

Wrist Straps Four Ways

A Masterclass from *Hazel A*
Patterns



Wrist straps are a useful addition to certain accessories, like zipper pouches and coin purses. There is a simple trick to getting a really neat finish, and once you know it, you will be able to make one to add to any item, no pattern needed.

This masterclass shows you four different styles to make, giving you options suitable for different weights of fabric. The finished size for all styles is $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and $11 \frac{1}{2}$ " around, so try it before making, and, if necessary, change the size to suit your needs. All styles also require a $\frac{1}{2}$ " lobster clasp.

What fabrics can I use?

You can make a wrist strap with whatever your main item is made out of. The main consideration you have with any strap is how thick it will end up when folded and joined.

The most basic type, Style 1, has a straight join, which can be lumpy when using faux leather or canvas, as you have 8 layers of fabric at the join! Mine is quilting weight cotton.

Style 2 uses a diagonal join. This means your seam allowance is more evenly distributed, and the seam is partially hidden by the clasp. This one is ideal for thicker fabrics, or for a thinner fabric plus interfacing. I used quilting cotton with a woven

interfacing for mine.

Style 3 is made with 2 different fabrics, which means you can choose to use a thinner fabric with a thicker, and so can still stitch through the layers to secure the clasp. I used a waterproof canvas with a quilting weight cotton inside.

Style 4 is a length rather than a loop, and is joined using a rivet or Chicago screw. It also uses two fabrics, so you could make it with two different weights of fabric, to control the thickness, or with two colours of the same fabric. I used cork and quilting cotton for my version, to show how a strap looks in a heavier weight.



Securing the clasp:

Option 1: Stitching

This is the simplest option for securing your lobster clasp. Stitch across the strap at about ½" above your clasp, then backstitch. You can use a zipper foot to get closer if you prefer.

Option 2: Rivets or Chicago screws

If your machine doesn't like thicker layers, or you love a bit of extra bling on your strap, you can use either a rivet or a Chicago screw to secure your clasp.

The first thing to work out is what size you need. You don't want your rivet to be wider than your strap, so the cap part needs to be less than ½" (13mm). The sizes tend to be listed in millimetres, and I used a 9mm for both the Chicago screw and the rivet. My rivet is a double-capped type, which means that it looks the same from both sides.

The next thing you need to know is the depth required. When you have finished preparing your strap,

compress it tightly with your fingers and either measure it or hold your rivet/screw up to check the depth. You want your post to be the same height or slightly longer than your strap. Too short and it might come apart, too long and it won't sit nicely. If your post is a bit too long, you can make a washer out of faux leather and hide it inside the strap.

To attach your rivet or Chicago screw, the first thing to do is make a hole. The easiest thing to use is a leather punch, which has multiple sizes of hole punch to select. Choose the size closest to the width of your post. You can use an awl to make the hole, but if you want everything to sit flat, you will need to use scissors to cut out the excess, so a punch is easier.

Finally, attaching a Chicago screw is easy. It just requires a small screwdriver. Use a dab of glue in the top of the post before you screw the two halves together, to stop it from coming unscrewed. For a rivet, you will need a two-part tool to attach it, which has a domed base (anvil) and a setting tool, which you hit with a hammer. Alternatively, you can use a rivet press, with the correct size dies.

Finally, if your item doesn't have a strap connector, here is how to add one into a seam:

You will need:

2" x 2" fabric
½" d-ring

Step 1

Fold your fabric in half lengthways and press. Open out, fold each side into the centre, and press again. Fold back in half, so all of the raw edges are enclosed. Edge-stitch both sides

