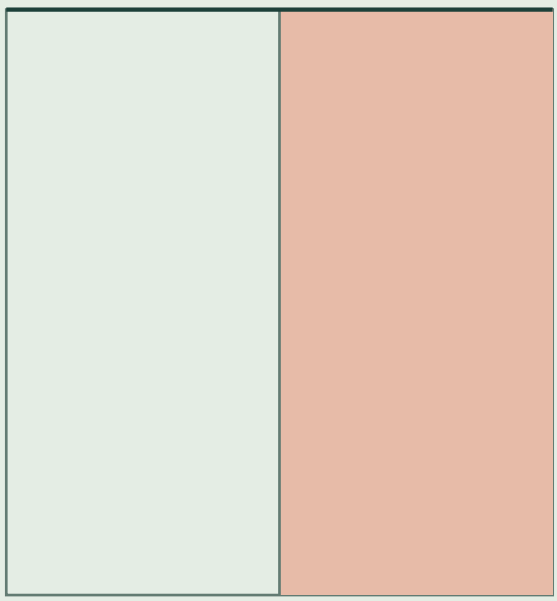
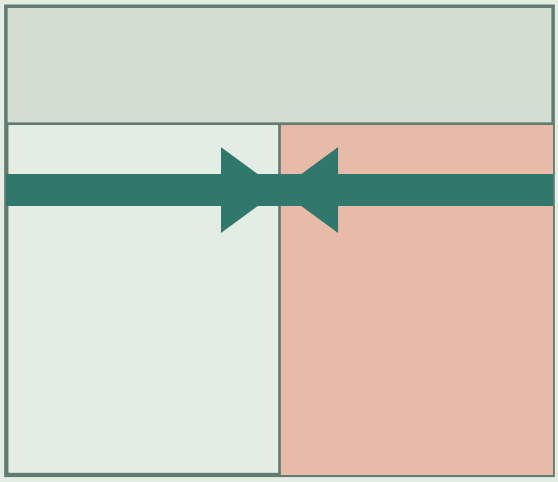
STEADLEAF PRESS
MAKE / OFFCUTS & CREATIVE REUSE

Make a Patchwork Scrap Fabric Gift Pouch





FOUR OFFCUTS / ONE GIFT POUCH

14 practical steps · Sort · sew · fold

Original diagrams and two printable maker records

Illustrative plans — not physical test results

FREE GUIDE + PRINTABLES | STP-MAKE-F136

Before you start

A few sound fabric remnants can become a small reusable gift pouch without requiring a new length of cloth. This project uses four rectangular offcuts joined in pairs. It makes a simple flat open-top pouch with a fold-over opening and removable ribbon tie, not a drawstring bag or a load-bearing container. Use it for a light dry non-food gift.

Materials: four compatible stable woven fabric rectangles, each 90 x 180 mm after any preparation; matching thread, hand-sewing needle or sewing machine suitable for the material, fabric scissors, metric ruler, removable marking tool, clips or pins, an optional iron only if fabric care and your setup permit, and a soft removable ribbon. Select clean sound scraps with known care requirements; avoid contaminated, brittle, heavily coated, stretchy or unknown fabric. Keep sharp tools and loose ribbon away from children and pets.

Plan the project

Label rectangles A and B for the front, C and D for the back. Join each pair along a 180 mm edge, right sides together, using 10 mm seam allowances. Each joined panel is nominally 90+90−20 = 160 mm wide and 180 mm high. Finish and flatten the centre seam. On each panel turn the top raw edge 10 mm to the wrong side, then another 10 mm, and stitch the hem near its lower folded edge. The panel becomes nominally 160 x 160 mm.

Place the hemmed panels right sides together with top edges aligned. Sew only the two sides and bottom with 10 mm allowances, leaving the top completely open. Nominal finished flat external width = 160−20 = 140 mm; height = 160−10 = 150 mm. After inserting a suitable light gift, fold the top 30 mm toward the front, leaving roughly 120 mm below the fold before accommodating thickness. Tie a removable ribbon loosely around the pouch body if desired. Measure the actual ribbon route around the filled pouch and add enough for a loose bow; no universal cut length or holding strength is implied.

