

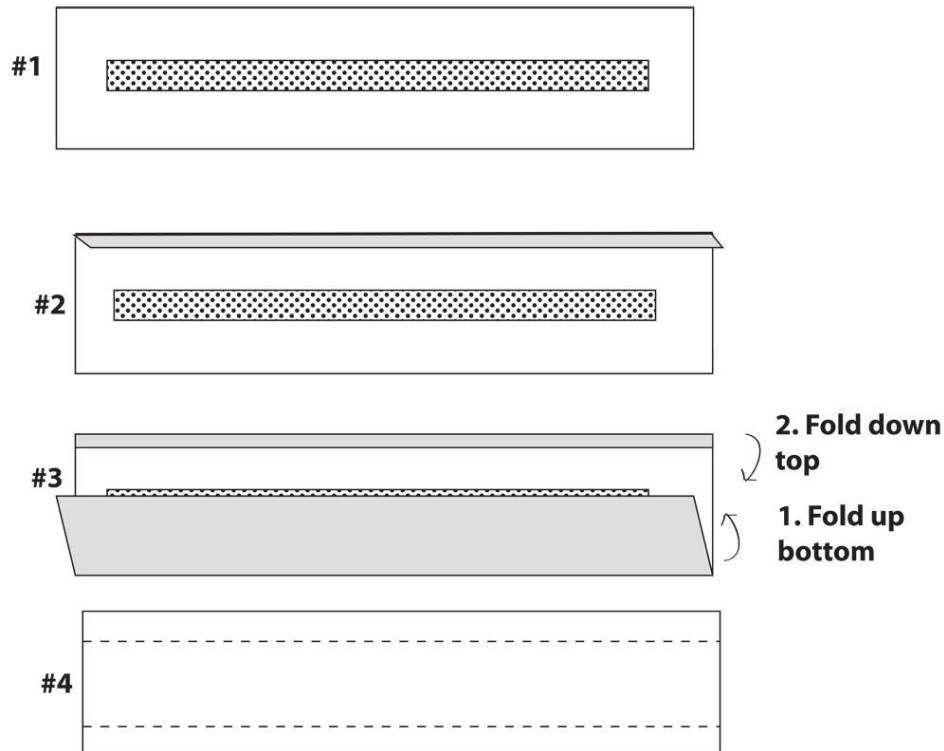
ADJUSTABLE BAG HANDLE TUTORIAL

We have put together an easy to follow tutorial on making an adjustable handle for your handcrafted handbag. These easy to follow instructions were written and illustrated for our new bag pattern line coming out in 2011 called Henny Penny Patterns – enjoy!

Your first step is making the handle. This needs to be extra long because it will be threaded through a sliding buckle to make it adjustable – my personal preference is approximately 51”, which allows me to wear the bag as a crossbody, hands free handbag. I also like to have some stiffness in my handle so I use a strip of Pellon 987F down the center of the handle that is ½ the width of my handle. For example, if my handle is 4” wide, I cut my Pellon interfacing 2” wide and also leave about 1” at the ends of the handle without interfacing. For hardware, I suggest 2” “O” rings and a 2” slider buckle.

Just follow the illustrations below to make your handle:

1. Cut your fabric for the handle 4” wide by 51” long – you will need to add extra material at the end of each handle because fabric is usually only 44” to 45” long. If you don’t want your handbag to be a crossbody bag, 44” will work.
2. Fold under ½” on the long top of your handle (gray shaded area) and press.
3. Fold up the bottom long edge of your handle (It will not completely cover the interfacing). Fold down the edge of your handle that has the folded under ½”, covering the raw edge of the bottom fold and the interfacing – press.
4. Sew parallel lines and equal distance apart along the length of the handle – press.

