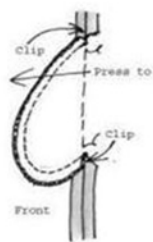


Constructing In-seam pockets

[1] These are pockets that are sewn into side seams on, for example, a skirt, dress, pants or a jacket. They are discrete (as you just see the opening in the seam) and are more for functional purposes.

[2] Mark 5cm below the waist...Mark the pocket opening (about 15cm for women)... Draw the pocket shape (check size with hand)...Allow a 1.5cm seam allowance... Place the pocket on the garment, right sides together and facing in...Match tailors tacks/notches... Pin in place. Stitch around all 4 pocket pieces (if having a pocket on either side)...better still, cut out the pockets as part of the garment pieces...



[3] Most fabrics will benefit from back stitching at the start of the seam on both sides of the pocket opening—this helps to stabilise the seam, which will get a lot of pressure on it with the hand going in and out.

[4] Heavyweight fabrics are more likely to require the body side seam to be pressed open (less bulk than it being pressed to one side). To achieve this, clip into the seam allowance of the back of the garment at a right angle, at the start and end of the pocket. This will allow the pocket to sit to the front and the rest of the garments seam allowance to be pressed open. The seam allowance of the body and pocket opening will need to be neaten before sewing together.

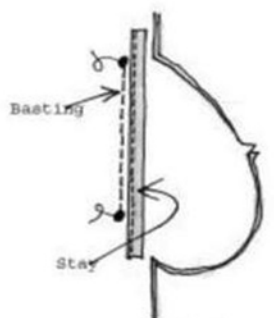
[5] If the fabric is a heavy weight, or the pocket is going to take a lot of stress and strain, each end of the pocket opening should be bar tacked across. That is, on the right side of the garment, sew 3 or 4 stitches forwards and backwards to secure both edges of the pocket opening. This is also good for ensuring the pocket permanently sits forward.



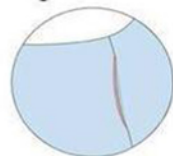
[6] A garment that is made out of a heavy weight fabric could have pockets made from a lighter weight fabric—to eliminate the bulk that pockets can cause. It should be complimentary, as it may be slightly visible. For design interest, fabrics with, for example, stripes or checks, the pocket could be cut on a different grain line.

Adding an extension to the seam (see diagram at top of page) is a good way of making sure that the different fabric pocket is not seen.

[7] Adding stay tape to an in-seam pocket will help to stabilise it. It is good for a knitted stretch fabric. It reduces the movement (when the hand etc is going in and out of the pocket), so the pocket area does not become misshapen. Sew the tape to the wrong side of the front pocket seam line.



[8] If the main garment was made from a lined sheer fabric, then it would be good to make the pockets out of the lining, so the pockets are not visible.



[9] Top stitching the pocket opening helps certain fabrics to lay flat and gives the garment a smarter finish.

[10] Pockets come in for a lot of wear and tear, so should be made out of a good quality complimentary fabric. For example, a fur coat might have velvet pockets.

[11] Fabrics that are not so firmly woven could be interfaced to help shape them. This interfacing might just be on the pocket bit or otherwise the interfacing could also be in the seam allowance. Lining also helps to shape the pocket. Sometimes cardboard templates are sewn into the hem of the pocket to help shape it.