

**French  
General**



The French Pocket

A MINI CHARM PROJECT



# French General

Pockets are an essential item of dress and have been for many centuries. The first pockets were decorative, standalone pockets for personal possessions and were often embroidered and decorated by women. They were hidden beneath their clothes and tied around the waist. A slit in their outer garments allowed access to the pocket. It is only relatively recently that pockets were integrated into clothing.

This French Pocket is an update on the original. The shoulder strap enables it to be worn as a small holdall or a cross body bag. You can, if you wish, make ties and wear it around your waist.

In this instance the pocket is made from 1” hexagons, quilted and lined. A Moda Mini Charm Pack is the perfect size to make the hexagon front.

## **Requirements:**

- 1 Moda Mini Charm pack of forty two 2.5” squares
- forty two 1” hexagon papers
- washaway glue pen
- 1 yard for lining, backing fabric, and binding
- 2 (12” x 14”) pieces of thin batting (optional)
- fine thread for stitching hexagons
- 12 weight Perle for quilting (optional)



## CONSTRUCTION



Follow cutting guide on page 10 to cut the lining, backing and handles.

Make 42 fabric covered hexagons.  
Use your favorite method. Simply fold over the fabric and use a glue pen.

Layout the hexagons.

Stitch together.

Remove the papers, unfold all the external edges and press.

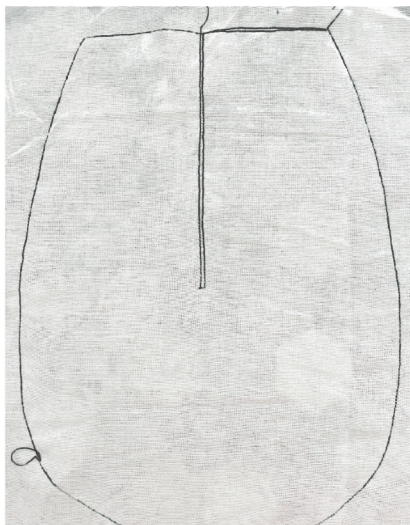
Using the pocket template, draw the shape onto the hexagons.  
Include the pocket opening line.





Place a piece of thin batting behind the hexagons and stitch around on drawn line to secure.

Also stitch the pocket opening line about one stitch width away from the center line.

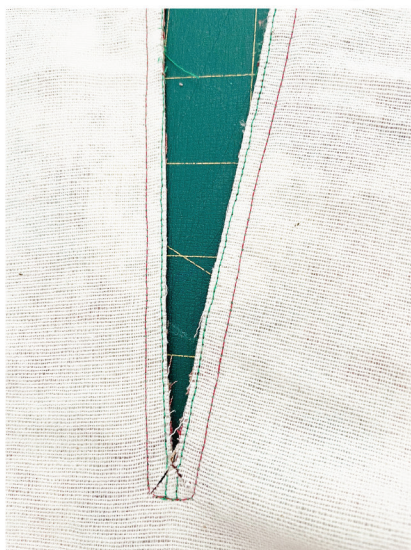


Lay the lining right sides together on top of the pocket outer. Turn the pocket over, and using the stitched line as a guide, stitch the pocket opening only, about a quarter inch from the center line.





Cut down the center of the pocket opening, stopping about a quarter inch from the bottom. Cut into each corner.



Fold the lining to the back leaving the seam allowance flat. Pin, (there will be a pleat at the bottom and top) stitch each side down.

Smooth the lining, leaving the small pleat, and stitch all three layers together to secure before quilting. This will also prevent the hand stitching from coming undone when cut.

Quilt using a 12 weight Perle or your preferred thread. Be careful not to stitch outside the stitched line.





When quilting is finished,  
cut out on the drawn line.



Layer the lining, batting  
and backing fabric (as  
in a quilt) and using  
the pocket top as the  
template, draw the outline  
onto the backing fabric.





Because I wanted to quilt the back I drew a 1" grid with an iron off pencil and quilted. Cut out the back.

To make the handles, join the two 4"x 28" strips to form a continuous loop. Fold in half lengthwise and then fold both raw edges into the center to give you a handle 1" wide. Press. Stitch along both sides.





Join the 2" bias binding strips (you will need about 34"), fold in half lengthwise and press. Place the pocket top onto the pocket back and pin. Starting at the top, stitch the binding onto the front of the pocket using a quarter inch seam. Do not bind across the top of the pocket. Fold over to the back side and slip stitch down.





