

Bello Pouch Hacks for Handles, Crossbody Strap and Wrist Strap

You can purchase the pattern here,
<https://sewsweetness.com/products/bello-pouch>

Bello Pouch with Handles and No Hardware

NOTE - This hack requires no supplies and is for the large Pouch
Make Handles

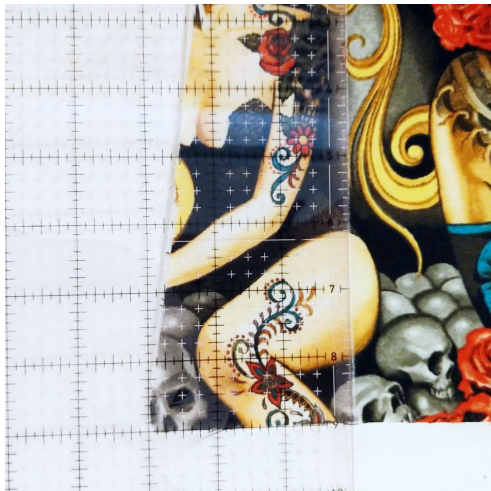
1. Cut two pieces of fabric and Shape Flex 28" x 4" or to desired length.
2. Fuse Shape Flex according to manufacturer's instructions.
3. Fold the Handles in half along the long edge and press. Open up and fold the raw edges to the center and press. Refold everything and press again. You will have created a piece of double fold bias tape.
4. Topstitch both the Handles 1/8" along both long edges, on both Handles. Place to the side for now.

Attach the Interfacings

5. Attach the interfacings as per Sara's instructions. Do not sew the Pouch yet.

Attach the Handles

6. Measure and make a mark that is 3" over from the left hand bottom corner. You will make the mark at the top of your Main Panel, which means it won't be 3" over from the top because of the curve of the Main Panel.



7. Repeat Step #5 for the right side and remaining Main Panel.

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8. Pin one half of the completed handle to the inside of this line, lining up the short raw edge of the handle with the top of the Main Panel. The Handle will be laying down on top of the Main Panel, NOT sticking up off. Stitch in place using 1/8" seam allowance. *I like to backstitch for extra security.



9. Repeat Step #8 for the right side and for the remaining Main Panel. Ensure your Handle is not twisted when pinning to the right side.

Make the Pouch

10. Continue with the pattern as per Sara's instructions.



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Bello Pouch with Handle Extenders

NOTE - This hack is for the large Pouch

Supplies

- Four 1" Rectangle Rings or D-Rings

Make Handles and Handle Extenders

1. Cut two pieces of fabric and Shape Flex 26" x 4" or to desired length.
2. Cut four pieces of fabric and Shape Flex 10-1/2" x 4".
3. Fuse Shape Flex according to manufacturer's instructions.
4. Measure and make a mark that is 1/4" down from both short edges of the Handle. Fold and press at this line. Repeat for remaining Handle.
5. Fold the handles in half along the long edge and press. Open up and fold the raw edges to the center and press. Refold everything and press again. You will have created a piece of double fold bias tape, with all raw edges enclosed.
6. Topstitch both the handles using 1/8" seam allowance. Place to the side for now.
7. Measure and make a mark that is 1/4" down from one short edge of the Handle Extender. Fold and press at this line.
8. Fold the Handle Extender in half along the long edge and press. Open up and fold the raw edges to the center and press. Refold everything and press again. You will have created a piece of double fold bias tape, with one finished short edge.
9. Measure and make a mark that is 1" down from the top finished edge of the Handle Extender. Slide the Rectangle Ring Or D-Ring to this mark. Pin in place and place to the side for now.
10. Repeat Steps #7-9 for the remaining three Handle Extenders.

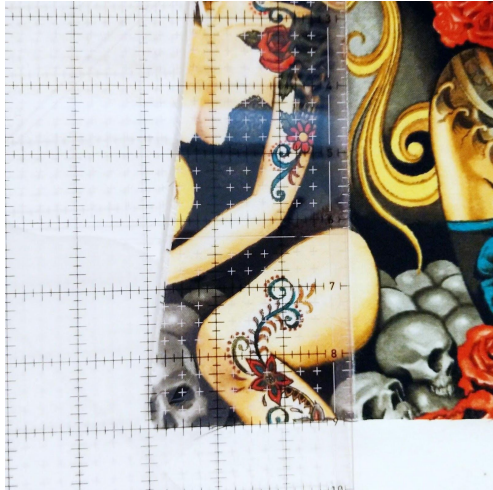
Attach the Interfacings

11. Attach the interfacings as per Sara's instructions. Do not sew the Pouch yet.

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Attach the Handle Extenders

12. Measure and make a mark, up your Main Panel, that is 3" over from the left hand bottom corner.



13. Place one of your constructed Handle Extenders to the inside of the line you drew in Step #6, lining up the short raw edge with the bottom of your Exterior Main Panel.



