



“Adding Inner Bag Pockets From Project Scraps”

www.lagniappepeddler.com

Description: This pattern was designed to show that pockets can be pieced together from project remnants and added to the inside of a Bag. The pattern will show that it is an easy process to make the storage in your finished project more functional while creating a unique feature that is coordinated with fabric you are already using.



*Finished Inner Bag Project with
Pieced Pockets*

Materials needed:

Material— The fabric used in the example is a printed cotton that was left over from the main bag components

Matching Thread

Sewing machine, Scissors, Pinking Shears, Ruler or Tape Measure, Pins, Ironing surface and Iron

Bag Project with Lining

Adding Pockets to a Bag project can be accomplished with a little planning. When you cut out your pattern pieces, you will likely have some material left over. If the bag will be lined or have a fabric insert lining you can add as many pockets as you would like before you put the lining together! If you want to add pockets to the outside of the bag, it is the same process. You need to add them before the outside is put together. If your fabric pieces are too small to create a pocket alone, piecing them together is always a possibility and it will look very attractive because you are utilizing matching fabrics.



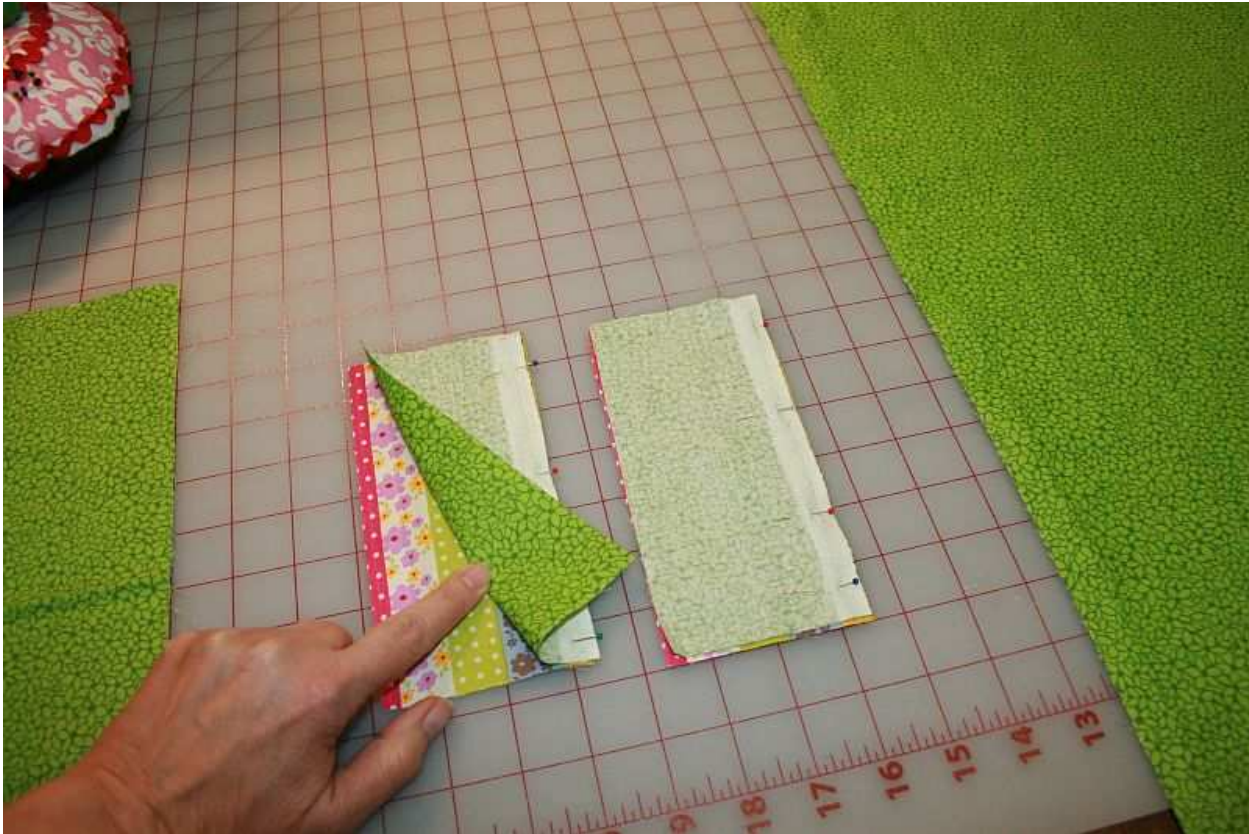


