Fishy Zippy Purse - Jackie Norris

Materials

Outer fabric, Lining, Wadding = 14" Square of each Felt for Fins = 1 = 6" Square Tail felt or any fabric = 1 = 3" x 6" Oblong Head = 1 = 4" x 8" in a Contrast fabric to main body 1×12 " zip- I've used both a 12" and 8" zip, choose the one you prefer.

 $2 \times \frac{1}{2}$ Buttons for the fish eyes.

Walking and Zipper feet only needed for this pattern.



Layer the 14" squares together right sides out. Using the lining draw your quilting design or quilt in lines, wavey rows or whatever pattern you choose. I put a metallic bobbin in and quilted my piece upside down, lining on the top side

Press the quilted piece then lay your pattern on top, pin securely & cut round the edge.



Change your bobbin if you used metallic thread. The pattern includes a ³/₄" seam for the zip opening. Sew in the zip as below, first decide which is the Tail edge – Left or Right, and mark with a pin, make sure you have the pull end of the zip at the tail edge of your purse if using a 12" zip which is longer than you need but is easier to fit than an exact size, you can get the zipper pull out of the way of your sewing machine needle. **DO NOT CUT OFF THE EXCESS ZIP YET.**

Press the zipper seam then fold down & top stitch along both sides of the zip. Press again and put aside while you do the tail and fins.

Cut the 2 fins out on the fold as show on the pattern, I used pinking shears to get the crinkly edges, then I put the metallic bobbin back in before sewing the pattern with the fin pieces upside down. Make the tail piece in the same way.

Fold the fish body in half Wrong sides together, matching the curved edges but keeping the zip straight as in the photo. Press along the fold line then put a pin in both edges.

Cut out the head on the fold, lay it on the fish body at the opposite edge to the zipper pull. Make sure you get the inside point lined up on the centre fold line. Using the dashed line on the pattern, tuck the fin pieces under the head 1" away from the centre point of the head & pin in place. Sew the head piece on to the body using either a zig-zag stitch or a machine applique stitch along the pointed edge, change to straight stitch for the outer edge. **BE VERY CARFUL WHEN YOU SEW OVER THE ZIP SECTIONS.** Press on the wrong side.

Lay the body piece flat on the table, using your cutting ruler mark a dot $2\frac{1}{2}$ from the end tips of the fish head, sew your 'eyes' on to cover the dots, see photo.



Fold the tail in half and mark the fold line. Using the mark, pressed centre line and matching it to the point on the head, pin the tail to the body so it lays over the back of the fish – see photo. Machine the tail in place close to the edge. See photo.



Fold the fish, Right sides together, and pin round the edges. **CAREFULLY REMOVE ENOUGH PINS TO OPEN THE ZIP FULLY**. Replace the pins keeping the zipper ends together. Using 1" wide bias binding, pin & sew around the belly of the fish with an overlap at beginning and end of the bias. **TRIM OFF THE EXCESS ZIP.** Fold over to hide those inner raw edges, pin & either hand sew in place or machine close to the inside edge. **TAKE CARE – YOU COULD BE SEWING ACROSS THE END OF THE ZIP OR SOME THICKER FABRIC THAN USUAL.**



Press and turn the fish right side out, carefully poke out the top corners, embellish the fins with sequins if desired and enjoy.





