

DIY Pool Chair Cover by Caroline Fairbanks-Critchfield



POOL CHAIR COVER ... with all the extras!



There is an elastic piece at the bottom of the cover to hold it in place too.

And of course, lots of pockets! I made two zippered pockets and two slip pockets. These can be customized however you want.

The reason I cut the towels to be narrow - just wider than the chair - is so that the pockets wouldn't touch the ground.



I designed these chair covers to fit the 22" wide chairs that we have at two different pools in my area - the dimensions are the same as [this one](#).



Because the back part is sewn with stretch knit fabric (don't worry, this is easy!), the cover is somewhat one-size-fits-all, unless your chairs are a lot bigger.

If your chair is smaller, you could tie the bag strap part tighter to secure it better.



Who wants their phone to hit the ground when they drop it in the pocket? Not me!!!

But my favorite part is the pillow pocket - I almost left that off until a reader commented about it. She was so right! The narrow pillow that fits snugly in the pocket is just the right size to cushion your neck and head. Trust me - it's perfect!

So let's get to it!

This tutorial begins with an extra long beach towel - the ones that I bought (from [Target](#)) were 36" x 72".

Tip: Towels as narrow as 24" will work fine (you won't need to hem the sides). If your towel is longer or shorter than 72", some adjustment may be necessary at the bottom end - but it won't be difficult.

You will also need:

- 1 yard total of woven fabric (such as quilting cotton) for the pockets and pillow. I used different fabrics for these so I could use up scraps.
- 1 yard of stretch knit fabric (if it's 48" or wider, there will be enough left over for a second cover)
- 24" of 1" wide elastic
- 2 zippers, at least 13" long (I used wide handbag zippers - but regular zippers are fine too)
- polyester fiber-fill for the pillow

Cutting:

In case your fabrics are directional, all dimensions are height x width.

From regular (woven) cotton fabric, cut:

- 1 strip 8" x 28" (to make the pillow)
- 1 rectangle 11" x 16" (to make the pillow pocket)
- 2 rectangles 18" x 13" (for the zippered pockets)
- 2 rectangles 18" x 8" (for the slip pockets)

Also:

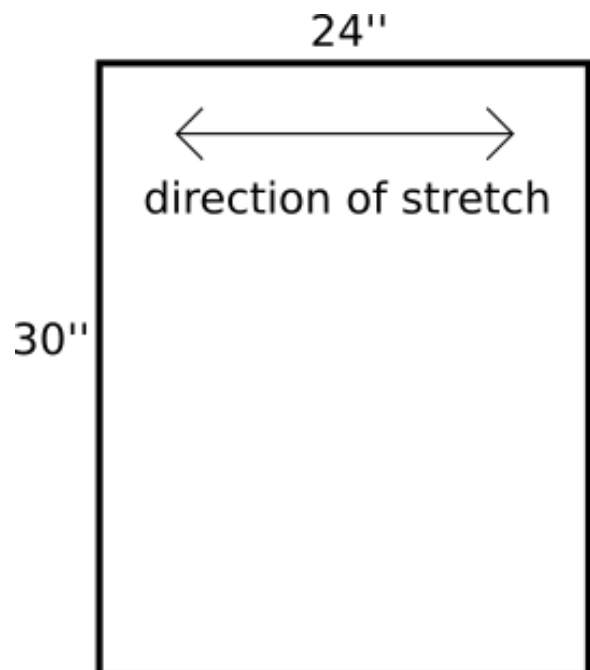
- 2 strips 5" x 20" for the bag strap - these can either be cut from new fabric or you can use scraps cut from the sides of the towel like I did - see below.

From stretch knit fabric, cut:

- 1 rectangle 30" x 24"

Tip: make sure you cut this piece so that the fabric stretches in the direction shown to the right.

If your fabric has 4-way stretch, this won't matter.



Cut the towel so that it is 26" wide (or 4" wider than your pool chair). Since my towels had a design on both of them, I cut 5" from each side to preserve the design.

Leave the hems on the top and bottom edges of the towel.

I cut my 5" x 20" bag strap pieces from these scraps.



Make the Pillow:

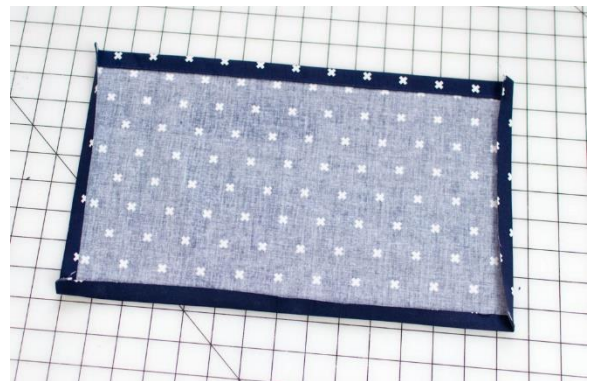
1/2" seam allowance allowed.

