

String style

A fast, easy and practical idea using bakers twine.

By Jemima Schlee.

TOP TIP

Before attaching the frame, check your sewing needle fits through stitch holes



YOU WILL NEED

- ✦ 55m bakers twine
- ✦ 4.5mm crochet hook
- ✦ 11cm sew-in purse frame
- ✦ Heavy-duty waxed linen thread
- ✦ Sewing needle
- ✦ Small crochet hook or large darning needle for finishing off ends
- ✦ Four small safety pins (optional)
- ✦ Bubble wrap for stuffing
- ✦ Sharp scissors
- ✦ Liquid starch or cornstarch

SIZE

- ✦ 10.5cm x 14cm

TENSION

✦ 4 dc x 4 rows to 2.5cm square. The tension is important for this project as the purse frame and crochet should have a nice snug fit.

ABBREVIATIONS

- ✦ Turn to page 90 for a full list of abbreviations

Ever stared at a ball of string and thought, “I could do something with that!” Jemima Schlee certainly has and this cute coin purse is the result of her fervent imagination. “There are no dusty hidden corners in this coin purse,” says Jemima. “The top opens wide so you won’t need to scabble about for pennies. It’s a fast, satisfying make that can easily be adapted in size and length.” You’ll need to be *au fait* with simple DC, working in the round and increasing for this project. Turn to page 84 for our comprehensive guide on these techniques.

HEXAGON BASE

Make 6ch and join with a sl st to make a ring.

Round 1: 1ch, 5dc into ring (*Image 1*).

Round 2: Work 2dc into each of the 6sts of the ring (12 sts). Work in the round so the piece spirals as it grows and becomes hexagonal. Place a marker at the beginning of each row, or just keep count. Each ‘2dc’ is worked on top of the 2dc of the previous row, so after a few rows you may not need to count.

Round 3: (Dc into next st, 2dc into foll st) 6 times (18 sts).

Round 4: (Dc into each of next 2 sts, 2dc into foll st) 6 times (24 sts).

Round 5: (Dc into each of next 3 sts, 2dc into foll st) 6 times (30 sts).

Round 6: (Dc into each of next 4 sts, 2dc into foll

st) 6 times (36 sts).

Round 7: (Dc into each of next 5 sts, 2dc into foll st) 6 times (42 sts).

Round 8: (Dc into each of next 6 sts, 2dc into foll st) 6 times (48 sts).

Round 9: (Dc into each of next 7 sts, 2dc into foll st) 6 times (54 sts) (*Image 2*).

Open the purse frame as wide as it will go and lay it over the hexagon base. The work should be just larger than the outside edge of the frame (*Image 3*). If it is too big then unravel one row. If it is too small, work another row thus: (Dc into each of the next 8 sts, 2dc into foll st) 6 times (66 sts).

Working the purse sides

Work 13 rounds in dc.

You will now have a deep bowl-shaped piece of work. Cut the string leaving a 10cm tail, then pull through the loop to finish. Weave in the tail by running it through a few stitches at the back of the work using a darning needle or small crochet hook. Cut the end flush. Using scraps of string or small safety pins, mark four points round the top rim of the work to divide it into quarters. (*Image 4*).

Attaching the purse frame

Open out the purse frame. Starting under the clip, at the centre of one side of the frame, push the rim of the work into the frame at one of the marked points. Cut a 90cm length of waxed thread and, leaving an 50cm tail, begin to sew your work into the frame using backstitch. Work down towards one hinge, making sure the rim of the work is tucked in snugly. Stitch twice through the last two holes of the frame as you reach the hinge. Finish off the thread using a few small, tight stitches at the back of the work. Cut the thread flush (*Image 5*).

Re-thread the tail at the centre point where you began stitching. Now stitch down to the



Sew your work into the metal frame using backstitch

other frame hinge, finishing off in the same way. Repeat for the other side of the frame. There should be a gap of about 4sts at each hinge (*Image 6*). Manipulate the purse until you are happy with the shape. Stuff with bubble wrap, spray with starch (see below) and leave it to dry.

How to starch

Use liquid starch or make your own by mixing a heaped teaspoon of cornstarch into approximately ¼ cup of water at room temperature and stir until completely dissolved. Add 1¼ cups of boiling water and leave to cool

to room temperature before pouring it into a spray bottle. Saturate the finished work with the starch. Tease, pull and manipulate the sides to straighten them and push out the corners to make them sharp. Leave the work on a towel to dry. ●

MORE INFO

This project is from *Take a Ball of String* by Jemima Schlee (GMC), an ingenious collection of 16 projects made using string. Head to www.thegmcgroup.com for more.



STEP-BY-STEP CLASP PURSE