Wash and dry your fabric per the recommended material settings. Iron it on low. Our four fabric pieces are 6 in x 3 in. If we tried to sew these to our bag individually, they would be a cute but very small and non functional pocket. You want to make sure that if you are planning on using the extra pockets for storage that a set of fingers or hand will be able to enter and remove items. We took our extra remnants and laid them out on a surface and chose the smallest one first. We cut it evenly and used it as a template for our other pieces. This way you know you will have enough fabric to piece together.



From this photo you can see that we had our lining pieces face up. This project is a messenger bag and the long lining piece will be attached to the bag back/flap. The short piece is the bag front/inside. Once everything is laying out together you can move things around to get an idea of what the finished product will look like.





When you are satisfied with your layout, you can begin to place your pocket pieces right sides together. Pin one edge in preparation to sew.



One of our pockets is pinned and the other is sewn.



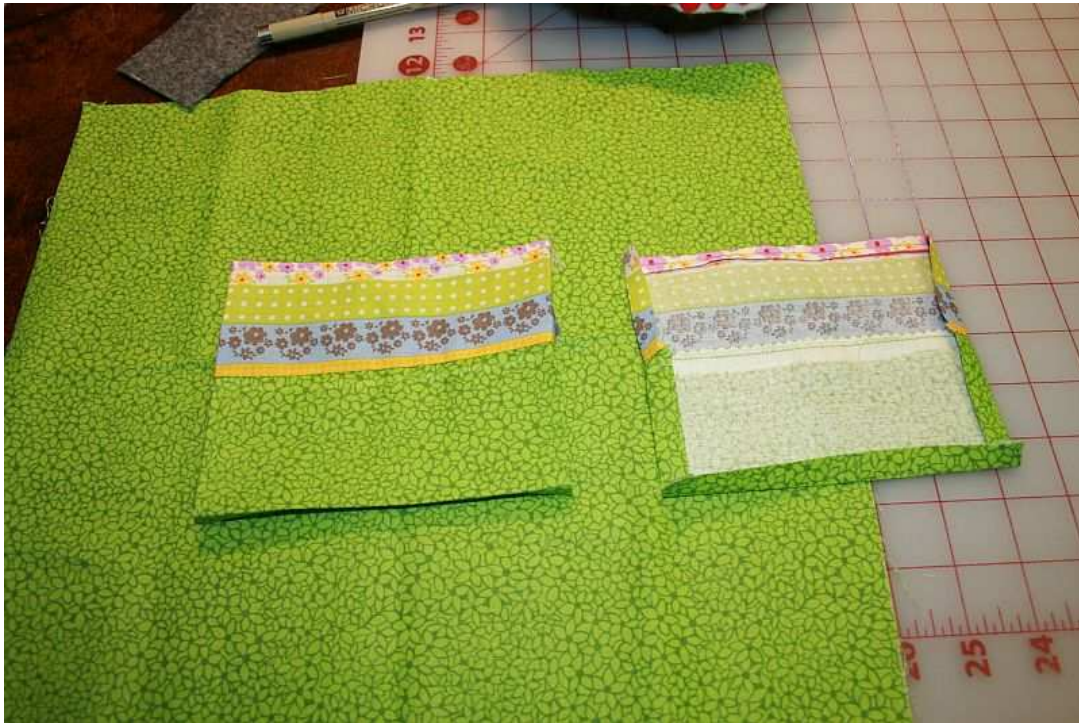


Use your pinking shears to remove the extra seam allowance. Be careful not to cut into the stitches. This will help that seam open up and stay flat. Take it to your ironing board and iron open.