14. Stitch the Handle Extenders in place, using 1/8" seam allowance. Sew up one long edge, across the top as close to the hardware as you can get, then back down the other long side.

15. Repeat Steps #11-13 for the right side and remaining Main Panel, to attach the remaining three Handle Extenders.

Attach the Handles

16. Measure and make a mark that is 1" down from one short edge of the Handle. Slide the Rectangle Ring Or D-Ring, this is attached to the Handle Extender, to this mark. Pin in place.

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17. Sew a row of stitches 1/8" away from the short edge of the Handle and sew another row of stitches as close to the Hardware as possible.

NOTE - You can add rivets or Chicago Screws on the Handle Extenders and Handles.

Make the Pouch

18. Continue with the pattern as per Sara's instructions.

NOTE - When you're pinning the Exterior bottoms together, match up the Handle Extenders, so they line up at the bottom of the pouch.



Bello Pouch Using Strap Anchors

NOTE - This hack is for the large Pouch

Supplies

- Four Strap Anchors of your choice

Make Handles

1. Cut two pieces of fabric and Shape Flex 26" x 4" or to desired length.
2. Fuse Shape Flex according to manufacturer's instructions.
3. Measure and make a mark that is 1/4" down from both short edges of the Handle. Fold and press at this line. Repeat for remaining Handle.
4. Fold the handles in half along the long edge and press. Open up and fold the raw edges to the center and press. Refold everything and press again. You will have created a piece of double fold bias tape, with all raw edges enclosed.
5. Topstitch both the Handles using 1/8" seam allowance. Place to the side for now.

Attach the Interfacings

6. Attach the interfacings as per Sara's instructions. Do not sew the Pouch yet.

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Install the Strap Anchor

7. Measure and make a mark that is 1-1/2" down from the top of the Main Panel.



8. Measure and make a mark that is 2" over from the bottom left hand corner.



9. Repeat Step 8 for the right side and remaining Main Panel.

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The Lines will look like this one each side.



10. Place and install the Strap Anchor according to the manufacturer's instructions, to the inside of the line you drew in Step #8 and below the line you drew in Step #7.



Attach the Handles

11. Measure and make a mark that is 1" down from one short edge of the Handle. Slide the Handle onto the Strap Anchor to this mark. Pin in place.

12. Sew a row of stitches 1/8" away from the short edge of the Handle and sew another row of stitches as close to the Hardware as possible.

NOTE - You can add rivets or Chicago Screws on the Handle Extenders and Handles.

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Make the Pouch

13. Continue with the pattern as per Sara's instructions.



Bello Pouch with Crossbody Strap

Supplies

- Two 1" D-Rings or Triangle Rings
- One 1" Slider
- Two 1" Swivel Clips

Make Strap Tabs

1. Cut two pieces of fabric and Shape Flex 2" x 4".
2. Fuse Shape Flex according to manufacturer's instructions.
3. Fold the Strap Tab in half along the long edge and press. Open up and fold the raw edges to the center and press. Refold everything and press again. You will have created a piece of double fold bias tape.
4. Topstitch the Strap Tab 1/8" along both long edges. Place to the side for now.
5. Repeat Steps #3-5 for remaining Strap Tab.
6. Fold completed Strap Tab in half and slide hardware of your choice, to the fold and pin in place. Stitch as close to the hardware as you can.

Make the Crossbody Strap

7. You can use Sara's tutorial for making this strap,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7okNOWVO02k&t=496s>

Attach the Interfacings

8. Assemble the pouch as per Sara's instructions, up to Step #6 in the pattern.

Attach the Strap Tabs

9. Pin one Strap Tab to the completed Zipper Panel, centering it to the Zipper, lining up the raw edges.

*Sewing in this Strap Tab will be the same method as Sara shows for her Tabs.

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10. Sew the Strap Tab in place using a 1/8" seam allowance.
11. Repeat Steps #9-10 for remaining Strap Tab.



Make the Pouch

12. Continue with the pattern as per Sara's instructions.
13. Attach the Crossbody Strap to your hardware.



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Bello Pouch with Crossbody Strap and Modified Side Panels

Supplies

- Two 1" D-Rings or Triangle Rings
- One 1" Slider
- Two 1" Swivel Clips

Cut the Fabrics

1. Using the Side Panel Pattern Piece, add 1" in height to the top of the pattern piece. You can do this by cutting out a 1" piece of paper and taping it to the top of your pattern piece. Or you can trace out the pattern piece onto your fabric and using your ruler, add the 1" in height. Whatever works best or is easiest for you to get that 1" in height, there's no right or wrong way.
2. Cut out your Side Panel pieces, ensuring the Side Panels have 1" extra in height.
3. When you cut your Zipper Panel pieces, you will cut them 2" smaller in length.

