

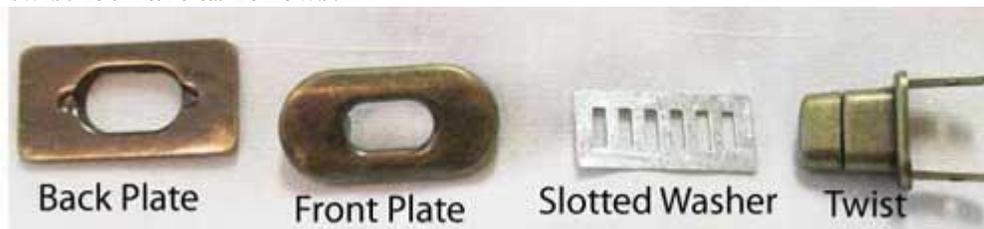
Twist Lock Tutorial



Twist locks are usually metal pieces of hardware that attach to the flap and front of a bag to close it securely. They add a touch of professionalism and elegance to your handcrafted handbags, and, once you get the hang of it, are not hard to install. The most important part of adding twist locks to your bag is measuring and making sure all hardware pieces line up properly; otherwise, your lock will not close! The twist hardware will need to be aligned in such a way that the front face plate can easily slip over the twist and turn to lock your purse closed.

There are several types of twist locks, including those that have tiny screws that attach the back plate to the front plate and those that have two prongs on the front face plate that fit into grooves on the back plate. This tutorial is for the type of lock with prongs because that is what we carry at PursePatterns.com and I have had several requests to write a twist lock tutorial that spotlights this hardware.

The parts of a twist lock are as follows:



- Front plate - Visible front portion of your lock
- Back plate - Visible on the back of your flap; secures the front plate
- Twist - Hardware that turns to lock your flap in place
- Slotted metal washer -To secure the pronged back of the Twist piece

IN ADDITION YOU WILL NEED:

- A sharp craft knife and small sharp pointed scissors - This is needed to cut the oval hole to insert the front and back plate and to also cut small slits for the twist piece.
- Fray Check™ by Dritz - This product will keep the edges of the oval hole that you have cut from fraying.
- Glue (I use Jewel-It® Embellishing Glue by Aleene's) - The glue helps keep the front plate in place.
- One square of backing measuring 2" (I use Pellon® interfacing) - This is used to re-enforce the twist hardware piece. If you use foam backing for your flap and handbag, (I use [Bosal In-R-Form Single Sided Fusible Foam Stabilizer](#)) the square is not needed because the fabric is already re-enforced with interfacing.

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- **A marking pen (I use Mark-B-Gone™) - A marking pen or Tailor's chalk is used to draw around the inside of the front plate so you will know where to cut your hole and also to mark where the prongs of the twist portion of the lock is placed on your bag.**
- **Cutting Board (small) - This is used to keep you from cutting into your handbag with your craft knife or scissors.**

TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- **There should be exact directions that are included with your new purse pattern - Follow these directions for the placement of the twist lock and disregard the measurements given in this tutorial for my own bag pattern - they are a guideline only. If different instructions are given for your own purse pattern, follow the directions that came with your pattern.**
- **Measure, measure, and then measure again! You are cutting into your fabric and interfacing to install the lock and, if you make a mistake, you will need to start again!**
- **It is easier to line up the front face and back plate after the twist hardware is in place so I recommend installing this part of the twist lock first.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSTALLING A TWIST LOCK:

1. **Assemble the outer portion of your bag first. This makes it much easier to figure out the placement of the twist portion of your lock and the location of the front and back plates. If your bag has a gusset or a boxed bottom, this is even more important because there will be depth to your bag that will change the dynamics of the twist lock placement.**
2. **After putting together your outer bag (front of bag, back of bag, and flap complete with interfacing), fold the bag flap over the front of your bag where it would normally be located when your purse is closed. (My bag has a 2.5" boxed bottom so there will be a larger gap between the back of the flap and how far it reaches down on the bag front)**

Top view of flap folded over front of bag



3. **You will install the actual "twist" portion of your twist lock set first. For the bag that I am making, I did not want a large front flap so my "twist" piece is approximately 3.25" down from the top of the bag (based on the length of my flap). This measurement is based on how far down the flap reaches on the bag front and where I want the twist lock located. The twist part needs to be centered horizontally measuring in from both edges of the bag front (mine is 6" in from each edge). Make a mark with your pen or chalk where you want the prongs of the twist portion of the lock to be placed. If you look closely, you will see the chalk marks I made for guiding the insertion of the prongs for the twist**

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in the photo below. FYI, dimensions for my sewn bag are as follows: Flap - 7.25”H by 9.25”W and Body of Bag - 13.25”W x 7.25”H (this does not include the boxed bottom, which is approximately 2.5”).



Use your flap as a guide for the alignment of the twist portion of your twist lock

4. To place the twist portion on the front of the bag, line up the flap and, using this as a guide, figure out where you need to insert the twist portion of the lock. Make sure the twist part is lined up where you want the front plate to be located on your flap (I like my front plate to be about 3/4” from the bottom edge of the flap and, of course, centered horizontally). Before cutting the slits for the prongs with your craft knife (or other sharp tool), Add a 2” square of fusible interfacing on the wrong side of the bag front (the side with interfacing) to help re-enforce the twist hardware. (If you use stiff interfacing or Bosal-In-R-Form Foam Stabilizer (fusible), there is no need to add the extra 2” square - the heavier interfacing will be enough to help anchor your hardware.) Use the cutting board to protect the back of your bag from an accidental cutting!