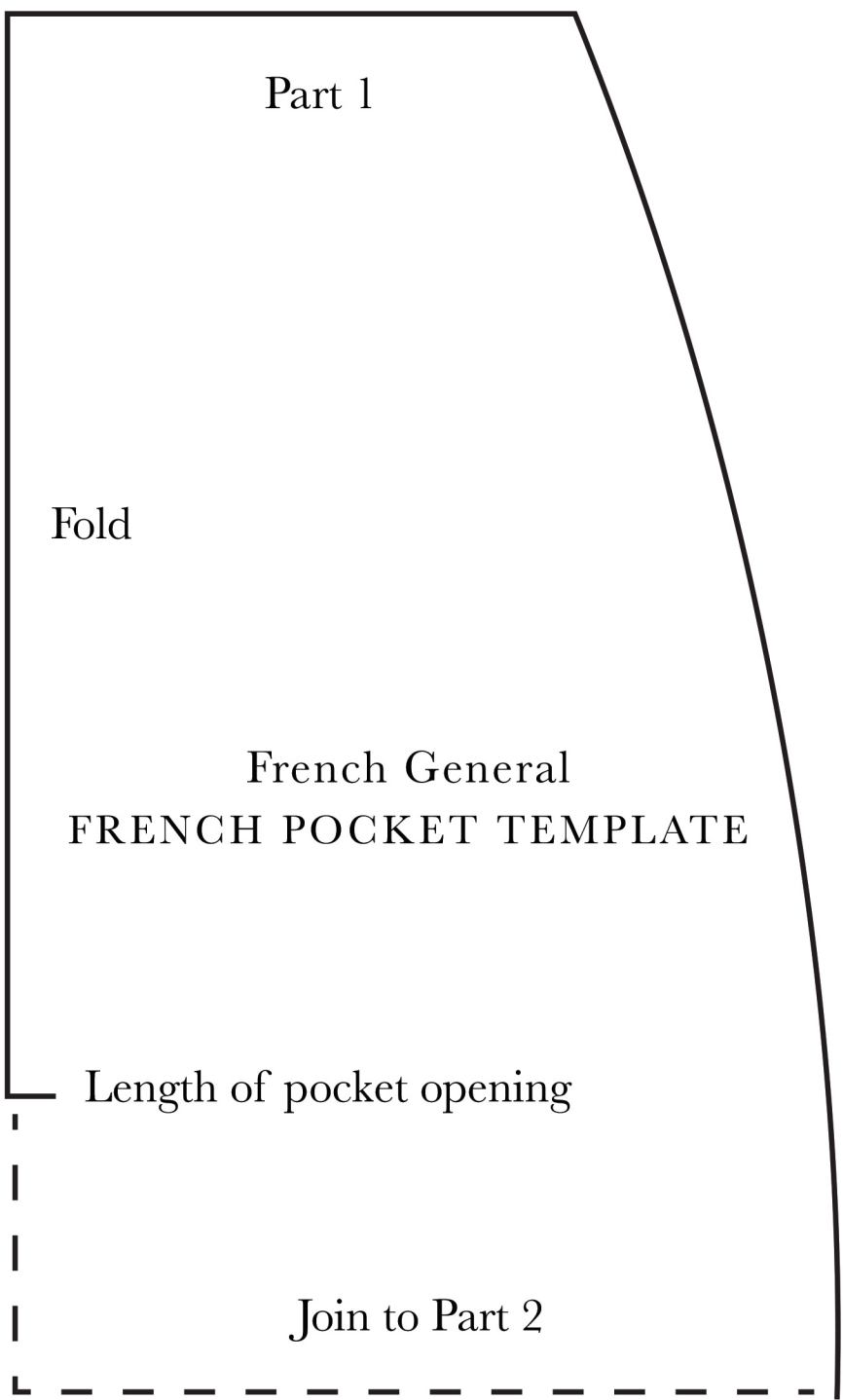


Place the handle loop along the top of the back of the pocket and top stitch down. Fold to the front of the pocket and top stitch the other side down following the stitch line already on the loop.

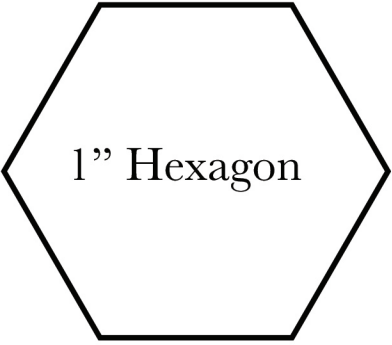
Voila! Your French Pocket is finished!

The French Pocket was pieced and sewn by Lorraine Lovell of Hetties Patch, Adelaide, Australia.

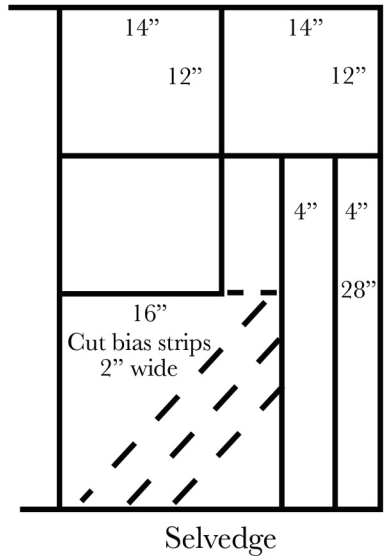




Part 2  
 French General  
 FRENCH POCKET TEMPLATE



Cutting Layout  
 Selvedge





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