

Sashiko Pouch Instructions

This pattern will make a medium sized self-lined drawstring pouch featuring Sashiko stitched Kamon (Japanese clan crest) motifs and a Sashiko stitched border along the top. In Japan, Sashiko is frequently used to decorate utilitarian articles adding beauty to functionality and so this pouch is a perfect project to decorate with Sashiko.

Step 1: Cut a rectangle of freezer paper measuring 7½" x 19". Fold in half at 9½" and crease to mark fold, open it flat. Place the template over the pouch body pattern, lining up the fold line on the pattern with the crease in the template, and with a black 'Sharpie' pen (the fine point, not the ultra-fine), trace the lines for the casing along with the four 'X's, the Sashiko band design and the motif design. On the sashiko band, mark only the lines that will be stitched (top bottom and the crenelle lines), do not mark a vertical line at either end of the band, the band patterns are designed to meet and flow in a continuous pattern if pouch is stitched and sewn correctly. NOTE: the designs are only at one end of the pattern that will be the outer part of the pouch, the other end is left blank and will be turned inside to serve as the pouch lining and so does not need to be marked.

Step 2: Iron the freezer paper template onto the wrong side of the pouch fabric leaving a generous margin of 1" all the way around it. Position it carefully to match the grain of the fabric especially if the fabric has a pronounced grain such as Sashiko fabric does. Cut the fabric out adding that 1" margin beyond the template edges. On a light table, transfer the Sashiko designs onto the right side of the fabric with a quilters' pencil in an appropriate color to be visible against the fabric. Transfer the casing lines as well. Remove template and reuse to mark a second piece of fabric for the pouch back.

Step 3: Remove freezer paper (it can be re-used to make future pouches) and stitch the Sashiko designs with #8 pearl cotton in the color of your choice. As you will be stitching through one layer only of fabric be very careful not to pull your stitches too tight or it will distort and pucker the fabric making the pouch construction more difficult when you assemble it. NOTE: A layer of medium weight fusible interfacing can help stabilize the fabric for stitching

Step 4: After the Sashiko stitching is complete, re-iron the template onto the wrong side of the fabric panels and use it to trim and square the rectangle, adding ¼" seam allowance beyond the edges of the template. Cut carefully to make sure your stitching is not cut in the process. Do this with both panels of fabric.

Step 5: leave the freezer paper in place on the second panel and place the two panels right sides together paying particular attention that the Sashiko bands and the casing bands line up correctly with one another. Pin and stitch the panels together only along the sides, using the freezer paper edge as a stitching guide and leaving the casing band unstitched between the two 'X's (back tack at each X to make the pouch more durable).

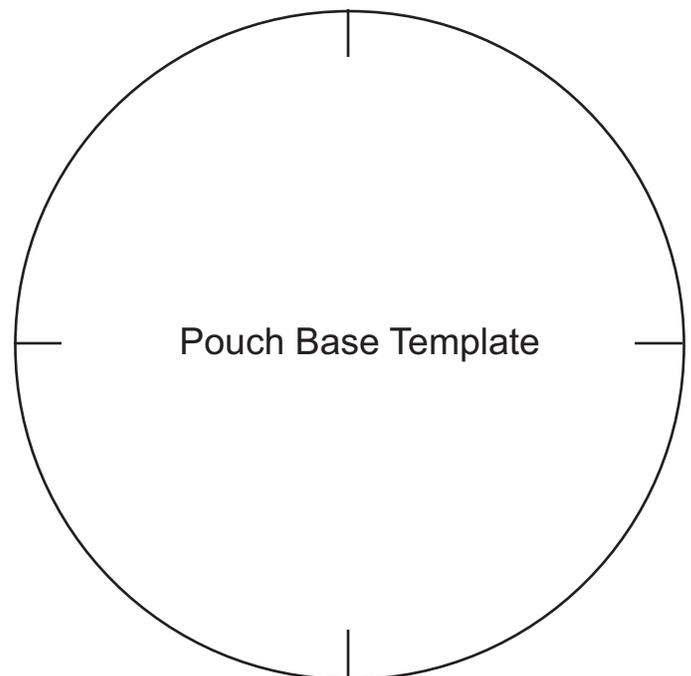
Step 6: Remove the freezer paper and press the seams open. To secure the turned in edges, top stitch just along either side of the casing openings in a thread to match your fabric. You now have a tube of fabric with Sashiko stitched patterns at one end. Turn the plain end of the tube into itself wrong sides together matching the raw edges at the bottom and press the fold along the top edge of the pouch to crease. This fold should lie about ½" above the Sashiko band. Top stitch along the casing marks to create the casing in a continuous line of stitching starting and stopping at one of the openings; this will be easier to do if the pouch is turned lining side out first.

Sashiko Pouch Instructions

Step 7: Turn the pouch right side out again and Run a gathering stitch (hand or machine) along the bottom edge of pouch just inside the seam allowance. If done by hand, make sure the tail of the gathering thread comes out on the stitched side of the pouch. The pouch will be easier to gather into the base if this is done as two separate lines of stitching at the bottom of each panel from side seam to side seam. Trace the base circle pattern including the registration marks onto freezer paper and cut out precisely, do not add seam allowances to the paper. Iron the circle template to the wrong side of fabric and cut out the fabric adding $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Mark the registration lines onto the seam allowance of the fabric. Find the center of the front and back of the pouch bottom by squashing the tube and matching the side seams to each other. Mark the centers with a pin. Remove the freezer paper circle and pin the base to the bottom of the tube with the right side of the circle fabric to the lining side of the tube, matching and pinning the registration marks with the centers and side seams of the tube. Working with one side at a time, gently gather the bottom of the tube easing it in to fit the circle edge. Pin or baste the gathered base of the pouch to the edges of the circle then stitch together carefully. Press the seam towards the circle.

Step 8: Trace and cut a circle of medium weight fusible interfacing using the base template as a guide. Do not add seam allowances to the interfacing. Fuse the interfacing to the wrong side of the fabric and cut the fabric out adding $\frac{1}{2}$ " around the interfacing. Run a gathering stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edge of the fabric and gather the stitches to curl around the interfacing; gather gently so as not to distort or 'cup' the circle, you just want to turn in the raw edge. When the edge is turned in neatly, press with an iron to set the gathers. Position this finished edge base over the wrong side of the base at the bottom of the pouch, covering the gathered seam completely, and hand stitch into place (NOTE: the base can also be machine stitched in place if desired as long as you stitch carefully to cover the gathers completely).

Final Details: Cut two 24" long pieces of decorative cording and thread each through the casing from opposite ends. When done, you should have the two ends of one cord protruding from the casing on one side of the pouch and the ends of the other on the opposite side. Knot the ends of each together to make a draw string. .



Sashiko Pouch Pattern

