

Four Plait Braided Handles

Optional Handles for the Bailey Island Hobo (Large size only)
Approximately 34" long

Materials (makes 2 handles)

8 strips of fabric 2½" x 42/44"

8 strips of batting 2½" x 42/44"

Matching thread



Design consideration: Each handle requires four strips. Use a different fabric for each strip for a scrappy look. Use the same fabric for all strips for a more uniform look (as shown in the picture to the left). Or use two strips of one fabric and two of another.

Directions

- 1.) Sew Fabric onto Batting Strips: Select one 2½" x 42/44" fabric strip and one 2½" x 45" batting strip. Lay fabric strip wrong side up. Lay batting strip on top, matching all edges. Treat these two layers as one. Fold each long edge to the middle. Fold in half lengthwise with single folded edge to the left and double fold on the right. Stitch all the way down the double fold edge close to the edge (about ⅛" seam). This seam will show near the edge of the tube. Sew 8 tubes. Sew a ⅛" seam on the other edge of each strip. Each handle will use 4 strips.
- 2.) For each handle, select two strips and zigzag stitch them together on the short ends to form a longer strip. Do the same with the remaining strips.
- 3.) Cross the two long strips at the zigzag stitch. Fold the horizontal strip over the vertical strip in each direction. Then do the same with the vertical strip.



- 4.) Continue to braid by folding the horizontal strip over the vertical strip in each direction, then fold the vertical strip over the horizontal strip in each direction. (You may want to pin every four or five braids.) When you have reached the end of a strip, trim the ends of all strips even and sew to prevent unraveling. Attach a large safety pin to the beginning of the handle and feed it through the handle channel on the bag. Hand sew the beginning of the handle to the end of the handle and slide into the handle channel, to hide this joint. Gather the top of the bag as instructed in the pattern.

