

Women's Handbags

By Judy Lewis

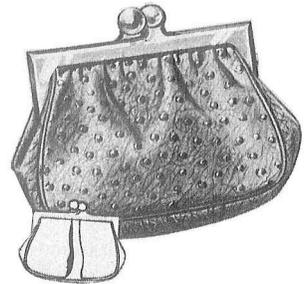
Purses were the primary accessory for women, just as they are today. The purses shown are mostly purses carried with daytime attire. With the MAFCA patterns now on sale, and featuring many daytime dresses, knowing what to look for in a daytime purse is essential.

With the new Model A Era Image category it is easy to find newer purses that have the same styling and material found during the Model A era. I have found daytime purses at fashion expos, estate sales, rummage sales, consignment shops and the like. Many of the clutch style purses had back straps to slip your hand through; however, there were purses with handles. I have not found purses with shoulder straps.

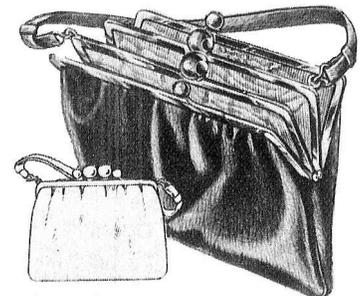
Dark brown glossy alligator grain leather, amber colored knob and pull. Includes beveled mirror and coin purse. Size 7 ½ x 6 inches.



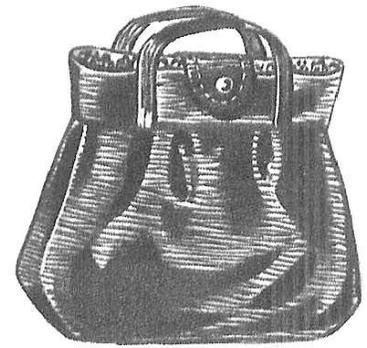
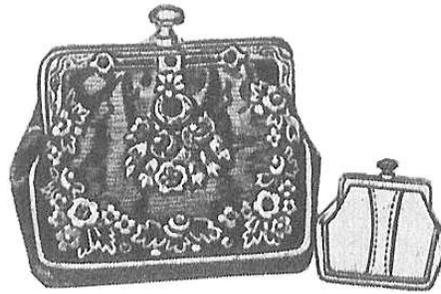
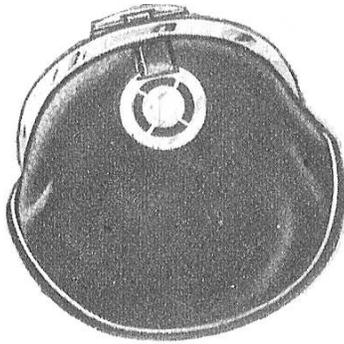
Smart soft puffy pouch bag of genuine ostrich leather in a beautiful light brown tone. High grade amber colored frame with "knob" clasp. Back strap handle. Silk moiré lined. Includes a beveled mirror and coin purse. Size 8 ½ x 6 ¼ inches.



Newest French tailored bag featuring the new style ball top with multiple frame. Finest shoe calf leather. Soft and pliable. Three compartments beautifully lined. Comes with a beveled mirror and coin purse. Size 8 ¾ x 6 ¾ inches.



These three examples from *Sears*, Spring and Summer, 1928



Top left – A circle purse of black or brown suede or blonde color lizard grain leather. Size 7 ½ x 7 inches. Included is a beveled mirror and coin purse.

Top center – Petit point party bag, of black silk moiré. It features a gold colored jeweled frame and is lined in moiré. The back strap is new and smart. Beveled mirror and coin purse. Size is 5 ½ x 4 ¼ inches.

Top right – A shopping bag, large and roomy, made of strong black artificial leather and lined in cretonne. It features wide gussets and double handles. Size 12 x 13 ½ inches.

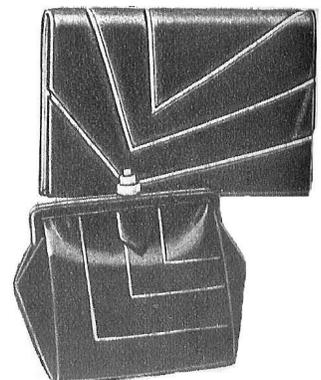
The top three purses from *Sears*, Spring and Summer, 1928.

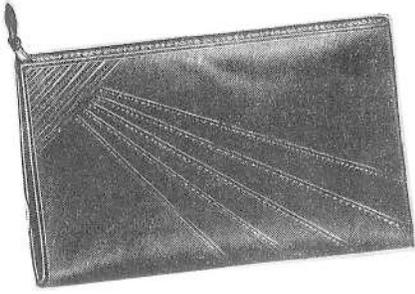
The three purses below are from *Sears*, Fall and Winter, 1929-30.

