

# Adding a Channel Panel

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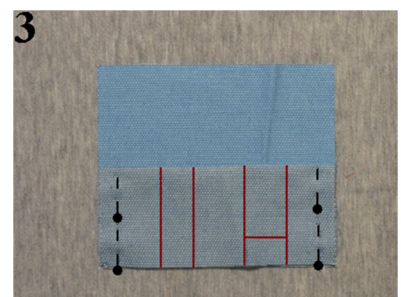
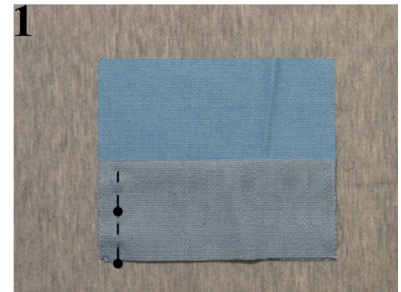
Some items, like crochet hooks, markers, and sewing tools, are easier to access in a pouch if they stand up in their own little channels. You will see all the items at a glance when you open the pouch and can pick the one you need. You can manage this if you add a **Channel Panel** to the lining of your pouch. A **Channel Panel** consists of a rectangle of fabric which you stitch into a tube and then press flat. After attaching the panel to your lining, mark and sew vertical lines to create the channels for your items. Now you have a panel with channels, thus a **Channel Panel**!

The instructions provided in this document will explain how to add a **Channel Panel** to the **Envelope Pouch** that I introduced in my August 2016 blog. Prepare the lining before attaching it to the outer fabric for the pouch. You can add a **Channel Panel** to other pouches, too.

## Determine Dimensions for Your Channel Panel:

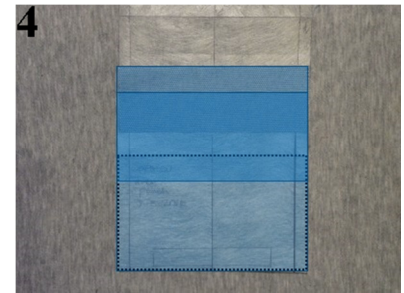
Before you determine the dimensions for your **Channel Panel**, you must know the dimensions for your pouch. Follow the **Envelope Pouch** drafting instructions with these modifications:

1. Determine the **Width** for your pouch.
  - a. Cut two pieces of scrap fabric, each about 7" wide by 6" high. Fold one piece of fabric in half so that it is now 3" high. With the fold facing up, pin the folded fabric to the bottom half of the open fabric 1/2" from the left side edge. (Fig. 1)
  - b. Put an item behind the folded fabric, near the pins at the left side of the fabric. Place two pins to the right of the item so that you have enough room to remove the item easily. Place the next item to the right of the first, and add pins to mark its space, too. Continue across the fabric until you run out of items or fabric. (Fig. 2)
  - c. Remove all the items. Measure the distance between the first pin and the last pin. (*My items require 6" of space.*)
  - d. If you need more width for your items, make a note of the width you have used so far. Turn the folded fabric around and then repeat Steps b and c as needed until you have measured channels for all your items. For additional widths, turn the folded fabric inside out. Add up the widths.
  - e. Add 1" for seam allowances. This will be the width of your pouch. (*I add 1" to get a 7" width for this sample panel.*)
  - f. Figure 3 shows the markings for the channels. Mark your sample as I did and then use it for a guide to mark your actual panel. Notice that I marked a horizontal bottom for the yellow chalk marker. I would stitch a bottom for that channel so that the marker doesn't slip down where I can't reach it. The rest of the channels will be open at the bottom. If you wish, you may make notes on the fabric about what item goes where. Be sure to mark any additional widths also. If necessary, trim the fabric to the right of the last pin to 1/2" wide.



- g. If all your items are the same width, as for crayons or markers, you can measure one channel and multiply by the number of channels needed. Be sure to add 1" for seam allowances.
2. Determine the **Heights** for your pouch.
  - a. For the **Pouch Back Height**, add the height of the tallest item plus the thickness of the thickest item plus wiggle room.
  - b. Follow **Envelope Pouch** instructions to determine the heights for the **Pouch Front** and **Pouch Flap**.

