Make a Roll-Up Pencil Case from Fabric

Four original pencil slots, a measured pocket band and two soft closure ties

A four-slot roll begins as a rectangle

This original plan uses a single outer fabric BASE 180 x 220 mm, a separate POCKET BAND 180 x 90 mm, and TWO soft fabric TIES, each 180 x 20 mm before being folded and finished. The base provides the flexible background on which writing tools rest. The pocket band covers the lower portion and is divided into four nominal equal slots by three vertical stitching lines. The ties are attached on the BACK of the base; they wrap around a rolled bundle and are tied by the user. These are four independent types of cut pieces (one base, one pocket band and two ties), not one continuous cut net.

Lay the base flat with its left lower corner at (0,0). Unless a separate piece is named, all later placement coordinates refer to THIS base origin. Its raw boundaries are x0..180, y0..220 mm. The separate pocket band has x0..180 and y0..90. Turn its upper raw edge inward FIRST by 10 mm to y80 and THEN by another 10 mm to y70, leaving a nominal 70 mm tall band measured from its bottom raw cut edge. Position the finished pocket band against the BASE lower end, with both lower raw edges aligned at y0 and its upper folded edge at y70. Secure its side and bottom margins to the base along x10, x170 and y10. These lines leave a nominal region between x10 and x170, 160 mm wide, divided at x50, x90 and x130 into FOUR 40 mm slots.

Count the separators, not the objects

Three interior divider stitch lines separate four compartments: x50 marks the end of slot one and the start of slot two, x90 separates slots two and three, and x130 separates slots three and four. Each divider runs from the bottom stitch line near y10 up to a point just below the finished upper pocket edge near y70. Stop at the finished top edge; sewing beyond it could trap a pencil opening or make the pocket unusable. A nominal 40 mm compartment width is a DRAWN seamline-to-seamline space, not a guarantee that a particular pen, ruler, eraser or tool will fit. Thick pens and fabric bulk take up real space.

One tie end can be anchored on the BACK near the right outer edge of the base at x165, around y120. Anchor BOTH separate ties together in that same protected area, leaving their long free tails loose so they can wrap around the finished roll from the outside. The printed 180 mm length of each tie is only a first trial: tying ability depends on actual thickness, fold method and roll diameter, and extra length may be needed. The original printed layout never claims a knot is secure under a measured force.

A4 and Letter are still printing constraints

PATTERN 1 carries the full-size 180 x 220 mm BASE only. PATTERN 2 carries the separate 180 x 90 mm POCKET band and TWO independent 180 x 20 mm TIE strips, all at original size. Each sheet includes an independent 50 mm reference bar outside the fabric outlines. Both A4 and Letter have enough nominal sheet dimensions for this geometry, but printer margins vary. Choose Actual Size / 100%, disable Fit, and inspect every border for clipping. If a full-size line is missing, redraw numerically on larger paper instead of tracing a partial page.

Materials, order and safer handling

Choose expendable stable woven cloth, ordinary suitable thread and a needle that does not damage the sample. A millimetre ruler, fabric marker used according to its instructions, paper templates, ordinary scissors, soft clips or controlled pins, and a sharps container are useful. Avoid stiff coated textiles or heavily fraying material for a first sample. If you wish to crease an edge, finger-crease scrap; optional heat needs the actual fabric care label and iron manual and is never required for these digital calculations. Never place a metal clip under an iron. Do not carry pointed pencils with exposed sharp tips in a fabric-only case as a safety measure.

Mark and assemble the pocket - steps 1 to 7

1. Print the BASE master at 100%, check its 50 mm bar and inspect the complete 180 x 220 mm CUT outline. Mark the same measurements on an expendable piece of cloth, choosing one side as RIGHT and one as WRONG.

2. Print the SECOND master separately, measure its own 50 mm bar and identify the 180 x 90 mm POCKET cut rectangle and two separate 180 x 20 mm TIE strips. No tie line belongs inside the pocket rectangle.

3. Cut one BASE, one POCKET band and two TIE blanks on expendable cloth. Keep them separate. If a cut edge frays, use a fabric-compatible narrow edge finish without assuming a specific millimetre loss will be harmless.

4. On the pocket strip, lightly mark the first top turn 10 mm from its y90 raw top edge, giving a fold line y80, and a further 10 mm turn resulting in a final folded top y70. These are two TURNS of the same edge, not two seam allowances to be cut away.

5. Make both turns toward the WRONG side and hold them temporarily. Secure the folded top hem with an appropriate low-load hand stitch close to the inner fold, keeping the upper opening free of pins and unneeded thick embellishment.

