

HANDBAG 101

Handbags or purses have been used by men and women for as long as human memories have been recorded. They come in many sizes, shapes, styles and can be constructed from many materials.

The most important handbag materials used today are leather, plastics, vinyl and polyurethane, which can imitate leather, suede, patent (both leather and vinyl) and straw textures. Metallics, fur and faux fur and other novelty fabrics are also popular handbag materials. Snakeskin, eelskin, reptiles and other exotic skins can also be used in the construction of a handbag. The use of embossing has also become popular in recent years. Other techniques such as pleating, shirring, quilting and perforation also add surface interest.

Below is a small guide to understand various handbag shapes.



HOBO

Shown: 102799
The SAK Leather Hobo

A hobo bag is a crescent-shaped bag. Hobo bags tend to slouch or crunch down when carried or set down. These bags can be dressy or casual. Typically, they have a top zip closure and a shoulder strap. They can also have handles vs. a strap.



SATCHEL

Shown: 334COS
Lauren Signature Satchel

A satchel can have one or two handles and can be handheld or sometimes put over the shoulder. It will have a wide, flat bottom. The design was adapted from luggage. Variations would include a doctor's bag.



CLUTCH

Shown: 31LS100
Lauro Sinclair Clutch Set

A clutch is a strapless purse that is carried in the hand, or tucked under the arm. Typically small in design so they can be carried (or "clutched") in the hand. They can have a detachable chain or leather strap so they can also be worn hanging from the shoulder.



TOTE/SHOPPER

Shown: 35JS2853
Jessica Simpson Element Tote

A tote offers the most basic design ~ an open-top with straps or handles. Typically they have one large opening/pocket, occasionally with dividers or small inset pockets. The handle is short and simple, provided for carrying with hands or casually on the lower arm. Adapted from the paper shopping bag.



WRISTLET

Shown: 06S17210
KVZ Crown Princess Wristlet

A wristlet is a very small bag that has a very thin strap to wear around your wrist. It holds very little. Wristlets have become popular in recent years.



BUCKET

Shown: 18HBRUH414
Liz Claiborne Bucket Tote

A bucket is a roomy bag shaped like a bucket usually with an open top and single shoulder strap. Very similar to the hobo design. Main difference is the closure.



CONVERTIBLE

Shown: 103903
The SAK Ecopeace
Convertible X-body

A convertible bag will have a removable handle or a handle that can be tucked or folded inside turning it into a clutch.



SWAGGER

**Shown: 06H47305
KVZ Swagger Shopper**

A swagger is a roomy, framed bag with two strap handles, open outside pockets and a zippered, clasped or open top.



CROSSBODY

**Shown: 11T98120
Tignanello Organizer X-body**

A crossbody will have a long, sometimes adjustable strap, so it can be worn across the body vs. on the shoulder. Designed so you can be hands free while on the go.



CHICKLET

**Shown: 337ZTP
Lauren Guncheck Chicklet**

A chicklet will be sized similar to a wristlet but will offer a carry handle or strap that can be worn over the shoulder or on the lower arm.



TOP ZIP

**Shown: 584LM02
Lauren Monogram Top Zip**

A top zip is a generic term used to describe a bag with a main opening that can be zipped shut. Can include hobo, satchels, etc.



EAST-WEST

**Shown: 567EWT
Lauren Claremont Tote**

E/W is a term used to describe a bag that is wider than it is tall.



NORTH-SOUTH

**Shown: 337NST
Lauren N/S Winchester Tote**

N/S is a term used to describe a bag that is taller than it is wide.



FLAP

**Shown: 517FLP
Lauren Park Avenue Flap**

A flap bag handbag features a folding flap closure.