

## **Park Sling Backpack Strap Hack**

### **SUPPLIES:**

- One 30" #4.5 or #5 handbag zipper
- Two 1" Triangle Rings or D-Rings
- Four 1" Swivel Clips
- Two 1" Sliders
- 29" of 1" wide nylon strapping

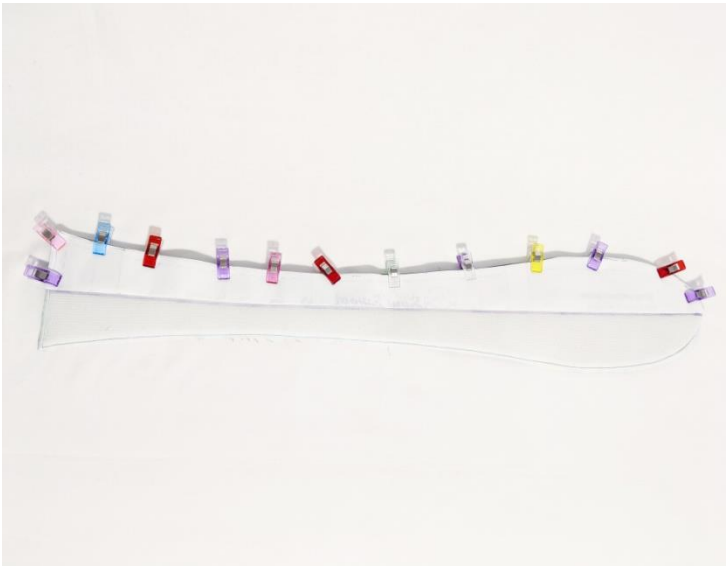
### **CUTTING AND INTERFACING**

You will cut out your strap fabric as instructed in the pattern. Fuse Shape Flex to each Strap piece as per manufacturer's instructions.

You will cut your foam using the Strap Pattern Piece. It will NOT be cut on the dashed lines, you want it the same size as the Strap Pattern Piece.

### **To Make the Strap**

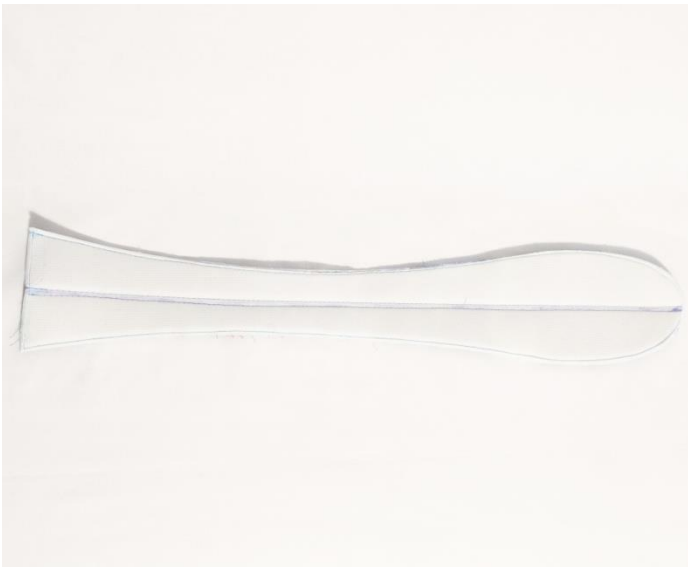
1. Baste the foam to one of the Strap pieces, using 1/8" seam allowance.
2. Fold the Strap Pattern Piece in half and lay it on top of the strap piece with the foam attached. Line up the outer edges and pin or clip in place.



3. Trace the center line.



4. Sew 1/8" away from the center line you drew on both sides of the center line.



5. Cut the strap in half along the line you drew.



6. Mark and trim your zipper to exactly 23". Heat seal both ends of the zipper to prevent it from fraying. Make sure your zipper pull is within the 23". Create a new bartack on only the closed end of the zipper.

7. Fold each side of the open end of the zipper back by 45 degrees, and then stitch in place. You can use the same method Sara uses for this in the Clydebank Tote pattern or use the method she showed on her October 27th, 2019 Sewcial Sunday Show. At the 25:38 mark Sara demos how to turn a zipper at a 90 degree angle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gjQ88MfyVU>

8. Pin the zipper in place, starting at the top where the straight edge is, all the way down the long straight edge of the strap. Sew using 1/4" seam allowance.

