

Adding a Cargo/Patch Pocket

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Following you will find instructions for adding a cargo-style pocket. These instructions can be used for a skirt, a hand-made bag, or ????. You decide!

When you get to the point of attaching the pocket to the item, you will need enough room to be able to get the foot of your sewing machine to the underside of the project. For example: a skirt would be easy because there is plenty of room to open it up and stitch on the other side. A pair of finished little boy's pants would not work due to being unable to open up the pant leg wide enough to get the sewing machine in there.

On the other hand, if you are in the beginning stages of creating a pair of little boy's pants, or a custom bag, you would want to add this pocket now - at the beginning - and you wouldn't have the other issue of not being able to get the sewing machine where you need it to go.

You can always hand-stitch anything on in a tight space; but keep in mind that hand-stitching usually isn't as strong and tight as machine stitching and that normal, everyday wear-and-tear may cause the pocket to detach sooner than you had hoped.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- pocket fabric to match or coordinate with what it will be put on
- pins
- ruler
- sewing machine threaded and ready to go
- a heavier duty needle may be required if sewing denim

STEP 1

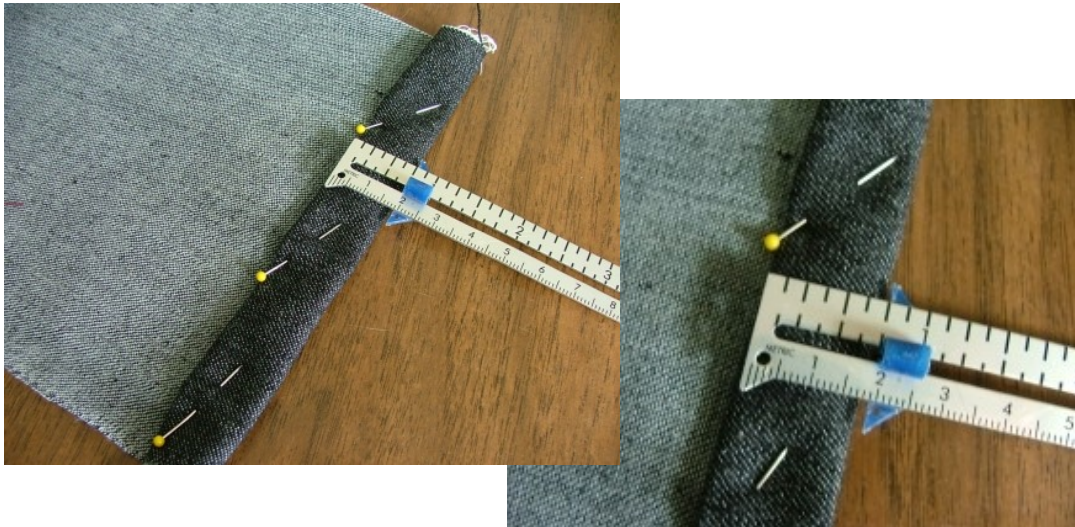
Get your fabric and cut the pocket to size. A cargo pocket is usually placed at the outer thigh level on a garment. If this is what you are doing, you will probably want the pocket to fit the hand of the person wearing the garment. Otherwise, make the pocket whatever size suits your needs. I would suggest making the pocket about an inch larger than your hand, on each side. This is to give you enough room for the seam allowance.

You will want to cut the pocket a little larger than your hand to account for the seam allowances on the top, bottom, and sides of the pocket. An extra inch all the way around should be enough.



STEP 2

Fold the top raw edge under and then fold the material over so that the raw edge is not showing. In this example I measured the seam to be 3/4". You are welcome to choose more or less, depending on your needs. Pin securely.



These slim metal rulers are available wherever you purchase your sewing supplies for about \$1.00. I consider this to be an invaluable asset while sewing. The center slide allows you to mark your measurement, and easily maintain an even measurement throughout the seam. You might want to have a couple of them!

STEP 3

Stitch the seam, being careful to remove pins before sewing over them.



I used white thread so that hopefully you could see the stitching line better. You want to stitch quite close to the edge. You are seeing the finished reverse side in this photo.

STEP 4

Working on the side seams.

Fold over the 2 side seam allowances towards the center and the bottom seam allowance toward the top. Use your fingers to crease the fabric, just as you would if it were paper. Allow the fabric to flop open again. It should look similar to the photo on the right.



