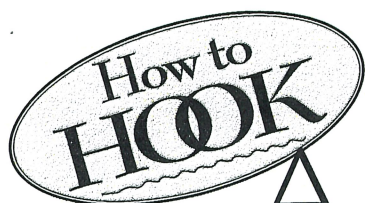


Hooker's Pocket

Designed by Patsy Becker
Hooked pocket by Patsy Becker on page 33



~~~~~ DEAR BEGINNING RUG HOOKER ~~~~~



# A HOOKER'S POCKET

With a lesson on spot dyeing

*by Patsy Becker*

FOR MANY YEARS I WORKED AS A DOCENT FOR THE Monmouth County (New Jersey) Historical Association. Most of the time I performed my job in the costume of an early eighteenth-century Dutch settler. My favorite accessory was a fancy pocket that was tied over a shift and petticoat. The handsomely embellished linen pocket was embroidered in crewelwork and was useful for carrying many necessary twentieth-century items such as keys for the museum and car, a comb, lipstick, and candy. Everything I needed was right at hand, but carried neatly out of sight in the embroidered pocket.

As the owner of a rug hooking pattern business, I introduce a number of new designs every spring. Last year I decided it would be fun to have an adaptation of the early ladies' pocket for rug hookers to use. It would be a handy place to hold hooks and scissors so they wouldn't get misplaced. Most eighteenth-century pockets were open in the center, but my pocket is open on the side to maximize the design area.

Since the finished hooking will be made into an article of clothing, I strongly suggest you use monk's cloth for the foundation because it is flexible and easy to sew. The pattern for the *Hooker's Pocket* can be found in this issue's pattern insert. Read the transferring, hooking, and finishing instructions in the insert before begin-

ning. Increase the size of the pattern to 7" x 11 1/2" and use one of the methods explained in the insert to transfer the design to an 18" x 20" piece of monk's cloth. Refer to the sidebar for the amounts and colors of fabrics you'll need to hook the pocket.

## Hooking the Pocket

This is a small project that does not take long to hook. I used a #5 cut of wool throughout, except for the flowers, which I hooked in a #4.

Hook the bunny first, starting with the eye in dark brown and adding a few loops of light color for a highlight. Next outline the face, body, tail, and facing ear with a tan that is lighter than the Bunny spot dye. Outline the hip, nose, and front legs with a darker tan, and use the same wool to fill in the nose and the rear front and back legs. Fill in the facing ear with pink. Now use the Bunny spot dye wool for the rest of the rabbit, hooking in the direction in which the fur would grow.

Hook the leaves and stems with your green



swatch, changing values to suit yourself. Add the flowers in your favorite colors.

The background is all that remains to be hooked. Hook two rows in the Grapevine color at the outside edge and a row around all the motifs, and then fill in the rest of the background following the contours of the motifs. Press the piece well with an iron and a damp cloth when you've finished the hooking.

### Assembling the Pocket

It's simple to turn your hooked bunny into a handy pocket for holding scissors, hooks, and other necessities. First, stitch a holding line  $\frac{5}{8}$ " from the edge of the hooking. Cut off the excess fabric just beyond the stitching. For the back of the pocket, cut a piece from the remaining Grapevine spot-dyed wool the same size as the hooked piece. With the right sides of both hooking and wool facing each other, stitch the pieces together around the edge of the hooking from A to B. You now have an inside-out pocket. Leave the edge of the pocket open from B to the top (see Figure 1). Snip the pocket from the

*Continued on page 61*

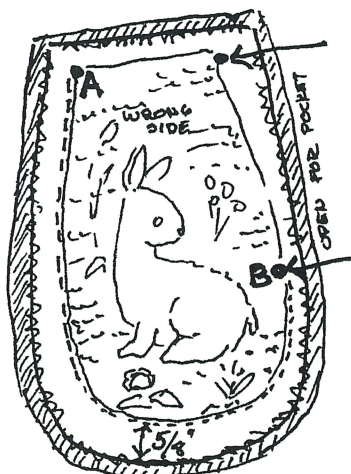


Figure 1

## Hooker's Pocket *Continued from page 34*

### MATERIALS

You will need the following amounts and colors of wool and finishing material to complete the bunny pocket.

