

A project for turning thrifted belts into purse handles

You will need:

Belts, leather or leather look work best

Rivets with a variety of shank lengths

Swivel hooks, rings or other hardware to attach handle to purse

A hole punch for leather work

Pliers or a grommet setter.

Scissors

If you use a webbed or woven belt you will need to secure the belt with fabric glue on the back side or the fabric will fray. Alternately you could stitch over raw ends. This also goes for woven leather belts such as the one on the right end.

The bag was made from a Purse-O-Nality pattern. The faux suede was also thrifted.



Secure the buckle. Cut the belt in half somewhat off center so that the buckle will fall just off the shoulder when completed. Loop up about 2" of one cut end and punch a hole

through both pieces about 3/8 up from cut end. Insert a swivel hook or ring into the loop and apply the rivet with the smooth cap on the outer portion. Simply insert prong end through the backside up through the hole on the front side. Place button end over the shank and squeeze with pliers or grommet setter until the back piece flattens and rivet is firmly set.



You can use a swivel hook attached to bag and clipped over a ring as here or you can do the opposite. You can use two split rings in both the purse and handle. This makes the handle removable if you want to change it, reuse it or wash the bag.