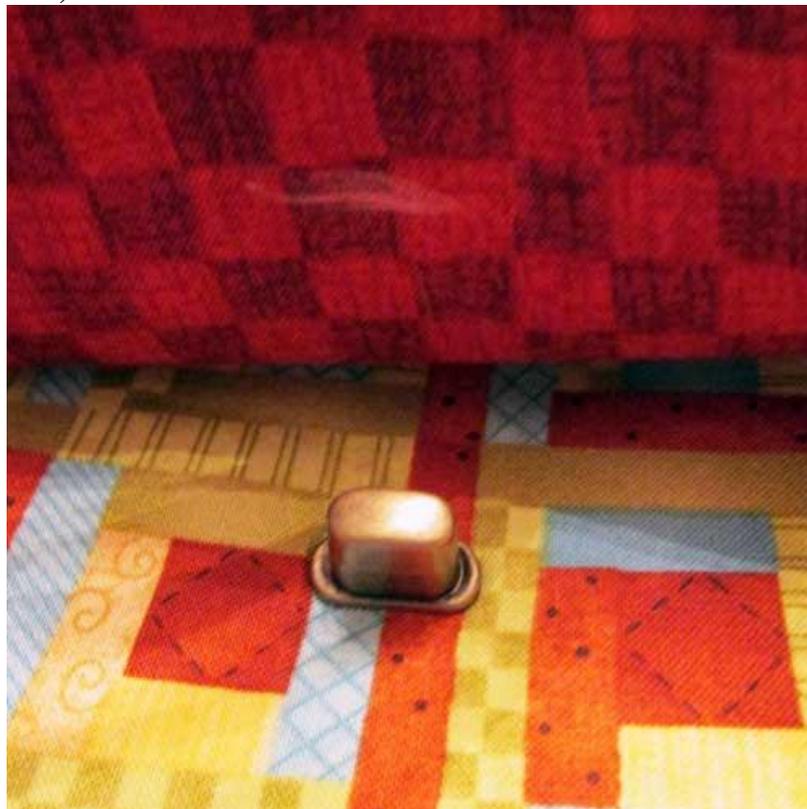


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5. Cut the marks you have made for your pronged twist carefully, making sure it goes through the fabric and the interfacing of the front of your main bag. It is better to cut it a little smaller and push the prongs of the twist through the slits. If you need to make the cuts longer, do so incrementally!
6. Place the slotted washer over the 2 prongs on the back of the front section of your main bag (the interfacing side) and press the prongs outward, anchoring the twist into the fabric. The photo below shows the back of the main bag with the bent prongs of the twist hardware.



7. Carefully line up the flap of your bag with the location of the twist portion of the lock, making sure the flap is straight horizontally and centered on the front of the handbag (make sure there is an equal distance on both sides of your twist). Use either a marking pen (disappearing) or tailor's chalk to mark the location of the front plate of your twist lock on the flap (On the photo below, you can see the mark I have made on the underside of the front flap where the plates will be located).



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- Using your front plate as a guide on the outside of the front flap, draw an oval with the disappearing marker pen or chalk (or another of your favorite marking tools). Draw the inner oval of your front plate (In the photo below, you can faintly see the blue oval I have drawn using the front plate as a template).
TIP: It is much better to originally cut the oval too small and then gradually enlarge the hole and make sure you are only cutting the hole in the flap itself! (A cutting board comes in handy here!)



- Place the front plate over the cut oval shaped hole and see if there is fabric and/or interfacing that shows through the hole. If there is, trim a little more fabric, gradually enlarging the hole so that no fabric or interfacing is visible through the hole. Keep checking your oval hole by placing the front and back plate on the flap and making sure no stray pieces of fabric are visible.
- When the hole is the perfect size (no fabric or interfacing show through), use FrayCheck™ and follow the directions, making sure the rim of the hole has enough of the FrayCheck™ to saturate it. This prevents any stray threads or interfacing from showing through the oval and makes your twist lock look more professional.
- Let the FrayCheck™ dry completely which will make the outer perimeter of the hole stiff.

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12. After the FrayCheck™ dries, use your favorite glue and apply to the back of your front plate (this is the part with two prongs). Press it down carefully over the hole in your flap and let it dry, making sure it is lined up straight on the outside of your flap. TIP: I put a heavy object on the front plate while it is drying to make sure it has full contact with the fabric of the flap.



13. Place the back of the plate on the back of your flap, lining it up with the front plate of the twist lock. You will see two small indentions on each side of this back plate - this is for the prongs of the front plate. Place the front plate evenly

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and centered in the oval hole, making sure everything is lined up properly so that the plates fit over the twist portion of the lock.

14. Anchor the prongs from the front plate into the small grooves on each side of the back plate and turn these prongs out to each side, securing the front and back plate (the glue helps the twist lock remain extra stable!).



Your bag is now ready to be finished and you have the beginnings of a unique purse with a professional looking twist lock!

