

Zip-Around Pouches: Adding Loops

Carol A. Brown

Imagine a loop on the back of a pouch. A vertical loop attached on both ends is usable as a belt loop. A horizontal loop, made the same way, allows hanging your pouch from a vertical post that is open at the top. With the addition of a snap, you can fasten the loop around the handle of a cabinet door, the frame of a stroller, or other closed post. You can also attach the pouch to the strap of a bag or purse. Happily, making and attaching such loops is very easy.

The pattern for the Small Zip-Around Pouch includes markings for where to position vertical and horizontal loops. You may move the vertical loop higher on the pouch, if you prefer, or you can plan two vertical loops, side by side. You may make changes to the horizontal loop, as well. Using this pattern as a guide you can add loops to the other sizes of Zip-Around Pouches or Eyeglass Cases. Measure the distance from the right edge of the pattern to the vertical centering line for embroidery. The center of the back portion of the pouch is the same distance from the left edge of the pouch pattern.

Make the Loop:

1. Cut a piece of the outer fabric 2 3/4" wide by 5" long. For greatest strength, the 5" edge should be parallel to the selvage.
2. Fold the fabric right sides together parallel to the 5" edge. Pin and stitch a 3/8" seam along the 5" edge only.
3. Press the seam open.
4. Refold the loop so that the seam is centered on one side. (This will be the wrong side of the loop). Pin and stitch a 3/8" seam across one short end. Trim corners.
5. Turn the loop right side out and press flat. Top stitch along the three finished edges on the right side of the loop.



Belt Loop:

1. Embroider fabric as instructed and cut out outer fabric for pouch. Cut and fuse fleece to the wrong side.
2. Mark location for the vertical loop according to the pattern (or as you prefer). Use a removable marking instrument since you are marking on the right side of the fabric.
3. Place the finished loop next to the marked rectangle, with the finished short end toward the bottom. Pin mark the loop about 1/4" above the top marked line.
4. Turn the loop right side down, with the open end toward the bottom of the pouch. Position it so that the pin is even with the top mark for the belt loop. Pin in place.
5. Stitch the loop to the pouch at the top line. Trim 1/4" from stitching. To prevent raveling, stitch again with a seam/overcast stitch.
6. Fold the loop down to fit the marked area. Press fold. Top stitch a rectangle at the bottom of the loop, through all layers.
7. Remove any remaining marks from fabric.
8. Construct your pouch as instructed.



Loop with Snap:

1. Embroider fabric as instructed and cut out outer fabric for pouch. Cut and fuse fleece to the wrong side.
2. Mark location for the horizontal loop according to the pattern (or as you prefer). Use a removable marking instrument since you are marking on the right side of the fabric.
3. Choose a jumbo sew-on or 4-part snap set. Attach the socket snap to the wrong side of the belt loop. Position it on the wrong side of the loop, near the finished short end.
4. Attach the stud snap to the pouch. Center it near the left side of the marked rectangle, so that the loop will fit between the top and bottom lines when snapped.
5. Snap the loop to the pouch. Pin mark the loop 3/4" or more to the right of the marked line. The extra length allowed for the loop will allow the loop to fit around a handle without pulling on the pouch.
6. Turn the loop right side down, with the open end toward the left side of the pouch. Position it so that the pin is even with the right mark for the belt loop. Pin in place.
7. Stitch the loop to the pouch at the right line. Trim 1/4" from stitching. To prevent raveling, stitch again with a seam/overcast stitch.
8. Remove any remaining marks from fabric.
9. Snap loop. Press the fold. Unsnap loop.
10. Construct your pouch as instructed.

