

"Pockets 123"

Designer: Patch Pockets in the hoop

by Jim Suzio, c2011

Making matching patch pockets are now easier than ever, when you do them within the embroidery hoop! In a few simple steps, and within less time than by sewing them on conventionally, you can have pockets that not only match in size and shape, but have a design embroidered on in less time than we thought possible.

1

Embroider your design:



Simply hoop wash away stabilizer (and nothing else) within the embroidery hoop. Use a "fabric" type stabilizer (like Sulky's Fabri Solvy, or Floriani's Wet 'N Gone) and place it within the embroidery hoop (usually one piece is enough). In the event you notice any "slack" or irregular stitching (in a practice piece), add hop two layers within the embroidery hoop. Cover the hooped stabilizer with your pocket fabric, RIGHT side down on top of the stabilizer. The first color stop will tack the fabric in place with basting stitches. These stitches will also be the "fold lines" of your fabric (creating the pocket piece). Wind your bobbin with the same thread that will be in your needle. Insert wound bobbin within the embroidery machine and thread your needle (again, with the same thread as within the bobbin). Make sure your machine is set up with "balanced tensions,"

meaning, the same tension your machine would use with “traditional” sewing (tension as if you were sewing a seam in a garment).

Stitch out the first color stop. This will baste the pocket fabric to the stabilizer as well as create the fold lines for the pocket. Stitch advance your machine to the first stitch, hold the needle thread, and turn the hand wheel one complete turn to bring the bobbin thread on top. Hold both thread tails, and allow the machine to take a few stitches to hold them in place. Trim threads when the machine indicates, and then allow the rest of the color stop to stitch to it’s completion.



Once completed, then allow the embroidery design to stitch out (usually second and for some of the designs, the third color stop as well). Select color(s) for your design, placing the same thread in the needle as well as within the bobbin.

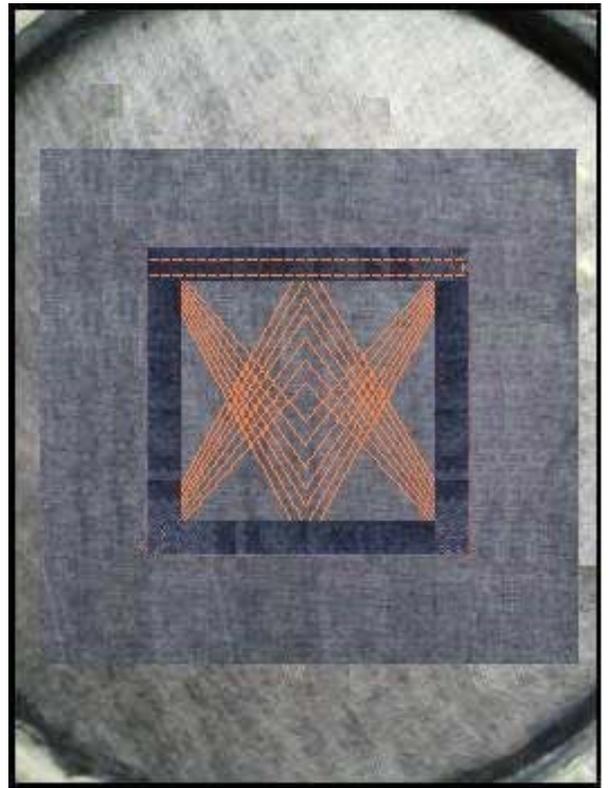
Embroider the design, bringing the thread tails to the top as before (to secure), then allow the design to stitch to it’s completion.



2

Trim and fold the seam allowances:

Once your embroidery design (the pattern on the pocket) is completed, you are then ready to prep the fabric for the pocket creation. Trim the pocket seam allowances (extra fabric beyond the basting line) 1/2 inch on sides, 3/4 - 1 inch on the top. Double fold the top pocket hem. Have the raw edge of the fabric aligned up with the basting



