

Punch up your Carnival outfits with fancy fanny packs

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The fanny pack has been a persistent fashion trend since the 1980s.

A utilitarian accessory great for holding keys, makeup, money and whatever else you feel necessary to stuff in there, the fanny pack has evolved, thankfully, from an ugly belly pouch to a chic and fashionable statement piece.

When it comes to Carnival, the fanny pack has a natural home. Who doesn't want the comfort of playing mas or partying hands-free knowing all your essentials are stacked safely on your person?

One designer ensuring masqueraders and fete goers can have peace of mind while looking cute is Gabrielle Punch.

Owner of D'Punchline, an artisan line specialising in leather bags, Punch said when she first started making her bags four years ago people approached her about fanny packs.

“Fanny packs have made a comeback and they are way more fashionable now,” said Punch.



Punch makes one of a kind bags and puts a lot of thought into the usability of her products. In creating her fanny packs she thought about the user experience and designed around that.

“I know the fanny pack is not a feminine thing so I did start doing some ideas, waist pouches and cross body bags to make the items more versatile. I think as a consumer what am I going out there with. Most people carry cell phones, keys, dinner mints etc so I made them multi-pocketed to carry everything but it is not this big, fat, bulky thing,” she said.

Punch’s bags include stylish hip pouches that attach to a belt or clips to a pant loop, cross body bags and waist pouches with antique brass hardware. Colours range from crimson to baby blue.

Punch’s bags have been a huge hit, selling out at a recent Carnival pop up shop at Dwellings Home Store.

She said she is open to doing another pop up if she gets a request but for those wanting bags, you have to place an order.



Punch, who left her job at the US Embassy to run her company full time, began making bags when she was introduced to a local leather supplier.

Passionate about creating things, she taught herself to make bags, which she loves, as well as wallets, passport cases, and key chains. Belts might be next in her line of leather goodies.

Punch, who used her employee discount liberally when she worked at Banana Republic in the US, said she aims to provide affordable leather pieces to everyone.

“With leather, we know it to be associated with expensive. I never thought it would be within my reach to make leather bags but having gotten a behind the scenes look, my thought is that if I could do this then everybody should be able to afford this. I don’t have to be Michael Kors or Coach, I could reach everybody, I could be D’Punchline and everybody could have a piece,” she said, revealing that her prices have ranged from \$250 for a cardholder to a \$4000 briefcase, the most expensive thing she has made to date.

To contact Gabrielle Punch contact her via Facebook and Instagram at D’Punchlinett or email depunchline@gmail.com



Tips to care for your leather bags

To ensure your leather bag stays in good condition, you need to take care of it.

Punch recommends the following methods to care for your purchase.

Polish them: Punch gives out samples of polishes, creams and greases to clients to help them take care of their bags.

Store in a protective bag: place it in a cool, dry place away from mildew and do not place it on the ground.

Keep away from moisture: a leather bag may not be the best thing to have on Carnival Monday and Tuesday if rain falls as the bags are not waterproof.

Get it refurbished professionally: Punch offers a refurbishment service for pieces that she sells. Not everyone has the time, means or techniques to maintain their bags