

Lined Pocket

This technique is inspired by the lined shirt pocket described in Kelly Hogaboom's blog (search "kelly hogaboom flannel shirt"). Kelly has other great tutorials on her blog, also.

These instructions are based on a self-drafted diagonal-cornered pocket, with 1" hem folded to the inside that has a 1/4" SA and SAs of 5/8" on the other three sides. The pocket lining has a 1/4" SA on the top and 5/8" SAs on the other three sides. Feel free to contact me if you would like copies of the pattern pieces.

Notes

- > Pros and cons of pocket shapes: Squared bottoms will show any and all imperfections in measuring and/or pattern matching. Curved bottoms help avoid this, but getting exactly the same curve on each corner and edgestitching evenly can be tricky. Diagonal corners are my choice - it looks a little special, is really easy to sew with all straight lines, and disguises any small wobbles.
- > Why line the pocket? It clean finishes the inside, and, for wearers who actually put stuff* in their pockets, it prevents premature wear, tear, and sagging. (*When I empty my guys' pockets on laundry day, I find screws, drill bits, pens, pencils, fish hooks, etc.)
- > The lining needs to match the shirt color since it is almost impossible to prevent a little showing under the pocket edges, particularly with thicker fabrics.

Instructions

- 1 Apply IF to pocket hem extension, butting up to FL.
- 2 RS together, place top edge of pocket on top of top edge of lining. With pocket on top and using a 1/4" SA, stitch from middle to edge, leaving about 1 1/2" unsewn in the center of the pocket. Repeat in the other direction, still leaving about 1 1/2" unsewn in center.
- 3 Press SA towards lining for light/medium fabrics; press SA open for heavier fabric.
- 4 Keep RS together, turn pocket hem at foldline marks (do NOT press and do not try to match lining and pocket at the bottom). With pocket on top and lining underneath, stitch down sides first, then across the bottom, and then the corner angles. (All straight stitching - no pivoting.) Trim SA to 1/8".

Yes, I recommend starting with a full 5/8" SA, even when it is going to be trimmed down to 1/8". This is because it is much, much easier to sew an even seam starting with a generous SA. And pockets are so visible.
- 5 Turn pocket RS out, forming corners. Lining side up, press edges, rolling lining slightly so pocket edge shows a little. Don't worry about any buckling or bubbling of lining - it will not affect the pocket. Press again, pocket side up.
- 6 Close opening by stitching across pocket if a stitching line is desired on the outside of the pocket. Otherwise, handsew opening closed.

Apply pocket to shirt front

- 7 Determine best pocket placement - which hardly ever matches what is printed on the pattern. If desired, scoot the pocket around so it matches the fabric pattern of the shirt front. Mark a single dot on the shirt front where the upper inside pocket corner will be located. No other markings are needed...just position the pocket edge evenly from the front placket.
- 8 Use your favorite method to baste the pocket securely to the shirt front. (*NOTION TIP: WashAway Wonder Tape is my favorite; hand-basting works well. Glue basting might not be secure enough. Pins cause lumps and bumps - not recommended.*) NOTE: if fabric pattern matching is off, concentrate on getting the best possible match towards CF where it is most noticeable.
- 9 Stitching pocket to shirt front with the classic mens shirt pocket technique: with pocket opening towards you, sink needle at pocket hem, 1/16" from edge, and stitch at an angle to top of pocket, aiming for a point about 1/4" in from pocket edge. At pocket top, sink needle, turn, and stitch 3-4 stitches (remember how many) out to 1/16" of pocket edge. Sink needle, turn, and edgestitch at 1/16" around side, bottom, and side of pocket, pivoting at the corners. At the top of the other side, sink needle, turn, and stitch away from the pocket edge the same 3-4 stitches as the first side. Sink needle, turn, and stitch at an angle down to pocket hem. Press.

