

Quilted Taffeta Hand Bags

By Peggy Gill

During the Model A Era, many women used their sewing skills to make purses and clutches to go with their outfits. Patterns and ideas were often found in magazines such as *Needlecraft* and *Woman's World*. According to an article on page 49 in the February 1929 issue of *Woman's World* magazine, quilted silk taffeta purses were “among the season’s smartest contributions to the costume. The chic crispness of their material and their simplicity of design recommend them for general use with street clothes, while their wide range of colors makes it possible to match the daintiest of afternoon and party frocks.”

For those of you who are crafty, you might want to try your hand at making a matching purse to go with your next Model A Era outfit. This is what a trio of ladies did in the Rock-Ford A’s Model A Club from Rockford, Illinois.

When Nan Stewart of the Rock-Ford A’s came across the directions for these bags in the aforementioned article, she excitedly shared her find with fellow club members Chris Aupperle and Alice Whitney. The following pictures are two of the bags that Alice made. When completed, they measure about 9 inches X 10 inches. Chris painted the wooden button closure on her bag to match the fabric.

Thank you, ladies, for sharing your projects with us!



What follows below are the re-typed directions directly from the article as well as the pattern descriptions:



How Quilted Bags Are Made

The bags sketched are of faille taffeta and measure 8 1/4 X 10 inches when completed. First a layer of sheet wadding is placed on the wrong side of taffeta, then a layer of cotton flannel on the sheet wadding. The three layers of material are worked together and the design is quilted with simple running stitches through all of them. Thread is pulled tight so the material puffs

slightly. See diagram above.

When quilting is completed, [the] ends of bag are joined and handles attached. Each handle is 1 X 18 inches when completed. They are double with a layer of flannel between the padding. Next, tops of front and back of bag are attached to two heavy wire frames already padded and covered with taffeta. [The] bag fastens with a taffeta tab which is sewed to back of [the] bag and wrapped to [the] front. A large round wooden button matching the taffeta trims [the] tab. Finally the lining of any material you may have on hand is slip stitched into purse.

Geometric Flowers: Gray silk taffeta quilted in gray. These square and circular blossoms appear on both sides of bag.

Green Rose: Green silk taffeta quilted with green floss. The large floral motif surrounded by double zigzag lines is placed in the center of the bottom of the bag.

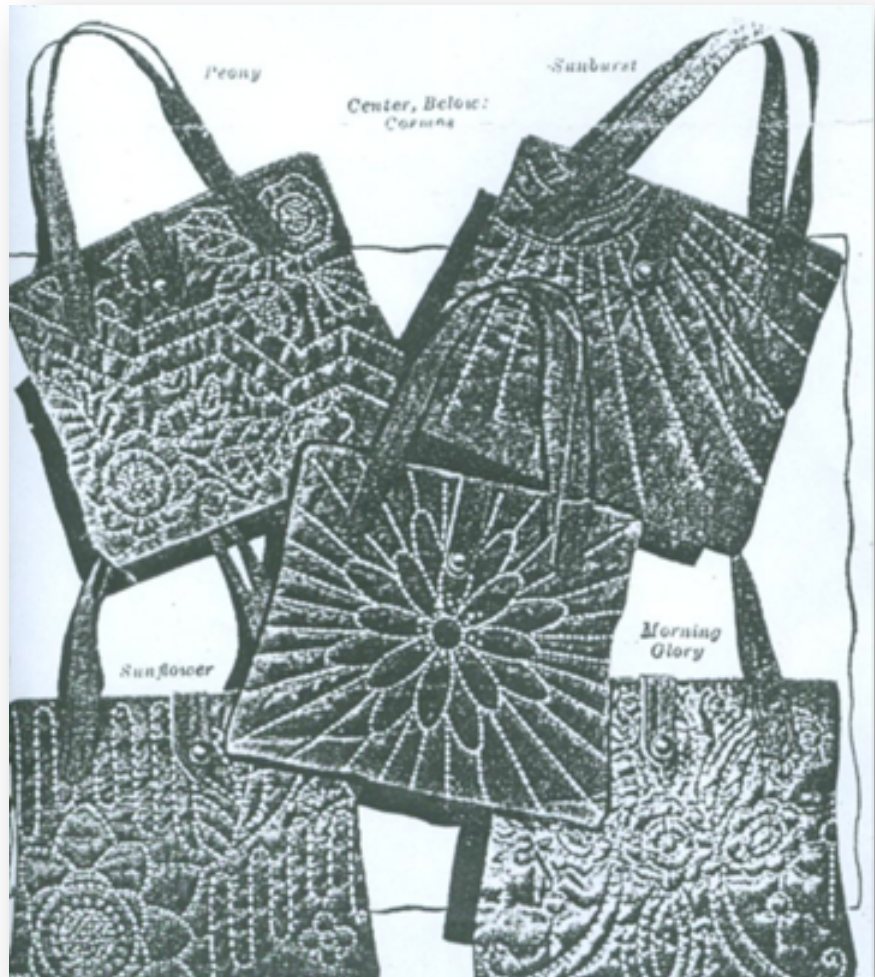
Peony: Red silk taffeta quilted with matching floss. Design of conventional flowers and broken parallel lines is the same on both sides.

Sunburst Design: Navy blue taffeta quilted with matching floss. The four concentric arcs with radiating lines are repeated on the back of bag.

Cosmos: Black silk taffeta quilted in green floss. A large flower with lines radiating from it in all directions appears on both front and back of bag.

Sunflower: Tan taffeta quilted in tan. Design is the same on front and back with the large flowers overlapping at the bottom.

Morning Glory: Rose silk taffeta quilted with rose floss. Conventional flower design is the same on both sides of bag.



Source: *Woman's World*, February 1929, p. 49.