

Make Your Own Student Chair Pockets

Sewing Skills Required – Junior

Note – This is intended to be a Guide to sewing your own Student Chair Pockets. Dimensions and cut sizes will depend on the size of the chair they are being made for, and are the responsibility of the person sewing to determine them.

Time Involved:

Prep Time – one Wash & Dry Cycle, ironing time, & 10 minutes of cutting for one Pocket

Sewing Time – 20 minutes for one Pocket

You Will Need:

Scissors	Straight Pins
Sewing Machine	Thread to match Fabric
Iron	Decorating Materials

Fabric (Width [chair width+3"] x Length [36" gives you a 7" cover and 12" pocket, add more if desired])



Things to consider before starting:

- Choose a fabric sturdy enough to withstand a year of students using them
- Choose a fabric that is easily washable and won't fade too much when washed
- Choose a fabric that does not have a definite Right/Wrong side will be easier to sew with. If you choose a Fabric which does have a definite Right/Wrong side, you will need to do the extra work to make the Pocket turn out right side out.
- You need to use a sewing machine to hem the edges and finish the side seams
- A serger works well to finish the edges (optional)
- Note the grain of the fabric - be sure to cut straight against the grain so your chair pockets don't twist
- Prewash and dry the fabric so that if it is going to shrink it will do so before you sew. Depending on your fabric – iron to remove any wrinkles

We suggest using a solid coloured fabric, in a woven heavy polyester or heavy cotton fabric. Burlap or felt materials will not work well.

Suggestions to "Green" Your Pockets

- Have each child bring in a gently used dishtowel to make the Pockets out of – this will depend on the size of the chairs
- Choose a "Green" material – such as Hemp based fabrics, 100% cotton muslin, or untreated & unbleached fabrics
- Use extra fabric scraps to decorate the Pockets after sewing. Scraps in different colours can be cut by students into shapes to glue to their Pockets

Determining the Size Pre-Cutting:

1. Measure the back of the chair that the Pocket will hang on, at its widest point. Add 3" to the measurement you get, so that your Pocket can hold a few items, such as books and pencil cases
2. Measure the Depth that you will need for your Pocket. You will want to make it deep enough to hold a book or folder (approximately 9" x 12"). We used a length of 36" to give us a Pocket 12" deep and a Chair Cover 7" deep. Adjust your own length measurement using these measurements as Guides
3. Determine how much Fabric you will need. (Width [chair width+3"] x Length [36" gives you a 7" cover and 12" pocket, add more if desired])
4. Cut and sew ONE Pocket first. Check the fit on the chair and make any necessary changes to your overall size before

you cut out all the pieces to make all your Pockets

Sewing Directions:

1. Once you have figured out the width and depth of the Pocket, and added a bit extra, cut two pieces of material to the overall size. We used a piece 17" wide x 36" long, for a Primary Grade chair.
2. For each piece determine the 'A' and 'B' side of the fabric. Mark sides with a fabric pencil or pin if needed to help you remember it. Since you have two cut pieces, you should have 'A1', 'B1' and 'A2', 'B2'. Note – if you are using a fabric that has a definite Right/Wrong side, make sure the A sides are the side with the pattern.
3. Match the cut pieces together, with 'A sides together, 'B' sides facing outwards. Pin in place. Sew up three sides (two long and one short) using a 5/8" seam. See Figure 1.
4. Turn material inside out and press with an iron. Now the 'A' sides will be facing outwards. Once pressed, it will look like a pillowcase.
5. Turn the raw edges of the open end inside on themselves by 5/8" and topstitch closed. See Figure 2.
6. a. Fold the material down 7" on one side, and up 12" on the opposite side. See Figure 3.
b. The 7" folded part will form the pocket that slips over the chair. You should have determined the depth you wanted before starting – 7" is the size we used to demonstrate.
c. The 12" folded part will form the pocket that will hold small items such as books and pencil cases. You should have determined the depth you wanted before starting – 12" is the size we used for demonstration.
7. Lay the folded material flat and pin the folds down if necessary. Top stitch along the two long sides, sewing together the front and back to create the Pocket. See Figure 4. Optional – for added strength you can top stitch a second time, or use a Stretch stitch if your machine has it.
8. Decorate the Pocket where books and materials will be stored. You might want to have the students decorate their own. You can add their names, pictures, label what the pocket is meant for (example – "Reading Books") or glue items to it. Use fabric paint, iron on transfers or hot glue.

