

# Best Ever Bag Handles

(Turned Edge Straps with Rings)

From *The Better Bag Maker* by **Nicole Mallalieu**

## Class Description

Make professionally finished handles (as seen on the Marrakesh Overnighter on page 95) to give a high-end fashion look to all your handmade bags!

This turned-edge technique is usually seen on leather bags, but has been adapted to suit any durable fabric. You'll be amazed at how 'designer' a fabric bag can look, and how clever you'll feel!

The workshop is designed for basic-to- intermediate sewing skills and the finished bag handles can be applied to any handbag or tote.

## Class Length

This can be a stand-alone strap-making class, or a part of a longer bag-making course.

3 hours to learn the technique and make the first strap. 4-5 hours if both straps are to be made and attached to a bag.

## Class Supply List

- **Required Text - *The Better Bag Maker*, by Nicole Mallalieu**
- 6" x 20" woven or high-quality non-woven (such as Vilene S320) fusible interfacing.
- 6" x 26" (26" length parallel to selvedge) cotton drill or other décor-weight fabric.
- ¼ yard light cotton fabric (color to match main fabric)
- Thread to match fabrics
- 4 x 1" bag rings
- 16" x 26" fusible webbing (WonderUnder, Steam a Seam etc)
- 1" Bias Tape Maker
- Tailors Awl
- Quilting ruler
- Rotary Cutter
- Cutting Mat
- Sewing machine with an assortment of presser feet
- Bulldog clips
- Hera Marker
- Pins

- Quilt Basting Spray or Fabric glue pen (optional)

### **Classroom Preparation**

Because of the amount of pressing and fusing required to make the straps, a high ratio of pressing stations to students is recommended to minimize waiting time. Hot iron cleaner and applique mats (or baking parchment) should also be provided at each pressing station.

Because accuracy is vital for this technique, all cutting should be done with rotary cutters and rulers.

### **Class Agenda**

Follow the instructions on page 96 to demonstrate how to

1. Cut the fabric, interfacing and webbing accurately.
2. Fold, trim and fuse the strap pieces together.
3. Add the bag rings
4. Construct tabs to attach the straps to a bag
5. Attach straps to a bag (optional).