Closet Organizer Sewing Pattern from SewCanShe

www.sewcanshe.com/blog/how-to-sew-a-closet-organizer-free-sewing-tutorial

Sew an organizer covered with pockets that you can hang in your closet! This easy sewing project is great for organizing sewing and craft supplies, fashion accessories, bathroom necessities, gift wrappings, and more. There are pockets on both sides plus a big interior pocket so every bit of space is used. I'll show you easy step by step instructions for sewing this organizer and putting it to use in your home. Get sew organized today.

I also added this sewing pattern to my list of 11+ Free Sewing Projects to Make You More Organized - because it totally fits!

My closet organizer is sewn from quilting cotton fabric, and I inserted a sturdy wooden coat hanger with a swivel hook so it can hang just about anywhere.

The finished size is approximately 19" wide x 35" tall. There are a total of 6 pockets, divided into 12 sections total.
The back of the organizer has 3 tall deep pockets that are great for storing long rulers, rolls of wrapping paper or embroidery stabilizer, sewing patterns, and more.

Access the inside of the fabric organizer using a long zipper. This provides storage for large flat items and also lets you insert a sturdy clothes hanger.

The pockets on this organizer are made similar to the way that I made the pockets on my Mug Caddy and #10 Caddy Organizer. They are so easy!

You will need:

- a sturdy coat hanger
- 1 zipper, 18” or longer
- 1 yard of fabric for the exterior*
- 1 yard of fabric for the lining (interior - I used plain muslin to save money)*
- 1 yard of fabric for the front pockets*
- 1 yard of fabric for the back pockets*
- a fat quarter or 1/3 yard of fabric for making the binding
- Pins or Wonderclips
- a fabric marking pen (such as a Frixion pen or blue fabric marker)
- a regular mug with about a 3” opening (or the Creative grids curved corner ruler)
- Sewing Stiletto (very helpful for sewing binding)

*More fabric may be needed if you are using a directional print.

CUTTING

From the fabric for the exterior of the organizer, cut:

- 2 rectangles 35” x 19”

From the lining fabric, cut:

- 2 rectangles 35” x 19”

Note: all cutting dimensions are height x width, however I have turned some fabric pieces in the cutting diagrams in order to make the best use of fabric. If your fabric is directional, you will need extra fabric to ensure that the print is right side up.
From your fabric for the front pockets, cut:

- 1 rectangle 17” x 19” (Pocket 1)
- 1 rectangle 17” x 25” (Pocket 2)
- 1 retangle 13” x 29” (Pocket 3)

From your fabric for back pockets, cut:

- 1 rectangle 40” x 12” (Pocket 4)
- 1 rectangle 20” x 12” (Pocket 5)
- 1 rectangle 19” x 12” (Pocket 6)

If you are using 1/3 yard of fabric for your binding, cut:

- 7 bias cut strips of fabric that are 2 1/4” wide (strips cut at a 45 degree angle)

Sew the bias cut strips together to make one strip at least 3 yards long.

If you would like to use a fat quarter to make your binding, use my video tutorial for making 3+ yards of bias binding from a FQ. It is perfect for this project.
MARK THE FRONT OF THE ORGANIZER

1. Use a fabric marker and the diagram at right to draw 6 horizontal lines on the right side of one of the 35” x 19” rectangles of fabric that will be the organizer exterior.

2. Pocket 1 does not have any dividing lines, but Pockets 2 and 3 do.

   In the space for Pocket 2, draw vertical lines 1/4” away from the side edges of the fabric. Then draw 2 more vertical lines to divide the pocket into 3 sections as seen at right.

   In the space for Pocket 3, draw vertical lines 1/4” away from the side edges of the fabric. Then draw 4 more vertical lines to divide the pocket into 5 sections as seen at right.
MARK THE BACK OF THE ORGANIZER

Use a fabric marker and the diagram above to draw 3 pocket placement rectangles on the right side of the remaining 35" x 19" rectangle of fabric that will be the organizer exterior:

- Pocket 4 is 20" tall and 7" wide and is placed on the bottom edge of the fabric, 1 1/2" away from the right edge.
- Pocket 5 is 10" tall and 7" wide and is on the bottom edge of the fabric and 1 1/2" away from the left edge.
- Pockets 4 and 5 should be 3" apart.
- Pocket 6 is 9" tall and 7" wide and 4" above Pocket 5. It is also 1 1/2" away from the left edge of the fabric.

SEW A WELT ZIPPER ON THE BACK OF THE ORGANIZER

See my [Welt Zipper Pocket Tutorial](#) for more information.

1. Fold one of the 35" x 19" lining pieces in half lengthwise and press a long vertical crease down the middle of the fabric (indicated by the dotted line in the diagram).

Use a fabric marker to draw a 17" vertical line along the center crease on the wrong side of the fabric. The line should be 8" above the bottom edge of the fabric and 10" below the top edge of the fabric.
2. Draw a 1/2” wide by 17 1/2” tall rectangle around the vertical line (this rectangle should be 1/4” away from the line on all sides).