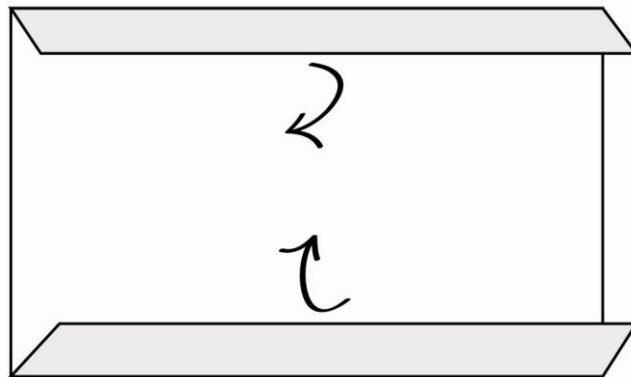


OPTION: Purchase webbing in the length that you want. This is available in either a nylon blend or a cotton blend.

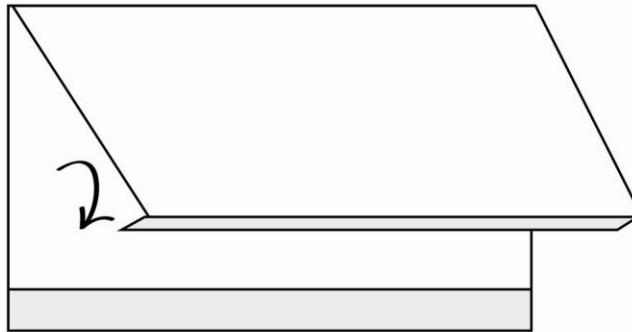
MAKE YOUR BAG LOOPS:

You will need to have bag loops if you are making an adjustable strap for your handbag with either “O” rings, “D” rings, or some other similarly shaped object (I have used napkin rings and they worked great!).

- Cut fabric 3” wide by 4” long.
- Fold down ½” along the top and ½” up from the bottom and press.



- Fold over the top edge until it is even with the bottom edge and press.



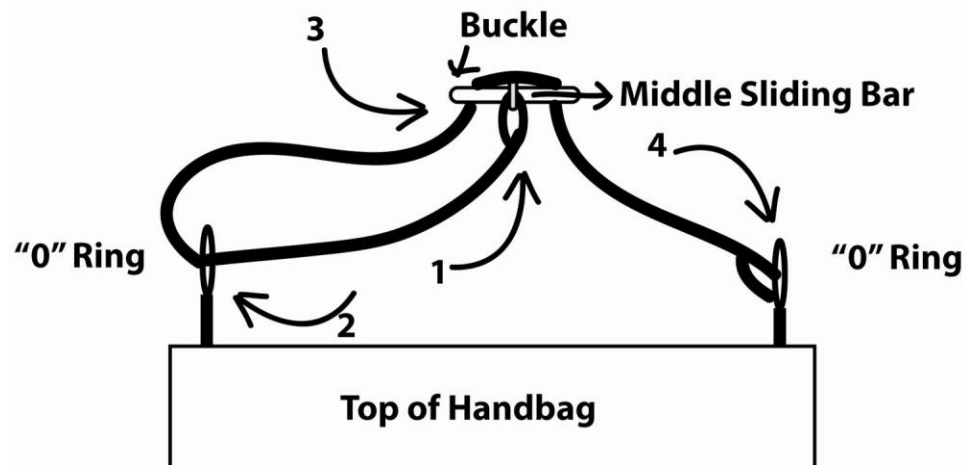
- Sew along parallel lines an equal distance apart and press.
- Thread these loops through your “O” rings and sew across the bottom several times.



THREADING YOUR HANDLE:

1. Thread your handle up through one side of your buckle and over the middle (sliding) bar and down under the second side of your buckle. Fold under this raw edge and sew across several times. (If you are using webbing and it is too thick, just fold the end once and use Fray Check©)
2. Run the remaining end of your handle with the raw edge through the “O” ring on the left side of your handbag and back up toward the buckle.

3. Run this raw edge up through your buckle and over the sliding center bar just like Step #1.
4. Thread the raw handle edge through the "0" ring on the other side of your handbag (the right side) and fold this handle end under so that the raw edge does not show. Sew across this edge several times.



I hope you have found this tutorial helpful! Be sure to watch for our new pattern line, Henny Penny Patterns, coming soon!