

fun IDEAS AND SEWING TIPS

Pati and her daughter Melissa just returned from New York. Shopping was important as Pati needed to find ideas for her McCall's patterns.

Melissa found these great pants made from a microfiber polyester that has the sand-washed feel. The latest detail in ready-to-wear is to add ties to the side seam spaced about 4-6" apart. When you tie them, the side seam is gathered up.

Maybe it is a young look, but accessorized differently, it could be a fun casual "adult" look. Use a soft fabric and a pattern with a plain, rather than pleated, front.



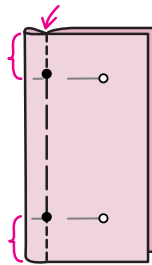
cargo pockets

HOW TO SEW THEM

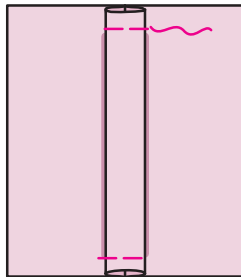
Cargo pockets are like patch pockets with a pleat in the center (to hold more cargo!). Usually they have square corners. Often they are placed over the side seams just above the knee.

1. To add a pleat to a plain patch pocket, add 1½" to center of pocket.

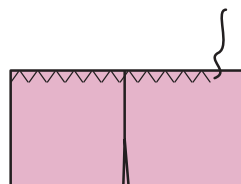
2. Fold pocket in half lengthwise. Place a pin 2½" from top edge and 1⅛" from bottom edge.



3. Sew ¾" from fold, using a 2mm stitch length, to the first pin. Backstitch; baste between pins; backstitch; sew 2mm stitch length to bottom.

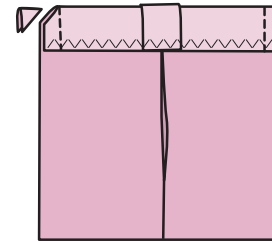


4. Press, centering pleat. Hold pleat in position with hand basting.

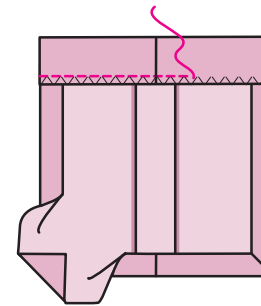


5. Finish upper edge of pocket with zigzagging, serging, or turning under ¼" and edgestitching.

6. Turn upper edge of pocket to right side along facing fold line. Stitch hem to pocket at sides and continue around pocket if you want a guide for turning under the 5/8" seam allowances. Cut upper corners diagonally.

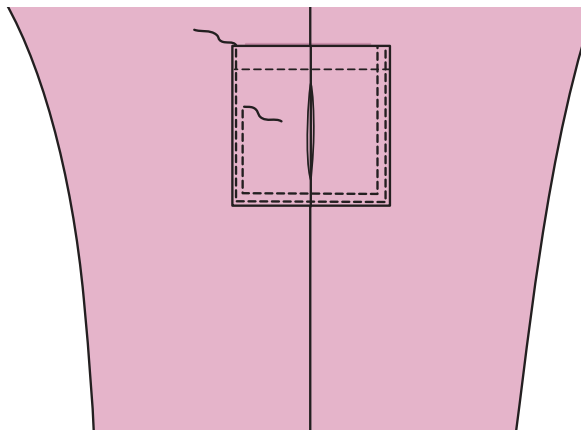


7. Turn hem to inside. Press under 5/8" on sides and lower edge, folding in corners.



8. Stitch facing in place 1¼" from upper edge.

9. Pin pockets in place and stitch close to side and lower edge. You may also top-stitch ¼" from edge. Pull out basting stitches in the pleat.



Quick Tip

Use strips of fusible web or a temporary adhesive to hold pocket in place.

TIP: Add a flap if desired. A flap with a button will keep large pockets from sagging.

These instructions are from the new Palmer/Pletsch book now available on our website, www.palmerpletsch.com.



denim *jacket*



Pati's daughter is modeling a \$700 Dolce & Gabana jacket worn with a white cotton slip/skirt. (Yes, the look is to combine the unexpected.) What makes it different than Butterick 6376? The Dolce jacket has a knit collar, lower band, and cuffs. Often the pattern companies don't do ribbing because it is hard to find. The Fabric Depot in Portland carries a lot of ribbing colors. Call 800/392-3376 for colors. You could certainly copy the Dolce jacket using this pattern. Don't forget to prewash denim three times.



Butterick 6376

tips: WOOL CREPE



Pati is passionate about sewing and wearing wool crepe. It is lightweight and can be worn in most climates; the twisted yarn has so much resilience that the fabric is almost wrinkle resistant, and it is almost bulletproof to sew. If you get puckers, they will steam out easily. Most of all, wool crepe has class! It looks rich. Don't buy a polyester/wool blend as it just doesn't hold up as well.

