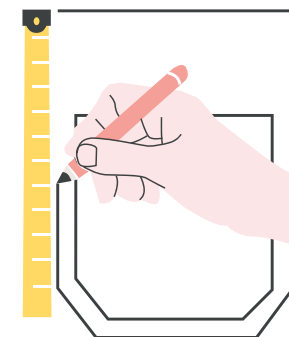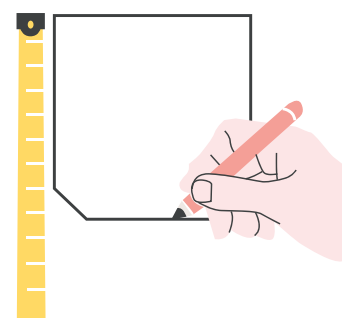# Adding a simple patch pocket

Garments that have no pockets, or pockets that are too small to actually use, are highly annoying. But what if you could just make your own pocket and add it on? Let's work through the steps of this real-life magic trick.

You will need a sheet of paper, pencil, ruler, paper scissors, fabric to make the pocket (woven fabric with no stretch works best), pins, fabric scissors, iron, ironing board, tape measure, hand-sewing needle, thread (match the colour to the pocket fabric), safety pins, scissors/thread snips

Sewing machine? Use a straight stitch instead of a running stitch where indicated in the following steps
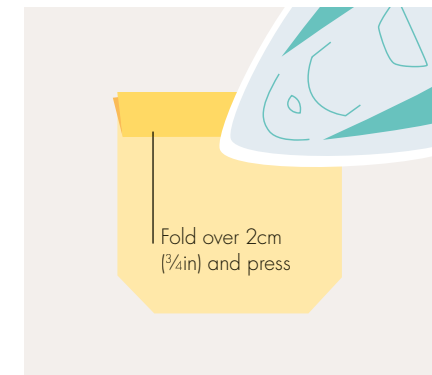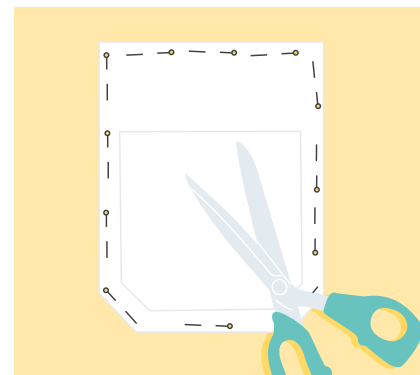
Top Tip
When choosing a fabric for your patch pocket, anything goes when it comes to colour or pattern. But ensure you opt for a medium- or heavy-weight woven fabric with no stretch.
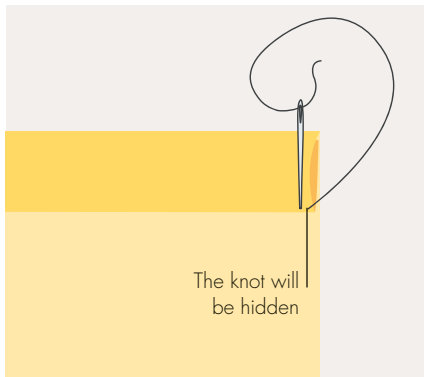
1 Design the rough shape of your pocket in the centre of the paper; check that it is big enough to put your hand in easily. When you're happy with the size, use a ruler to make straight edges straight, and check any curves are smooth and even.

2 Add 4cm (1⅝in) to the opening edge. Then add 1cm (⅜in) to the other edges and draw these new lines. Cut along this new outer edge with paper scissors for your pocket template.
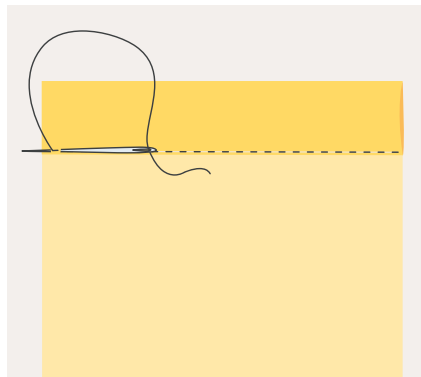
3 Position your paper pocket template on your fabric and pin it in place. Use your fabric scissors to cut out the pocket shape from the fabric. Repeat for however many pockets you'd like to add.
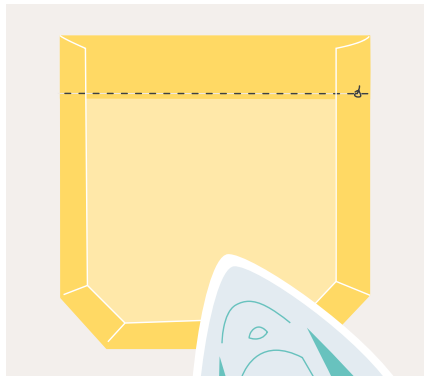
4 Lay the pocket piece right-side down, turn the opening edge back 2cm (¾in). Press this fold. Turn the edge back by another 2cm (¾in) and press again. Thread a needle with a length of thread about 30cm (12in) long. Tie a knot in one end. »
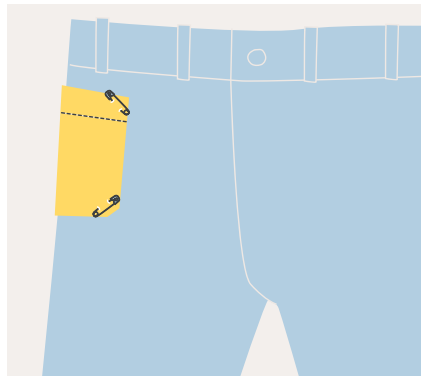
Fold over 2cm (¾in) and press