6. Position the POCKET on the RIGHT side of the BASE, aligning the raw bottom edges at y0 and the side cut edges at x0 and x180. Its folded upper edge should sit around base y70. Do not turn the pocket upside down so the finished fold meets the bottom.

7. Stitch the pocket's left side at x10, right side at x170 and bottom at y10 to the base, keeping the pocket TOP open. Remove any clips or pins before a moving needle reaches them; never stitch over metal fasteners. Secure thread ends modestly rather than claiming a tested load capacity.

Inspect the drawn coordinates before proceeding

The right side and bottom guides are STITCH lines, not CUT boundaries. The original x0..180 cut rectangle stays larger than the region between seams. The three interior x positions refer to pocket DIVIDERS only and do not instruct cutting the base into four ribbons. A 50 mm printed bar that measures 49 mm means a factor of 0.98; a 180 mm nominal width would then appear as 176.4 mm. This is arithmetic, not a physical Steadleaf printer test. Use the actual ruler distances or reprint if accurate marking is important.

Divide, add ties and roll - steps 8 to 15

8. With the pocket top still OPEN, mark three vertical lines on the pocket surface at base x50, x90 and x130 from near its lower y10 seam to just below its finished upper edge y70. They divide the measured x10..170 between side seams into four equal 40 mm PLAN widths.

9. Stitch the three divider lines between the bottom seam and the top folded edge, taking care not to sew closed the top mouths of any pocket. Stop and secure near y70 without stitching into free space above the band. The thread and seam allowances may reduce usable width.

10. On EACH of the two 180 x 20 mm tie blanks, fold the two long raw edges inward until they meet on the centre line, each turn consuming approximately 5 mm. Fold that doubled strip lengthwise down its centre once more, enclosing both raw edges. This four-layer method makes a NOMINAL 5 mm wide soft tie (20 / 4 = 5 mm) before thickness and folding accuracy. Secure the long folded edge with suitable stitching, or use an appropriate finished fabric tape. Do not confuse the original 20 mm CUT width with the ~5 mm planned folded width.

11. Turn the BASE to expose its BACK. Place the short end of the first tie near the right side around x165 and y120, keeping its long tail extending OUTWARD to the right. Place the second short tie end beside or over the first without trapping either free end. This is a position guide, not a structural anchor rating.

12. Stitch the two tie ends to the back using a small suitable reinforced patch of stitching, staying within the fabric region and clear of pocket divider openings on the front. There is no mandatory box-X dimension: actual fabric and stitching need independent assessment. Do not attach a sharp eyelet or metal hook.

13. Place only BLUNT, lightweight writing tools in the four pockets as expendable fit checks. Do not put knives, scissors, exposed sharp pencil points or heavy metal tools in this flexible carrier. If a tool sits too tall, select a different design instead of forcing the fabric over it.

14. Starting at the left edge, roll the base gently toward the right tie-anchor edge, keeping the tools parallel to the long axis and the tie tails free. If the bundle twists, flatten the sample rather than pulling forcefully on the ties.

15. Bring both loose ties around the closed roll and make a removable ordinary knot if the lengths permit. If they are too short, redo the ties with measured longer blanks; do not claim the printed 180 mm lengths guarantee closure. Record the actual number of objects, roll diameter, tie lengths, and anything NOT TESTED. Keep the finished item out of children's and animals' reach.

Why a flexible roll cannot be protective equipment

The base is 220 mm tall before any optional raw-edge finish. A pencil may be longer than the pocket band and rest against the bare base, but no sewn cap closes over its point. Thickness of stored objects changes roll circumference and therefore changes the tie length required. This textile case offers organizational layout only. It does not protect skin from sharp points, resist puncture, retain a pencil if dropped, or protect a valuable pen from impact. Use individual caps and a suitable rigid case when those properties are required.

Diagnose slot, tie and fold errors

If the first slot is narrower than the others, inspect whether the left pocket seam was stitched farther inside than x10, or the divider placed at a different coordinate. With intended stitches at x10, x50, x90, x130 and x170, the nominal spaces are 40 + 40 + 40 + 40 = 160 mm. That does not make actual openings equal if folds or seams consume different amounts of cloth. If a pen will not enter, do not force it; choose a slimmer harmless object or a newly dimensioned pattern. If the pocket lip is sewn shut, release only practice stitching carefully and keep all four mouths unblocked.