Attach the Interfacings

4. Assemble the pouch as per Sara's instructions, up to Step #6 in the pattern.

Make Strap Tabs

5. Cut two pieces of fabric and Shape Flex 2" x 4".
6. Fuse Shape Flex according to manufacturer's instructions.
7. Fold the Strap Tab in half along the long edge and press. Open up and fold the raw edges to the center and press. Then refold everything and press again. You will have created a piece of double fold bias tape.
8. Topstitch the Strap Tab 1/8" along both long edges. Place to the side for now.
9. Repeat Steps #7-8 for remaining Strap Tab.
10. Fold the completed Strap Tabs in half and slide hardware of your choice, to the fold and pin in place. Stitch as close to the hardware as you can. Place to the side for now.

Make the Crossbody Strap

11. You can use Sara's tutorial for making this strap,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7okNOWVO02k&t=496s>

Attach the Strap Tabs

12. Pin one Strap Tab to the completed Zipper Panel, centering it to the Zipper.
13. Sew the Strap Tab in place using a 1/8" seam allowance.
14. Repeat Steps #12-13 for remaining Strap Tab.

*Sewing in this Strap Tab will be the same method as Sara shows for her Tabs.

Make the Pouch

15. Continue with the pattern as per Sara's instructions.
16. Attach the Crossbody Strap to your hardware.

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Bello Pouch With Shoulder Strap and Modified Side Panels

Supplies

- Two 1" Rectangle Rings or D-Rings

Cut the Fabrics

1. Using the Side Panel Pattern Piece, add 1" in height to the top of the pattern piece. You can do this by cutting out a 1" piece of paper and taping it to the top of your pattern piece. Or you can trace out the pattern piece onto your fabric and using your ruler, add the 1" in height. Whatever works best or is easiest for you to get that 1" in height, there's no right or wrong way.
2. Cut out your Side Panel pieces, ensuring the Side Panels have 1" extra in height.
3. When you cut your Zipper Panel pieces, you will cut them 2" smaller in length.

Attach the Interfacings

4. Assemble the pouch as per Sara's instructions, up to Step #6 in the pattern.

Make Strap Tabs

5. Cut two pieces of fabric and Shape Flex 2" x 4".
6. Fuse Shape Flex according to manufacturer's instructions.
7. Fold the Strap Tab in half along the long edge and press. Open up and fold the raw edges to the center and press. Refold everything and press again. You will have created a piece of double fold bias tape.
8. Topstitch the Strap Tab 1/8" along both long edges. Place to the side for now.
9. Repeat Steps #7-8 for remaining Strap Tab.
10. Fold the completed Strap Tabs in half and slide hardware of your choice, to the fold and pin in place. Stitch as close to the hardware as you can. Place to the side for now.

Attach the Strap Tabs

11. Pin one Strap Tab to the completed Zipper Panel, centering it to the Zipper.
12. Sew the Strap Tab in place using a 1/8" seam allowance.
13. Repeat Steps #12-13 for remaining Strap Tab.

*Sewing in this Strap Tab will be the same method as Sara shows for her Tabs.

Make the Shoulder Strap

14. Cut one piece of fabric and Shape Flex 36" x 4" or to desired length.
15. Fuse Shape Flex according to manufacturer's instructions.
16. Measure and make a mark that is 1/4" down from both short edges of the Shoulder Strap. Fold and press at this line.
17. Topstitch the Shoulder Strap 1/8" along both long edges.

Attach the Shoulder Strap

18. Measure and make a mark that is 1" down from one short edge of the Shoulder Strap. Slide the Shoulder Strap onto the Rectangle Ring Or D-Ring, to this mark. Pin in place.

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19. Sew a row of stitches 1/8" away from the short edge of the Handle and sew another row of stitches as close to the Hardware as possible.

20. Repeat Step #15 for the opposite side, ensuring your Shoulder Strap is not twisted.

NOTE - You can add rivets or Chicago Screws on the Shoulder Strap.

Bello Pouch With Wrist Strap

Supplies

- One 1" D-Rings or Triangle Rings

- One 1" Swivel Clips

Make Strap Tabs

1. Cut one piece of fabric and Shape Flex 2" x 4".

2. Fuse Shape Flex according to manufacturer's instructions.

3. Fold the Strap Tab in half along the long edge and press. Open up and fold the raw edges to the center and press. Refold everything and press again. You will have created a piece of double fold bias tape.

4. Topstitch the Strap Tab 1/8" along both long edges.

5. Fold the completed Strap Tab in half and slide hardware of your choice, to the fold and pin in place. Stitch as close to the hardware as you can. Place to the side for now.

