

Dill Pickle Gear Wedge-type Saddle Pack

by Emily O'Brien

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This pattern is for a wallet designed to carry just what you need when you make a cafe stop on a ride. It's sized for a jersey pocket and will hold small essentials such as a smartphone, cash, credit card, etc. If you make it for a cyclist, you should choose a material that's at least reasonably sweat-resistant. The wallet is a simple design that folds lengthwise down the middle with slots or pockets on each side. It has a buckle around it to keep it closed and optional "wings" on each end to help keep your stuff in and dirt out. The pattern gives options for several types of pockets or slots on each half.

The original post, and any errata or further discussion of this pattern will be at this link:

<http://www.dillpicklegear.com/project-cycling-wallet/>

This pattern is available for free for your personal use. If you enjoy it, please consider making a donation to the League of American Bicyclists, Bikes Not Bombs, or another worthy cycling organization. It is not intended for commercial use; if you intend to sell items made from this pattern or your altered version of it, please contact Emily O'Brien at store@dillpicklegear.com.

Materials needed:

- Fabric[†] for the main body of the wallet. This can be canvas, Cordura, denim, etc. It should be something with a certain amount of stiffness and ability to hold its shape, so if you like the design or feel of a lighter material, I recommend the addition of interfacing or some other material for structure. You might want to make the inner panels of options B and C out of a lighter-weight, less bulky, or less stiff material than the outer material.
- Tape, ribbon, or other strip to bind^{††} the edges. This can be grosgrain ribbon, satin, lightweight webbing, bias tape, or even strips cut from used bicycle tubes.
- A tie, cord, strap with buckle, strap with button, etc, to wrap around and keep the wallet closed
- If using option C, a zipper at least 7 1/2 inches long, preferably a finer-toothed one such as a #3 or #5 coil zipper.

Pattern pieces:


All of the pieces of this pattern are for only one half of the wallet. For each side, you select which type of pockets you want and then join the two sides at the dotted line marked “Main Center Fold”.

The pieces are as follows:

- Panel A: Main backing panel for option A, including fold-over pocket that can be divided into two credit card slots.
- Panel B₁/C₁: Main backing panel for options B and C.
- Panel B₂: Option B, pleated pocket for smartphone or other bulky item.
- Panel C₂: Back part of Option C, Combo zipper/slot pocket.
- Panel C₃: Front part of Option C.
- Panel D: Optional side protection flaps; choice of two shapes.

Option A is the simplest one. It’s just one piece that folds back on itself to form a single lengthwise pocket that’s the right size for cash, a passport, a compact smartphone, etc. It can be divided by stitching down the middle to hold credit cards, business cards, etc. Option B is a pleated pocket that will accommodate a larger/bulkier smartphone or other bulky item. Option C has a zippered pocket that will keep loose change together with a basic long-ways slot pocket behind it, similarly sized to Option A. For each half of the wallet, you’ll need either Panel A or Panel B₁/C₁ (you can use the same on each side; just print another copy). Join the two pieces along the dotted line marked “Main Center Fold” and use this *combined* panel to cut your main outer piece.

Pattern Notes

- Seam allowances are marked, and are half an inch. If you want a narrower bound edge or your binding material is less than one inch wide, you can easily trim the seam allowances back before binding, but after the wallet is otherwise all assembled.
- Top edges of pockets do not have seam allowances because they can just be bound over. If you prefer to hem them instead, you should add the seam allowance to those edges before cutting.
- The marked seam allowance where the zipper attaches in Option C is approximate, and will depend on the zipper. Once the zipper is attached, the pieces can be trimmed to match as needed.
- If you want to use a lighter-weight material for the interior pocket pieces, the panels you would cut from it are B₂, C₂, and/or C₃.
- The triangular symbols that look like this  are notches. You don’t need to cut out the triangle shape; just make a clip into the seam allowance on the center line of the notch. This

will help you line up the pieces correctly. Because the pieces are small, be careful to cut the notches as accurately as possible so that they don't lead you to assemble things crooked. The notch symbols are duplicated at cut edges that need to line up with notches on other pieces, even though you clearly can't cut a notch where there's already an edge.

Procedure:

1. First, decide which options you're going to use, and join the two backing panel pattern pieces at the dotted line marked "Main Center Fold" before cutting. For each half of the wallet, you can choose either Panel A or Panel B₁/C₁. Then cut out the pieces you need for the options you've chosen. The outside of the wallet (and the pocket as well, in the case of Option A) is all one piece. The "Main Center Fold" line is where the wallet will fold in half when it's finished. It's probably helpful to mark this line with chalk on both sides of this panel.
2. Then sew the closure strap (or tie, etc) to the outside of the main backing panel. There are many ways of doing this!
 - It can be done with just one tack (sew back and forth over the same spot) centered on the fold line
 - It can be sewn down flat for most of the back edge, with just enough unattached to accommodate the buckle, snap, button, etc, so that it wraps all the way around
 - Et cetera. If the wallet's going to be fastened shut somehow, install the fastener now.