1. Fold the 8" x 28" rectangle in half with the short ends right sides together.
2. Sew around the 3 sides, leaving a 4" opening for stuffing. Clip the corners.
3. Turn the pillow right sides out. Stuff to desired firmness with polyester fiberfill.
4. Hand- or machine-sew the opening closed.



Make the Pillow Pocket:

1. Fold one long edge over to the wrong side 1/2" and then again 1/2", and press. Stitch close to the fold to make a 1/2" hem.
2. Press the remaining 3 edges over 1/2" to the wrong side.
3. Pin the pocket upside down (with the hemmed opening at the bottom) 3" below the top edge of the towel and centered.



4. Stitch the pocket to the towel around the 3 (not hemmed) edges, sewing 1/8" from the edge.



Add the Elastic and Hem the Sides:

1. Flip the towel over, and pin the 24" piece of elastic to the bottom end, on the back side of the towel. Center it so that it is 1" away from each edge, about 1" away from the bottom.



2. Sew a 1/2" hem on each long towel edge, enclosing the elastic at the bottom.

Tip: since my towel was so thick, I found it more accurate to fold over about 1/4", and then 1/2". This used up about 1" on each side because of the bulk in folding.



Make and Attach the Tie Straps:

1. Fold the 5" x 20" strips in half lengthwise.
2. Sew across one short end, pivot, and then sew down the long edge.
3. Clip the corners and turn the straps right side out.



4. Pin the raw edge end of the straps to the sides of the towel, 13" below the top edge. Baste in place within the 1/2" seam allowance.

Make a Stretch Chair-Pocket at the Top:

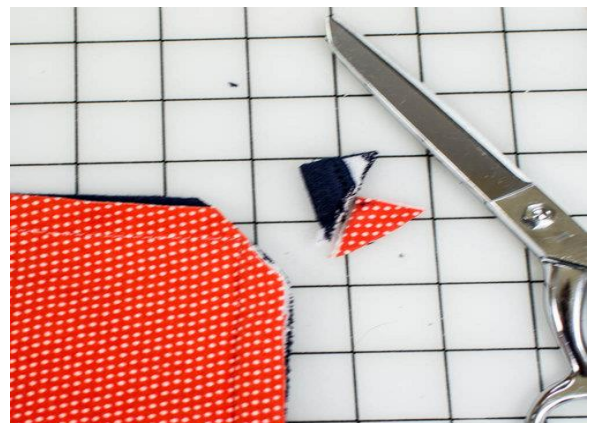
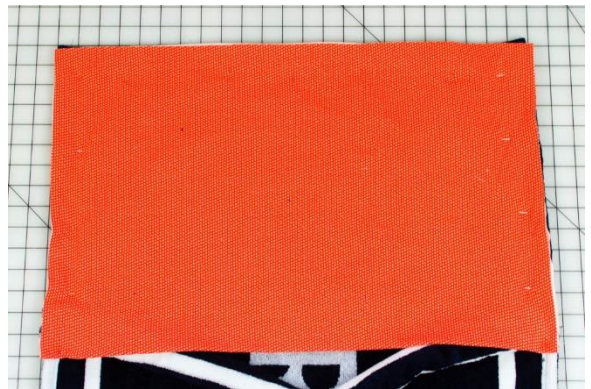
1. Fold the 30" x 24" piece of stretch fabric in half with the 24" ends together and wrong sides facing.
2. Place this 15" x 24" folded rectangle over the top end of the towel (on top of the pillow pocket). Right sides will be facing. The raw edges of the stretch fabric should be at the sides and top so that the folded edge will not be caught in the seams.
3. Pin around the sides and top.

Tip: Place all of the pins on the terrycloth side, not the stretch fabric side. If you sew with the stretch fabric on the bottom (see next photo) your sewing machine's feed dogs will be able to do a better job sewing stretch fabric to non-stretch fabric.

4. Sew around the sides and top edge with a 1/2" seam allowance.

If you followed my tip above and are sewing on the terrycloth side, you can simply sew on top of your stitching line from hemming. Make sure to backstitch at the start and stop to make this 'chair pocket' secure.

5. Clip the corners. Turn the chair pocket right side out.



Make the Zippered Side Pockets:

1. Center the 13" edge of one of your 18" x 13" rectangles along one of the zippers. Pin and stitch right sides together with a 1/4" seam allowance.



2. Fold the fabric back away from the zipper and topstitch on the fabric 1/8" away from the edge.



3. Pin the remaining 13" edge along the other side of the zipper, right sides together. Stitch.



4. Unzip the zipper to allow you to topstitch this side.



5. With the pocket wrong side out, adjust the top edge until it is 1 1/2" away from the center of the zipper. Place pins at the top to hold it in place.



