Zip-Around Pouches: Adding D-Rings
Carol A. Brown

The instructions below are for adding D-Rings to loops on the back of a pouch. A single D-ring will allow you to add a ribbon or cord so you can wear your pouch around your neck. Two D-rings will allow you to add a strap, turning your pouch into a small purse.
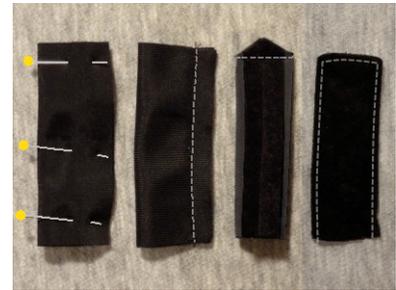
The included templates have marks for a single D-Ring loop in the middle, and also for two D-Rings on the sides. Cut out the template that fits the pouch size you wish to make. Use a rotary cutter or X-acto knife to cut out the lines for the loop positions you need.

You will need one or two 1" D-rings for you pouch. The rings usually look like a capital D (thus the name) but can also be rectangular. I used a D shaped D-ring for my name tag pouch and rectangular D-rings for my purse. You will need a ribbon or cord for the necklace and a 1" wide strap for the purse. You can use a heavy ribbon or make a strap as shown below.
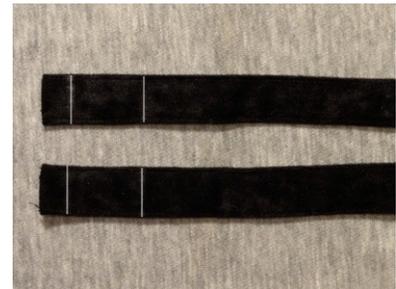
Make the Loop(s):

1. Cut a piece of the outer fabric 2 3/4" wide by 3 1/2" long for each loop. For greatest strength, the 3 1/2" edge should be parallel to the selvage.
2. Fold the fabric right sides together parallel to the 3 1/2" edge. Pin and stitch a scant 3/8" seam along the 3 1/2" edge only. (NOTE: Wrap a 2 3/4" wide strip of fabric around a 1/2" diameter FasTurn® tube and pin where a seam will allow easy movement along the tube.
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.
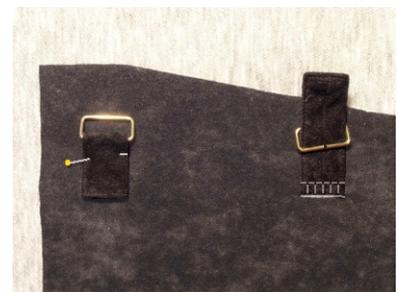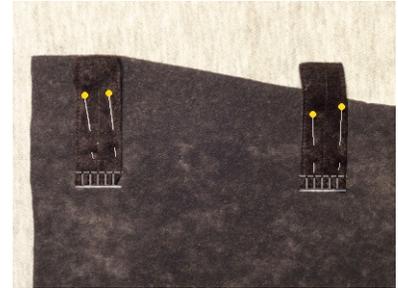
Make the Purse Strap (optional):

1. Cut a piece of the outer fabric 2 3/4" wide by desired length plus 2". (I cut a 48" length for a shoulder strap.) For greatest strength, the long edge should be parallel to the selvage.
2. Fold the fabric right sides together parallel to the long edge. Pin and stitch the long seam, making sure you will be able to turn your strap right side out.
3. Press the seam open.
4. Turn the strap right side out. Center the seam on one side of the strap and press flat. Top stitch along the two long edges of the strap.
5. On the right side of the strap (no seam), mark each end 1/2" and 2" from the raw edge.

Attach Loop(s):

1. Cut and mark fabric for pouch as instructed. Embroider design where indicated, and cut out outer fabric for pouch. Make sure the pattern is right side up. Cut fusible fleece with fusible side and pattern both right side up. Fuse fleece to the wrong side of the outer fabric, following instructions for fusible fleece.

2. Place your prepared template on the upper left corner of your pouch. Mark just inside the rectangle or rectangles for the pouch variation you have chosen. Use a removable marking instrument since you are marking on the right side of the fabric. If the rectangles you need are at the bottom edge of the template, add lines across the open bottoms to complete the rectangles.

3. Place one loop on each marked rectangle. The raw edge should be just above the bottom line on the rectangle and the side with the seam should be facing up. Pin in place. Stitch with 1/4" seam/overcast stitch.

4. Place a D-ring on each loop so that the flat side of a D or the side of a rectangle where the ends come together will be hidden by the loop. Fold the loop down over the ring. Pin so that the seam and raw edge will be hidden.

5. Stitch a rectangle through all layers, flipping the D-ring out of the way as needed.

6. Remove any remaining marks from fabric.

7. Flip the D-ring down so it will be out of the way for adding the zipper to your pouch.

8. Construct your pouch as instructed.

9. For necklace, tie on a cord or ribbon as desired.

Attach Strap for Purse:

1. Wrap one end of the strap around the open side of a D-ring, making sure the side of the strap with the seam is toward the back of the pouch. Fold the end to the back at the 2" line. Fold the end under at the 1/2" line. Pin in place from the front side of the strap.

2. With the right side of the strap facing up, stitch a rectangle through all layers.

3. Remove any remaining marks from fabric.