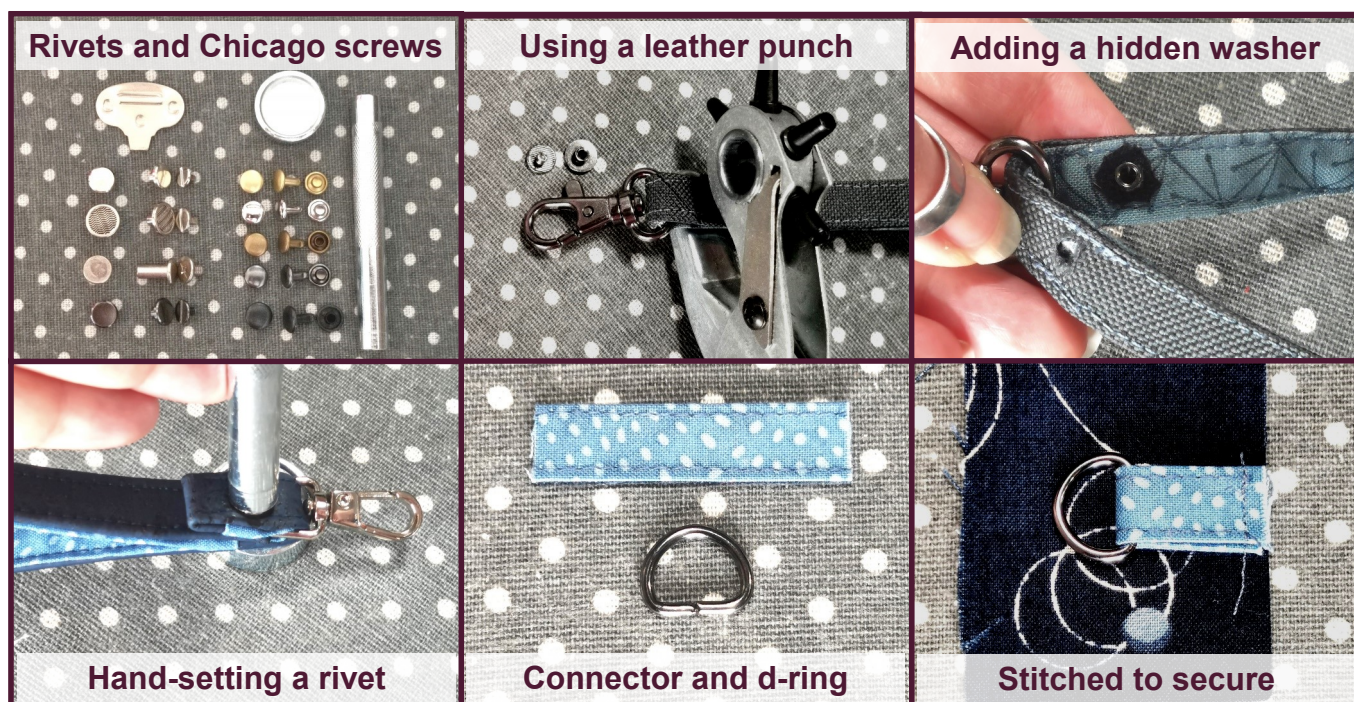
Step 2

Feed on your d-ring and fold the connector in half.

Step 3

Place connector in chosen position and stitch across at ¼" to secure. Stitch seam as instructed. Suitable positions are near the top of a side seam or over the end of a zip, as a pull tab.

Now you are ready to choose your style, and start sewing!



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Styles 1 and 2: Single fabric

These two wrist straps are very straightforward, made from one fabric folded so that all of the raw edges are hidden. Style 1 uses the least fabric as it has a straight join.

You will need:

Style 1 – Cotton fabric, 2" x 13"

Style 2 – Fabric, 2" x 14 1/2"

Step 1:

Pressing then adding the clasp

Both styles

(1a) Fold your fabric in half lengthways and press.

(1b) Open out, fold each side into the centre, and press again.

(1c) Fold back in half, so all of the raw edges are enclosed. Feed your lobster clasp onto your folded strip.

(1d) Open out the ends of the strips, and place right sides together, with the raw edges on the right.

Step 2:

Stitching the seam

Style 1 – Stitch the seam using a 1/4" seam, then press open.

Style 2 – Swivel the top layer around so the raw edge is now at the top, and draw a diagonal stitching line from the top left corner down to the point on the right where the two layers meet. Stitch, then trim the seam allowance to approximately 1/4". Press the seam open.

Step 3:

Edge-stitching the sides

Both styles

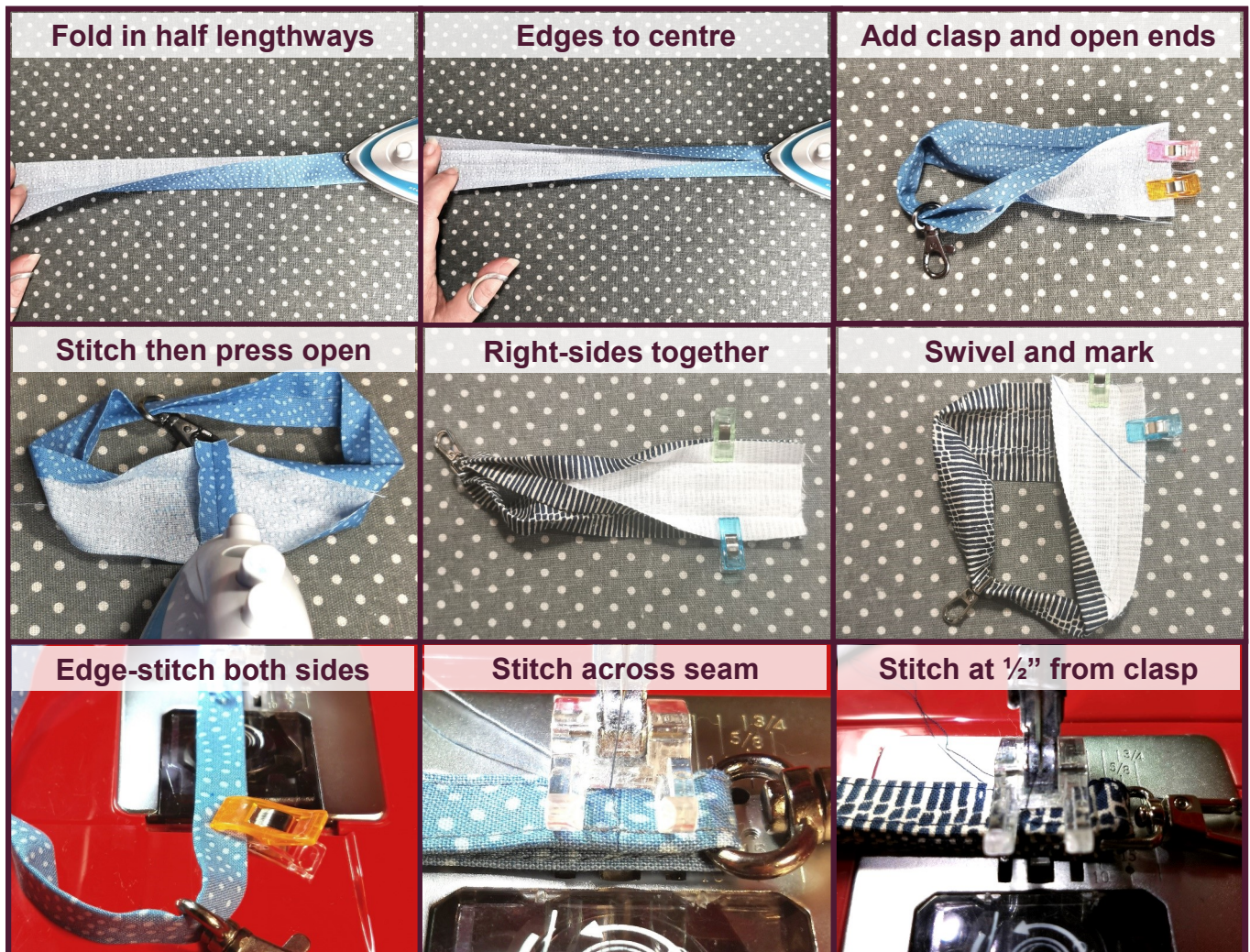
Re-fold the strap, and edge-stitch around both sides, moving the lobster clasp out of the way as you go.

Step 4:

Securing the clasp

Style 1 – Place the join approximately 1/2" away from the clasp, and stitch across the strap to secure.

Style 2 – Place the join so that it sits evenly at the base of the clasp. Stitch across the strap at approximately 1/2" away from the clasp to secure.



Styles 3 and 4: Two fabrics

You can use fabric glue or double-sided tape to help with these straps, or just use plenty of clips!

You will need:

Style 3 – 1" x 13 ½" fabric A,
1" x 13" fabric B

Style 4 – 1" x 14 ½" fabric A,
1" x 13 ½" fabric B

Step 1:

Draw a line lengthways along the centre of both strips. Fold the edges into the centre line. If using fabric, press, otherwise finger press.

Step 2: Style 3

(2a) Feed the clasp onto fabric A, then open out the ends and join diagonally, as before. Refold, with the raw edges on the inside of the strap.

(2b) Fabric B is going to line Fabric A. Start with the raw end centred over the join, and match the edges of the two strips. Use clips to hold together, working around until you get back to the start. Fold the end to enclose

the raw edges.

(2c) Edge-stitch around both sides, then centre the join over the clasp, and use clips to hold the two sides of the strap together.

Step 3: Style 4

(3a) Open out the ends of both fabrics. With right sides together, join fabric A to fabric B using a ¼" seam.

(3b) Press the seams open (or finger press), and refold the strap. Fabric B is shorter so centre it with ¼" of fabric A at each end. Use clips to hold together, and edge-stitch along both sides.

(3d) Feed one end of the strap through the clasp and fold it over at approximately 1". Feed the other end into the fold so that it touches the metal of the clasp. Use clips to hold.

Step 4

Use a leather punch to make a hole approximately ½" away from the clasp, through all layers. Check the size of your rivet or Chicago screw post to work out which diameter to use.

Step 5

Hold your folded strap together tightly and measure the depth to determine which height of post is needed.

If using a Chicago screw: Feed the post through the hole. Add a dab of glue into the top of the post, then tightly screw on the other half.

If using a rivet: Feed the post through the hole. Lightly press the cap over the post, and use the appropriate hand tool (or a rivet press) to secure.