The knot will be hidden

5 Still with the pocket piece right-side down, make a running stitch, close to the inner fold at the opening edge. Push the needle up through all layers. Pull the needle back down, about 5mm (³⁄₁₆in) away from where it first emerged.
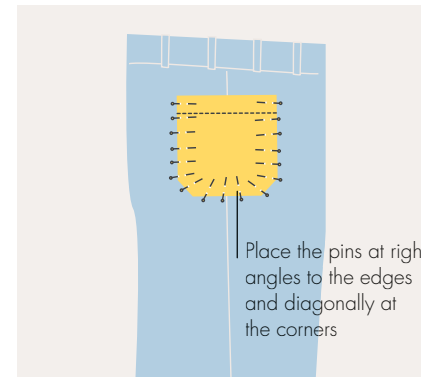

6 Pull the needle and thread down from behind, then repeat step 5 to make a row of even running stitches. Make two small stitches on top of each other over the final running stitch. Trim the excess thread. The opening edge is now finished.
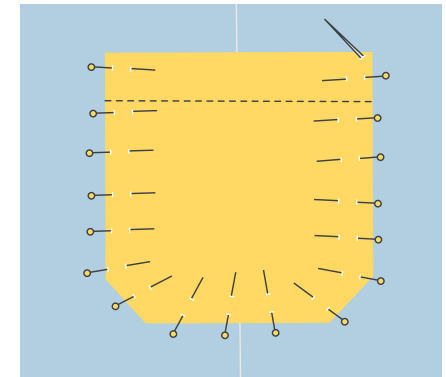

7 Fold the remaining edges of the pocket piece in by 1cm (³⁄₈in). Press the edges. (If a pocket includes curves, fold and press carefully to avoid any harsh lines.) Flip the pocket piece over, so the right side faces up, and press to set the shape.
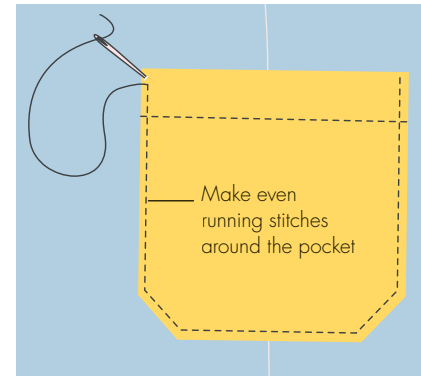

8 Pin the pocket to your garment with safety pins in roughly the right position. Pockets need to be accessible and keep their contents safe, but where you put them is up to you. Try on the garment to check the position and adjust as necessary.
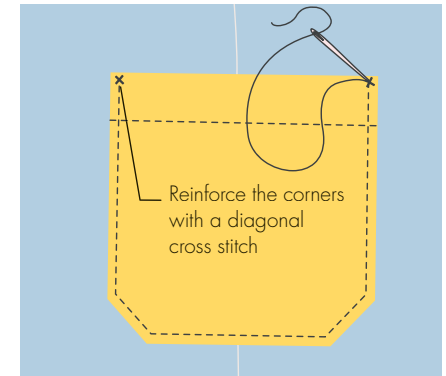

Place the pins at right angles to the edges and diagonally at the corners

9 Lay the garment on a flat surface. Add dressmaking pins to stabilize the pocket in its final position. Place the pins about 2.5cm (1in) apart, perpendicular to the edges. Do not pin the opening edge. Pin through a single layer of the garment only.

10 Thread a needle with a 45cm (18in) length of thread (longer for a large pocket). Tie a knot in one end. Starting at the top corner, about 3mm (⅛in) from the edge, push the needle up from behind through the garment and the pocket.

Make even running stitches around the pocket

11 Pull the needle and thread out from above and push them back down, about 5mm (³⁄₁₆in) away. Continue around the pocket with even running stitches. At the back, make two small stitches on top of each other, through the garment only.

Reinforce the corners with a diagonal cross stitch

12 Prepare a needle and a double thickness of thread (see p.30). At both the top corners, push the needle up from behind and make a diagonal stitch. Stitch over this a few times, then repeat in the opposite direction to make an "X".

Mend it, Wear it, Love it!