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# The Decorated Bag: Creating Designer Handbags, Purses, And Totes Using Embellishments



## Synopsis

The Decorated Bag is a fun, stylish collection of 25 “must-have” bags inspired by the look of designer originals. Shown in full-page color photographs, purses, envelopes, totes, and shoulder bags are accompanied by simple, step-by-step directions. Most of the designs are created by embellishing inexpensive store-bought bags, but patterns for sewing four popular styles are also included. From a velvet purse with a faux leopard lining and shimmering rhinestones to a casual knitted tote decorated with vintage buttons, The Decorated Bag presents an array of stylish bags for every occasion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Decorated Bag is a fun, stylish collection of 25 “must-have” bags inspired by the look of designer originals. Shown in full-page color photographs, purses, envelopes, totes, and shoulder bags are accompanied by simple, step-by-step directions. Most of the designs are created by embellishing inexpensive store-bought bags, but patterns for sewing four popular styles are also included. From a velvet purse with a faux leopard lining and shimmering rhinestones to a casual knitted tote decorated with vintage buttons, The Decorated Bag presents an array of stylish bags for every occasion.

The Decorated Bag: Embellishing Handbags, Purses, and Totes The Decorated Bag is the quintessential guide to decorating gorgeous and practical bags for every occasion—from a

velvet purse encrusted with crystals and lined with faux fur, to a casual tote covered in a profusion of buttons. ~ 50 original designs for stunning decorated bags, inspired by designer originals. ~ Clear step-by-step directions to make each fashionable bag, suited to all skill levels, especially the beginner. ~ Over 175 beautiful images, art, patterns, and photographs that show every dazzling bag and the way to achieve the same results.

Maybe I am a different sort of artist, I purchase these types of books to aid me when I develop ideas for my own designs. Rarely do I copy what I see in books or magazines - and this goes for all my work from jewelry, purses, clothing, artwork in various types of media (paint, pastel, ink, fabric, collage, metal, fiber, etc.). Therefore, this book is great for doing exactly that, but I do recommend *The Decorated Bag* primarily for the beginner or even intermediate purse embellishers out there. Yes, it is true that some of the designs are very simplistic as other reviewers mention...but if you use the idea as a stepping stone for a more elaborate/complex project, I know you will be pleased to have this book as a reference. There are a few patterns to use and imagery to follow if you want to practice by making one of the projects completely using the author's guidance. Later if you enjoy working with a particular type of embellishment, such as silk ribbon flowers, find another reference book to expand what you learned in this book and become an expert in it for your future projects. I also want to add that the author's focus in this book is to take an old purse and giving it a new life by various types of embellishing techniques...something we all should do rather than buying a new purse. It is amazing how one can extend the life of an accessory by doing a few creative things with it. In summary, I use this book as a tool to get my ideas flowing and dig into my own projects using maybe a technique or two from this book, and additional ideas from other books/magazines/patterns (right side of the brain included). Therefore, I am pleased to have this book in my reference library.

I was attracted to this book by its cover, so I pre-ordered it. After waiting 3+ months past the release date (Feb 6, 2006) it finally arrived in early May. Wow, what a disappointment! I was expecting some upscale professional design ideas for handbag embellishment. Instead, the ideas in this book are very cutsey-poo and childish. The only nice design is on the cover. These designs might be appropriate for very young girls (faux fur, poodle appliques, felt cat with rhinestones, pom-poms, costume jewelry decorations, etc) but not for the sophisticated handbag creator. A better choice for elegant handbag embellishment would be Stephane Kimura's *BAGS WITH STYLE*, or Barbara Weiland's new book *SEW EASY DESIGNER BAGS & TOTES*.

Amazing detailed book on making unique bags. Color pictures and descriptions are so helpful and clear in this book that anyone could make these wonderful decorated little purses. This is one of the best books on purse making I have ever come across.

I L-O-V-E "The Decorated Bag" by Genevieve A. Sterbenz. I own scores of handbag books, and I must say that this book is one of the most innovative books I own. It is user-friendly, with detailed sequential photos and instructions. It probably is not for the unsophisticated bag lover, and it has something for everyone, especially for the lover of designer bags. I bought it, and I'm glad!! 'Nuf sed!

I first fell in love with the picture on the front cover, but the book did not disappoint! It has fantastic embellishment ideas and are so beautiful! They look much more complicated than they are. I will eventually try each and every style in the book with different styles and add my own touches.

5 star

Great book just as described

This book provided me with many ideas on making and designing purses and totes. Excellent resource

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