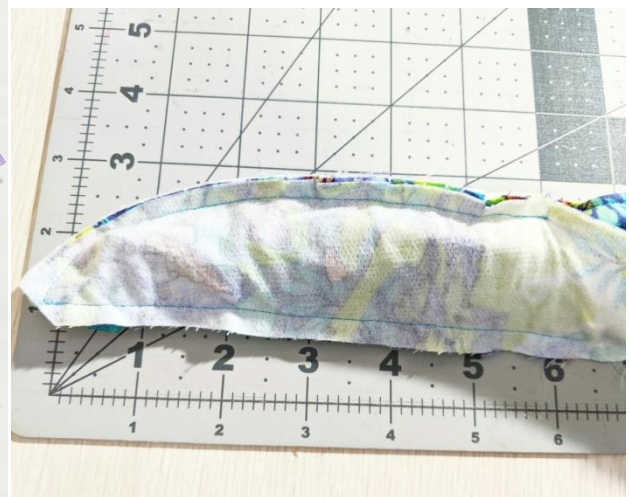


9. Place the lining face down, on top of the wrong side of the zipper. Pin in place. Sew on top of your previous stitches.



10. Flip the fabrics so they are wrong sides touching and press. Do not top stitch yet.

11. Pin the bottom curved edge only going up 6" and sew using 1/4" seam allowance.



12. Turn right sides out. Turn and press under the raw edges by 1/4". You can use double sided tape to help hold them together. Use clips or pins to also help hold these together so that nothing shifts on you while sewing. You do not need to pin the top short straight edge. This can remain raw as it will be hidden within the seams later in the construction of the bag.



14. Sew 1/8" down beside the zipper and then back up the other side where your edges are pinned together. This will enclose all the raw edges. You do not need to sew the top short straight edge.



15. You will repeat Steps 7 - 14 for the other side of the zipper. When you're pinning the bottom curved edge, in Step 11, the other side of the zipper that is already completed, will be sandwiched in

between the layers. You'll need to be careful sewing, go slow making sure that side of the strap doesn't get caught in your stitches.

## **ATTACHING THE HARDWARE**

### **Making the Strap Tabs:**

Cut two pieces of fabric and Shape Flex 4" x 2". Fuse Shape Flex to each Strap piece as per manufacturer's instructions.

1. Fold the fabric in half along the long edge and press. Open up and fold both long edges in to the center crease and press. Fold in half and press. You have now created a piece of double fold bias tape.
2. Topstitch 1/8" along both long edges.
3. Fold the long edge up by 1/2" and place the hardware you chose to use at this fold.
4. Fold the other raw edge down to meet in the center, touching the other short raw edge. Place some pins or clips to hold it in place.
5. Measure and make a mark that is 1" up from the bottom corner of the curved edge. Place the completed strap tab at this mark. The edge with straight edge of the hardware will be on this line. Sew in place using 1/8" and getting as close to the hardware as you can without your needle hitting it. You can also sew an 'X' in the box you created. I like to stitch over this box a few times for extra security.



6. Repeat steps 1 - 5 for the other side.

## **MAKING THE STRAPS**

Cut the nylon strapping in half. Heat seal all ends, to prevent them from fraying.

1. Measure and mark 1-1/2" down from one short edge.
2. Place the Metal Slider at this mark and stitch 1/8" and 1/4" away from the raw edge.
3. Slide one Swivel Clip onto the opposite end. Then take the raw edge, bring it up under the bar and up over the middle bar of the slider. Then bring it down over the middle bar and under the bar of the Slider.
3. Measure and mark 1" in from the short raw loose edge of the nylon strapping.
4. Slide a Swivel Clip onto the loose end of the nylon strap, to the 1" mark you made. Pin in place and sew 1/8" and 1/4" away from the raw edge.
5. Repeat Steps 1 - 4 for the other half of the nylon strapping.

You can now wear your Park Sling Backpack as a sling bag by only having one nylon strap with the swivel clips attached or as a 2 strap backpack by having both nylon straps with swivel clips attached.



\*You can also make your Park Sling Backpack into a backpack using Sara's demo,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k1P1G605sE&t=4s>