Inspired by Studio Artist Fernanda Batista’s vibrant leather handbags, you can create a hand stitched and embellished bag of your own!

**Age/Grade**  K–12

**Materials**
- Fabric or felt
- Scissors
- Needle
- Thread, embroidery floss, or yarn
- Button or bead
- Pins or safety pins
- Artspace Bag Template (below)
- Decorative materials: sequins, gems, paint, markers, lace trim

**Activity Ideas**

*Blanket Stitch (6–12)* // Learn how to sew a blanket stitch on the edges of your bag from this [Red Ted Art tutorial](#) for a different finish on your bag.

*Designer Bag (All Ages)* // Change the size and shape of your bag to create different designs! You can also add a strap with ribbon or braided yarn!

**Resources**

Get inspiration from the beautiful colors and patterns in Fernanda’s work on her [website](#) and [Instagram](#).

Learn how to dye your own leather in this [Instructables Tutorial](#).

Fernanda Batista, Hand Painted Leather Wallets

Share your creations with us! Tag us: @artspacenc #ArtspaceAtHome
HAND STITCHED BAGS

Artmaking Directions

1. Cut out the bag template or draw your own.

2. Trace the template onto your fabric.

3. Cut out the fabric.

4. Fold the bottom of the fabric up to create a pocket.

5. Secure in place with pins.

6. Sew a running stitch up the left and right edges of the fabric.

continued

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HAND STITCHED BAGS

Artmaking Directions

7. Fold the top flap in half and cut a slit in the fabric for the button.

8. Sew on a button, make sure it aligns with your buttonhole.

9. Embellish your bag with markers, paint, gems, and decorations.

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BAG TEMPLATE

CUT OUT TEMPLATE + TRACE ONTO FABRIC

FOLD 1

FOLD 2

X BUTTON

STITCH