

Quick and Easy Strappy Sandals and Pocketbooks

By Cat Wingle
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General instructions:

All of the sandals are made of heavy paper with Fimo heels. Cover Stock is the paper I use and it is a very versatile medium. You can cut it thin and tie it into a knot or braid it. It will hold its shape very well when glued and painted, and is extremely durable when the pieces are finished. I use Elmer's glue to assemble both the purses and shoes with the one exception being attaching the heels. I use super glue gel to add the heels to the shoes.

The paper pocketbooks may be painted any color or combination of colors you please. They take acrylic paints very well. I assemble the pocketbook and paint it with a base color before I apply any trim fabric or paper. After painting, they must be finished with a thin coat of Matte Mod Podge, that's what makes them look like leather. If it is a paper trim, I paint the Mod Podge after. The velvet or fabric trims go on after the Mod Podge. Patent leather is done with clear nail polish. After the final finish is applied, you may add any decorations you please, beads, jewels, flowers, lace, cording, whatever.

Pocketbooks

All of the patterns are simple cut and fold assembly EXCEPT the three piece pattern on the bottom right. The purses must be cut out, and the printed lines scored before folding along the lines. I use the dull side of a knife blade to score the lines and I use a cork backed ruler to keep my lines straight.

Before you can fold the curved flaps, you must clip the curves as indicated. When assembling a purse with curves, I usually slightly curl the paper with my fingers. That helps it to hold the curve better until the glue dries.

Work on one side of the pocket book at a time, allowing the first half to dry before working on the second half. If you need it, it's helpful to use a brush handle or tweezers to reach into the second half.

The pocketbook handles or straps are simply strips cut from scrap on the page. They are glued into place after the purse is assembled and before painting. Glue them under the flap if you can and into the edges of the sides if you can't.

I generally glue a paper or fabric to the pocketbook after assembly and painting the base color. I do just the opposite for the sandals because it easier to cut the tiny sandal straps and match them if you glue the paper on first. I have provided a page of animal prints as close to scale as I can get them. You can use the Mod Podge as glue to mount them to your project.

The three part pocketbook is a fringed leather bag. It was popular in the 60's and 70's and is making a comeback now. Cut the three pieces out. Fringe the bottom of the center piece, and edge of the flap. Score and fold under the edges of the two side pieces. Glue them to the fringed center piece, folding the flap over the other side. Cut and glue on a strap.

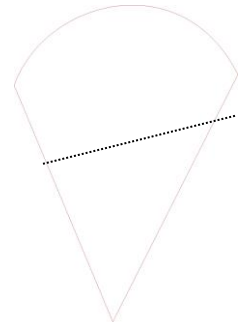
Sandals

The sandals are built onto the left and right soles. Cut strips of scrap to any size. They may be used singly, in multiples, braided, or twisted. Glue the strap(s) to the underside of the sole, taking care to maintain left and right. When the glue dries, mount the sole to a piece of scrap, making a sandwich, and trim the bottom piece tightly to fit. This will stiffen the sole and clean up the underside.

Crease the sole across the widest part. Bend the sole to make an S-shape. The curvier the S, the higher the heel. See the diagram.



The heels on the sandals must be cut at an angle so they will have the proper sole-to-heel angle. See the diagram at right. Where you cut the teardrop determines how heavy the heel is. Choose the one that is the proper height for that shoe style. Cut it high and the heel is thick and chunky. Cut it lower or closer to the sharp point and it is sharp and thin, a stiletto. I do not clip the tiny end until the shoe is finished to make sure I get the final height and angle exactly right. If you get them a little crooked, use an emery board to neaten it up.



Use Super Glue Gel to glue the heel to the sole. Paint and finish the sandal as you please. The fun comes in the finishing touches and colors. There are a zillion combinations of color, style and decoration. Just a quick trip through the shoe aisle or catalog and you will have more ideas than you can possibly accomplish.