

Frame an in-seam pocket

Improve function and make a fashion statement

An in-seam pocket is typically almost invisible. Although it is subtle, it provides a convenient storage place for necessities. Inspired by the inventive pocket on the circa 1970 jacket on the back cover, I reasoned out how to add a frame around an in-seam pocket. This enhances the pocket as a design feature and supports the pocket edge.

An in-seam pocket is often cut in one with the adjacent garment sections and sewn in one pass: down the seam, around the pocket bag, and down the rest of the seam. The pocket in this suit is cut in a hybrid fashion: The pocket bag front is cut separately and attached to the framed opening. The pocket bag back is cut in one with the garment's back section, so it extends seamlessly into the pocket.

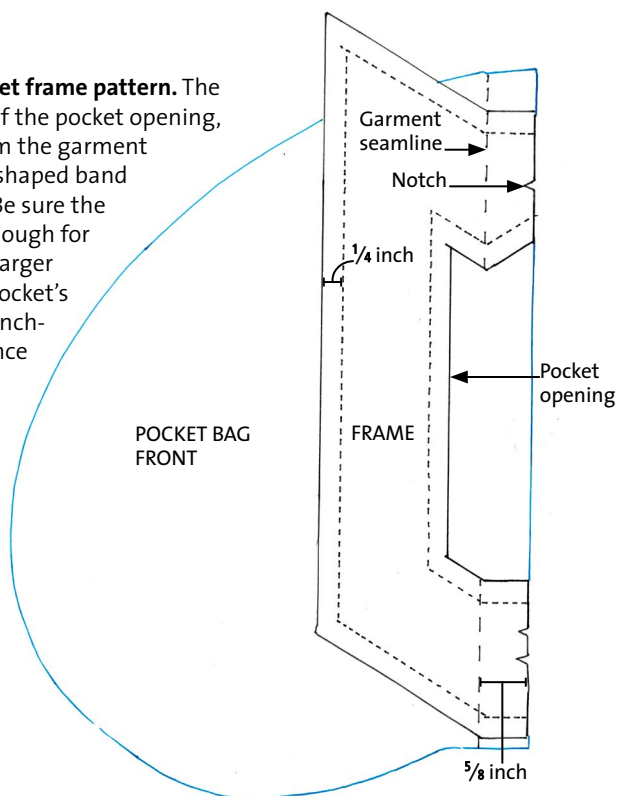
You can make the frame any shape that suits your style and fabric. Design it so the opening edge is at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the garment seamline, which makes the pocket easy to use and looks attractive. Test topstitching needles and threads to get the look you want for your garment.

Contributing Editor Judith Neukam enjoys analyzing garment details that look great and make clothes more functional.

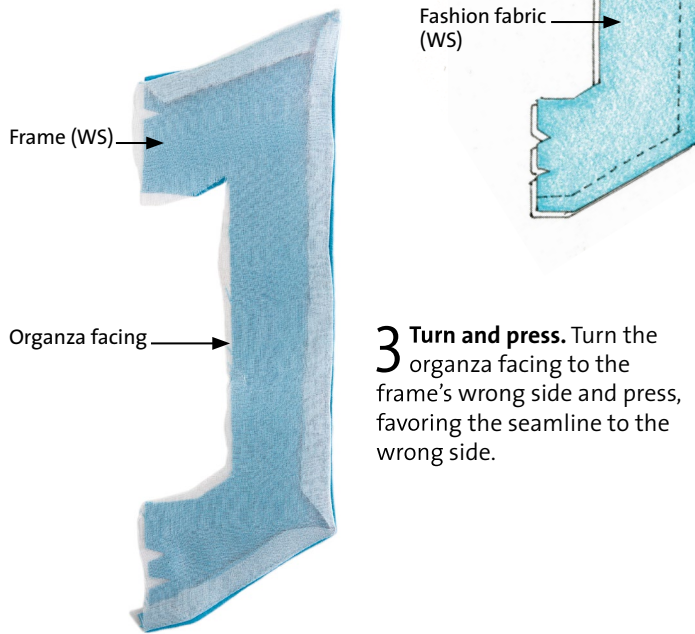


A neatly edgestitched frame is a sharp enhancement to an in-seam pocket.