3. Pin the lining piece that you just marked right sides together with the exterior back piece that has 3 pocket markings. Make sure that the pieces are lined up properly (especially that the lining piece is not upside down against the exterior).

Place pins all along the rectangle and line that you drew and in the corners of the fabric pieces.

4. Sew along the 1/2” x 17 1/2” rectangle, right on top of the lines that you drew, all the way around..
5. Using scissors or a rotary cutter, cut along the entire length of the 17” line. Then cut short clips to the corners of the rectangle.

6. Turn the back piece right side out by pushing the lining through the cut opening to the other side.
   
   Tip: To make nice straight edges at the opening, press the long seams open. Then carefully press the opening flat.

7. Center the zipper under the opening, with the top of the zipper and the exterior piece facing up. Make sure that the zipper slider is showing through the opening. Use pins all the way around the opening to hold the zipper in place.

8. Topstitch around the zipper 1/8” away from the edges of the opening.

9. Pin the edges of the exterior and lining pieces together. Baste around the edge with a 1/4” seam allowance to secure.
CUT THE LARGE PIECES TO THE RIGHT SHAPE

1. On the back piece (the one with a zipper) 
   Use a coffee mug (or the Creative grids curved corner ruler - 1 1/2" radius corner) to mark and then cut curves at the bottom corners.

2. Lay a sturdy coat hanger at the top of the back piece with the top (wooden) part of the hanger sticking up about 1/2" past the top edge of the fabric.
   Use the fabric marker to trace about 1/2" above the top edge of the hanger. At the sides, extend the lines to the side edges of the fabric.

3. Cut the top edge along the lines that you drew.
   Tip: To make both sides symmetrical, fold the rectangle in half lengthwise and cut along the line that looks best.

Use the coffee cup method to make all of the corners smooth curves. Baste the layers together again everywhere that you cut.
4. Place the remaining lining piece and front exterior piece wrong sides together. Pin at the corners if needed. Lay the pieces together on your workspace with the lining side up.

5. Place the back of the organizer on top, lining side down so that the lining pieces are right sides together.
Make sure that the pieces are lined up properly - that the top ends of each one are right sides together and the bottom ends are right sides together.

6. Cut around the back pieces so that the front and back are the same shape. Be sure to trim at the top and bottom so they match exactly.

SEW THE TOP OF THE ORGANIZER FRONT

1. Separate the layers and then place the organizer front and its matching lining piece right sides together.
2. Use a ruler to draw a straight line 1/2” below the top edge.

3. Sew across the line that you drew.

4. Press the seam open. Turn the lining and front exterior pieces with wrong sides facing. Press the seam flat.

   On the front, topstitch across the seam, 1/8” from the edge.

5. Pin the edges together. Baste around the front piece with a 1/4” seam allowance to secure.
SEW POCKETS 1, 2, AND 3

Use a 1/2” seam allowance.

1. Fold the fabric rectangle for Pocket 1 (17” x 19”) in half with the longer (19”) edges right sides together. Sew across the long edge with a 1/2” seam allowance.

Turn the pocket right side out through one end and press it flat.

2. Topstitch along the seam, 1/8” from the edge.

3. Repeat to make Pockets 2 and 3.

Pocket 1 is 8” x 19” (bottom).
Pocket 2 is 8” x 25” (middle).
Pocket 3 is 6” x 29” (top).

MARK THE DIVIDING LINES ON POCKETS 2 AND 3

1. Use the frxion pen or fabric marker to mark 4 lines on Pocket 2:
   - The first two lines should be 1/4” away from the side edges.
   - The last two lines divide the pocket as shown at right.
2. Use the frixion pen or fabric marker to mark 6 lines on Pocket 2:
   • The first two lines should be 1/4” away from the side edges.
   • The last four lines divide the pocket as shown at right.

ATTACH THE FRONT POCKETS

Refer to the diagram that you used to mark the front of the organizer (page 4) to see where each pocket should be sewn.

1. Place Pocket 1 in the correct spot shown in the marking diagram (page 4). Pin the sides and bottom of the pocket in place.

2. Sew across the bottom edge of the pocket, 1/8” away from the edge.

3. Baste the side edges of the pocket in place 1/4” from the edge.
4. Place Pocket 2 in the correct spot shown in the marking diagram (page 4). Pin the sides in place - the pocket is wider than the organizer, so there will be extra fabric in the middle. Sew the sides of the pocket in place 1/4” from the edges - along the marked lines.

5. Match the lines marked on Pocket 2 to the lines marked on the organizer underneath. Place 2 or 3 pins along each line.

6. Sew along each line, starting at the bottom and ending at the top. Be sure to backstitch neatly at the top and bottom of each line.

7. Make two equal pleats at the bottom corners of each pocket section so the bottom edge of the pocket is flat. Place a pin on each pleat and pins in the middle of the sections as needed.
8. Sew across the bottom of the pocket 1/8” from the edge, securing the pleats as you go.

9. Pocket 3 is attached in the same way as Pocket 2.
Place Pocket 3 in the correct spot shown in the marking diagram (page 4). Pin the sides in place - the pocket is wider than the organizer, so there will be extra fabric in the middle.
Sew the sides of the pocket in place 1/4” from the edges - along the marked lines.