Backing: 18" x 20" monk's cloth

Background and back of pocket:  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard white wool dyed using the Grapevine spot dye formula

Bunny: 8" x 24" white wool dyed using the Bunny spot dye formula; 1 small strip of light tan for tail and outlining; 1 small strip of dark tan for outlining, leg, and nose; 1 small strip of dark brown for the eye; 1 small strip of pink for the inside of the ear

Leaves and stems: 1 green swatch of your choice

Flowers: Scraps of wool in your favorite colors

$\frac{1}{3}$  yard of any fabric for the lining

$1\frac{1}{2}$  yards of ribbon or fabric tape for the ties

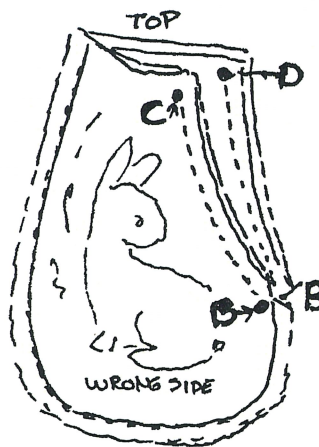


Figure 2

pocket (Figure 2).

Turn the pocket right-side out through the opening at the top. Push the lining into the hooked pocket. Turn under the top edge and stitch it closed. Sew a piece of ribbon



Figure 3

outside edge to the stitching at B so later you will be able to turn it right-side out.

Cut two pieces of any fabric for the lining, the same size as the pocket. With the wrong sides of the fabric facing each other, sew the pieces together as described in the previous paragraph, leaving the edge open from B to the top.

Turn the lining inside out and slip it inside the hooked pocket (which is still wrong-side out). Sew the lining to the pocket from B to C on the front of the pocket, and from B to D on the back of the

or fabric tape along the top edge to fit around your waist (Figure 3). Your pocket is ready to fill and use.

*The pattern for the Hooker's Pocket is available printed on backing from Patsy Becker, 18 Schanck Road, Holmdel, NJ 07733.*



# Hooked Pockets

A modern twist on a handy bit of history

by Barbara Carroll



BILL BISHOP/IMPACT XPOZURES

**HIT N MISS COLONIAL POCKET**, 9" x 14", #8-cut wool on monk's cloth. Designed and hooked by Barb Carroll, Ligonier, Pennsylvania, 2007.

Pockets. What would we ever do without them? They are our "secret stash," a carrier, and they help us stay organized. Of course, there was a day when pockets were not sewn into clothing. The answer for the ladies of that time—the mid- to late 1800s—was waist pocket or tied-on pockets.

These hand-sewn treasures were tied around their waists or underneath their skirts on top of their petticoats, and they enabled the ladies to carry small things and leave their hands free to do their daily tasks. The pockets were accessible from slits in the sides of their skirts and rested on the hips. They were sometimes worn in pairs, tied, and then hung on each side. The old pockets were made from wonderful printed cottons; some of the more elegant ones were decorated with crewel embroidery.

Today we need and love pockets as much as our foremothers. What could be more fun than to take this lovely piece of history and translate it to our love of rug hooking. Here's a perfect opportunity to design for ourselves our own personal pocket with our own bit of history.

## Making Your Own

The pockets shown here were hooked and assembled to give you an idea of the fun and excitement that you can create. You can hook a quilt design, your name, your dog, just hit 'n' miss, or the name of your hooking guild. They could be wonderful birthday gifts for a good friend, thank you, or Christmas gifts. So be creative. Use your imagination, your small pieces of backing, your leftover wool, and have a great time with these pockets. It's a perfect place to stow all of your hooking scissors, magnets, gadgets, and a bit of candy!



Cut line

Line drawing of the **COLONIAL POCKET**, courtesy of Lisa Baughman. Actual finished size is 14" L x 7½" across top, 11" at the widest point.

