

Patch pockets can be used for decoration or function on blouses, shirts, and jackets.

To prepare the pockets, cut the pocket as directed by the pattern. Patch pockets are generally cut on the lengthwise grain; however, a bias-cut pocket may be used on plaid or striped fabric to avoid having to match the fabric design.

An interfacing will help preserve the shape of the pocket. If a fusible interfacing is used, cut it to the finished pocket size and fuse in place. If a sew-in interfacing is used, cut it by the pocket pattern, stay-stitch in place, then trim it close to the stay-stitching. The hem of the pocket does not need to be interfaced.

Square Pocket

1. Apply interfacing.
2. Finish edge hem. Fold the hem to the right side of the pocket and stitch around the pocket on 5/8-in. line. Stitch from top to bottom on each side, then stitch from side to side across the bottom (Figure 1).
3. Trim seam allowance of hem close to stitching (Figure 1). Turn hem right side out. Press pocket seam allowance along 5/8-in. stitching line.
4. To miter the corners of the pocket, fold the bottom corners diagonally to line up stitching lines and press (Figure 2). Trim points to 1/4-in. seam allowance. Turn side seam allowance up and press to form mitered corners (Figure 3).
5. Pin pocket in position on garment. Topstitch in place beginning at center of bottom and stitch to top of pocket on each side (Figure 4).

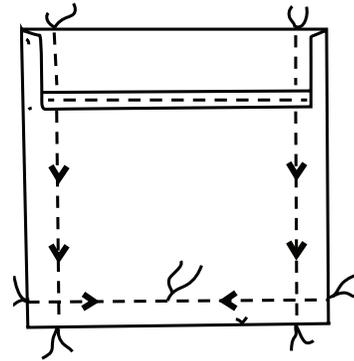


Figure 1

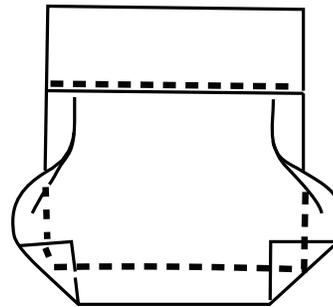


Figure 2

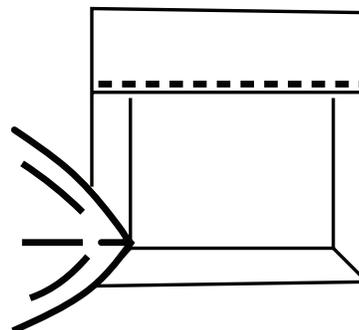


Figure 3

¹Professor and CES Grants and Contracts Development Specialist, Department of Media Productions, New Mexico State University.

- Secure and reinforce top of pocket by sewing a bar tack or triangle in each corner (Figure 5).

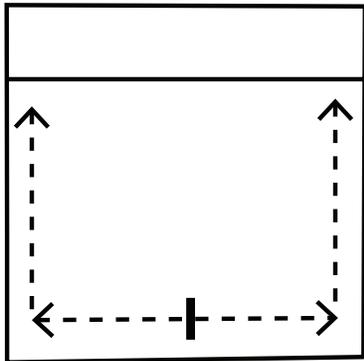


Figure 4

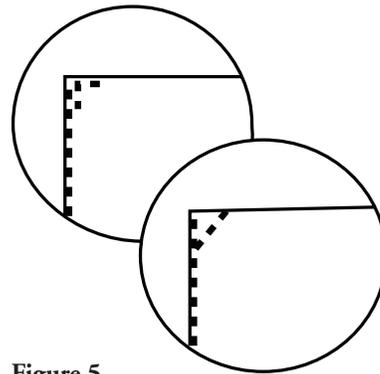


Figure 5



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Rounded Patch Pockets

- Apply interfacing.
- Finish edge of hem. Fold to right side of pocket and stitch around pocket on $\frac{5}{8}$ -in. seamline. To avoid stretching the pocket, stitch from center bottom to top on each side (Figure 6).
- Trim the seam allowance of hem close to the stitching. Turn hem right side out and press.
- Sew a row of gathering stitches on the $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. line around the bottom of the pocket (Figure 7).

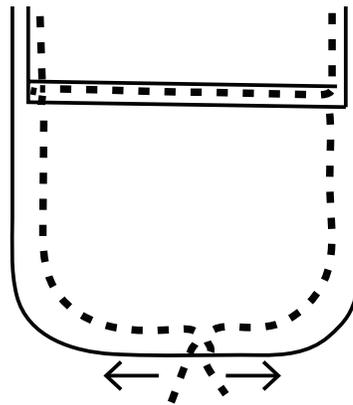


Figure 6

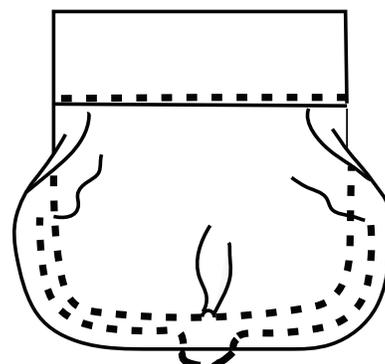


Figure 7

- Trim seam allowances of rounded edges close to the gathering stitches (Figure 8).

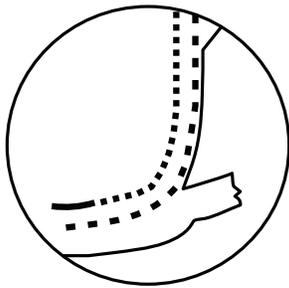


Figure 8

- Pull up the gathering stitches around the curves just enough to shape the pocket curve along the 5/8-in. stitching (Figure 9).

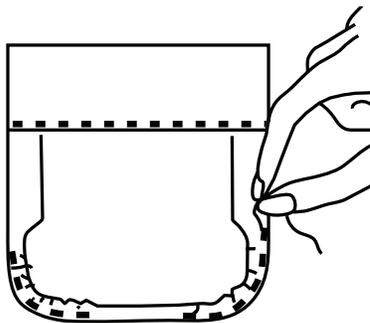


Figure 9

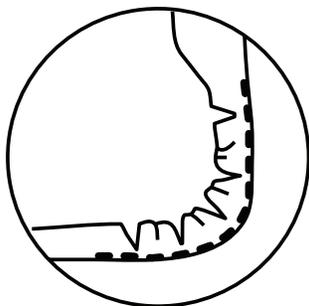


Figure 10

- Trim and notch seam allowance, if necessary, to reduce puckers (Figure 10).

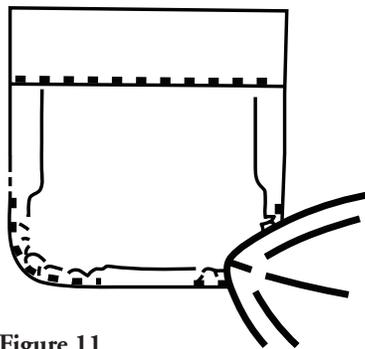


Figure 11

Tip: A pocket template can be cut from cardboard and used as a guide when pressing pockets into the correct shape. Lay the template over the wrong side of the pocket and press the seam allowance in place over the template.

- Press pockets to form even, matching curves on each side of pocket (Figure 11).
- Pin pocket in position. Topstitch in place beginning at the bottom center and sew toward the top pocket on each side.
- Secure and reinforce the top of the pocket by backstitching or sewing a triangle in each corner (Figure 5).

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