1 Design the pocket frame pattern. The frame consists of the pocket opening, which is offset from the garment seamline, and the shaped band that surrounds it. Be sure the opening is large enough for your hand and no larger than the original pocket's opening. Add a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-wide seam allowance to the frame's edges, except the ends that will be enclosed in the garment seam. Make that allowance $\frac{5}{8}$ inch wide. Add notches on the garment seam ends for alignment later.

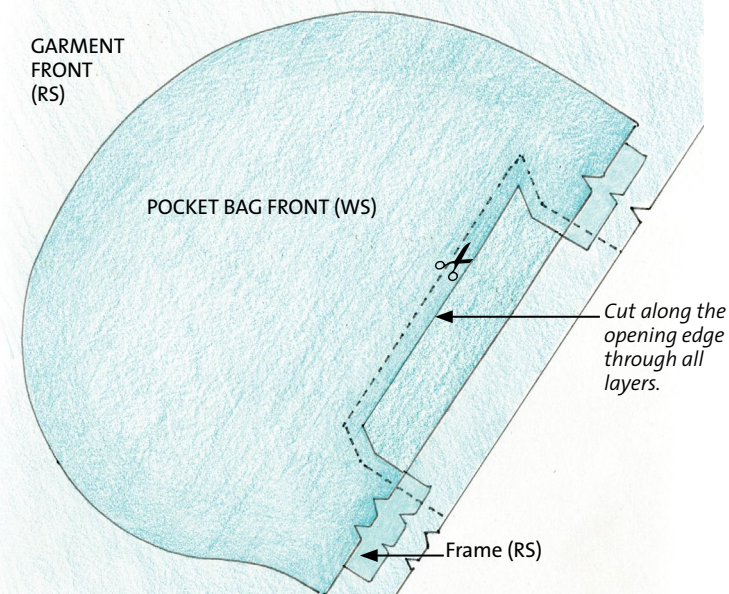


2 Face the frame. Cut the pattern from fashion fabric and silk organza. With right sides together, sew the organza to the fabric frame around the outside edges. Leave the pocket opening edge unstitched.

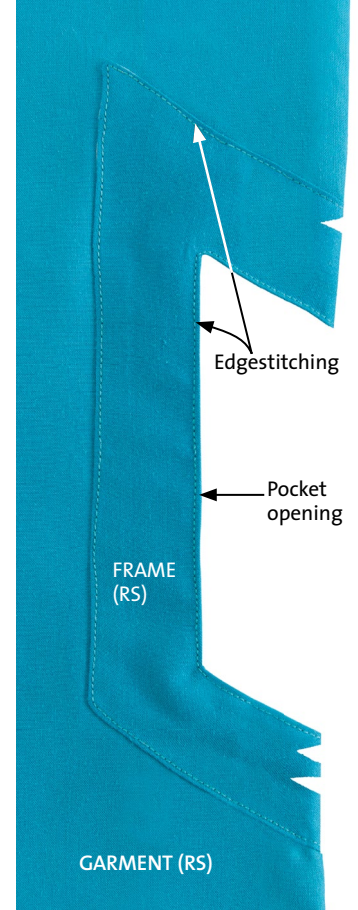


3 Turn and press. Turn the organza facing to the frame's wrong side and press, favoring the seamline to the wrong side.

4 Stitch and cut the pocket opening. Lay the frame on the garment front, right sides up. Match the frame notches with the garment's notches. Place the front pocket bag over the frame, right side down. Align all notches and the raw edges. With the frame pattern as a guide, transfer the pocket-opening edge to the pocket bag. Stitch along this seamline. Then cut the opening area through all three layers.



5 Edgestitch the pocket front. Trim and clip the seam allowances around the pocket opening, then turn the pocket bag to the garment's wrong side. Press. Fold the pocket bag out of the way and edgestitch around the frame's outer edge. Fold the pocket bag into position against the garment front's wrong side and edgestitch the opening edge.



6 Sew the seam and pocket-bag edge. Place the garment front and back sections with right sides together and raw edges aligned. Align the front and back pocket bags. Sew down the seam to the pocket opening's top, then sew from the opening's bottom end down the rest of the seam. Sew around the pocket bag in a separate pass. Finish the pocket bag's seam allowances as desired.

