Pocket Construction
What are pants without pockets? In fact, one of the reasons for wearing pants is to always have a pocket for a tissue. Pockets can be both functional and decorative. The combination and configuration of pockets is unlimited. See the article “Anatomy of the Pocket” on the companion CD for additional details.

Pockets are typically classified as either integrated or applied. Integrated pockets are those pockets that are part of the structure of the garment itself (Fig. 1 and 2). Integrated pockets typically have pocket bags that hang on the inside of the garment and include the slant pocket and the slant pocket variations such as the scoop and jeans pockets. Other integrated pockets include the inseam, control, and front hip pockets. The front hip pocket does not have an internal pocket bag but is sewn on top of the pants front and integrated into the waistline and sideseams.

Applied pockets are pockets that are sewn “on top” of the front or back pants. Many applied pockets are some variation of the patch pocket. They can be either flat or expandable, as desired (Fig. 3 and 4).

When designing pockets for your garments, we recommend that you use your fit garments as a guide to pocket size and placement. You can also measure pockets on existing garments for size and placement.

The following sections include instructions for making patterns, adjusting existing patterns, and construction techniques. The patterns for each integrated type of pocket can be traced from the template at the back of the book.

Each integrated pocket consists of two pieces: a pocket facing - the part that is against the pants, stitched to the front and turned to the back and the pocket - the part that is next to the body. These two patterns are stitched together to form the pocket bag. For the slant, scoop, jeans, or western pockets, the pocket pattern also serves as the front inset. It is actually a part of the pants front.

1. To adapt the template to your pants pattern, trace the cutting line and match points on the template onto pattern paper.
2. Place the pattern paper over your pattern with the match points lined up with the side seam and the waist seam.
3. Trace the stitching lines and cutting lines for the side seam and waistline from your front pants pattern onto the pocket pattern.
4. Trace the cutting line for the pocket opening from the pocket template onto your front pattern piece.

For each pocket, cut one pocket from fashion fabric and one pocket facing from lining fabric, pocketing or broadcloth. When using a light-weight fabric, the pocket facing can be cut from fashion fabric. If you are short of fabric, cut the pocket from the lining or pocketing fabric and overlay a piece of fashion fabric on top toward the side seam. The piece needs to be wide enough so you do not see the pocket fabric when you are wearing the pants. Stitch the overlay to the pocket at the edge toward the pocket.

**Slant Pocket**

The slant pocket is an integrated pocket and the most commonly used pocket for the classic slacks or pleated trousers. It can be used for dressy and casual pants. The scoop, western, and jeans pockets are variations of the slant pocket and constructed in the same manner. Be sure to fine tune the fit before applying the slant, scoop, western, or jeans pockets.
The construction technique eliminates bulk at the side seam and uses a fusible stabilizing tape to prevent the bias area of the pocket from stretching.

**Notions**

- 14 inches (35 cm) of 3/8 in (1 cm) straight fusible stabilizing tape (or twill tape, rayon tape, or the selvage of lining or broadcloth.)
- 1/4 yard (1/4 m) lining, pocketing or light-weight firmly woven cotton or poly/cotton. Self fabric can be used for pocketing if it IS firmly woven and light weight.

**Pattern Adjustments**

1. If your pants pattern already has a slant pocket, draw the stitching lines on the side seam and pocket opening edge of the pocket facing.
2. Mark the bottom of the pocket opening (the intersection of the pocket edge seam and the side seam). This is the pivot point.
3. Adjust the seam allowance on the pocket opening to 1/4 in (.6 cm) by removing 3/8 in (1 cm) from the cutting line from the top of the pocket to 3/8 in (1 cm) above the pivot point (Fig. 5).
4. Make the same adjustment to the pants front.
5. If your pattern does not have a slant pocket, make a pocket facing and side pocket by tracing the templates at the back of the book according to the instructions on the previous page.

**Construct the Pocket**

1. Mark the pivot point at the bottom of the pocket facing.
2. Use a 1/8 in (3 cm) snip to mark the pocket placement line on the waistline of the side pocket and at the side.
3. To stabilize the edge of the pocket opening on the wrong side (WS) of the pocket facing, place a strip of fusible stabilizing tape against the cut edge from the waistline to the pivot point on the pocket facing and fuse in place. Do not stretch the tape. If you are using a non-fusible alternative, shorten the tape by 1/8 in (3 cm), pin, then stitch in place. The fusible tape draws the edge in slightly, so this is comparable to shortening the non-fusible tape.
4. To stitch the pocket facing to the front, place the pocket facing on top of the front with right sides (RS) together.
5. On the left front, with the pocket facing up, begin stitching at the waist using a 1/4 in (.6 cm) seam allowance (generally the presser foot will serve as a guide).
6. Stitch through all layers including the stabilizing tape.
7. At the pivot point, stop with the needle down, lift the presser foot, pivot the fabric, and continue to stitch off the edge at the side.
8. On the right front, begin at the side and stitch to the pivot point, lift the presser foot, pivot and continue to stitch off the edge at the waistline.
9. Clip to the pivot points. If you do not clip all the way you will get a pucker at the bottom of the pocket. (Fig. 6)
10. Press the seam flat as stitched, press open, then press the seam allowance toward the pocket facing.
11. Turn the pocket facing back into its' final position and roll the seam to the underside so it is not visible.
12. Hold the facing in place using one of the following methods:
   - understitch the seam allowance to the pocket facing.
   - edgestitch close to the edge from the right side (RS).
   - topstitch further in from the edge from the right side (RS) (Fig. 7).
   - designer touches can be added by top stitching with decorative thread or by pick stitching by hand.
13. Align the pants front to the pocket by matching the finished edge to the pocket's waist and side seam snips. Pin all layers together at top, middle and bottom of the pocket opening (Fig. 8).
14. Stitch the pocket bags together: Place your work on a flat surface right sides (RS) up.
15. Carefully pick up the front to expose the pocket and the pocket facing. These two pieces will form the pocket bag. Keep them flat and pin them together allowing them to fall where they may. **Do not force the edges to match.** Stitch around the outside curved edges to create the pocket, then serge (Fig. 9).
16. Machine baste the pocket to the front at the top and the side just inside the seam allowance.