Easy to Sew "Armchair Caddy" – (12" x 34" approx.)

The Norfolk (NE) Veterans Home is requesting "**Armchair Caddies.**" Having a caddy on the chair may prevent the veteran from falling out of their chair if he/she might have to retrieve a cell phone, remote control, pen, etc. that has fallen from the chair. With a caddy on the chair, their items would be within arm's reach. This will be an ongoing project, so the staff hopes that volunteers will make caddies and ship/deliver them to the Norfolk Veterans Home, 600 E Benjamin Ave, Norfolk, NE 68701. For more information, contact LaRee Kubes, lareekubes@yahoo.com; 402-841-6813.
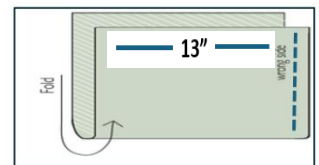
Pattern: There is no one pattern that must be used. The preference is to make **pockets only on one end** of the caddy. The danger with pockets on both ends, is that the remote, phone etc. can be damaged if placed in a pocket that is inside the chair and the items get caught within chair mechanisms. Make the caddy 12" x 34" finished size. The added length is helpful so the caddy can be tucked into the chair to prevent slipping to the outside.

Fabric Choices: The staff indicates that the "Armchair Caddies" they have on hand are made with two layers of fabrics. Fabrics could include denim, drapery, upholstery fabric, cotton etc. It is suggested that at least two coordinating fabrics be used for the caddy.

- Fabric A – Front side of the caddy – (shown in light blue) 13" x WOF (Width of Fabric 42" – 44")
- Fabric B – Back side of caddy (shown in darker blue) and for the TOP pocket so the veteran can see the pocket more easily. 13" x WOF plus 13" x 12" piece.
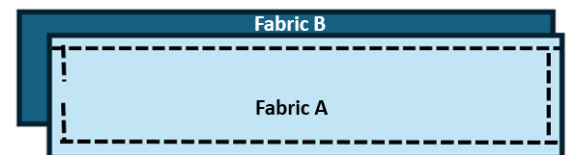
Top Pocket:

1. Cut one piece of fabric 13" x 12." With the right sides together, fold the fabric in half which will result in a 12" x 6" (deep) finished pocket.

2. Serge, or sew both sides seams with a ½" seam. Clip the corners as shown in the image on the right. Carefully press the seams so the edges are sharp and even.

3. Turn the pocket the right side out. Using a pointed tool to poke out the corners - or use a pin to "pull out" the corners for sharp corners.

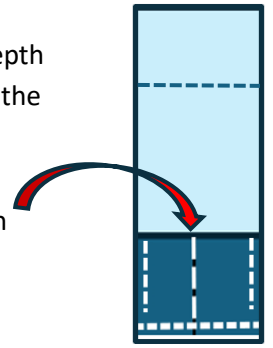4. Top stitch on the folded edge only. Lay the top pocket aside.

Caddy Base:

1. Cut two coordinating fabrics – 13" x Width of Fabric (42 – 44"). Lay Fabric A on top of Fabric B with right sides together and with edges even. Pin and mark an opening on the TOP end. Press the "opening seam allowances" at the seamline so it will be easier to know where to fold the seam allowances later.

2. Sew the fabrics together using a ½" seam all the way around except leaving the opening unsewn. Press the seams open for easier turning at a later time.

3. Using the technique used for the top pocket, clip diagonally at the outside corners. Turn the caddy right sides out. Pull the corners out to make sharp square corners.

4. Tuck the unsewn seam allowances to the inside. Pin into place. Topstitch all around the outside edges of the caddy. Sew across the caddy 12" down from the top end of the caddy to hold the layers together which will be helpful after laundry.
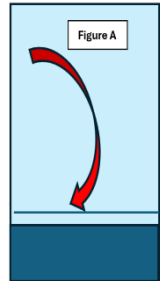

5. To make the bottom pocket, turn up the bottom edge 8." Measure so the pocket is the same depth along the bottom. Pin edges & center. Topstitch through all layers starting down on one side of the pocket, across the bottom edge and then up the other side of the pocket.

6. Draw a line in the center of the pocket (up & down) using chalk or erasable fabric marker. Stitch through all layers at this center line to make two bottom pockets.
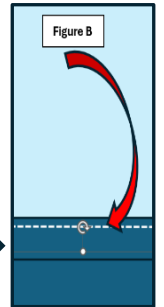
Top Pocket:

1. To add the 6" top pocket, draw a line with chalk or erasable fabric marker 1 ½" above the top edge of the bottom pocket as in **Figure A**.
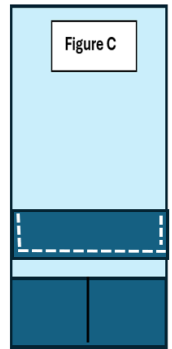
2. Place the "raw edge" of the top pocket **on the line** (raw edge facing upward) as in Figure B. The pocket will be laying downward and laying on top of the bottom pocket. Pin in place.

The TOP pocket with raw edges up and the pocket laying onto of the bottom pocket.

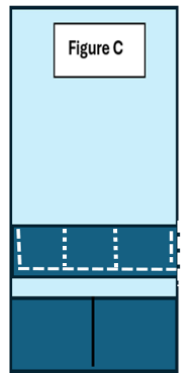3. Sew the TOP pocket to the caddy by stitching ¼" away from the raw edge.

4. After stitching along the raw top edge, fold the pocket **up** as in **Figure C** with the folded edge at the top. Pin the top pocket at the sides. Stitch the pocket to the caddy at the side seams and across the bottom to attach it to the caddy.

5. Determine how to divide the pocket into sections. Examples are:
   o #1 - Divide the pocket in half (stitching up & down)
   o #2 – Divide the pocket into thirds (stitching up & down)
   o #3 – Measure 1 ½" from the outside edge and draw a line up & down to make a "pencil/pen" section. Then divide the remaining portion – making sure one portion is wide enough for a smart phone.

6. Draw lines with chalk or erasable fabric marker. Stitch on top of the drawn lines as indicated in white dotted lines at the right.

   Other suggested caddy patterns can be found online. *Just "Google" - "How to Sew a Fabric Remote Control Holder by Deb Days." The link is* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MmEM3zppHq   *Make the caddy 34" so it can be tucked in on the inside of the chair.*