
Instructions

Pockets on the Outside of the Project: Patch Pockets

Pockets on the outside of the project or top of the fabric are patch pockets. In these pockets, the bag of the pocket shows. The simple patch pocket is the workhorse of the pocket world. Make it in a single layer or lined. Make it in a variety of fabrics to blend or contrast with your project. Add precise topstitching for a tailored look or go all out with embroidery. Close the pocket with a flap, elastic, a button, snap or zipper. Make a flat pocket or cargo pocket to hold lots of stuff.



Determine the size of the pocket and add a ½" seam allowance to each side and the bottom. Add extra fabric to the top edge for a facing and reinforce the edge. Interfacing in the top edge will keep the opening sturdy. Fold down the top edge ¼" and press. Fold down again and press to create the facing. Stitch down the facing using matching or contrasting thread. Using a template for accuracy, press the seam allowances to the back. Trim the seam allowances if necessary and place the pocket. Topstitch the sides and bottom making sure to reinforce the top edge of each side. When placing the pocket on fragile fabric, place a small amount of stabilizer behind each top corner.



To create a cargo or bellows pocket, add width to the pocket and prepare the pocket as above for a flat pocket. Fold pleats into the bottom of the pocket and press. When stitching the pocket down around the sides and bottom, stitch through all layers to secure the pleats in place. The bottom of the pocket can also be gathered or darted in the corners.

To add a button closure to the top of the pocket, make a buttonhole in the top folded and interfaced edge. A snap is another option to secure the pocket. Create a flap to cover the top of the pocket for extra security. Create a flap with a simple or fancy shape. Add additional seam allowance to the top of the flap. Place the flap pieces right sides together and sew around the pieces leaving an opening in the top edge for turning. Turn the flap right side out and make a buttonhole before attaching the flap to the project. Place the flap above the pocket and stitch in place. Check the placement to make sure the flap is properly placed when folded over the pocket.

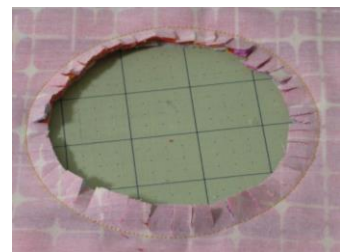
Pockets on the Inside of the Project: Faced Pockets



Pockets on the inside of the project or backside of the fabric are faced pockets. In these pockets, the bag of the pocket is behind the fabric. Determine the location of the pocket, the shape of the faced opening and the size of the pocket bag. The bag of the pocket can be a matching or contrasting color. Use a fusible interfacing to support the faced opening.

Mark the dimensions of the faced opening directly on the stabilizer and fuse the stabilizer to the wrong side of the fabric at the desired location.

The bag of the pocket will form the facing. Lay the pocket bag right sides together with the top of the pocket bag positioned at the top of the marked interfacing. With the wrong side facing up and using a short stitch length, stitch around the marked shape on the interfacing. Clip through all layers and to the corners of the opening being careful to not clip through the stitching. For a curved seam, clip often to release the seam allowance. Pull the pocket bag through the opening to the back and carefully work the edge while pressing. If the pocket will have a zipper closure add it now. Use wash away tape to place and secure the zipper to the back of the facing. Top stitch around the opening. Complete the pocket by sewing around the



pocket bag after folding it up. The stitching can be only on the pocket bag or can be topstitching through all layers. When stitching across the top, stitch closely to the top edge of the pocket to hold the bag securely in place.

Make a Buttonhole Pocket

Stabilize the back of the fabric where the buttonhole pocket will go. A cut away fusible stabilizer such as Floriani Fusible No-Show Mesh is ideal for this project. The stabilizer should be at least 1" larger all around the finished buttonhole. Fuse the stabilizer to the wrong side of the fabric centered on the location of the buttonhole.

The fabric for the pocket should be 2" wider and twice as long as the depth of the finished pocket plus 3". Overcast the edges of the fabric if it will fray or is exposed inside a garment or tote. Place the pocket fabric on the wrong side (behind the buttonhole) of the fabric. Position the top of the pocket fabric about 1" above the buttonhole location and centered. Pin the pocket fabric securely and double-check the positioning because you will not see the pocket fabric while sewing. Sew the buttonhole through the fabric and the single layer of the pocket fabric. Cut the slit in the buttonhole. Fold the pocket fabric up so that all raw edges are even. Stitch all three sides of the pocket fabric with a straight stitch.

Make an Embroidered Buttonhole Pocket

For a video of this technique, look for the Sewing Tech Talk video, "The Incredible Buttonhole Pocket!". Layout an embroidery design that includes an embroidered buttonhole and any additional designs. Since embroidery designs stitch in the order that



they are added, add the buttonhole design last. Embroider all the design elements up to the buttonhole design. The buttonhole design will begin by stitching an outline first. Stitch the outline and stop the machine just as the outline finishes. Use the scissor button to cut the threads. Remove the hoop from the machine.

The fabric for the pocket should be 2" wider than the width of the buttonhole and twice as long as the depth of the finished pocket and any embroidered designs plus 3". Overcast the edges of the fabric if it will fray or exposed inside a garment.

Place the pocket fabric on the wrong side of the hooped fabric (behind where the buttonhole will be stitched) of the fabric. Position the top of the pocket fabric about 1" above the buttonhole location and centered. Secure the pocket fabric securely with tape or pins and double check the positioning because you will not see the pocket fabric during embroidery. If using pins, make sure that they are well away from the embroidery area. Slide the frame onto the machine and double check that the pocket fabric is still in the correct position. Finish embroidering the buttonhole through the fabric and the single layer of the pocket fabric.

Remove the fabric from the hoop. Cut the slit in the buttonhole. Fold the pocket fabric up so that all raw edges are even. Convert the machine to sewing and stitch all three sides of the pocket fabric through the pocket lining fabric only.

