Serge Organize

A simple serged chatelaine for around her neck and a sewing caddy for under her machine make great gifts for your sewing friends.

By Barbara Rezac

Finished sizes

Chatelaine: 53 inches long with 1¼-inch-wide neck ribbon
Caddy: 18 x 18 inches

Materials

- 44/45-inch lightweight woven fabric:
  ¾ yard for background
  ½ yard for pocket
- ⅝ yard 44/45-inch-wide mediumweight woven fabric for backing
- 1⅜ yards coordinating piping
- 6 x 8 inches paper-backed fusible web
- 5-inch fusible tape
- Threads:
  2 spools 12-weight multicolored cotton thread
  4 cones serger thread
- Optional: glue stick
- Piping foot
- Basic sewing supplies and equipment

Cutting

From background fabric:

- Cut one 21 x 24-inch rectangle for caddy front.
- Cut one 2½ strip the width of the fabric for neck ribbon.

From pocket fabric:

- Cut one 21 x 10-inch rectangle for back pocket.
- Cut one 21 x 5-inch rectangle for front pocket.
- Cut one 7 x 3½-inch rectangle for pin cushion.
- Cut two 6 x 8-inch rectangles for scissors holder.

From backing fabric:

- Cut one 21 x 19-inch rectangle for backing.

From piping:

- Cut two 21-inch lengths.

Caddy Assembly

Use a 3- or 4-thread overlock with ¼-inch-wide seam and medium stitch length. Sew right sides together. Press as you sew.

1. Attach piping foot to serger. Position a length of piping across each long edge of back pocket rectangle (Figure 1). ***Note:*** *A glue stick may help hold piping in place.*

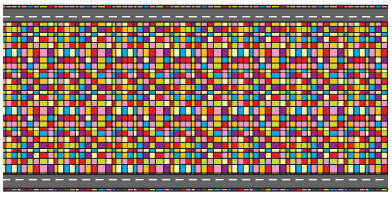


Figure 1

2. Serge 21-inch edge of caddy front to one piping edge of back pocket. Serge one long edge of front pocket to the opposite piping edge of back pocket. Press fabric to expose piping.

3. Accordion-fold pockets so the two piped edges are approximately 1¾ inches apart (Figure 2). ***Note:*** *The bottom fold of the back pocket is above the bottom edge of the front pocket.* Press bottom fold in back pocket. Pin fold in place.

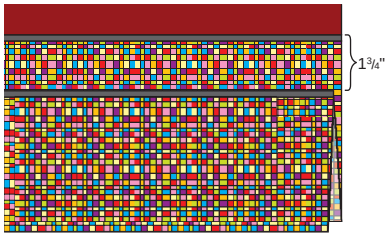


Figure 2

4. Fold caddy front so fold is even with raw edge of front pocket (Figure 3). Press fold in fabric.

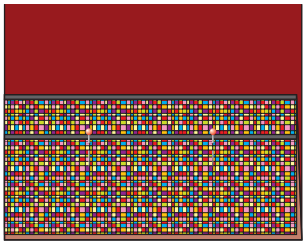
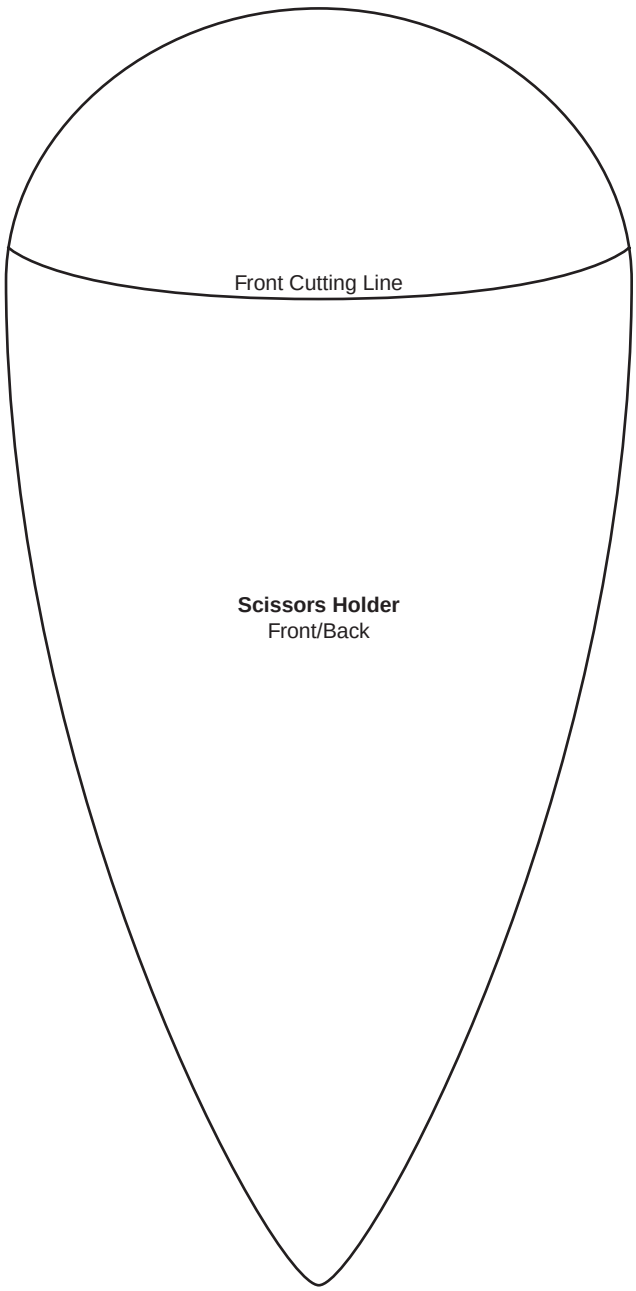


Figure 3

5. Pin backing to caddy background and pocket unit with right sides together. Serge one edge. Fold serged seam under, folding right on the needle thread to create a wrapped corner, then stitch the second side. Repeat on each edge, leaving an opening on one side for turning.

6. Turn caddy right side out. Press. Close opening with a ¼-inch-wide strip of fusible tape.

7. Mark pocket divisions at 4½-inch intervals from side and stitch using sewing machine.



Serge Organize
Template
Actual Size

Chatelaine Assembly

Leave serger set for 4-thread overlock. Thread both loopers with 12-weight multicolored cotton thread.

1. Fold neck ribbon in half lengthwise with wrong sides together. Serge four sides.

2. Fold pincushion piece in half to make a 3½ x 3½-inch square. Serge around one folded edge and two additional sides. Stuff with fiberfill, then serge fourth edge closed.

3. Place the fabric for the scissor holder front and back pieces with wrong sides together. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse the pieces together using paper-backed fusible web. Using scissors holder template, cut one front and one back. Serge across the upper curved edge of front piece.

4. Place front and back together, aligning edges. Serge outer edges.

5. Use sewing machine to stitch one end of neck ribbon to pincushion and opposite end to scissors holder. §

Sources: Steam-A-Seam 2 fusible web from The Warm Company; Blendables multicolored cotton thread from Sulky of America.

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