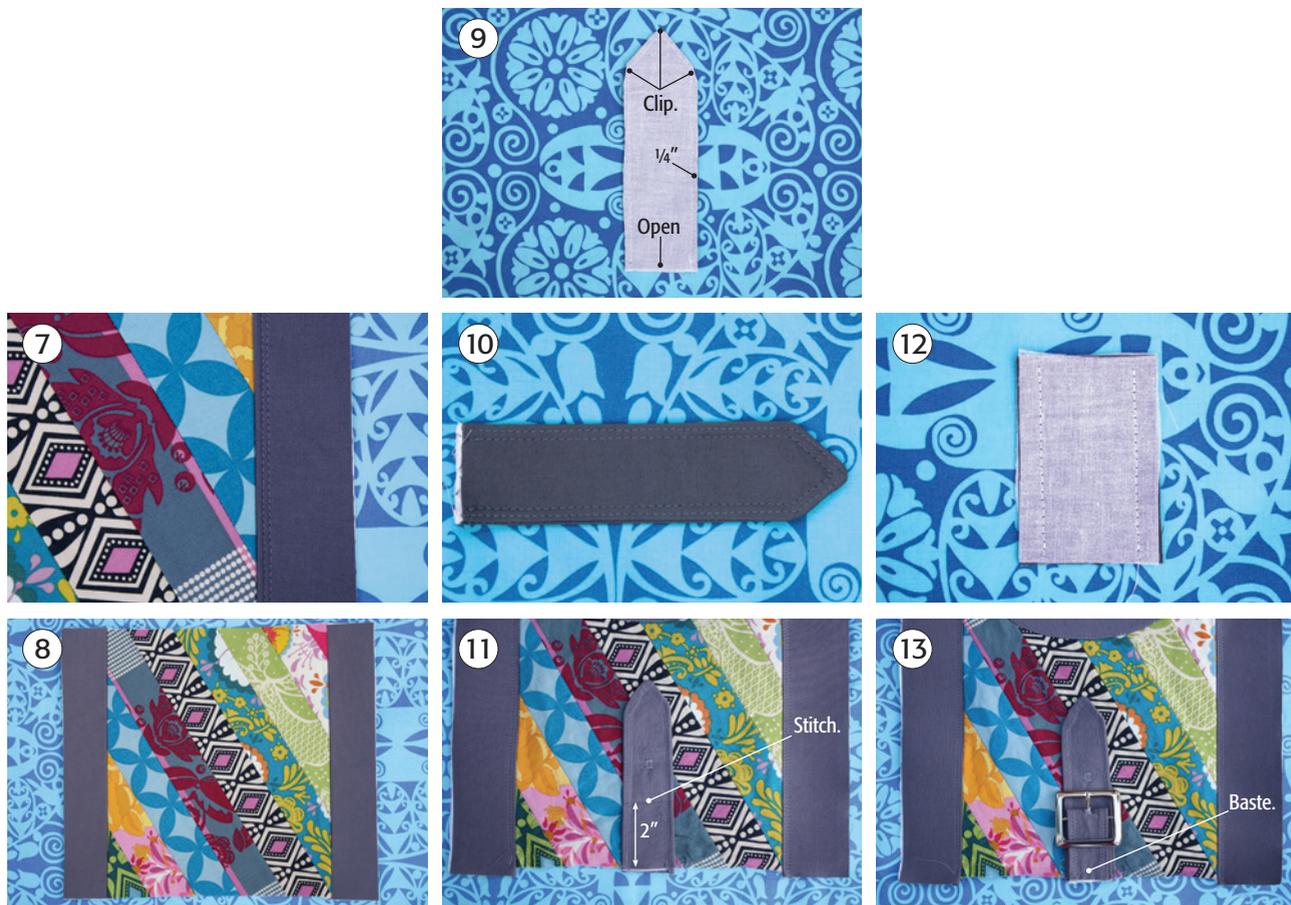
inner circle edge (1). Using small, sharp scissors, cut small notches along the handle outer edges, and then clip the inner circle edge, being careful not to cut into the stitching. **Fold the handle outer edges** toward the wrong side along the stitching line; press (2). Fold the circle edge toward the wrong side along the stitching line; press firmly. Repeat to stitch and fold the remaining handle edges. **Designate one interior rectangle** long edge as the upper edge. Mark the interior panel sides  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the upper edge. Position one handle over the interior rectangle upper edge, aligning the handle lower corners with the marks; pin. Stitch  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the handle lower outer edge (3). Don't stitch the circle edge. **Trim the interior-rectangle** upper edge  $\frac{1}{2}$ " below the handle circle edge (4). Repeat to stitch the remaining handle to the remaining interior rectangle. **With right sides together**, align the interior rectangles; pin. Stitch the lower edge; press open the seam. **Remove the snap washer** from one of the prongs, and then use it to mark

