



# In His Hip Pocket

By Martyn Smith

There are a couple of ways of making this style of pocket, but this is by far the easiest for light to medium-weight fabrics.

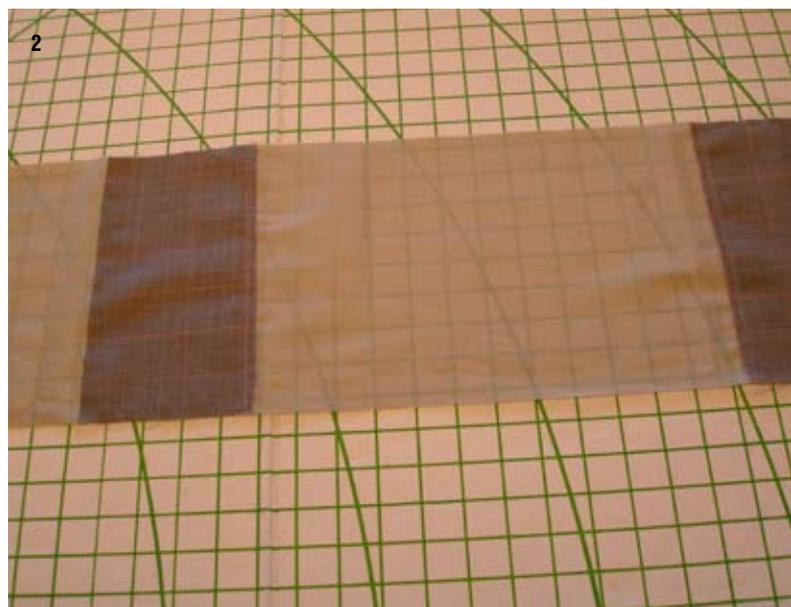
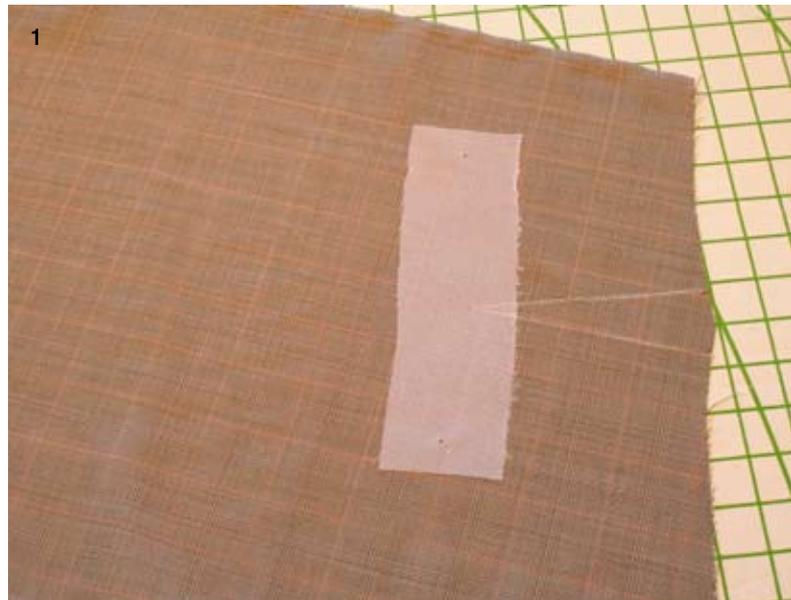
Make sure that the marking for the dart and pocket placement are transferred to the fabric and then interface on the wrong side behind where the pocket will be worked. The interfacing should be lightweight and should protrude no more than 1.5cm (5/8in) past the pocket stitching lines. The dart will need to be done before applying the interfacing as the dart shaping will create a slight skew in the finished pocket if this is done at a later stage. Neaten the inside edges of the pocket facings and stitch them onto the pocket back using the placement lines. See photos 1 and 2. Mark the pocket stitching lines on the back of the pocket bag as a guide to making a really square opening. See photo 3.