Now it is time to hem what will be the top of your pocket. We turned our fabric under 1/4 inch and then one more 1/4 inch turn, then pinned in preparation to sew. You do this now because once the pocket is sewn to the bag lining or outside, you will not be able to finish the top hem at that time. Sew the seam taking out the pins as you go.



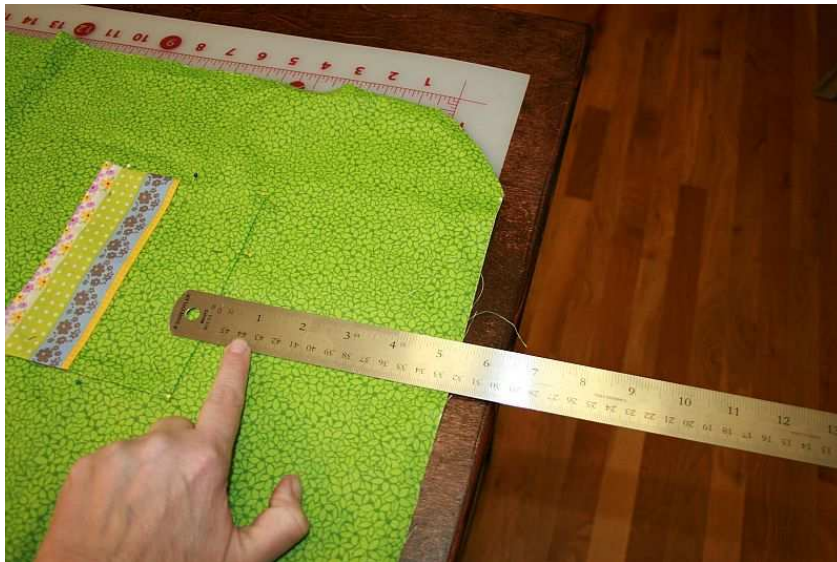


With the tops of the pockets now finished off, you are ready to prepare them to be attached. Turn the other three sides inward and press with your iron to create a crisp edge. We used a 1/4 inch turn on these. From the picture you can see what the front and the back should look like.

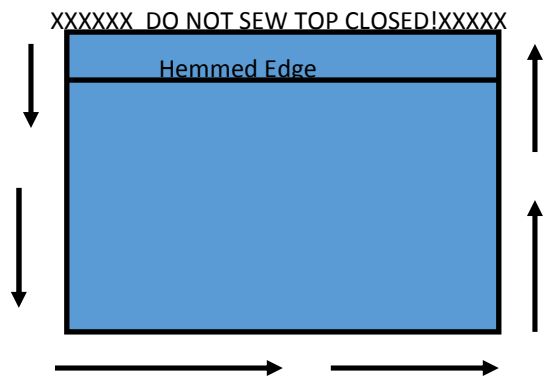


Placement location will be your next step and using either a ruler or tape measure will be very helpful. It will allow you to measure both sides to make sure they are even. Also, keep in mind any seams that may need to be done in future steps of the bag making process. Do not place your pocket too close to the top as it may interfere later or stitches may inadvertently sew up the pocket. From the picture you can see that we placed our lining fabric right side up and the pocket right side up. We pinned the pocket in preparation to sew.





Take your time with all of the additional pockets. Don't rush the placement. Every pocket deserves the same attention as you can see from the picture. A ruler or tape measure is invaluable in this process. Once everything is pinned, take your project to the sewing machine and top stitch around three sides. Don't sew the top or you will close up your pocket!



Finished Bag with
Pieced Remnant
Pockets



Enjoy!