

JETTED POCKETS *are easy!*

By Martyn Smith

Don't be put off making a tailored coat or jacket because the thought of making a jetted pocket gives you goosebumps. It isn't hard – especially when Martyn explains the easy step-by-step method used in this article. You will master this elegant and sophisticated detailing with ease and be ready to tackle your next project with confidence. Now read on...



Photo 1

Note: Although this has been executed on a man's jacket, exactly the same method is used for women's tailoring.

On the right side of the garment, mark the position of the pocket. Reinforce the pocket placement area with a soft interlining (if there is no interfacing in this area of the garment); perhaps feather the edges with pinking shears so as not to leave an impression on the right side of the fabric when pressed.

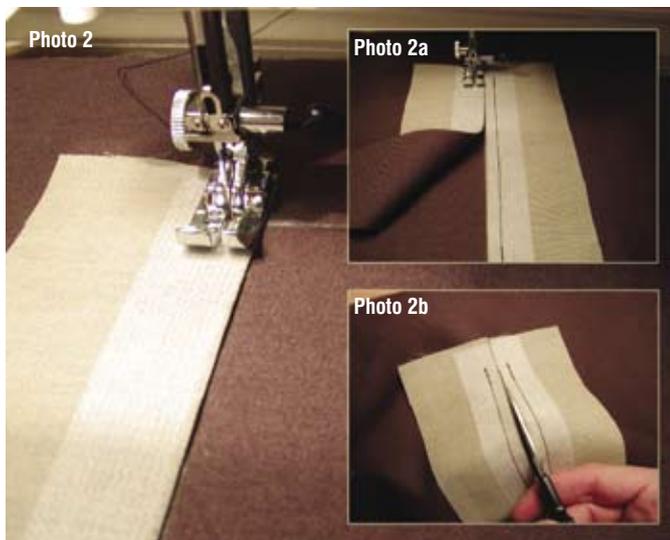


Photo 2

Photo 2a

Photo 2b

Photo 1 shows the pocket placement marked with chalk and the two jets ready for stitching. Transfer any alignment markings to the jet strips to ensure accurate starting and finishing points (pencil or fade-away markers are good for this). I usually ensure that my jets are at least 1.5 – 2 cm ($\frac{5}{8}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ in) longer at each end than the finished pocket mouth.

Stitch one edge of the jet to the pocket placement line (this edge should be reinforced with a strip of light interfacing), use the presser foot as a guide (perhaps shifting the needle position to create a wider or narrower jet). I like to use a quilters $\frac{1}{4}$ in foot for this as it makes the jets just the right size for a tailored pocket. See photo 2. Butt the second jet up to the other and repeat the same method. See photo 2a. If your machine does not reverse well (stitches don't form in the same holes on the way back) just sink your needle and turn the work 180deg and stitch back into the same holes.

Note: It is very important to have very securely stitched ends of the jets but there must only be one row of stitching, not railway tracks.

Cut up the pocket placement line, stopping 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) short of the finished ends of the pocket. See photo 2b. Mitre the ends of the pocket by cutting into the last stitch on the



Photo 3

Photo 4

angle, with a sharp pair of scissors. See photo 3. Only cut the garment fabric when making the mitre – the jets DO NOT get cut!

Now we can pull through one jet at a time and iron open the small seam allowance we have created by cutting the



Photo 5

pocket opening. See photo 4. Fold the remaining piece of the jet over the opened seam allowance; this forms the jet on the right side. See photo 5.

There may need to be some form of basting at this point; depending on the type of fabric used, a wide long zigzag is sufficient. See photo 6. Stitch the triangular lugs (the technical name for the triangles we get when the jet is cut) firmly, but with care. See photos 7 and 8. If any puckers form in a pocket corner, it will be from either:

- not cutting the mitre close enough, or
- not pulling the lugs out firmly before sewing them into position.