The **Width** of your Channel Panel will be the same as that for your pouch. To determine the **Height**, start by subtracting 1" from the **Pouch Front Height**. Double this number and then add 3/4" for two 3/8" seam allowances. (*My pouch is 8" wide. The front is 5" high.  $5" - 1" = 4"$ ;  $4" \times 2 = 8"$ ;  $8" + 3/4" = 8-3/4"$ . The dimensions for my Channel Panel will be 8" wide by 8-3/4" high.*) The broken line rectangle in Figure 4 shows the size of the Pouch Front. Note the two shaded 4" high areas and the 3/4" area added above.

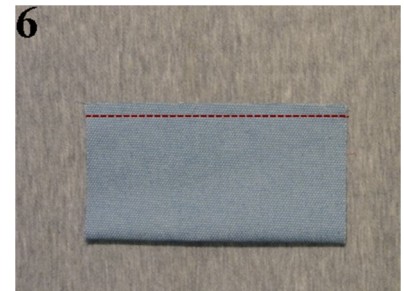
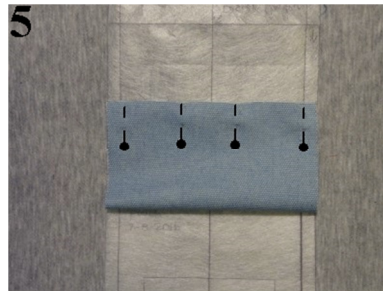


### Supplies:

1. Quilt fabric or other colorful plain weave fabric. Cut to dimensions determined above.
2. Regular sewing thread.
3. Ballpoint pen for marking scrap fabric.
4. Marking pen or chalk whose marks can be removed from fabric.

### Construct the Channel Panel:

1. Fold the **Channel Panel** in half, wrong side out, so that the width is still the same as the width of the pouch. Pin together at the edge opposite the fold. (Fig. 5)
2. Stitch a 3/8" seam, backstitching at start and end to secure the seam. (Fig. 6)
3. Press the seam allowances to one side. (Fig. 7)
4. Turn the **Channel Panel** right side out. Adjust the fabric so that the seam is 3/8" from the top fold, with the seam allowances above the seam. (Fig. 8)
5. Turn the **Channel Panel** over. Top stitch along both fold lines. (Fig. 9)





## Position the Channel Panel on the Lining:

1. Mark the **Envelope Pouch Lining** with clips as directed in **Envelope Pouch** instructions.
2. Find the clips on your **Envelope Pouch Lining** that indicate the bottom of the pouch. In Figure 10 this line is marked by a broken line and two arrows. Notice that these clips are closer to the short edge that is not angled.
3. Fold the **lining** right sides together along that line. Press a crease.
4. With a removable marker, draw a line on the right side of the **lining** to mark the location for the top of the **Channel Panel**. The line should be parallel to the fold and can be even with the raw edge of the **lining** or up to 3/4" above the raw edge. NOTE: Placing the **Channel Panel** above the level of the **pouch front** will make it easy to place your items in the channels. However, do make sure you will be able to grasp your items for removing them from the channels. Also make sure that the tops of the items will fall below the snips that indicate the start of the **Pouch Flap** (see pin). The broken line in Figure 11 represents the raw edge of the lining. The solid line represents the line to be marked in this step.
5. Unfold the **lining**.
6. Turn the **Channel Panel** so that the seam is positioned toward the top edge of the lining. The seam can face the lining or face out, as you prefer.
7. Align the top edge of the **Channel Panel** with the line marked in Step 4. Pin in place at the side edges. (Fig. 12)
8. Stitch in place 18" from the raw edges.
9. With a removable marker, copy the markings from the scrap fabric onto the **Channel Panel**. The first channel begins 1/2" from the raw edge. (Fig. 13)
10. Pin the **Channel Panel** to the lining between marked lines. The tips of the pins should all face the top of the lining. (Fig. 14)
11. Stitch on each marked line, beginning at the top of the **Channel Panel**. Backstitch at the start and end to secure. If you have marked any horizontal lines, stitch those as well.
12. Figure 15 shows the **Channel Panel** complete and ready to be added to the **Envelope Pouch** according to directions for that project. Remove any visible markings on the fabric. (Also remove your items from the channels.)
13. Figure 16 shows the completed **Envelope Pouch**.

