



DIY Purses

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BEAUTY & STYLE

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YOUR BEST

IT'S IN THE BAG
These casual purses are a nod to the preppy Bermuda bags that were so popular in the 1970s. You can create them from almost any kind of fabric, including linen, oilcloth, and even upholstery scraps, such as chinosera silk. For the how-to, see page 36.

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you can handle this

With premade wooden grips and basic sewing skills, crafts editor Marcie McGoldrick makes effortlessly chic purses that are great for summer.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Kate Mathis

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I have found the saying “what comes around goes around” to be true many times in my lifetime. I had to **smile** when I saw this article for handmade purses in the June issue of [Martha Stewart Living](#). I used to carry one of these purses when I was in 7th or 8th grade. At that time, I was a transplanted Yankee living in North Carolina. I lived there for three years and the style was very preppy. It was a tough move, not only because I was a middle schooler, but because I spoke and dressed differently than everyone else. I quickly changed from wearing my faux sheepskin coat and clogs to polo shirts and sperrys. Like most middle schoolers I just wanted to fit in and I’ve never been one to draw attention to myself. These fabric purses with wooden handles were like what Vera Bradley currently is to young girls. Like my love for jewelry, I also acquired a love for purses from my mother. Fabric purse

covers could be purchased that buttoned onto the wood frame handles. My mother sews which came in handy at the time. She made me several different purse covers in various styles and patterns.

According to the article you can purchase wooden handles at craft stores or on [Etsy](#). It appears many have slots that you thread the fabric through. If you are interested in detailed instructions go to [Martha Stewart's website](#). This is one DIY I probably won't be repeating. For one thing, I don't sew. However, if you do you might turn out to be the next Kate Spade. If that's the case let me know and I'll buy one from you.

Date Created

2013/06/17

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