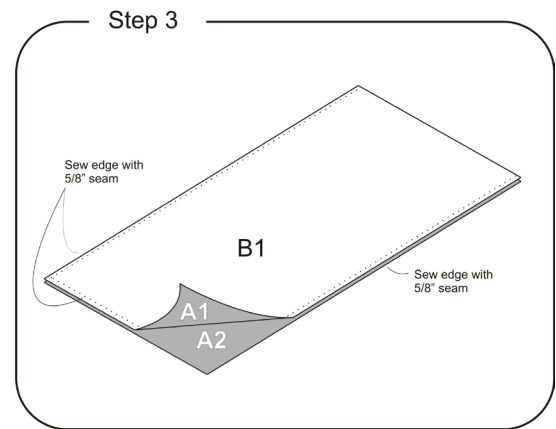


Figure 1

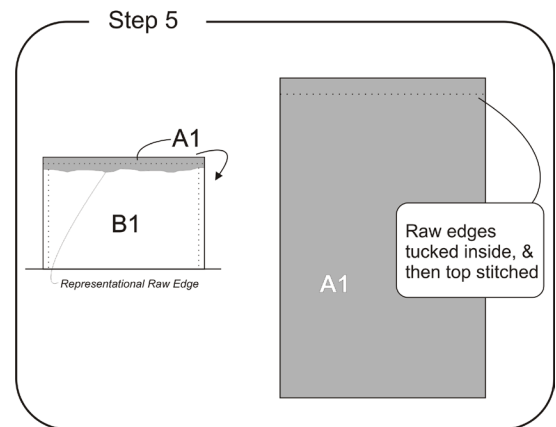


Figure 2

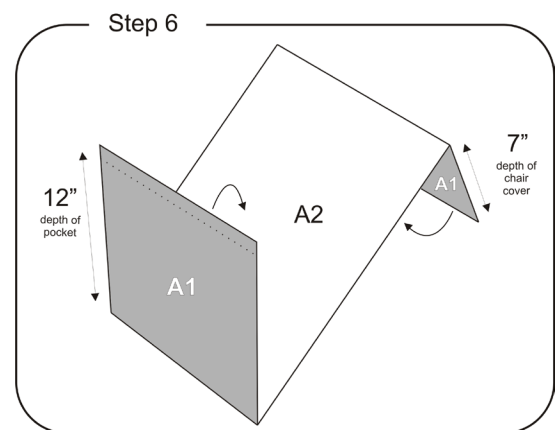


Figure 3

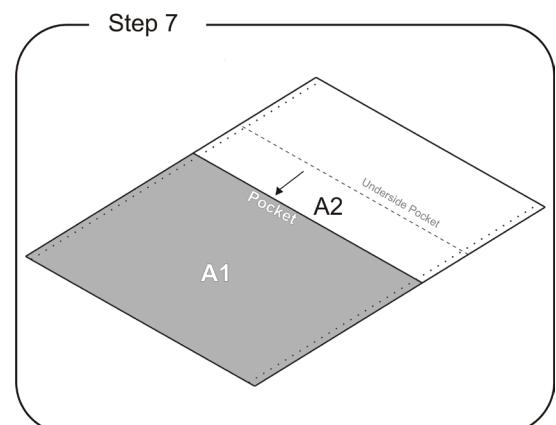


Figure 4