the prong placement at one fusible fleece square center (5). Cut small slits at the mark. If the snap doesn't have a washer, use the snap to mark the prong placement. Repeat to mark the remaining fleece square. **Position the interior panel** right side up on a flat work surface with the handles as the left and right sides. Pin-mark the snap placement on the left-handle center,  $7\frac{3}{4}$ " from the interior-panel seam. Repeat to pin-mark the remaining snap placement on the right-handle center. At each pin-mark, use the snap washer to mark the snap prong placement using

a removable fabric marker. Cut a small slit along each mark. **From the interior-panel right side**, insert the male-snap prongs through the left-handle slits. On the panel wrong side, insert the prongs through one fusible fleece square. Secure the male snap following the manufacturer's instructions, making sure it lies flat (6). If needed, use pliers wrapped with scrap fabric to bend the prongs. Repeat to install the female snap on the right handle. **With right sides together**, align one side panel with one exterior panel, matching one long edge; pin, and then

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**TIP:** Add stability to each snap slit and strap buttonhole by applying a small amount of seam sealant to the cut edges.



stitch. Press the seam toward the side panel. Topstitch the side panel  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the seam, and then stitch again  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the seam, catching the seam allowance in the stitching (7). Repeat to stitch a second side panel to the opposite exterior-panel long edge (8). Stitch the remaining side panels to the remaining exterior panel long edges.

**Stitch the remaining handles** to the exterior panel upper edges in the same manner as the interior-panel handles.

**Align the upper straps** with right sides together; pin. Stitch the perimeter, leaving the short straight edge open for turning. Trim the seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and clip the corners (9).

**Turn the upper strap** right side out; press. Topstitch the finished edges using

a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance, and then stitch again using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance (10).

**Mark  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " from the upper-strap** uppermost point. Measure the buckle tongue width, and then stitch a  $\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide vertical buttonhole at the mark to accommodate the metal buckle tongue. Note: If the buckle tongue is wider or narrower than  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", adjust the buttonhole width accordingly.

**Center the upper strap** along one exterior-panel lower edge, aligning the raw edges; pin. Stitch across the upper strap through all layers 2" above the lower edges (11).

**Align the lower straps** with right sides together; pin. Stitch the long edges, and then trim the seam allowances to

$\frac{1}{4}$ " (12). Turn the lower strap right side out; press. Topstitch the lower-strap long edges using a  $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance, and then stitch again using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

**Fold the lower strap** in half width-wise; mark the center. Stitch a  $\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide vertical buttonhole (or a buttonhole wide enough to accommodate the buckle tongue) at the mark. Fold the lower strap in half around the buckle center bar, sliding the buckle tongue through the buttonhole.

**Position the lower strap** over the upper strap on the exterior panel, aligning the raw edges; pin. Baste the strap raw edges through all layers (13).

**Align the exterior panels** with right sides together; pin. Stitch the long raw



Fold the clutch and buckle the handle in place for security, or carry the clutch by the handles for extra room.

edge through all layers, catching the strap raw edges in the stitching. Press open the seam.

**Align the interior and exterior panels** with right sides together, matching the handles and sides; pin.

**Stitch the handle upper edges** using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Don't stitch the sides or handle inner circle. Clip small notches along each handle upper edge, making sure not to cut through the stitching.

**Turn the panels right side out;** press. Topstitch each handle upper edge using an  $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance.

**Match the handle inner-circle folded edges** and the panel sides. Generously

pin the handle inner circle, making sure the raw edges are enclosed (14).

**Fold the clutch** along the lower seam with the exterior panels facing out and the snap closed. Pin the sides, and then stitch using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Trim the seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{8}$ " and clip the lower corners. Turn the clutch so the interior panel is facing out. Stitch the sides again, using a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance to enclose the previous seam.

### Finish

**Turn the clutch right side out.** Topstitch the sides using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Thoroughly press the entire clutch. ☞



SOURCE

Nancy's Notions carries Pellon Décor Bond fusible craft backing: nancysnotions.com.