

Embroidered Double Pocket

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I call the pocket on this tote bag “Double Pocket” because I can put things inside the pocket as well as behind the pocket. It is quite easy to embroider on a flat piece of fabric and turn it into a Double Pocket. You can then sew the completed pocket to a bag you are making or to a ready-made bag. Not only is it easier to make the embellishment in this way, but it also adds extra storage to a bag.

You can make your pocket any size you like, and can use it as a stand-alone pouch. (I have a very large one for knitting needles.) The embroidery can be omitted or replaced with an appliqué design if you prefer.

Directions:

1. Decide size for pouch. Cut a piece of sturdy fabric (such as denim) with width equal to the pocket width plus 2 seam allowances, and height equal to twice the pocket height. **EXAMPLE:** For my 10” wide x 6” high pocket, I cut fabric 11” wide x 12” high.
2. On the wrong side of the fabric, mark a line 2” from the bottom edge and parallel to that edge. Fold the opposite end up to meet that line and press the fold. The area between the cut edge and the fold is the area in which you can embroider. Position or center your embroidery within that area, making sure the bottom of the design is toward the fold. Select a nylon or polyester coil zipper 3 or 4” wider than your fabric. (I used a 14” zipper for the 11” wide fabric.)
3. Center the zipper right side down on the top edge of the pocket. The zipper pull can face left or right as you prefer. Pin to the top edge and stitch with a 1/4” seam. **HINT:** Since the pocket is unlined I like to use a seam/overcast stitch and foot.
4. Press the seam allowances toward the fabric and top stitch from the right side. You may use regular sewing thread to match the fabric or embroidery thread to contrast. (I used embroidery thread.)



5. Right sides together, bring the opposite end of the pocket up to meet the free side of the zipper. Pin, making sure that side edges meet. Stitch seam as above.



6. Turn the pocket right side out. Press seam allowances toward the fabric. Open the zipper and top stitch from the right side as above. Keeping the bottom of the pocket flat with one hand, press the top fold of the pocket flat. Mark the corner folds with pins, heads facing out as shown. Zigzag the open zipper tape sides together just beyond the fabric of the pocket, as shown.



7. Turn the pocket wrong side out. Partially open the zipper. Fold the pocket so that the pins are at top and bottom edges of the pocket. Pin and stitch seams, using the seam allowance you planned when cutting your fabric. (I added 1" to the pocket width so used 1/2" seam allowances.) Trim corners diagonally and finish raw edges with zigzag or 3-step zigzag stitch.



8. Turn the pocket right side out. Press flat. Top stitch the top edge of the pocket as desired. (I used a single line of stitching with embroidery thread, but you can stitch a second line if you prefer.)



9. Pin the pocket to your bag, keeping the top of the pocket parallel to the top of the bag. HINT: To avoid stitching the pocket to both layers of the bag, I recommend turning the bag wrong side out. Fold excess bag out of the way of the needle. Top stitch the sides and bottom of the pocket with one or two lines of stitching, pivoting at lower corners. (I stitched a single line with embroidery thread.)