Steps 01–02

1. Choose suitable remnants

Gather four clean dry scraps of compatible stable woven cloth, such as cotton pieces with similar weight and known care. Inspect both faces for weakness, stains, holes and loose coatings. Do not reuse material of uncertain contamination or use the pouch for food, medicine, pet items or children’s products. Set damaged scraps aside rather than treating the pouch as a repair for them.

2. Prepare the fabric and tools

Wash or otherwise prepare each fabric only if its care instructions permit, then dry and smooth it. Use an iron only if appropriate to the actual fabric and your ability to handle it safely; finger pressing is an alternative for this simple craft. Set up a stable cutting and sewing area, keep a needle container, and follow sewing machine instructions if using one.

Steps 03–04

3. Plan the four rectangles

Draw four 90 x 180 mm rectangles on paper, labelled A, B, C and D. Align the long edges with a suitable straight grain on each scrap when possible. Choose a balanced pairing and note which side of each fabric will face outward. If a piece is too small, choose a new scrap or recalculate all four rectangles consistently; do not remove seam allowances to squeeze them in.

4. Cut and mark the panels

Transfer the rectangles with a compatible marking tool and cut with appropriate fabric scissors on a protected surface. Check actual dimensions and mark the top edge of each piece on its wrong side. Mark the 10 mm seam line on a test scrap rather than leaving permanent marks on the visible fabric. Keep all four pieces flat and sort offcuts for reuse.

Steps 05–06

5. Practise the seam

Put two small compatible scraps right sides together and practise a straight seam 10 mm from the raw edge, using backstitch for hand sewing or a suitable machine straight stitch. Secure starts and ends according to the sewing method. Inspect for skipped stitches, puckers or fabric damage. Choose a matching needle and thread; stop if the fabric or equipment cannot be handled safely.

6. Join the front patchwork pair

Place A and B right sides together with their long 180 mm edges aligned and their top marks at the same end. Sew along one long edge 10 mm from the raw edge. Open the pair and flatten the seam allowances to the sides if the fabric permits. Finish raw seam allowance edges with a suitable hand overcast or machine edge finish without trimming into the stitch line. Measure the joined front.

Steps 07–08

7. Join the back patchwork pair

Repeat for C and D using the same 10 mm seam. Each finished flat panel should be near 160 x 180 mm before hemming, because joining consumes 10 mm from each piece. Compare front and back and check that both top edges are square. If one panel differs substantially, correct the join or recut a matching pair rather than forcing it to fit.

8. Hem both top edges

With each panel wrong side up, fold the top raw edge down 10 mm, then fold down another 10 mm to enclose it. Flatten by a compatible method and stitch near the lower folded edge, leaving the top fold intact. The nominal height becomes 160 mm. Work through the bulky centre join slowly; do not force a needle or machine through an unsuitable stack.

Steps 09–10

9. Align the hemmed panels

Place the panels right sides together with hemmed top edges matching and raw side and bottom edges aligned. Clip or pin as suitable, removing pins before any machine needle reaches them. Mark a 10 mm U-shaped seam path down one side, across the bottom and up the other side. Keep the top opening unsewn. Check actual width and height before stitching.

10. Sew the side and bottom seams

Sew along the marked U-shaped seam at 10 mm, securing the start and end near the opening. At the lower corners, turn the work according to your sewing method while keeping the needle and hands safe. Finish accessible raw allowances with a compatible overcast or edge stitch. Avoid cutting the seam threads or narrowing the allowance unnecessarily; the pouch is for light gifts only.

Steps 11–12

11. Turn and inspect the pouch

Remove every pin and clip before turning the pouch through the open top. Ease the corners with fingers or a blunt suitable turner without poking through the fabric. Flatten gently. Measure the nominal 140 x 150 mm exterior, allowing for cloth thickness and construction variation. Examine the seams and hem for open stitches and loose threads. Do not pull or hang weights to demonstrate strength.