Steam the fabric before cutting to remove any shrinkage. A shot-of-steam type of iron works best. Wool crepe is washable. Pati had a student who had washed her yardage like a sweater-by hand in cold water; then she blotted it in a towel and hung it to dry. It looked fabulous. Pati couldn't believe it. So, when she lost 10 pounds, she hand washed her black wool crepe pants and jacket, feeling if they shrunk, they would then fit. It worked and they look great-a little smaller however. You will need to steam press to soften the washed fabric.

Generally, Pati lines her pants and jackets made from wool crepe with Ambiance rayon lining from Logantex. It feels like butter next to your skin.

Fabric Tip:

Shop your local fabric stores first, as they need your support to stay in business. But, if you don't have a store that carries quality fashion fabrics, check out Fabric Depot in Portland, Oregon. They will send swatches. Call 800/392-3376.

Ethel Harms wears a red wool crepe. The pattern is McCall's 3931 by Palmer/Pletsch. The top is a polyester satin. We used the bust alteration lines on all front pieces to get a good fit on Ethel.

Roberta

GOES SHOPPING

Roberta Joiner from Santa Cruz, California, attended our Fit Workshop last summer and after having Ethel do her colors and show her how to shop with her new palette, Pati Palmer took her shopping — soooo much fun to spend others' money!

We walked through the Fabric Depot with a shopping cart. When we found good solid basics, we put them in the cart. Then we shopped throughout the store finding fabrics that would coordinate with these basics.



Once we'd finished gathering fabric, we took everything to the classroom and placed the bolts on a long table with all coordinates together. With Ethel's help, we eliminated borderline fabrics that didn't have enough coordinates or that Roberta didn't like as well as others. Then we found patterns for each so she would know how much yardage she needed. The fabrics blend beautifully with her coloring.



When in Portland, take advantage of Ethel Harms' color and image consultation services. Visit her website, www.yourimageconsultant.com, e-mail her at eharms@msn.com, or call toll-free 1-888-665-5318.

Marta Alto has been keeping her sewing machines in full speed adding

embroidery

to nearly everything she sews these days. Her favorite stabilizer for washables is the liquid Perfect Sew. It is all she uses in most cases. She loves the elegant look of tone on tone embroidery as she has done on this jacket.



For more information on Perfect Sew, or to order, see our website at www.palmerpletsch.com.



about the editors/authors and designer...

Ethel Harms, co-editor and author of *Fashion For Your Figure*, is an Image and Fashion consultant who has worked with Palmer/Pletsch teachers from all over the world to define their best image. Certified as an Image Consultant in 1981 following a 21-year modeling career, Ethel is well known as a makeup artist for fashion and commercial work, an expert on illusion dressing, as well as a guest speaker for beauty and image programs. Ethel was the makeup artist and stylist for the *Looking Good* book published by Palmer/Pletsch, and contributed to the makeup and image chapters of *Beauty, More than Skin Deep*.

Ethel can be reached at eharms@msn.com



Pati Palmer, co-editor and author of *Fashion For Your Figure*, is president of Palmer/Pletsch, a leading sewing book publishing company. She is the publisher of 30 books and videos on sewing, home decorating and wardrobe planning, and the author of six, including *Fit for Real People*. She designed for Vogue Patterns from 1975-1980 and then for The McCall Pattern Company since 1980. Pati is McCall's "Fit Expert," traveling to New York with design ideas and following up by writing detailed instruction sheets. Her 1980, 8-hour blazer pattern sold one million copies in its first year and was featured in *Family Circle Magazine* and in an exhibit on fashion history at F.I.T. in New York. Pati traveled teaching sewing and fashion 26 weeks a year for 15 years. Today people from all over the world attend her workshops at the Palmer/Pletsch International School of Sewing in Portland, Oregon.

Pati can be reached at pati@palmerpletsch.com

The Palmer/Pletsch web site can be viewed at <http://www.palmerpletsch.com>

Linda Wisner, Designer and Art Director of *Fashion For Your Figure*, is Design Director for Palmer/Pletsch and the person responsible for the look of all Palmer/Pletsch books and printed materials. Her background is in graphic, interior and urban design, but fashion and sewing have always been part of her life, from sewing for her Barbie doll in the early '60s to working for a fashion designer in '69 and as the Design Director for Stretch & Sew in the late '70s. As owner of her own award-winning design studio and advertising agency, Linda began working with Palmer/Pletsch in 1980. She also co-authored the *Instant Interiors* booklets with partner Gail Brown, co-authored and designed the award-winning *Creative Serging for the Home* with Lynette Ranney Black, and has worked with many other clients in the home sewing industry.

Linda can be reached at wizbiz@pacifier.com

