CLOTHING

Fixing a torn loose pocket   no. 8.531

by K. Williams[1]

Do you have a blouse or shirt from which the pocket has torn loose and ripped the material underneath?

Mending the Tear

To mend the tear, take out the pocket stitches close to the tear so you can mend it.

- Cut a piece of material a little bigger than the tear. Use matching material from a facing, belt or hem if possible.
- Put the patch **under** the tear. Pin in place. (Figure 1A.)
- Stitch back and forth over the tear. You can use a wide zigzag stitch, a straight stitch or a hand running stitch. Machine stitching is stronger than hand stitching.
- If your tear is a corner tear, stitch from both ends to the corner overlapping a few stitches. (Figure 1B.)
  Another way to mend the tear is to put fusible web between the patch and the tear.
- Put a wet cloth or paper towel over the tear.
- Press, leaving the iron on the tear while you slowly count to 15.
- Let the patch cool. The patch can come loose unless it is cool. If the patch isn't sticking, press again and let it cool before moving it. (Figure 1C.)

To Sew on the Pocket

To sew the pocket on, use thread the same color as the other stitching if you can.

To sew the pocket by machine, set the sewing machine so the stitches are the same length as the ones that are holding the pocket on.

- Start so that you sew over three of the stitches already there.
- Sew to the top of the pocket. At the top edge of the pocket, stitch a triangle to help keep the pocket from tearing loose again. (Figure 2A.)

To sew the pocket on by hand, use a backstitch. This stitch will look like machine stitching. Start so you sew over three of the stitches already there.

- To backstitch, bring the needle through the pocket from the wrong side. Push the needle down through the material about 1/8 inch back of where you started. Bring the needle out one stitch in front of that stitch. (Figure 2B.)
- Continue stitching to the top of the pocket. At the top edge of the pocket, stitch a triangle to keep the pocket from tearing loose.

If you want, you can make a new pocket that is bigger and covers the mended tear. Use material that goes with the garment. The new pocket can be trimmed with pieces of the old pocket. (Figure 3.)
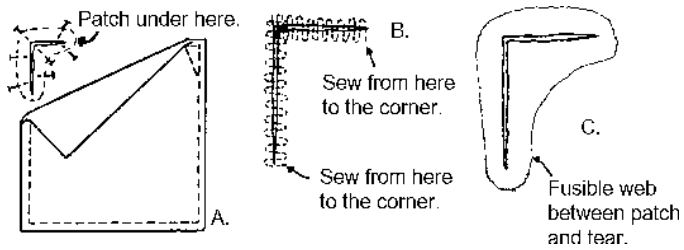
Quick Facts...
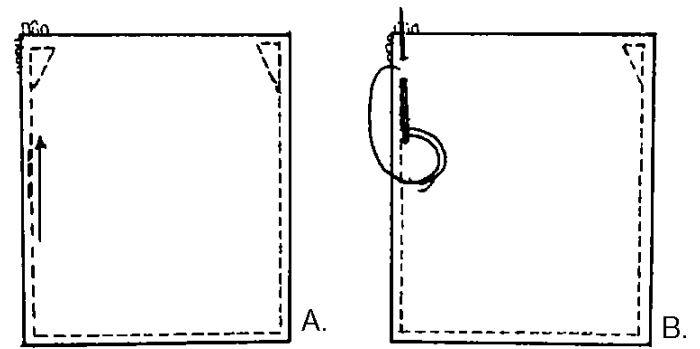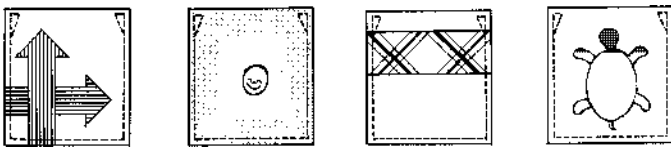
If a pocket has torn loose from a garment, mend the torn material underneath the pocket first.

Mend the tear with a patch and machine or hand stitching, or by using fusible web.

To sew the pocket on by machine, overlap the stitching and sew to the top of the pocket; use a similar procedure for hand stitching.

A new pocket can be made in a decorative design to replace the old pocket.

Colorado State University Cooperative Extension

Patch under here.

B.
Sew from here to the corner.

Sew from here to the corner.

C.
Fusible web between patch and tear.

Figure 1.

A.

B.

Figure 2.

Figure 3.