6. Then move the zipper slider to the middle of the pocket and pin both sides closed.



7. Sew both sides of the pocket with a 1/2" seam allowance.

8. Cut away the extra zipper tapes. Finish the edges with a serger or zig zag stitch, if desired.

9. Turn the pocket right side out and press flat.

Repeat to make one more zippered pocket.



Make the Slip Side Pockets:

1. Hem the shorter edges of an 18" x 8" rectangle as follows ('top' and 'bottom' only matter if your fabric is directional):

- Sew a 1/2" hem at the top edge.
- Sew a 1/4" hem at the bottom edge.



2. Place the piece on your work area with the 1/2" hem closer to you (the print will be upside down).



Fold the edge closer to you up (with a 1/2" hem) up by 6 1/2".



Fold the other edge (with a 1/4" hem) down until it just covers the other hem.

Pin the sides together.



3. Stitch the sides together with a 1/2" seam allowance. Finish the edges with a serger or zig zag stitch, if desired.



4. Turn the pocket right side out and press flat.

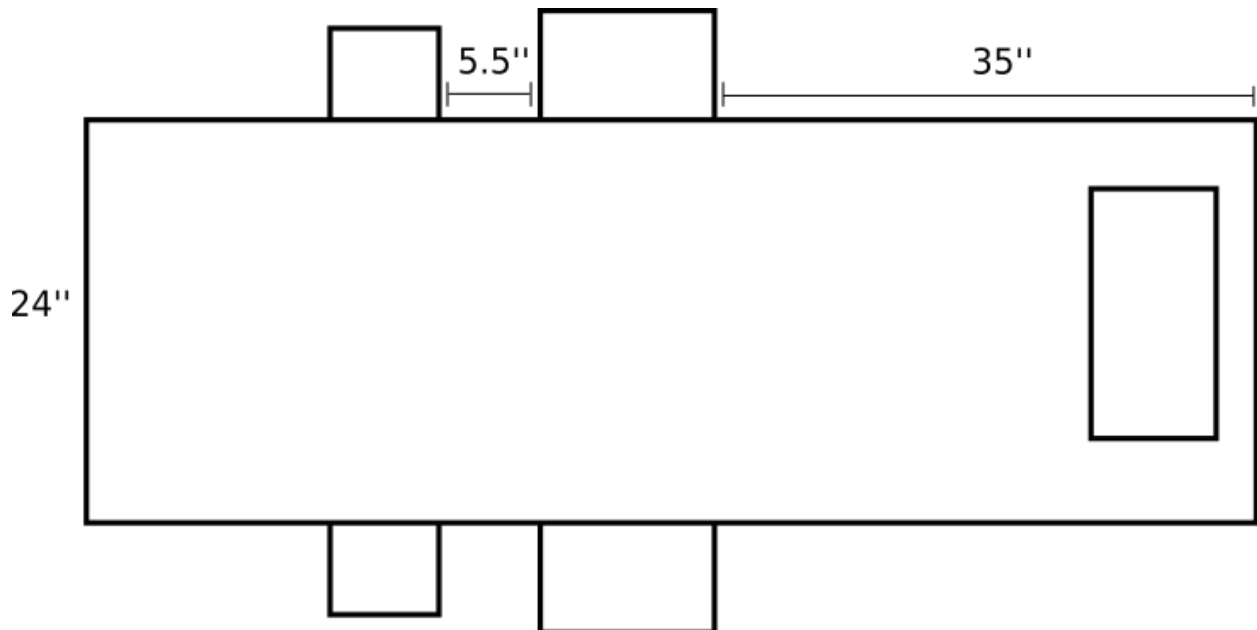
Repeat to make one more slip pocket.

Note: the top flap on the slip pocket is not meant to be a closure, but simply 1) to be pretty and 2) to make the pocket more sturdy. The inside edge is not sewn in place.



Attach the Side Pockets:

Feel free to attach your side pockets in locations that are most convenient for you. I chose to fit them in between the chair arms at our closest pool.



1. Place each pocket under the cover edge in the desired location. It should be under the cover by about 3/4". Pin in place.



2. Sew the pocket in place by sewing on top of the hem stitching.



3. Reinforce the pockets by stitching one more time about 1/8" from the edge.

Repeat to attach all of your pockets where you want them to be.

To fold up the chair cover and make it a tote, lay it face down. Fold the pockets in. Start folding it over by about 12" at the bottom end. Continue folding until you reach the stretch pocket and tuck the towel part inside the stretch pocket.

Place the pillow inside it's pocket and you're good to go!