Taking a pair of scissors, clip the two bottom corners. Do not clip so deep that you cut into the area where the crease lines intersect.

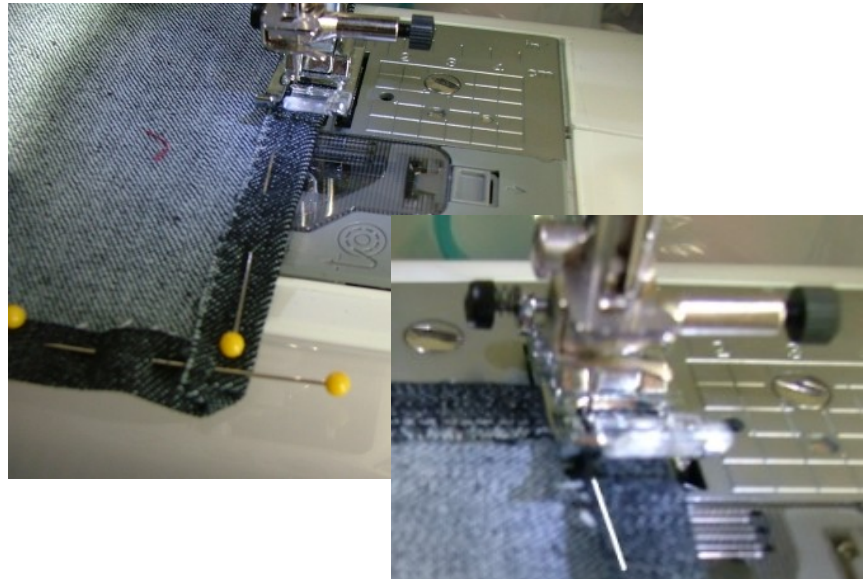
Now pin the side and bottom seams, folding along your previous crease lines.



STEP 5

The first stitching on the cargo pocket.

Place the pocket upside down. Start at the top right corner, stitching close to the raw edge. Sew all three pinned edges. This stitching will help keep all the raw edges in place when you sew the pocket to your project.



In this close-up view, I have drawn a white line to illustrate that you're stitching close to the raw edge.

When you come to the corner, carefully remove the pin but try to keep the edge tucked in so that it doesn't stick out. With your needle down in the corner, raise the presser foot, pivot the fabric, replace the presser foot, and continue to the next corner. Repeat in the second corner, and then continue on to the last side.



Your pocket should now look like this.



Here is a close-up of the corner. One of my corners didn't stay tucked in and missed the stitching a bit; but that's okay because I'll be sure to catch it on the next stitching.

The front of the pocket will look like this.



Great job on getting this far! Now you'll stitch the pocket to your project!

STEP 6

Attaching the pocket.



Place the pocket in the desired location.

For this example I have opened the cut-off leg of an old pair of jeans. I plan to make a bag, and it's easiest to do the pocket first.

Pin the pocket in place.

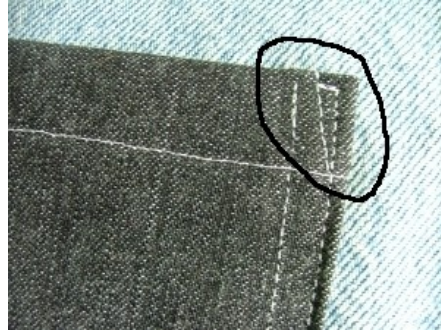


Sew the pocket in place, being careful to remove pins as you sew.



Notice the placement of the needle in this photo. The white stitching you see is the original stitching done to anchor the raw edges in Step 5. You now want to stitch outside of that stitching, close to the edge of the pocket.

Look closely at the circled area of the pocket stitching. I stitched a triangle, which helps to firmly anchor the top corners of the pocket. I prefer to double or triple stitch the top edge because it tends to have more stress and the extra stitching helps to keep it from ripping out.



Step 7

Enjoy!

You can embellish the pocket if you wish. Ribbon roses, beads, and decorative buttons can all be sewn on by hand. Iron-on decals would be fun as well (follow manufacturer's instructions).

If you wish the button to be functional, you would have to add a button hole to the pocket itself and then attach the button to the fabric underneath. That might be possible at this stage; but it might not. Many times a button hole would have to be created before sewing the pocket to the garment.

