

Hardware Harmony

By Tammy O'Connell

They'll ask you where you bought it, not if you made it! Add hardware to professionalize and add a designer flair to your purses.

YOU CAN DO IT!

Swivel Clasp

1. Swivel clasps are a great way to close a purse. Select one from the many types available. See Figure 1



2. To install a swivel clasp, determine placement on the flap of the purse. The metal encased hole (frame) will be on the flap. Draw inside the metal frame so you have a cutting line to follow. See Figure 2



3. Cut out hole on flap through all layers of outer fashion fabric, interfacing and lining. See Figure 3 and 3A back

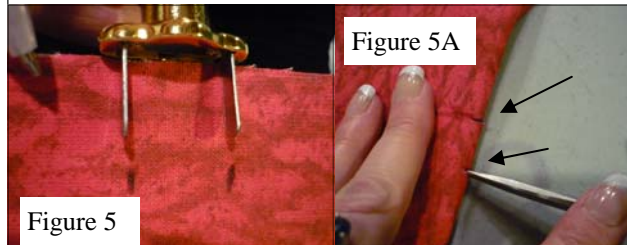


4. Place frames around holes and secure by folding over prongs. See Figure 4



Tip: If you need to use a tool to fold over the prongs be sure to place a cloth between metal and the tool to prevent scratching.

5. To install swivel determine where on the base of the bag that you want the flap to fold over to and mark the prongs with pen a and snip by folding the fabric in half. Note: It is better to snip a smaller hole for a snug fit. See figure 5, 5A



6. Place washer on the back of the swivel and fold over prongs. See Figure 6 Finished installation will look like this. See Figure 6A



YOU DID IT!

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It's a Snap!

By Tammy O'Connell

This is one of the most popular ways to close a purse or flap.

YOU CAN DO IT!

1. A snap consists of a male side, a female side and 2 washers as in Figure 1. Note: the male side is lighter and should be placed on the flap of the bag. The heavier female side should be placed on the body of the bag.

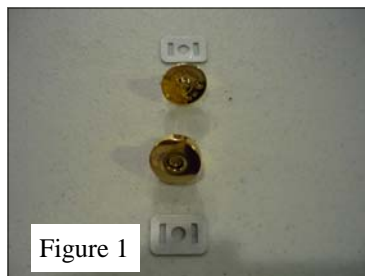


Figure 1

2. Cut a 1 1/2" reinforcing square from a piece of heavy interfacing, leather or similar material. Determine on the flap of the purse where the snap should be located and make 2 small marks on the lining and on the small reinforcing square. Note: The snap will only be going through the lining, interfacing and reinforcing square and not the top of the purse flap. See Figure 2. Fold the fabric in half to safely make two small nips.

Tip: Use the washer as a template to draw the prong lines.

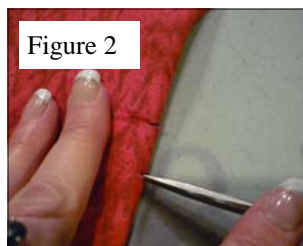


Figure 2

3. Similarly, identify and mark the placement of the female side of the snap on the body of the bag. For this side of the snap you will make the prong marks on the fashion fabric, reinforcing square and NOT the lining. The snap prongs will not go through the lining for the body of the bag.

4. Insert the snap through the prong holes respectively and place washer over the prongs. Bend over the prongs to the center of the snap either with your thumbs or with a pliers. Note: Use a cloth to protect metal on metal from scratches. See Figure 3 and 3A

Tip: By folding the snap prongs to the center it will keep the prongs from poking through the fabric with wear. HOWEVER, if you have a heavy enough stabilizer, by spreading the prongs it gives the snap better stability. Use your best judgment.



Figure 3

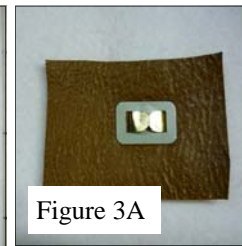


Figure 3A

5. The installed snap will be sturdy and look like Figures 4 and 4A.



Female Side

Male Side

Figure 4

Figure 4 A

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Grommets Galore

By Tammy O'Connell

This is the way designers attach handles!

Grommets are an amazingly versatile piece of hardware. They can be used to attach handles, decorate a purse, lace and more.

YOU CAN DO IT!

1. A grommet is made of two pieces; A ring and a ring with a neck extending. A grommet setter consists of an anvil and grommet setting post. See Figure 1



2. The neck piece will be mounted on the outside of the fabric. Locate where you would like to install a grommet and use a pen to draw inside the neck piece. Cut out a hole the size of the neck and insert the neck piece through the hole. See Figure 2
Note: Use a stabilizer or interfacing also to stabilize the neck piece between the fabric.

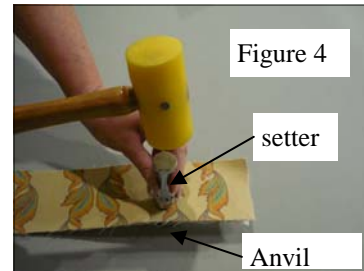


3. Place ring, wrong side against fabric and over neck piece. See Figure 3



4. Place the bottom of the neck piece onto the anvil so that it fits in the round grooves. Insert grommet setting tool into the neck. Hit with mallet, turn 1/4 turn and hit again. Continue this until you have rotated and struck the grommet setter several times. Note: Test the grommet by seeing if it feels loose and the ring wiggles around the neck. If this is the case, set up the grommet again on the anvil and strike harder with the grommet setter. See Figure 4

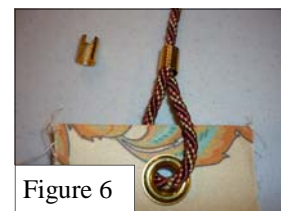
TIP: Practice setting a grommet on a scrap of fabric before installing in your purse.



5. The goal is to have a tight grommet with an evenly rolled neck onto the ring. See Figure 5



6. To use a grommet to anchor a handle either tie a knot in the cord so that it doesn't pull through OR loop the cord and secure it with a cord crimper. See Figure 6



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