



Pattern of the Month - August 2016

By Evelyn George

Cell Phone Carrier

---Your phone is always available when you wear it!

This little fabric case protects your phone and leaves you with hands free to shop, garden, stroll or just go about your day.

It has a front pocket with Velcro, for cards, back pocket for tissues, key loop on the side, and choice of a cross-body strap or neck strap, with tips on making it a perfect fit for your phone.



First, measure your phone's width, length and thickness. The illustrated case is for my phone, which is $2 \frac{3}{4}'' \times \frac{1}{2}'' \times 5 \frac{1}{2}''$. I wanted top of phone to stick out of case slightly, for easier removal, so I added an extra inch* to width only for seam allowances and ease, using the following formula:

Width ($2 \frac{3}{4}''$) + thickness ($\frac{1}{2}''$) + 1" for seam allowances and ease = total width of $4 \frac{1}{4}''$

Length ($5 \frac{1}{2}''$) + thickness ($\frac{1}{2}''$) = total length of 6"

Main body pieces and lining pieces are cut by the total measurements: $4 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 6''$.

Pockets are cut the same width ($4 \frac{1}{4}''$), and flap is about $\frac{3}{4}''$ narrower, and long enough to overlap the pocket for a Velcro closure.

Flap, pockets, strap and lining can be cut from matching or coordinating fabrics.

**Note: If cutting body and flap pieces from pre-quilted fabric, add an additional $\frac{3}{4}''$ to width and length, to compensate for extra thickness. (Increase pocket measurements, also.) If making your own quilted fabric, quilt just the outer fabric to batting only; keep lining fabric separate, in order to use lined construction method given here.*

So, use *your* phone's measurements and make note of your cutting sizes, adjusting as needed:

Body of bag - 2 pieces $4 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 6''$ () from outer fabric

Lining - cut 2 pieces $4 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 6''$ () from lining fabric

Flap - 2 pieces $3 \frac{1}{2}'' \times 5''$ ()

Front Pocket - $4 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 8''$ ()

Velcro ($\frac{3}{4}''$ wide, sew-on hook and loop tape) - 2" piece

Back Pocket - $4 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 6 \frac{1}{2}''$ ()

Side Loop - $1 \frac{1}{2}'' \times 3''$

Corded Strap - Measure length you need, either over the shoulder or around neck, and add about 4" extra (for adjustment); piece together enough $1 \frac{1}{2}''$ wide bias strips to make that length. Also cut a strip of thin batting $\frac{3}{4}''$ wide by strap length, and a piece of fine cording (~1/16") by strap length. *The cording prevents stretching; if using thicker cording, omit batting. If omitting cord, use straight grain of fabric.*

Cut all the pieces and label them. Then, make the individual parts of the bag:

Make Front Pocket - Fold fabric in half, *right side out*, to make $4 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 4''$. Press. Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}''$ away from folded edge. Center the "hook" half of Velcro just under the topstitching on right side of pocket and stitch in place through all thicknesses.

Make Back Pocket - Fold in half with *right side out* to make $4 \frac{1}{4}'' \times 3 \frac{1}{4}''$. Press; topstitch $\frac{1}{4}''$ from fold.

Make Flap - Pin flap pieces *right sides together*. Using a spool or other round shape as a guide, mark rounded corners at one short end. Using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, stitch together along 2 long sides and rounded end. Clip curves, turn right side out and press. Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from stitched edges.

Make Strap - Piece bias strips to make needed length, press seams open. Working on ironing board, center batting strip on *wrong* side of bias strip. Press raw edges neatly over the batting, to nearly meet in center. Carefully transfer to sewing machine. Lay cording inside center of strap and fold strap over cording so folded edges meet. Stitch together close to folded edges, to make a corded strap. →

Make Side Loop - On the *wrong* side, fold the 2 longer sides of the strip to meet in the center, press; fold in half so folded edges meet, and press again. Topstitch along both edges of folded strip. Fold into a loop and baste ends to hold together.



Put it All Together -

Lay outer Back piece right side up. Place back pocket (the shorter one) on top, lining up raw edges at sides and bottom. Pin, then baste in place, *less than* $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edges (so it won't show later).

Lay outer Front piece *right* side up. Position pocket at bottom edge, raw edges aligned, and with the Velcro on top. Pin and baste in place. About $\frac{1}{4}$ " above pocket, position side loop on top of left side of bag front, so raw edges stick out about $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond raw edge of bag side. Baste in place. Fold strap in half and lay it on top of bag front, positioning strap ends about 1" below top edge of bag (one on each side of bag), with raw ends sticking out about $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond raw edges of bag sides.



Pockets, strap and loop basted on ↑

Baste lightly; try on the strap for length and adjust if needed, remembering to include seam allowances.

Carefully lay bag Back (with pocket) on top of bag Front (with pocket, loop and strap), *right sides together*, matching raw edges and keeping the strap outside so it will be out of the way. Pin sides together and stitch with $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, around sides and bottom, leaving top edge open.

Trim corners and turn right side out. Baste Flap to back at upper edge, with *right sides together*.

Add Lining - pin lining front and back with *right sides together*, and stitch together *along sides only*, leaving top and bottom edges open. Press seams open.

Slip lining over bag, with *right sides together*, and with strap hanging down through bottom opening of lining. Flap should be between lining and bag. Match side seams and pin raw edges together.

Stitch with generous $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance through all thicknesses, all the way around upper edge of bag, joining outer bag to lining. →

Turn right sides out through bottom opening in lining, making sure pockets turn to their correct sides. Stitch lining closed, and push lining into bag.

Press. Topstitch through all thicknesses at top edge of bag. Insert phone, fold flap over front and mark placement of Velcro on underside of flap.

Remove phone, stitch Velcro in place, and you're done!