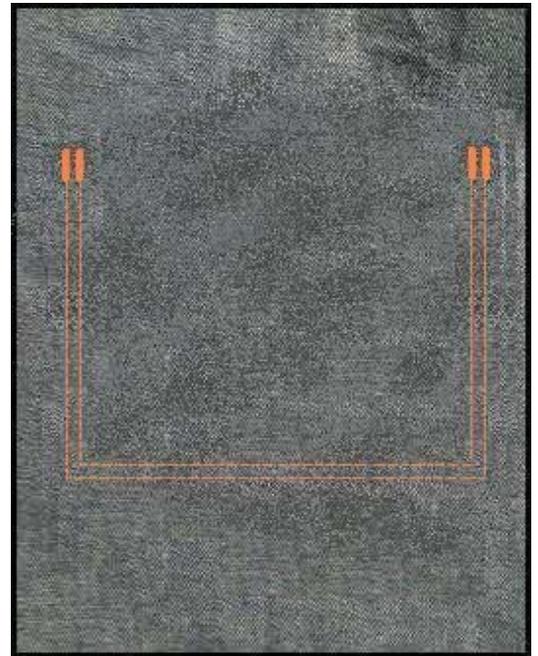
stitches. Then fold a second time along the basting stitches (creating a double fold hem). Fold over the sides over once, along the basting stitch line. Press firmly (place the embroidery hoop on a solid surface and do not allow the stabilizer to “loosen up” within the embroidery hoop. You may pin the folds in place (to hold) or use wash away basting tape to secure the folds during the completion of their stitching.

Stitch out the next color stop, as it double stitches the top hem of the pocket. Thread the needle and bobbin with the same color thread (in this sample photo, orange), and bring the bobbin thread in top as before. Allow the stitches to secure, and trim tails as before. Allow machine to stitch out the color stop to completion, double stitching the top of the pocket hem in place.

3

Attaching the pocket to your project:

Cover the hoop with your fashion fabric, right side down, where you want to position your pocket. If working with a pattern (for jeans, slacks, shirts, etc), be sure to match the pocket placement points of the pattern onto your fabric. Then match these points with the top of the pocket within the embroidery hoop. Again, place the fabric **RIGHT SIDE** down on top of the embroidery hoop, covering the pocket while matching the top pocket placement points of the pattern. Secure in place (you may pin the fabric in place out side of the stitching area. You don't want the needle to strike and break itself if it hits a pin). Stitch out the last color stop that attaches the pocket to your fabric (note that it also reinforces the pocket top with satin stitches, often seen on designer jeans). This is the last color stop of all of the designs.



Remove from hoop, wash your completed project (to remove the stabilizer), and enjoy your perfectly matched designer patch pockets!

Pockets come in three sizes:
3 ½", 5", & 6 ½" widths
for most all of your pocket
needs, in both square as well
as chisel point styles.

Double Arrow completed pocket



Understanding the color stops/codes:

When working with the designs, they are all stitches in the same order.
Basting, then the design, then the top hem, then attached to your project.

Color stop 1 is the basting (BLUE).

Color stop 2 is the embroidery design* (colors vary).

Color stop 3 is the top hem (RED).

Color stop 4 is the pocket attachment stitches (ORANGE).

** Note: some designs are two color, like the flame designs, and then they would also include color stop 3 to complete their part of the design. The remaining color stops, Red and Orange will always be the remaining two color stops, creating the top hem and the attachment stitches.*

Pocket styles:

The pockets come in two styles, classic square (found in folders labeled "Pocket 1") and a chisel pointed bottom (found within folders labeled "Pocket 2"). And of course, these folders are found within each of the three sizes (small, medium and large). Designs also contain a "1" for the square design, and a "2" for the chisel point designed pockets.

Pocket Sizes:

Each pocket design comes in small, medium and large sizes. Each design is also labeled as such, small (SM), medium (M) and large (L) within it's design name.

Pocket design "thread code":

Each of the pocket designs come in two versions, a "single stitch" version (where the pocket seams are a traditional running stitch, much like when you would straight stitch a conventional seam on a garment). Each design name is ended with "Single" for this type of pocket.

Each design comes in a "triple stitch" version, (where the stitch is sewn three times, often found on heavy weight jean construction). These designs are labeled with "Triple" on the end of the design.

When doing matching pockets (same design on each side of the garment), some designs have a definite flow and direction. To create a "matching" look (found on ready to wear), simply flip or "side to side mirror image" the pocket for the matching look. The stitch out will be the same, just flipped.