Make the Wrist Strap

6. You can use Sara's tutorial for adding a wrist strap to any pouch here,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1r9rtikDL_E&t=74s

Attach the Interfacings

7. Assemble the pouch as per Sara's instructions, up to Step #6 of the pattern.

Attach the Strap Tabs

8. Pin one Strap Tab to the completed Zipper Panel, centering it to the Zipper. This is the same method as in the Bello Pouch with Crossbody Strap.

**Alternatively, you can attach the Strap Tab to the seam right above where the Zipper Panel and Bottom Panel meet. You will need to complete Steps before you can sew this in place. You will need to assemble the pouch up to Step #11 of the pattern, in order to sew the Tab in this way.

9. Sew the Strap Tab in place using a 1/8" seam allowance.

Make the Pouch

10. Continue with the pattern as per Sara's instructions.

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11. Attach the Wrist Strap.



Make the Handles, Strap Tabs, Shoulder Strap and Adjustable Strap Out of Cork, Vinyl or Faux Leather

1. Cut the cork, vinyl or faux leather at half the width, so this means they'll be 2" wide by the length I gave in each hack.
2. You can fold in half and topstitch 1/8" away from both long edges. This means one long edge will be left raw.

OR

3. Make a mark in the center of the Handles, Strap Tabs, Shoulder Strap and Adjustable Strap, that goes the length of the piece you're working on.
4. Fold the long raw edges towards the center line you drew in Step 3. Pin in place.
5. Sew 1/8" away from both long raw edges, this will create stitching down the center or use Double Sided Wash-Away Tape and Wonder Clips to hold in place, if you don't want the center stitching.
6. Topstitch 1/8" along both long edges.

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Alternate Way to Make Handles, Adjustable Strap or Shoulder Strap

*This is a hack I had found back when I started sewing and totally forgot about it until another member posted about it, quite a while back. It helps give a cleaner look to the ends of your handles.

1. After you cut, fold and press your Handles, Adjustable Strap or Shoulder Strap (I'll refer to this as Handle(s), going forward), open them up so the wrong sides are touching. Pin in place.



2. Make a mark that is 1" over from the folded edge.

3. Sew the top short edge using 1/4" seam allowance, up to the mark you made in Step two.



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4. Cut the Handle on the edge you didn't sew, on an angle. Trim the other side on an angle, careful not to cut the stitches.



5. Turn the Handle right sides out, push out the corner, folding everything back up and press. Pin in place.



6. Repeat Steps 1-5 for the other side of the Handle and for both sides of the second handle as well.

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7. Topstitch the Handles 1/8" along the long and short edges on both handles.



Extras

1. I have a hack that I posted in the 'Files' section of the group, a while back for making the handles and using grosgrain ribbon down the center. This helps add strength and security to your straps. Here's that tip,

Strap/Handle Tips for Cork, Vinyl and Faux Leather

1. After strap/handles are cut to width (2 1/2") and length draw a line down the middle, the length of the strap/handles, on the wrong side of the fabric at 1 1/4"

2. Measure and cut grosgrain ribbon to the length of the strap, I cut a bit longer just to be safe. Glue the grosgrain ribbon down the middle of the strap/handles or on each side of the line (depending on the size of ribbon you are using). I used a regular washable glue stick. Allow to dry. If you used a grosgrain ribbon that went down the center of the strap, you will need to redraw the center line.

Don't worry if the grosgrain ribbon is not perfectly centered. As long as the line you draw is at the center, that's all that matters.

3. Fold one long edge of the strap/handle to meet the center line you drew and pin in place. Repeat this for the other side and other strap/handle. Allow glue to dry for about 10 minutes before sewing.

4. Sew the strap/handles 1/8" away from the long edge that meets the center line. Repeat this step for the other side. Trim any excess grosgrain ribbon that is longer than the strap/handles

Here's what the strap will look like from the right side, after it has been sewn. 2 lines down the center 1/4" away from each other.

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5. Attach the strap/handles as per the instructions.

****NOTE**** Adding the grosgrain ribbon strengthens the strap and helps prevent the strap/handles from stretching on you. I always add grosgrain ribbon to my straps, even when I use cotton. Folding the strap/handles like this will hide the raw edges. You can do the same technique with cotton straps as well. After you fold the raw edges in to meet the center, instead of folding in the strap in half, fold those long edges again to meet in the center.

2. You can make your handles double sided, using Sara's tutorial,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mp1Rxc4WIKo&t=97s>

3. You can make the Handles and Shoulder Strap double sided, using Sara's instructions here,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mp1Rxc4WIKo&t=97s>

Hardware

You can find the Hardware needed on Sara's site,

<https://sewsweetness.com/product-category/hardware?v=3e8d115eb4b3>

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