10. Match the lines marked on Pocket 3 to the lines marked on the organizer underneath. Place 2 or 3 pins along each line.
Sew along each line, starting at the bottom and ending at the top. Be sure to backstitch neatly at the top and bottom of each line.

11. Make two equal pleats at the bottom corners of each pocket section so the bottom edge of the pocket is flat. Place a pin on each pleat and pins in the middle of the sections as needed.
Sew across the bottom of the pocket 1/8” from the edge, securing the pleats as you go.
The Front is done!
MAKE AND ATTACH POCKET 4

Use a 1/2” seam allowance

1. Fold the fabric rectangle for Pocket 4 (40" x 12") in half with the 12" edges together. Sew along the long side edges with a 1/2" seam allowance.

2. Turn the pocket right side out and press flat. Topstitch across the folded edge, 1/8” from the edge. Pocket 4 should be 20" x 11" with raw edges at the bottom.

Refer to the diagram (page 5) that you used to mark the back of the organizer to see where the back pockets should be sewn.

3. Place Pocket 4 in the correct spot shown in the marking diagram (page 5). Pin the sides of the pocket along the marked lines.
4. Sew the sides of the pocket, 1/8" from the edge.

5. Make two equal pleats at the bottom corners of Pocket 4 so the bottom edge of the pocket is flat. Place a pin on each pleat and pins in the middle of the pocket as needed.

Sew across the bottom of the pocket 1/4" from the edge, securing the pleats as you go.

MAKE AND ATTACH POCKET 5

Use a 1/2" seam allowance

1. Fold the fabric rectangle for Pocket 5 (20" x 12") in half with the 12" edges together. Sew along the 10" side edges with a 1/2" seam allowance.

2. Turn the pocket right side out and press flat. Topstitch across the folded edge, 1/8" from the edge.

Pocket 5 should be 10" x 11" with raw edges at the bottom.
3. Place Pocket 5 in the correct spot shown in the marking diagram (page 5). Pin the sides of the pocket along the marked lines.
Sew the sides of the pocket, 1/8” from the edge.

4. Make two equal pleats at the bottom corners of Pocket 5 so the bottom edge of the pocket is flat. Place a pin on each pleat and pins in the middle of the pocket as needed.
Sew across the bottom of the pocket 1/4” from the edge, securing the pleats as you go.

MAKE AND ATTACH POCKET 6

Use a 1/2” seam allowance

1. Fold the fabric rectangle for Pocket 6 (19” x 12") in half with the 12” edges together. Sew around the raw edges, leaving a 4” opening for turning on the top edge. Clip the corners.

2. Turn the pocket right side out and press flat. Topstitch across the top edge, 1/8” from the edge, closing the opening at the same time.
Pocket 6 should be 9” x 11” with no raw edges.
3. Place Pocket 6 in the correct spot shown in the marking diagram. Pin the sides of the pocket along the marked lines. Sew the sides of the pocket, 1/8” from the edge.

4. Make two equal pleats at the bottom corners of Pocket 6 so the bottom edge of the pocket is flat. Place a pin on each pleat and pins in the middle of the pocket as needed. Sew across the bottom of the pocket 1/8” from the edge, securing the pleats as you go.

The Back is done!

SEWING THE CLOSET ORGANIZER FRONT AND BACK TOGETHER

1. Place the front and back of the organizer together with the linings facing each other. Pin all the way around.

2. Sew the front and back together all the way around with a 1/4” seam allowance. Start sewing at the top near the finished edge on the front piece. Do not sew across the finished edge - this is the opening.
Sew all the way around and end at the top on the other side of the opening.

BIND THE RAW EDGES

The binding is attached in a continuous loop so it doesn’t matter where you begin - except that I like to start and end in an inconspicuous spot. I chose the bottom of the organizer.

1. Fold the 2 1/4” x 3 yard piece of bias binding in half lengthwise and press. Clip one end to the bottom edge on the back of the organizer.

2. Sew the binding on with a 1/4” seam allowance. Leave about a 4-6” tail of binding free at the start.

   Carefully curve the binding to sew around the curves and corners while maintaining a 1/4” seam allowance.

3. When you reach the side that you started on, stop sewing about 6” away from where you started sewing.
4. Bring the ends of the binding together and fold them back where they meet. Use your fingernail to crease the folds in the binding.

5. Cut the extra binding of 1/4” past the creased folds.

Bring the cut edges of the binding right sides together and stitch with a 1/4” seam allowance. Finger-press the seam open and re-fold the binding as before.

6. Finish sewing the binding to the back of the organizer.
7. Turn the binding to the other side of the organizer and stitch it down close to the fold.

As you sew around the top, take care not to catch the finished edge of the front piece under the binding. This forms the opening.

Also take care not to sew the top edge of the pockets under the binding.

And now your Closet Organizer is done!

As always, I’d love to see the projects you sew from my patterns and tutorials. Please post a picture to Instagram and tag me @sewcanshe or #sewcanshe so I can take a look!