

Sew Teach Me 1

Tool Caddy/Waist Apron



Caddy



Rolled Caddy



Apron

In this project you will learn to use fusible interfacing, sew accurate seam allowances, clip 90 degree and rounded corners, use a point turner, top stitch, and use ribbon for ties.

Materials

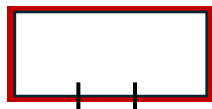
- Two fat quarters each cut to 17-1/2" x 21-1/2" for front (exterior) and back (interior). Ideally these will be the same fabric, but it is alright to use two coordinating fabrics.
- Two pieces cut to 6-1/2" x 19-1/2" for pocket from a contrasting fat quarter
- One piece of fusible interfacing cut to 6" x 19" for pocket
- One 36" piece of ribbon if making caddy or two 18" pieces of ribbon if making the apron

Extra Sewing Supplies:

Pins, point turner, scissors, iron, pencil/chalk marker, seam ripper, thread, paper plate to round corners, ruler.

Making the Pocket

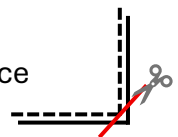
1. Fuse the interfacing to the WRONG side of one of the pocket pieces, carefully centering it fusible side down. Press securely in place.
2. Put the pocket pieces right sides together.
3. Pin the two layers together, leaving a 4"- 6" opening at the bottom.
4. Use a fabric marker to mark 1/4" in from both sides at each corner.



This is where you will pivot to go around the corners.



5. Stitch with a 1/4" seam allowance, backstitching at the beginning and end of the opening.
6. Shorten the stitch length as you approach, pivot, and exit the corners for reinforcement, then lengthen your stitch length as you proceed to the next corner.
7. Trim corners at a 45-degree angle to reduce bulk, being careful not to cut into the stitching.



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8. Turn right side out, then using the point turner, gently push out each corner.
9. Press the pocket flat, turning the opening under 1/4".
10. Topstitch the TOP of the pocket (the side without the opening) about 1/4" from the edge to reinforce the pocket.

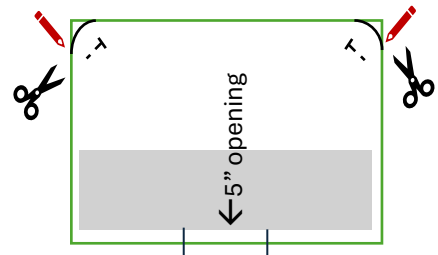
Attaching the Pocket

1. If focus fabric is directional, decide how you want it on both the front and inside of the caddy.
2. Draw a line 1 1/4" above the bottom of the inside focus fabric.
3. Center the pocket from each edge and place the bottom of the pocket on the marked line.
4. Pin the bottom and two shorter sides to the focus fabric, using more than fewer pins.
5. Sew the pocket to the inside focus fabric.
6. Topstitch the sides and bottom of the pocket to the focus fabric with a 1/4" stitch, backstitching at the beginning and ending to reinforce the pocket. Again, shorten your stitch length a little before and after each corner.



Making the Caddy Body

1. Place the focus fabric pieces right-sides together. Trim if they are not the same size. [If using a directional fabric, check to make sure it is going the way you want.] The pocket should be to the inside and below the rounded corners. Use a paper plate or template to mark the top edge for rounding the corners. PIN the pieces together below the corner that was just marked. Use sharp scissors to trim on the marked line through both pieces of fabric.
2. Pin front and back together, leaving a 5" opening on the bottom as shown. Mark both sides of the opening so that you can backstitch at both lines for reinforcement.

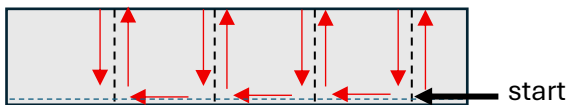


3. Fold the ribbon in half. Put it between the front & back fabrics about 4-1/2" from the bottom on either side. The folded part of the ribbon should be showing about 1/4" beyond the fabric.
4. Sew with a 1/2" seam allowance all the way around.
5. Clip the rounded corners, then clip the straight seam corners at a 45-degree angle.

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6. Turn caddy right sides out, using the point turner in the corners.
7. Press flat, including pressing under $\frac{1}{2}$ " of both fabrics at the opening.
8. Topstitch completely around the caddy $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the outside edge.
9. The final step for the caddy is to decide how far apart you want the stitching on the pocket. This will depend on how you will be using it. Draw the lines with an erasable marker and ruler. Start from the bottom of the pocket, stitch to the top edge, leave the needle down, then turn the fabric under the needle and retrace your stitches back to the bottom of the pocket. Pivot and stitch over your original topstitching until you get to the next marked line, stitch up, turn and track back down on your original line. This reinforces all the pockets. Repeat until all marked lines are sewn.



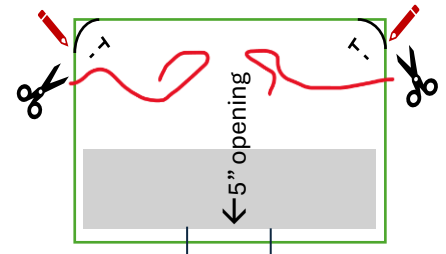
- a. If you prefer you may begin at the top of each line, backstitch, then sew to the bottom and backstitch. Repeat until all lines are sewn securely down.

Congratulations, your caddy is finished!

Adjustments to Make an Apron Body

Follow the instructions for the caddy making a couple of adjustments to turn it into an apron.

1. After attaching the pocket and rounding the corners, "try" the apron on by folding down the top 3" - 4" and hold it at your waist. Decide if this is a good length for you. Mark where the ribbon ties should go on both sides.
2. Pin on the ribbons on both sides with $\frac{1}{4}$ " extending beyond the fabric edge and the remainder laying toward the center of the apron.
3. Pin front and back together, leaving a 5" opening on the bottom as shown. Mark both sides of the opening so that you can backstitch at both lines for reinforcement.
4. Continue from step 4 under *Making the Caddy Body* through step 9.
5. You will probably want only 2-3 pockets on the apron.
6. If desired, topstitch the top folded part of the apron so it will always stay in place.



Congratulations, your apron is completed!

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