

Sewing Technique: Patch Pockets

Two styles of pockets are most commonly used in clothing construction, patch pockets and inside pockets. Patch pockets are shaped pieces of fabric that are finished on all sides and then are attached on the outside of the garment. The following tutorial includes three examples of construction techniques for patch pockets. Specifically, the step-by-step process for creating a square, round and a lined patch pocket will be outlined with instructions and pictures. NOTE: The instructions included in this tutorial are general instructions. A specific project pattern might require a different list of procedures for the construction of a patch pocket for different applications.



Lined Pocket

Lining patch pockets will provide the pocket with a more polished and professional look.

STEP 1: Gather materials: scissors, thread, pins, lined pocket pattern pieces, garment, lining and pocket fabric.

STEP 2: Cut out lining and pocket fabric.

STEP 3: Match the top raw edges of the lining and pocket fabrics. Pin. Starting at the edge (both right and left side, sew in towards the middle of the pocket, see picture 2). An opening of 1-inch should remain.

STEP 4: Once the top is secure, trim the lining fabric to 1/8-inch. This will pull the pocket fabric towards the back of the patch pocket hiding the seam.

STEP 5: Pin the lining and pocket fabric right sides together, matching the edges of the two fabrics. Stitch around the edge of the pocket with a 5/8-inch seam allowance. After sewing, trim edges of pocket to measure 1/4-inch. Clip and notch around curved edges of pocket.

STEP 6: Turn pocket right side out by pulling through opening at top of pocket. NOTE: Pocket fabric should fold over the back side of the lining, hiding all seams.

STEP 7: Press the pocket and hand stitch opening shut.



Square Pocket

STEP 1: Gather materials: scissors, thread, pins, square pocket pattern, and garment and pocket fabric.

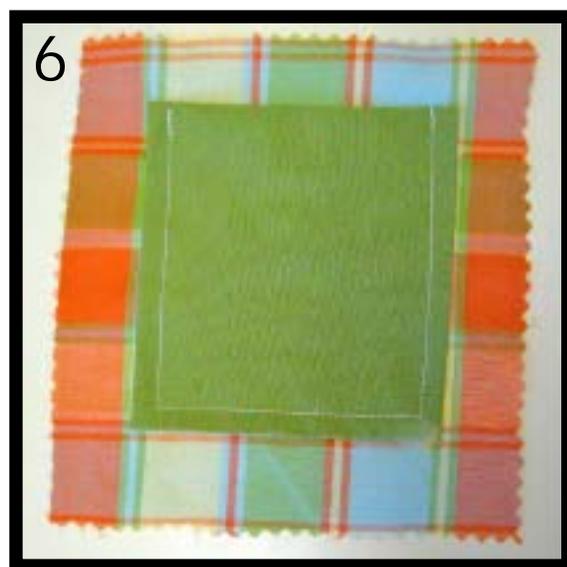
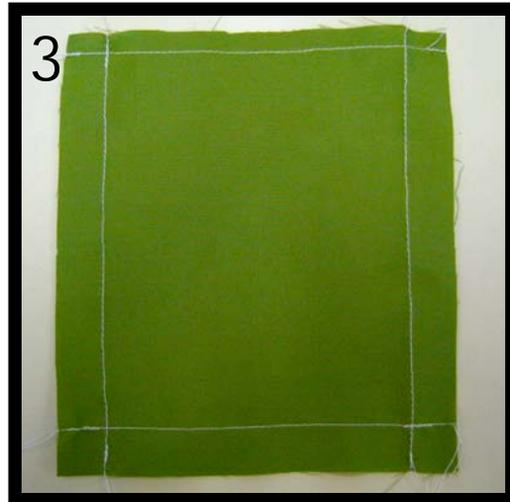
STEP 2: Cut out pattern pieces using desired fabric.

STEP 3: Stay stitch using a 5/8-inch seam allowance around the two sides and bottom of pocket fabric. Next, stay stitch using a 1/4-inch seam allowance across the top of pocket.

STEP 4: Fold each side of the pocket on the stay stitch line with the fold coming toward the wrong side of the fabric. Press and pin into place (see picture 4). On top of pocket, fold down 1/4-inch and press to crease. Then fold down an additional inch with 1/4-inch edge hidden for clean finish.

STEP 5: To miter a square pocket corner, open the crease just formed and bring the right angle corner diagonally towards the pocket center, creating a triangle. Press to hold in place; then fold a 5/8-inch seam allowance to neatly disguise corner triangle. Repeat for all four corners.

STEP 6: Once the pocket is formed, apply the pocket to the garment fabric according to pattern placement instructions.



Round Pocket

STEP 1: Gather materials: scissors, thread, pins, metal pocket shaper, square pocket pattern, and garment and pocket fabric.

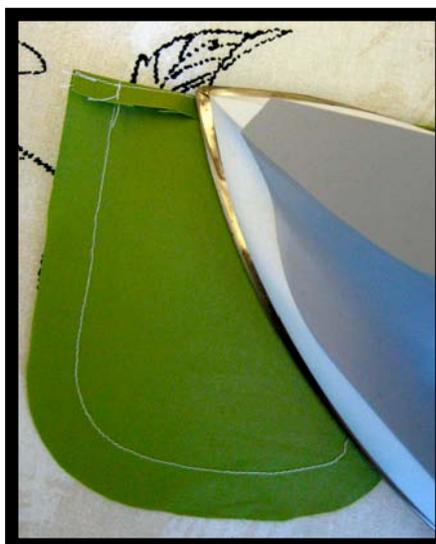
STEP 2: Cut out pattern pieces using desired fabric.

STEP 3: Stay stitch using a 5/8-inch seam allowance around the two sides and bottom of pocket fabric. Next, stay stitch using a 1/4-inch seam allowance across the top of pocket.

STEP 4: Fold each side of the pocket on the stay stitch line with the fold coming toward the wrong side of the fabric. Press and pin into place. For easier handling, use the metal pocket shaper to assist in the process of pressing the round corners of the pocket.

STEP 5: To create a clean finish on top of pocket, fold down an additional 1/2-inch to inch. Press. If the pocket is not flat, clip and notch curved edges of pocket to reduce bulk.

STEP 6: Following pattern placement, pin pocket to garment fabric and topstitch around edges.



For extra pocket reinforcement techniques see Reinforcement Fact Sheet

Industry Standards for a Well-Constructed Pocket

- Pockets are cut on correct grain line
- Pocket placement matches pattern layout
- Placement is pleasing to the eye and attractive in overall design of garment
- Pocket is pressed smooth with no puckering
- Appropriate trimming or grading, clipping and notching where used
- Seam allowances of pocket turn and are smooth
- Pocket is correct size for garment design
- Pocket is functional for use
- Topstitching is straight and even

Lined Pocket Specifications

- Lining is concealed once applied to outside of garment
- After pocket has been turned to enclose seams, opening is securely fastened with even hidden stitches

References:

- Readers Digest. (2010). *New complete guide to sewing*. Pleasantville, NY: Readers Digest Association Inc.
- Brackelsberg, P., & Marshall, R. (1990). *Unit method of clothing construction, 7th Ed.* Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc.
- Cole, J., & Czachor, S. (2009). *Professional sewing techniques for designers*. New York: Fairchild Publications, Inc.

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