If the tie attachment pulls or frays, stop using the roll. Heavy contents, thin weak cloth or incorrect anchor placement may exceed the material. The printed diagram cannot predict reinforcement strength or safe load. If the ties are loose, check whether the short ends were attached on the BACK and whether the free tails were kept distinct during stitching. A tied loop around a small tool roll must never be placed around a person's body, a pet or a child's neck. No physical strength or entanglement testing has been performed by the publisher.

Change dimensions as a new version, not a zoomed screenshot

The number of slots can be redesigned only by recalculating the usable width between side stitch lines. For a hypothetical 200 mm-wide base with 10 mm on each edge, the between-seam width is 200 - 20 = 180 mm. Four equal projected compartments would be 45 mm wide before stitch bulk. The NEW divider x coordinates must be recalculated; keep the supplied original 180 mm cut blank distinct from this hypothetical variation. Likewise, a wider pocket hem, larger base height or longer tie requires a fresh printed master and an accurate ruler check. Do not enlarge the PDF by a print driver and assume seam allowances remain 10 mm.

References, authorship and limits

Oregon State University Extension, *Plain Seams and Seam Finishes*, https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/4-h320-19.pdf . General information on raw-edge and seam choices; no university drawing is reproduced.

Oregon State University Extension, *Hand-Sewing Skills*, https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/extd8/files/documents/4-h320-13.pdf . General background about controlled hand stitching and securing thread; does not certify tie strength or layout.

Adobe Acrobat Help, *Adjust page size for printing PDFs*, https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/desktop/print-documents/set-up-and-print-pdfs/page-size.html . Background on actual-size printing; no particular printer's output was measured by this publisher.

All base, pocket and tie measurements, 40 mm slot spacing, x165/y120 illustrative anchor, original instructions, vector diagrams, maker record and cover were independently created for Steadleaf Press. No commercial roll-up case template, branded pencil illustration or third-party guide graphic was copied. Steadleaf Press made NO physical sample, carried NO real pens or pencils, stitched NO real seam, tied NO real knot, and conducted NO load, puncture, laundering, retention, fit, fire or child safety trial. This is a free adult digital teaching pattern only; the reader must assess the actual materials, tools, and intended safe use.

BASE / 180 x 220 mm / ONE CUT PIECE

BASE: 180 x 220 mm / cut ONE

Pocket upper edge planned near y70.

Pocket base at y0, lower seam at y10.

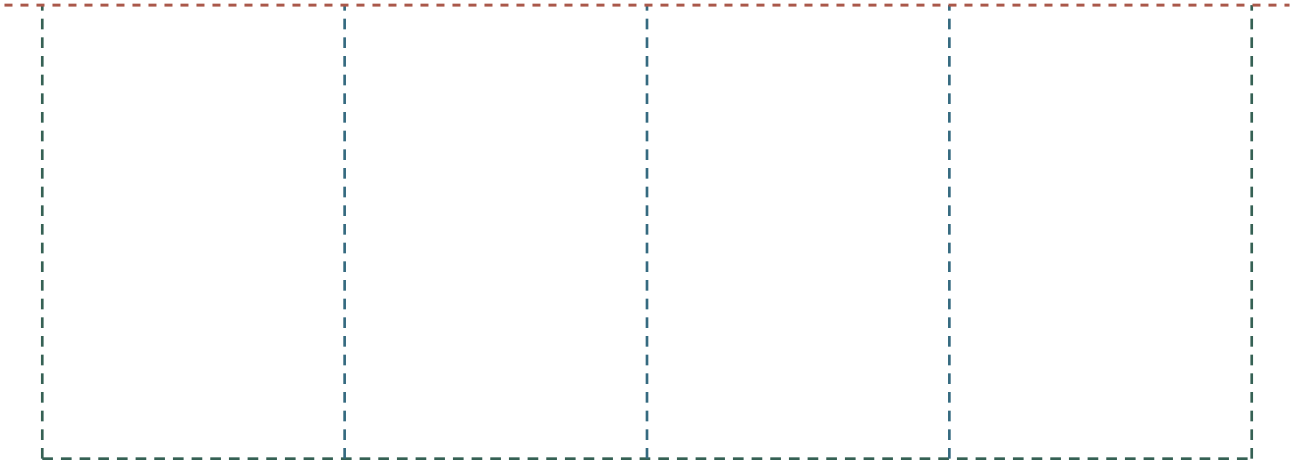
Dividers x50, x90, x130; 4 nominal 40mm slots.

Two ties attach on BACK near x165/y120.

The anchor is NOT a tested load rating.



