

Owl bag: Reuse leather snippets to decorate an old bag!

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/owl-bag-reuse-leather-snippets-to-decorate-an-old-bag>



My mom has all these extra fabrics and scraps because she used to have her own sewing business and I thought it was awful that these leather, suede, and snakeskin scrappies were sitting around so I had to show them some love. You could make any animal you choose besides an owl, I thought this would be a nice technique to show to see what other people make! I ONLY used the tiniest scraps that I found that I thought could be made into NOTHING else. I found the perfect colors to make a different version of the Sherwood Owl bag by Kate Spade. See more pictures and info about the Kate Spade bag on my blog

Step 1 — Get an old bag



Get an old bag to decorate! Or a new one, either way. :) I reused an old bag that was a favorite in middle school and high school. So fun to give the bag a new life!!

Step 2 — Find scrappies and snippets of leather or fabric



Find some tiny pieces of leather or anything to decorate your bag with. If you do not use leather or suede, you need to find stuff that does not fray if you don't want your bag to be a little hairy. I used all the stuff that could not be used for other stuff. Some had stickers or prints on it and other scraps were super tiny. Better to be used instead of being wasted, right???

Step 3 — Eyes: Cut out circles



First you need circles for the owl bag. You can use pinking shears to make a jagged edge around the leather, but I wanted a little bit less machine-made look.

Step 4 — Organize shapes



Making the owl (or any other animal) is a simple matter of geometry. Here are all the shapes you need for the eyes, eyebrows, and beak of the owl. I then cut little holes in the middle of the circles to make sure that the button would fit snug into the circles. Then just start supergluing the leather to the bag. I used an amazing glue- it was the E6000.

Step 5 — Scales for belly



Once you have the eyes and face glued into place with superglue, then you need to cut out the scales for the belly of the owl. This is where the tiny scraps came in super handy. I barely threw away ANYTHING. It was great.

Step 6 — Sew the scales together



To make the scales into a line, you need to sew them together at the top and it will make it much easier to sew the scales into place on the owl belly.

Step 7 — Sew the scales into place



Once you have the strips sewn together, simply hand-stitch the lines into place.

Step 8 — Blanket Stitch



So once you have all the main parts of the owl in place, you can add other patches to balance out the bird. I added small pieces of suede to make the bag look more detailed. Then I did the blanket stitch around the suede pieces to add more feathery looking details. Here is a link to a youtube video on how to do the blanket stitch. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJht13Bcw-U>

Step 9 — Done!



I still need to add some little feet, but I am very pleased with the final project! Be sure to check out more about this bag and the original Kate Spade bag on my "blog":<http://starsforstreetlights.blogspot.com>

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