There are two caveats if you are using Option A: Keep in mind that part of the length of the panel will be folded back to create the pocket, so don't sew the strap all the way to the end. And if you are dividing the pocket into two card slots, the closure strap probably can't be attached at the same point as where you're going to make the seam to divide the pocket. It can be attached at the center fold, or off to one side, etc.

3. For Option A, first bind or hem the raw edge that is marked "Top Edge of Pocket - Bind this edge". Then, align its top edge with the notches so that the ⊕ symbols match up. Sew up the sides. It's a good idea to back-tack (sew back and forth) or bar-tack (you can make a bar tack using a zig-zag stitch set to a very short stitch length) a few times at each end of this seam, since it will get some stress in normal use.

Next, while you're at it, sew the line of stitching that will divide the pocket into two halves if you are using that option. As with the sides, back-tack or bar-tack at the top edge.

For Option B, first bind or hem the raw edge marked “Bind this edge” (Again, if you hem instead of binding, add the additional seam allowance for the hem before you cut). Then create the pleats. The pocket panel should be folded along the two dotted lines so that the ⊕ symbols and the notches line up. Essentially, there is a ¼” pleat on each side, set in from the sides so as not to get in the way of the side seams. It will work best if the pleats are folded so that the center part of the panel overlaps the sides rather than vice-versa. You can iron the pleats into the material if you want, or just leave them. The pocket will be easier to assemble to the backing panel if you secure the pleats with pins, binder clips, or a quick row of stitching at the edge.

Once the pleats are in place, line up the bound edge on panel B₂ with the notches on the backing panel, and sew down the sides and bottom.

For Option C, start with either the zipper closed and the slider removed, or if your zipper is long enough, with the slider slid past the portion that will be sewn. This is just to keep the slider out of your way while you work; you’ll put it back later. Place the right side of the zipper tape along the top edge of panel C₃ (marked “Attach Zipper”) and sew. Fold the zipper tape back up and fold the seam allowance against panel C₃, and topstitch it in place. Different zippers have tape of different widths, which is why the seam allowance here is approximate. But in general, try to sew as close to the zipper teeth as you can, while still allowing room for the slider to get by.

Incidentally, there are other ways to sew the zipper to panel C₃ depending on your materials. If you’re using something sturdy that doesn’t fray such as vinyl, you can just trim off the seam allowance, lay it over top of the zipper and stitch it down. I recommend two lines of stitching for security and because it looks nice. Another alternative is to trim off the seam allowance and bind the cut edge, then stitch it down over the zipper.

Next, lay panel C₃ with the zipper at the top on top of panel C₂ (photo above) so that the side edges line up and the top edge lines up with the top, un-sewn, edge of the zipper tape. The ○ symbols should approximately line up and the ● symbols should approximately line up at the bottom corners, but again, don’t worry if it isn’t exact.

Sew the top edges together, and then bind the combined edge. Trim the ends of the zipper tape so it matches the width of panels C_2 and C_3 , and replace the slider as shown in the pictures.

Open a few inches of one end of zipper. Insert both loose ends into the “open” end of the zipper slider and slide it onto the tape. The tape should be zipped shut behind it.

Align the bound top edge of the C_2/C_3 assembly with the notches on the main backing panel, and stitch up the sides. You can sew right over the zipper, teeth and all. In fact, you should back-tack or bar-tack over the zipper teeth to reinforce the ends of the zipper. Once the sides are sewn down, trim off any excess length to match the backing panel, then stitch across the bottom through all three layers.

4. If you are using the side protection flaps (panel D), they are the last thing to go on before binding the side edges. These should be made of a material that will at least hold its shape somewhat, such as vinyl or canvas. If you’re using a woven canvas, you’ll need to bind the edge; if you’re using vinyl or tarp, you probably don’t need to. There are two choices for the shape of panel D: one that is rounded over, and one that is squared off. The rounded-over profile will work if you are using a material that doesn’t fray and won’t be binding the edge at all, or if you are using a binding material that’s flexible enough to get around the curve (some bias tape, twill tape, some satin ribbon, knitted binding, etc). Otherwise, use the squared-off version.

Note that the edge of panel D with marked seam allowance isn’t a straight line; it has a very mild corner at the center fold line. This is so that when the wallet is closed, the side panel will fold itself neatly inside.

Mark the Main Center Fold line carefully. It’s not a bad idea to iron or otherwise permanently crease the center of it. You might want to cut a notch in the seam allowance along this line, bisecting the shallow corner at the bottom. The easiest way to sew this down is to insert the needle exactly at the intersection of the stitching line and the center fold line in Panel D, and in the same exact spot in the main backing panel, then stitch to one end of panel D.

