

Patch Pockets, Part 2

18.211

Page 1



SEW-lutions Guidelines

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to
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Stitching Options

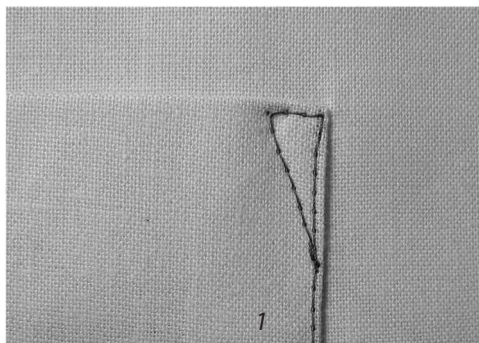
Traditionally, patch pockets are topstitched in place less than 1/8" from their pressed edges. An edgestitching foot helps keep the stitches straight and parallel to the edge.

Some garment styles incorporate a double line of topstitching around the pocket edges. Stitch the second line parallel to and 1/4" inside the edgestitching, or use a twin needle to stitch both rows at the same time.

Patch pockets can also be attached invisibly by hand with a blindstitch that catches just a few threads along the pocket's pressed edge. Mimic this finish by choosing a blind hem, appliqué or zigzag stitch on the sewing machine and positioning the stitch so only the needle swing catches the pocket edge. Use invisible thread or a color that matches the garment and pocket for the most invisible finish.

Pockets should always be reinforced at their opening edges. The simplest reinforcement is backstitching along the edgestitching line that attaches the pocket to the garment. Backstitching is appropriate for pockets that are decorative or will be lightly used.

For firmer reinforcement, 1/8" to 1/4" of stitches should be added to the upper ends of the edgestitching at a right angle. Their perpendicular arrangement distributes the stress of pocket use over a wider area, making the pocket less likely to tear away from the garment (1).



Location, Location, Location

Traditionally, patch pockets are located on shirt upper fronts, the back hip of pants and jeans, and the front hip area of skirts and jackets. With a little imagination, pocket positions can be varied to add style to otherwise plain projects.

- Stitch a small pocket with rounded corners to the left chest of a tailored jacket, and repeat the shape in two larger pockets stitched below the waistline.
- Sew a patch pocket across the side seam of a pair of jeans above the knee for a fashionable accent.
- Add a patch pocket to a purse lining to keep keys corralled for easy access.
- Embellish a sofa pillow with a patch pocket to hold the TV remote.
- Play with stripes or plaids by cutting the pocket pieces on the bias.
- Add a whimsical touch by turning a patch pocket at an angle, or by angling pockets in opposite directions on the front of a skirt.

To make a perpendicular reinforcement, begin stitching 3/4" below the pocket's upper edge. Stitch to a point on the pocket upper edge 1/4" inside the edgestitches, pivot and stitch along the pocket opening for 1/4". Pivot again to position the foot for edgestitching and continue around the pocket edges.

When you reach the upper edge again, pivot and stitch along the edge for 1/4". Pivot again and stitch to a point 3/4" below the pocket opening on the line of edgestitches. Secure the stitches and cut the thread.

Rather than making the triangular stitches to reinforce the pockets, you may choose to add a bartack (2). Set the machine for a zigzag stitch 6.0 to 7.0mm wide with a length of 0. Position the foot to stitch parallel to the pocket opening, across the line of edgestitches. Sew six to eight stitches, securing the thread at beginning and end. Repeat to bartack the other side.

Tip: The button attaching stitch available on many machines can be used as a simple bartack.

For more information about pockets, see Guideline 18.210 Patch Pockets, part 1. 📖