12. Plan the fold-over closure

Use a light dry gift that fits without stressing the seams or preventing the opening from folding. Place it inside and fold the top approximately 30 mm toward the front. The flat remaining height is nominally 120 mm but a three-dimensional item needs extra room. If it does not fold comfortably, use a smaller gift. This is not a sealed or secure storage bag.

Steps 13–14

13. Fit an optional removable ribbon

Measure around the actual filled pouch where a loose decorative ribbon will sit below the fold, then add sufficient ends for a bow and trim using suitable scissors. Tie gently so the gift is not compressed and the pouch does not rely on the ribbon to carry weight. Remove the ribbon before storage or as needed; avoid long loose ties in areas accessible to children or pets.

14. Record the finished pouch

Enter the four fabric IDs, cut sizes, seam allowance, actual panel and finished dimensions, hem and seam observations, gift fit and any ribbon length used. Mark READY FOR LIGHT DECORATIVE GIFT, CHANGE/REMAKE or HOLD. Store dry and follow the most restrictive known care instructions of the combined materials. No carrying-strength, child-safety, food-contact or wash-durability certification is implied.

Fix, care and preserve

Panels do not match. Recheck the actual seam allowance and prepare matched panels before joining.

Top edge frays. Remake or repair the double-turn hem on sound fabric.

Corner is bulky. Ease it with a suitable blunt tool; avoid cutting through stitches.

Opening will not fold. Choose a smaller gift or plan a larger pouch, preserving seam allowance.

Seam opens. Remove the gift, inspect and resew on sound fabric; do not use as a carrier.

Source & evidence boundary

Original Steadleaf English prose, calculations, vector artwork, diagrams and maker records. The following sources provide factual context, not certification of this design. Follow actual product instructions and local disposal guidance.

Health Canada, Arts and crafts safety

https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/home-garden-safety/use-arts-crafts-materials-safely.html

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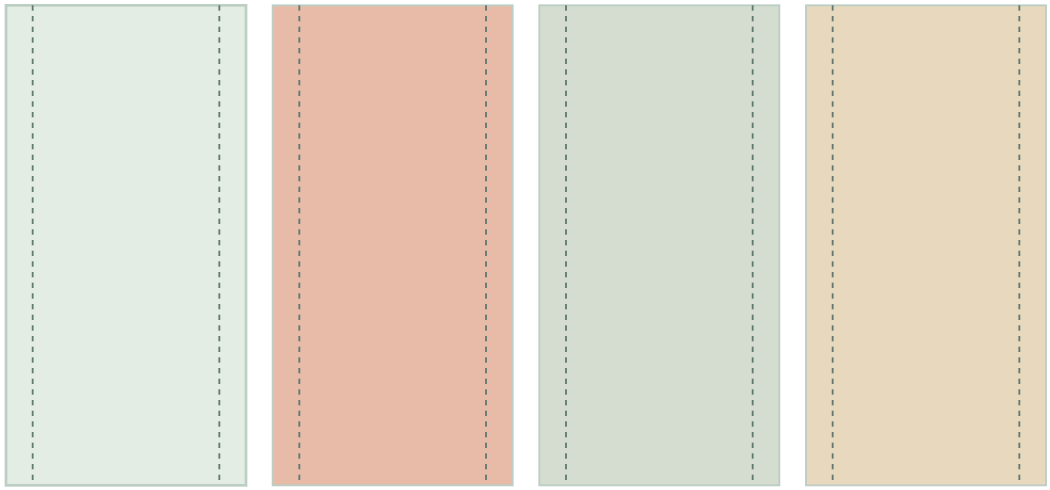
Four-rectangle cutting and join plan