To finish attaching panel D, turn the piece around and start sewing over the seam you just made in the other direction. When you get back to the center fold line, stop and make sure the needle goes back into that same spot again, then align the seam allowances on the other side and sew to the other end of panel D. Repeat for the other side of the wallet. When you’re finished, you’ll notice that Panel D pulls the whole wallet into a mild fold along its center fold line, and the corner of Panel D buckles upward a tiny bit. Clip the corner of Panel D as shown

below to keep the bound edge from getting too bulky.

5. Once the pockets are completed and the side flaps are added, it's time to bind the remaining raw edges. The seam allowance should be pretty clear at half an inch. If you'd prefer a narrower bound edge in the finished product, it's easy to trim the seam allowance back at this point before binding the edges. Ideally, your binding material should be a bit more than twice the width of the remaining seam allowance, to allow for the amount of material required to bend around the side. If you used thicker materials, the binding material will need to be a bit wider for the same width of seam allowance. So before applying your binding, fold it over the edge and see if it covers the stitching from assembling the wallet. If not, trim off some seam allowance until it does.

The bottom edge doesn't need binding if you used Option A, since it is already folded over, but it does need binding if you used Options B or C. There are two ways to handle the corners. One way is to bind the bottom edge(s) first, trim the binding flush to the ends of the seam, and then bind the sides right over the bottom binding. The other way is to stop with the needle down when you reach the corner, turn the piece 90°, and neatly fold the binding material around the corner (this can be a bit tricky).

If your binding is synthetic, you can finish it off by just trimming it to the edge of the wallet and lightly singeing the end with a lighter. Another way to finish it off is to trim it half an inch or so past the end of the edge you're applying it to before you get to the end of the seam; then fold it back on itself and sew to the end so that the cut edge is hemmed under. In any case, do back-tack a couple of times at the end of the seam to secure it.

And that's it! Put your stuff into your wallet, stick it into a pocket, and go for a ride!

† **About Fabric**

This pattern can work well in a wide variety of materials, and is a great use for reclaimed, recycled, or upcycled materials. You can make it all out of one piece of one material, or you can layer multiple materials. If it's going to be in a cycling jersey pocket you'll want it to be at least somewhat sweatproof, but there are many ways of doing that. For example, the example in the photo above this has the main backing panel made out of three layers: denim scraps on the outside, cotton scraps on the inside, and a piece cut out of a used Tyvek envelope sandwiched in between that makes it water resistant even when neither of the other materials is at all. The zippered pocket (Option C) is made with only denim, to reduce the bulk. Or, use clear window vinyl or mesh to make some pockets, so that you can easily see into them or operate the touch screen of a phone directly through the vinyl.

Another sort of fun/goofy idea is to iron together plastic shopping bags. Cut the bottoms and the handles off, spread 2-4 bags flat on the ironing board, and iron them through a piece of parchment paper. They'll shrink up and stick together, and make a sturdy, waterproof material that's easy to cut and sew. It's a fun way to make a one-of-a-kind wallet that may be easier to work with than fabric for someone who doesn't sew, and you're giving otherwise disposable trash a second lease on life. Here's an example of one made of four plastic bags, with vinyl strips cut for binding, a clear vinyl pocket, and a simple velcro closure:

†† **About Binding**

You can use lots of materials to bind edges. Nylon grosgrain ribbon is a common choice and you can find it at craft stores or fabric stores, and many other places. Strips cut from used inner tubes will work, too. You might have to experiment with sewing them, since they'll cause the sides of the wallet to pucker if they stretch too much while you're sewing them. Lightweight webbing or twill tape will also work, as long as its flexible enough to fold in half. You can also cut strips from a coordinating or contrasting fabric. They don't necessarily need to be cut on the bias since you don't need to go around curves. Some tarp and banner material, vinyl, real or imitation leather, etc, don't fray, so you can just cut a neat strip and use it to bind the edges without needing to finish the ends or edges of it; just trim it off neatly, as in the all-blue example.

Final tips:

- If you use nylon or polypropylene webbing for the loops or straps, singe the ends with a lighter before sewing them down so they don't fray.
- Where to find good recycled or reclaimed materials: Old luggage, backpacks, jeans, jackets, etc will yield sturdy fabric. You can cannibalize tarps, banners, or campaign signs, or ask a sign shop if they have vinyl banner scraps you can have.
- You can find a good selection of suitable materials, buckles, webbing, etc. at [Seattle Fabrics](#), [Rockywoods](#), [Outdoor Wilderness Fabrics](#), [My Tarp](#), [Fairfield Textile](#), [Rochford Supply](#), [Quest Outfitters](#), [The Rain Shed](#), or any number of other places. Or your local thrift store or the deep recesses of your closet ;).