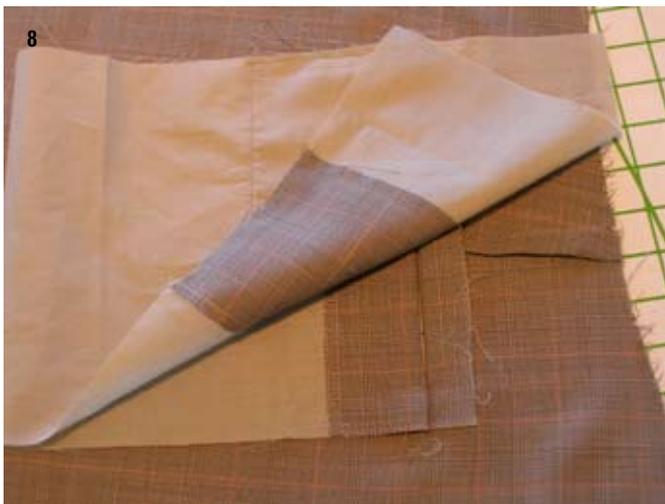
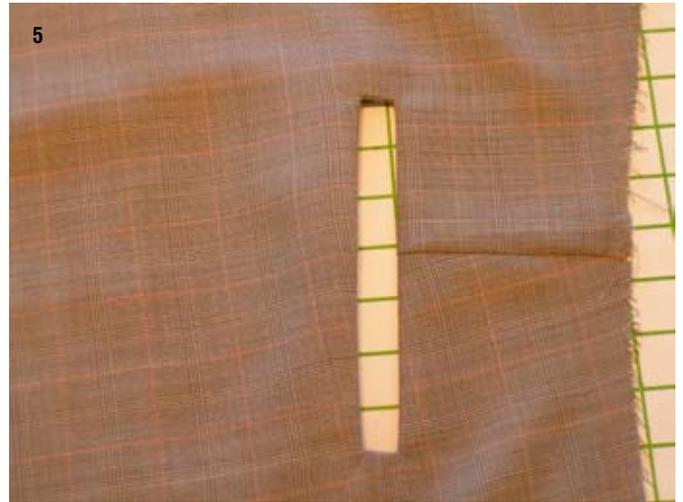
With right sides of the main fabric and pocket bag together, match up the placement dots and stitch out the rectangle that will form the frame for the finished pocket. Create the turn-through by cutting down the centre of the rectangle (through both layers) and mitre clip the ends. See photo 4.

Turn the pocket through to the wrong side and press all the seams back to get a sharp 'letter box' opening. See photo 5. Make sure that the pocket bag does not show to the front of this opening.

**HINT:** If the fabric is a little thick, choose a pocketing or pocket lining in a similar colour to the garment. Leave the fabric facing off and just turn out the 'letter box' opening in the same way. This is often what the industry does to reduce the bulk in this type of pocket.

With the wrong side of the work facing, press a welt up into the 'letter box' opening ensuring that all is sitting even and flat. The seam that is sitting under this welt needs to remain facing





down (toward the hem in this case) so there is a patching ridge to edgestitch all around the pocket opening. By doing this, you will secure the pocket welt in place and have a decorative stitching that will frame your handiwork. [See photos 6 and 7.](#)

Fold the pocket bag up into place so the top of it is level with the waist area and align the facing with the welt area of the pocket. The top raw edges of these facings should be sitting on top of each other. [See photo 8.](#)

Although a little difficult, pull the pocket through the mouth of the pocket opening and stitch the sides in a 'French seam' sort of fashion. The finishing stitching of the 'French seam' finish is always curved at the bottom edges of the pocket bag as a preventative measure against keys and other sharp objects poking holes in the corners. [See photo 9.](#)

Adding extra stitching for effect or even bar-tacks at each end gives this pocket a professional finish.