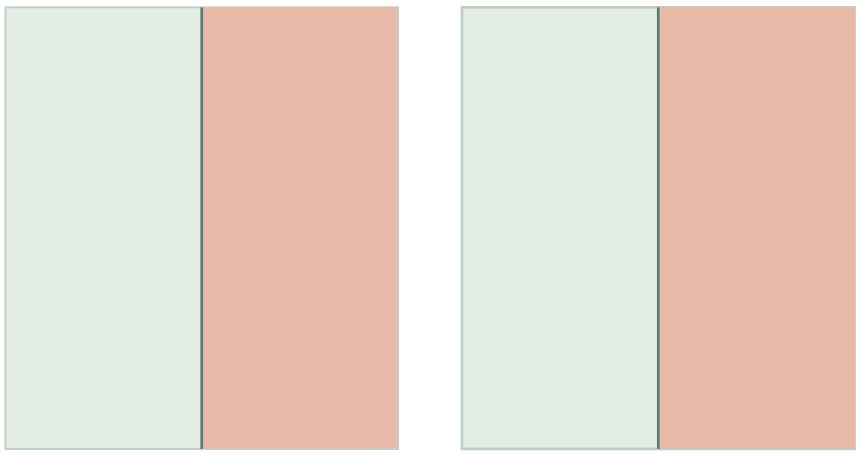
Four 90 x 180 mm rectangles. A+B and C+D joined along long edges with 10 mm allowances; each joined panel 160 x 180 mm. Double 10 mm top hem reduces height to 160 mm.

FOUR CUT RECTANGLES / 10 mm SEAM ALLOWANCE



A B C D

JOIN PAIRS ALONG ONE LONG EDGE



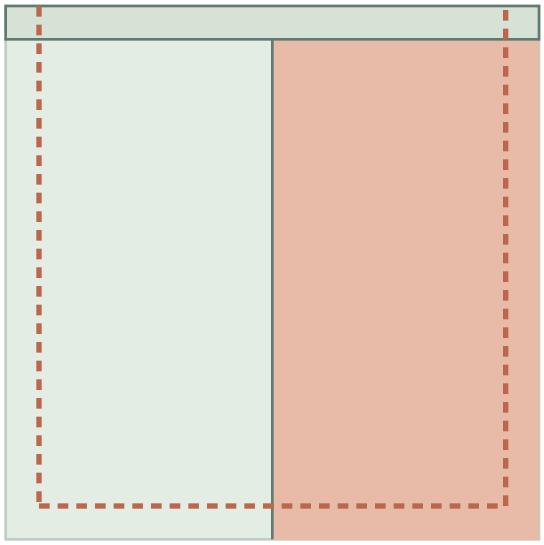
FRONT A+B BACK C+D

90 + 90 – 20 = 160 mm panel width

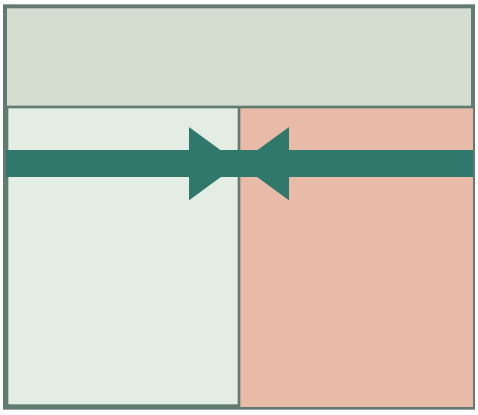
U-seam and fold-over pouch

Hem both tops first. Right sides together, sew 10 mm sides and bottom only. Turn through opening: nominal 140 x 150 mm. Fold top 30 mm; optional removable ribbon measured around actual gift.

HEM FIRST • THEN SEW SIDES AND BOTTOM



U-SEAM / TOP OPEN



TURN / FOLD / TIE

Finished flat size: 140 × 150 mm. A 30 mm fold leaves about 120 mm below the fold. Ribbon is removable; measure around the actual filled pouch.

Offcut cutting and seam plan

Enter actual observations only. Mark missing information UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED. This is a craft record, not a safety or performance certificate.

A / B fabric and dimensions

C / D fabric and dimensions

Preparation / care labels

Needle / thread / seam practice

Front and back joined dimensions

Double-turn hem / actual height

U seam allowance / orientation

Decision: PROCEED / CHANGE / HOLD

Pouch finish and fit

Enter actual observations only. Mark missing information UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED. This is a craft record, not a safety or performance certificate.

Finished width / height

Top hem / side and bottom seams

Loose threads / pins removed

Gift fit / fold depth

Ribbon route and actual length

Disposition: LIGHT GIFT / CHANGE-REMAKE / HOLD

Care and storage / date

Unresolved issue