

The personal touch

Trim a purchased handbag with bead embroidery

To embellish a store-bought purse with beads, choose a well-proportioned one with at least one plain surface for the beadwork. Choose a soft fabric for ease of embroidery.

stepbystep

- 1 Enlarge or reduce the pattern in the **figure** to fit your purse and transfer the design to the bag's surface.
- 2 Work in beaded backstitch over the solid lines (see "Basics," p. 136 and **photo a**).
- 3 To add a beaded strap, remove the original and trim away any loose threads. Cut a piece of beading wire 4 in. (10cm) longer than the beaded strap's finished length.
- 4 To make the strap removable, string a crimp bead, one or two accent beads, another crimp, and the clasp onto the beading wire. Take the beading wire

back through the crimps and beads and tighten the wire to make a small loop (**photo b**). Crimp the crimp beads.

For a permanent strap, string a soldered jump ring instead of the clasp.

- 5 String the beading wire to complement the embroidery. Avoid beads with sharp edges that might be uncomfortable to wear or hold.
- 6 Finish the strap by stringing crimps, accent beads, and a clasp or jump ring, as in step 4. Go back through this sequence of beads, tighten the wire, and crimp as before.
- 7 If you finished your strap with soldered jump rings, sew the rings to the bag where you removed the original strap (**photo c**). Then attach and remove the strap as the mood strikes. ●—M.B.

If you used clasps on the strap, sew the soldered jump rings onto the bag where you removed the original strap (**photo c**). Then attach and remove the strap as the mood strikes. ●—M.B.



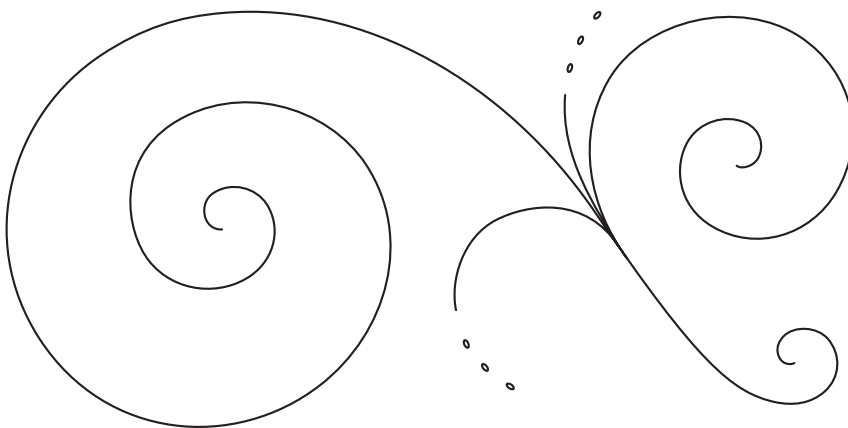
a



b



c



materials

- Fabric purse
- Seed beads (for embroidery)
- Assorted gemstones and crystals (for strap)
- Nymo D or Fireline fishing line 6 lb. test
- Beading needles, #10
- Transfer pens or paper (available at craft and fabric stores)
- Flexible beading wire .019
- 4 Crimp beads
- 2 S-hook or lobster claw clasps (optional)
- 2 5mm soldered jump rings

Tools: crimping or chainnose pliers