Making a Regency Housewife

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What is a Housewife

* Defined as a “pocket-case for needles, pins, thread, and scissors”
* Oxford English Dictionary dates first use 1749
* Common, everyday item
* Used by women of all status
* Used by soldiers and sailors as late as WWI and WWII

Materials

* Outer cover – Printed cotton fabric or quilt square – 15 x 4½ inches (finished 4 inches wide)
* Inner lining – Cotton or silk fabric – 15 x 4½ inches
* Inner pockets – Cotton fabric – 6¼ x 4½ inches (1), 5 x 4½ inches (3)
* Needle holder – Felt - 2 x 3 inches
* Ties – Ribbon - 18” (1), 10” (2)

Step One

* Fold pocket pieces right sides together, sew long edge, forming a tube
* Place largest pocket at ¼ from short end of lining fabric, stitch across the bottom

Step Two

* Place largest pocket at ¼ from short end of lining fabric, stitch across the bottom
* Position three small pockets evenly along remaining length of the lining, allowing 1 ½ inches on the top end and stitch across the bottom
* Also position ribbon ties and felt needle holder and stitch

Step Three

* Place lining and outer cover right sides together and stitch around three sides, making sure to catch the sides of each pocket

Step Four

* Turn right side out and stitch open end closed
* Stitch ribbon on the outside to tie closed