CRAFT

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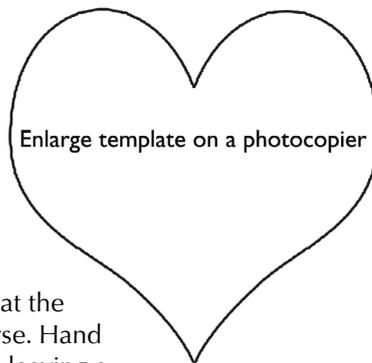www.anneglynisdavies.com

WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE!

Be inspired by Saint Valentine and create a fun, heart-shaped purse.

All you need to get started is scrap fabric, a stamp to give the cloth some surface interest, a length of ribbon to make a wrist strap and a button or flower to complete the design. What's more, you could pop a hand-written message or little present inside and use your heart as a novel gift idea for someone special. So what better way to wear your heart on your sleeve, not only on Valentine's Day, but on lots of other occasions, too.

You Will Need:

- Scraps of plain cotton fabric – an old pillowcase is ideal
- Scissors
- A pencil
- A heart-shaped template
- A rubber stamp(s) of your choice
- A couple of pigment ink pads – contrasting colours work well
- A needle and sewing thread
- Pins
- An iron
- Press studs
- Raffia or ribbon
- A large button or flower

How To Make a Heart-Shaped Purse:

1. Trace and cut out two heart shapes from a piece of cotton fabric, using the template provided. Note: you can enlarge the heart template on a photocopier to the size you want, but remember to allow for 1.0cm seam allowance all around the edge.
2. Stamp the right side of both fabric hearts using pigment inks. Leave to dry.
3. Pin the two shapes together with right sides facing, sandwiching a loop of raffia or ribbon at the top – make sure the yarn hangs inside the purse. Hand stitch around the heart (1.0cm from the edge) leaving a 4.0cm gap on one side for an opening.
4. Turn the purse so the right sides are facing outwards and the raffia strap is at the top. Press to give a crisp edge – adult supervision is needed with a hot iron.
5. Stitch two press-studs to the seam allowance only, on either side of the opening. Alternatively, use strips of self-adhesive Velcro as a fastener.
6. Attach a large button or flower to the front of the purse to finish. Wrap the strap around your wrist and show off your own hand-made accessory!

Enlarge template on a photocopier

Crafty Tips:

- Use fabric glue to stick the heart-shaped pieces of cloth together, instead of sewing them.
- Visit http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/ for lots of free printable templates to make different shaped purses.
- For a simple purse design; cut a rectangle of fabric, turn up the bottom third of the rectangle and sew in place – the top third makes a closing flap.

Did You Know?

- Pope Galasius declared the first official Saint Valentine's Day on 14th of February in 496 AD, in memory of a martyred priest in Rome. The young priest betrayed Emperor Claudius in 270 AD. Emperor Claudius claimed that married men made poor soldiers and decreed that all marriages of younger people would be outlawed. Bishop Valentine, however, maintained that marriage was part of God's plan and he continued to conduct marriages in secret. For his defiance, Bishop Valentine was jailed and ultimately beheaded, but not before he fell in love with the jailer's daughter. It is thought that on the evening of his execution the bishop passed her a note that read "from your Valentine".
- A sailor sent the first mail-posted Valentine card in 1806 to his wife. Today, an estimated one billion Valentine cards are sent each year.