

## Colonial Pocket



In colonial times, women and girls wore pockets underneath their skirts, which used to be called petticoats. A pocket would be a separate piece of clothing that is attached to a string and tied around the waist. One or two pockets could be worn. The petticoat would have openings on either side through which the hands could reach the pockets.

Pockets were typically made of linen and sometimes embroidered. Pockets could be any size, but were typically much larger than normal pockets in pants or skirts today. One literary example of these large pockets is the 1694 version of Cinderella (“Cendrillon”) by the french author Charles Perrault (whereas the 1950 Disney Movie was based upon) describes how Cinderella takes her second shoe out of her pocket after the lost slipper fits her foot.

If no petticoat with pocket slits is available, the pocket can be worn under an apron or just over the garment. The pocket can also be decorated with embroidery, tassels, ribbons, appliqué, fabric print or any other decorative technique.



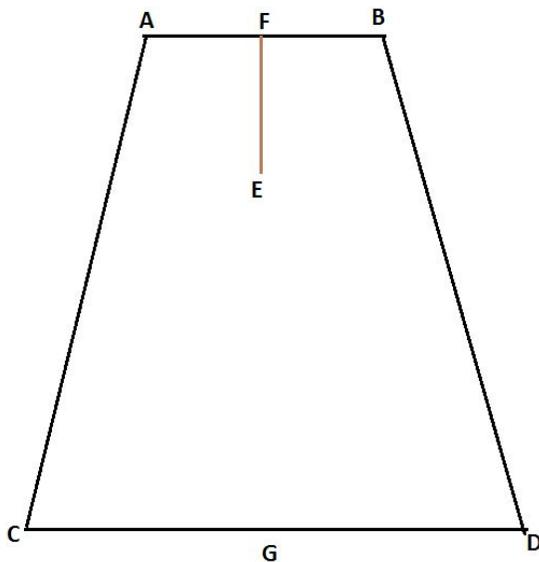
## Colonial Pocket Sewing Instructions

### You need:

- Pocket fabric: sturdy cotton or linen or jeans fabric
- Tape: 1 piece of binding tape or 1 long rectangle 60" x 2"; or make yourself with 1 ½" width strip of linen or cotton
- 1 Hand sewing needle or Sewing machine
- Sewing thread
- 2 trapeze shaped pieces of cotton:

Cut two fabric pieces in the trapeze style with measurements below.

Only on one piece: Cut 8" on the line FE for your pocket opening.



### Measurements:

$$AB = 7''$$

$$FE = 8''$$

$$CD = 12''$$

$$FG = 15''$$

Corners of C and D can be round. Pocket shape as desired.



## Girl's Pocket Sewing Instructions:

### Step 1:

Secure the slit in the front pocket piece to keep the slit from fraying. To do so, you can do one of the following.

1. Option: The easiest way is to whip stitch or zick-zack stitch around the fabric. In addition, you can decorate the opening with easy embroidery stitches or by sewing a ribbon around the opening.
2. Option: Alternatively you can hem the slit: For this you first turn over the fabric about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " -  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and secure it with a running stitch. To finish the hem, you turn over the already folded  $\frac{1}{4}$ " -  $\frac{1}{2}$ " fabric again by half to cover the raw edge. Secure this second fold by using a hem stitch for the slit.

### Step 2:

If you want to decorate the pocket, do it before the pieces are being sewn together. Decoration can be as desired using embroidery, tassels, ribbons, appliqué, fabric print or any other decorative technique.

### Step 3:

Place both pocket pieces right sides together so that they match and the wrong side of the hem should be on the outside. The short side of the trapeze will be the top of the pocket that will be sewn to the binding tape. Back stitch (or running stitch twice) around the trapeze about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge. Turn fabric to the right side through the pocket slit.

### Step 4:

Sew the tape to the pocket: First, fold the tape in half and match the middle of the tape to the middle of the bag where the pocket slit starts at the top edge. Stitch the tape to the top edge of the pocket by using a back stitch or a running stitch twice. This seam needs to be strong because it will hold the full weight of the pocket and all items within. Make a knot at the ends of the tape or fold over and hem or whip stitch the ends to keep them from fraying.