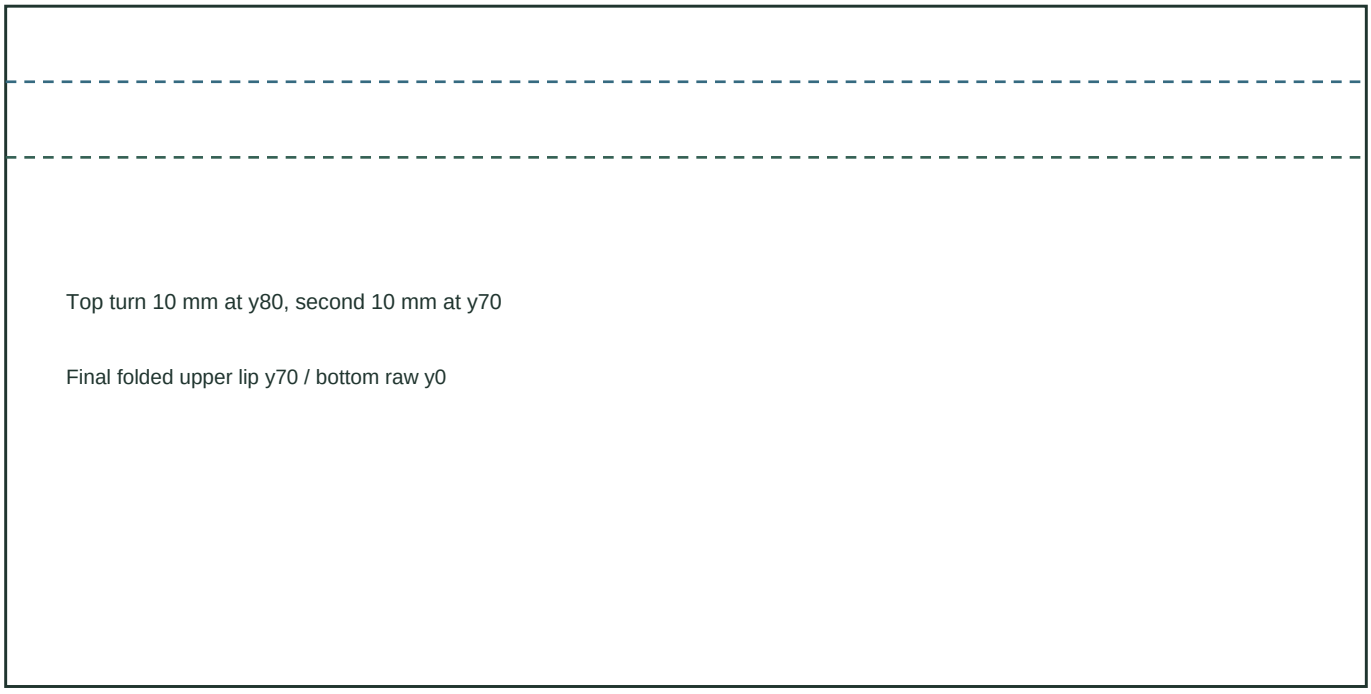
50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a ruler (NOT a fabric mark)



POCKET BAND AND TWO SEPARATE TIES

ORIGINAL VECTOR / FREE / ACTUAL SIZE / PATTERN 2 OF 2

CUT ONE pocket band, 180 x 90 mm



TIE 1: CUT 180 x 20 mm (one independent strip)

TIE 2: CUT 180 x 20 mm (one independent strip)

Both soft ties: fold long edges in, stitch safely.

Anchor separately on BACK; free ends stay loose.



50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a ruler

MAKER RECORD / WORK PLAN

Base 180x220 / pocket180x90 / two ties180x20

Pocket top fold y80 first10, y70 second10

Outer seams x10 x170 / bottom y10

Divider stitch lines x50 x90 x130

Four intended 40 mm NOMINAL slots

Two tie anchors on BACK near x165 y120

Actual tool height, width and sharpness

Real tie fit, entanglement and NOT TESTED

PUBLISHER: NO PHYSICAL BUILD OR PERFORMANCE TESTS PERFORMED

Only record a real observation if YOU performed it.



50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a ruler

MAKER RECORD / OUTCOME

Which exact measurements did you use, and on what paper?

Which physical material and tools did you actually choose?

What did your real cloth, seams, folds, or joins do?

Which safety or fit issue stopped you, if any?

Where does the real sample differ from nominal math?

What was NOT TESTED? Never invent an outcome.

What would a responsible second version change?

Date, initials, all sharps stored, and next action

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Only record a real observation if YOU performed it.



50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a ruler