Bottom left – Spanish craft bag of imported sheep hide. It features a blended blue and silver color frame and has a arm strap. It was also available with a brown and gold colored frame. It is lined with suede leather. No size was noted in the catalog for this bag.

Bottom center – Hand tooled and hand laced bag of imported sheep hide. This bag is lined with suede leather and comes in the same colors as the bag on the left.

Bottom right – Dressy suede bags. The top is an envelope style and the bottom is a pouch style, and both purses have a back strap handle.

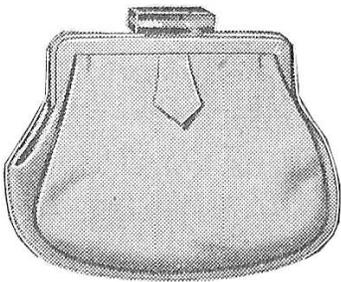




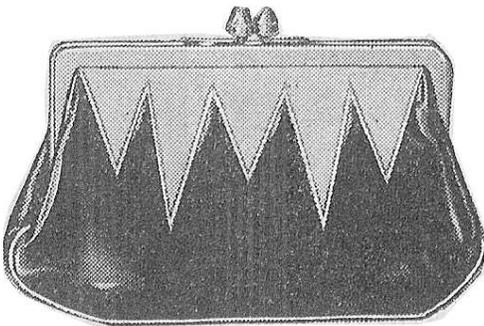
Extremely large single compartment underarm bag with back strap handle of soft pliable cowhide with a "Talon" zip fastener. Neatly lined, came in brown or black. Size 10 ½ x 6 ¾. *Sears, Spring and Summer, 1931.*



Fine quality soft calf leather with a shell frame. Colors were black, brown or beige and had a matching moiré lining. Beveled mirror and coin purse were included. Size 8 ½ x 6 ¼ inches. *Sears, Spring and Summer, 1931.*



Back strap pouch made of imported Irish linen with contrasting piping and composition clasp. Linen lined. Beveled mirror and swinging change purse. Colors were white, tan and linen blue. Size 6 ½ x 5 inches. *Sears, Spring and Summer, 1931.*

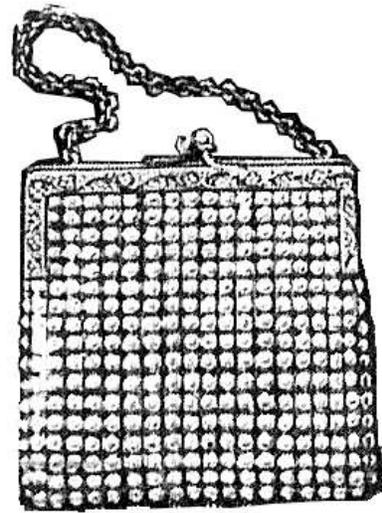


Back strap pouch of genuine black patent leather, appliquéd with white washable calfskin. Covered clasping frame. Inner swinging change purse and beveled mirror. Size 8 ½ x 5 ¼ inches. *Sears, Spring and Summer, 1931.*

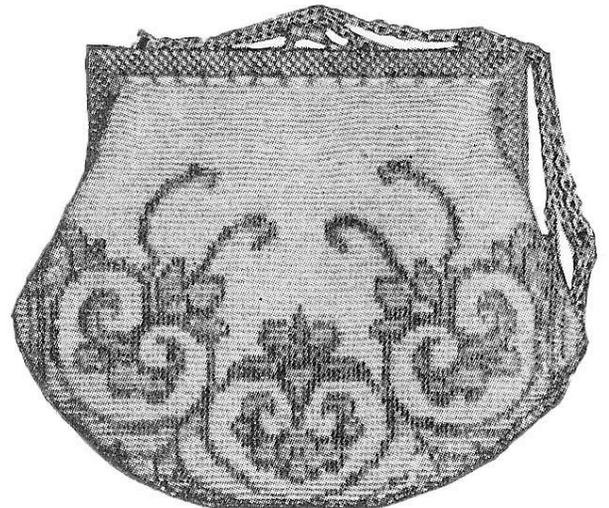


Large size top strap pouch. Good quality grained leather with a durable gold colored clasping frame. Neat lining. Inside swinging change purse and beveled mirror. Size 9 ¾ x 7 inches. *Sears, Fall and Winter, 1929-30.*

High grade rhinestone evening pouch, the front and back are covered in first grade brilliants. Silver frame and chain link handle. Neatly lined. 4 x 4 ½ inches. *Sears*, Fall and Winter, 1929-30.



The ever popular Whiting and Davis French steel beaded bag in a dainty pouch effect is very appealing. It is lined in silk and has a pocket mirror. 6 inches wide by 5 inches long. *Jos. DeRoy & Sons*, November 1931.



Imported from France and very chic. French steel beaded bag mounted on a very fine jewel set frame. Silk lined with pocket and mirror. 8 inches by 5 inches.. *Jos. DeRoy & Sons*, November 1931.