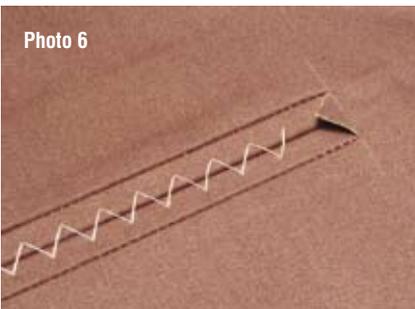


Photo 6



Photo 7

Finally, stitch through the opened-out seam allowance along side the original row of stitching, or stitch in-the-ditch from the right side of the fabric. See photo 9.

Remove the zigzag basting and voila, a PERFECT jetted pocket. Use the facings and pocket bags from your pattern to finish the pocket. See photo 10.

This method is NOT a bound pocket as it sits flush with the garment; a bound pocket sits proud (on top of) the garment because the seam inside the jet has not been opened. The other method where we stitch in the middle of a folded jet is referred to as a 'double welted' pocket. There are many variations on this pocket but I've been teaching this method for years and after a couple of goes at it there is never ever any hesitation to make again. Use this method for bound buttonholes as well. Remember, the first two rows of stitching will determine the finish of the pocket; make sure they are the best two rows of stitching in the whole garment.

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Photo 8

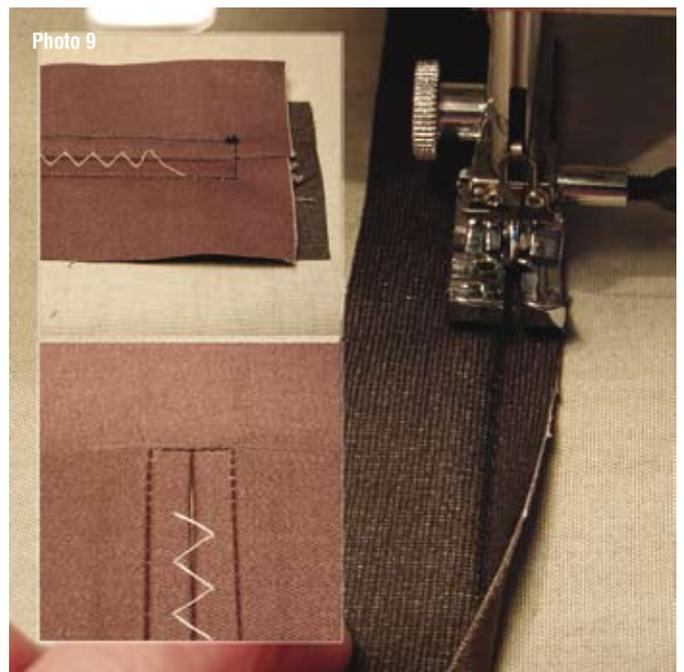


Photo 9

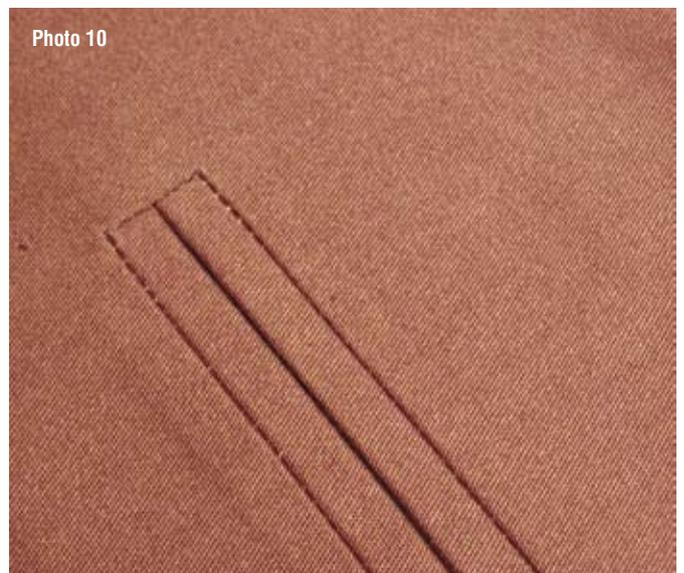


Photo 10