All of the pockets are assembled in the same manner. Ours are all 14" long, 7?" across the top, 11" at the widest area, and 9" at the bottom. Your pockets can be made in whatever size you would like.

## To Begin

Enlarge and place the pattern for the pocket on your linen or monk's cloth, making sure it is straight on the weave of the fabric. Using a Sharpie pen, draw a line around the outside of the pocket pattern, then draw another line 2" farther outside this line for your cut line. This cut line will also serve as the guide to line up the wool binding.

Draw the opening for your pocket. Ours is 8" long. Center the opening at the top of the hooked pattern area. The two lines will be about 1/2" apart. Taper them down to the bottom of the 8" line. Draw your design on your pocket.

**Note:** *The wool for the back of the pocket is cut a bit differently depending on which tie you are going to make.*

- If you are going to make a braided tie, cut the wool for the back of the pocket

the same size as the pattern at the cut line, except for the top. Add 2" to the top above the hooked pattern area for your top cut line.

- For a flat tie, cut the wool for the back of the pocket the same size as the pattern at the cut line except for the top. Add 1" to the top above the hooked pattern area for your top cut line.

**Choose your outside binding.** We used wool that complements the wools we used for the hooking of the pockets. We cut our binding 3" wide. The length equals the perimeter of the pocket with a couple of inches overlap at the top of the pocket on each side. The center binding was also cut about 3" wide by the length of the opening for the pocket, with a bit of overlap at the top and bottom.

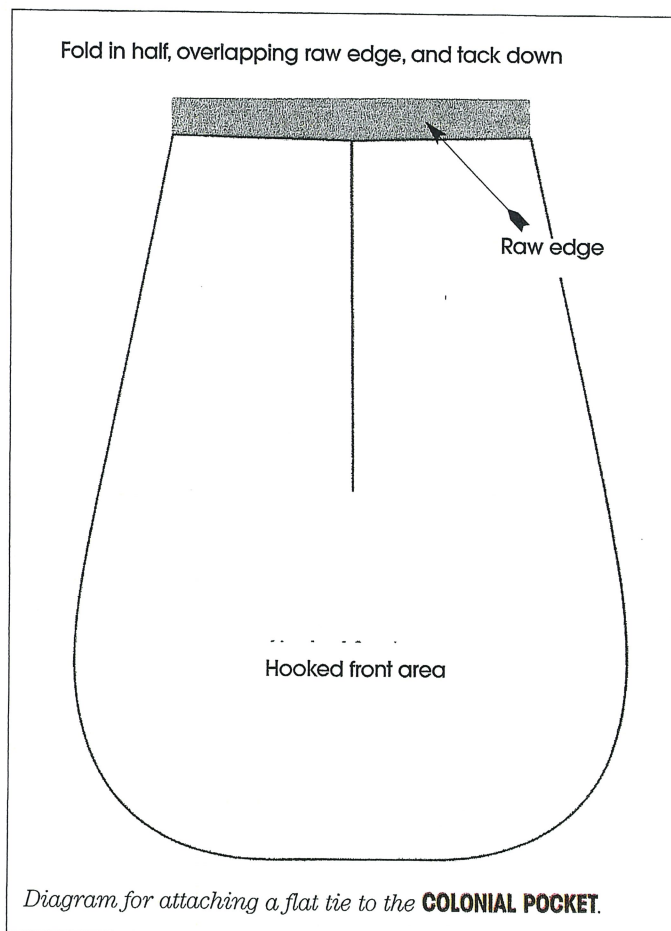
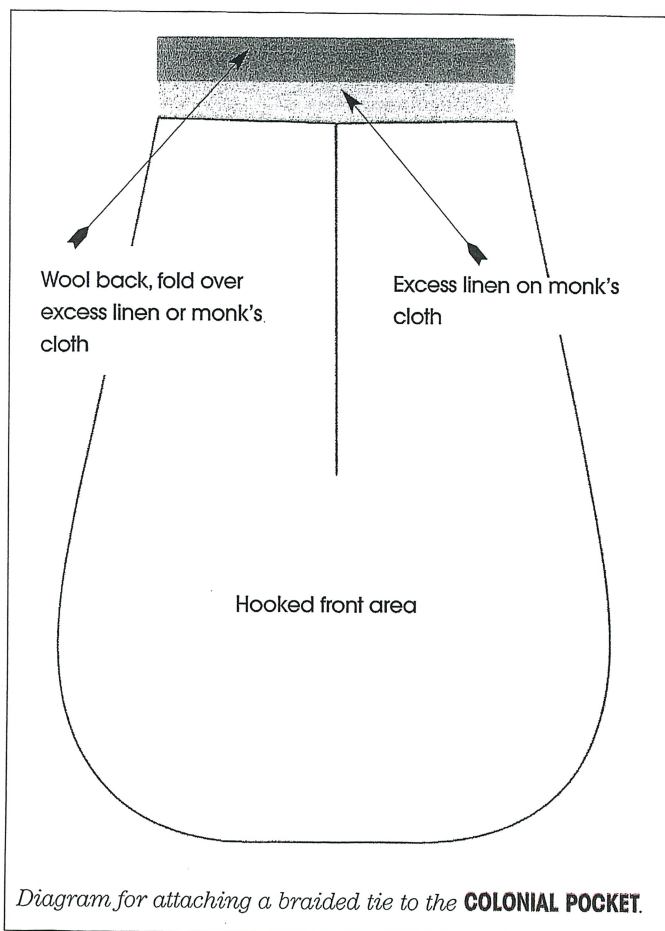
**Lay the wool binding on the top of the pocket.** Line up the edge of the binding with the cut line of the pocket. Sew the wool binding on the line that will become the outside edge of the pocket. Then cut a rectangular piece of wool to fit the opening area of the pocket. Sew that down on each

side of the 8" opening line (*see sample*).

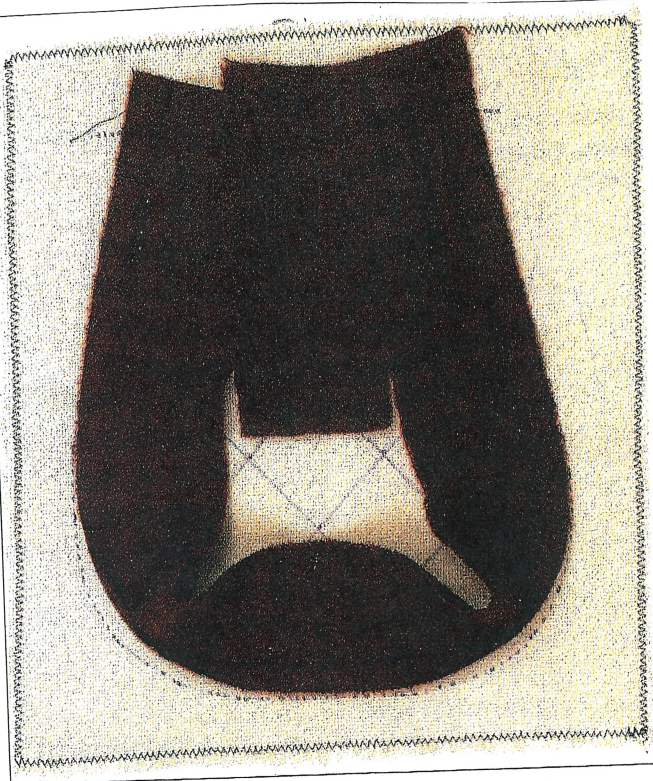
**Hook your pocket,** making sure that you hook right up to the edge of the wool binding. Once your hooking is complete, use Fray Check all around the outside of your stitching and down the front opening stitching for the pocket. Trim the outside of your pocket to the cut line. For the opening of the pocket, carefully cut down the middle and make sure you do not cut through the Fray Check and the stitching along the sides and at the bottom. After you make the cut for the center opening of the pocket, turn the facing wool to the inside and tack down with thread. Lightly press with an iron.

After you have decided which style of tie you are going to use, pin hooked front to wool back. Fold the binding over the wool back along the sides and bottom. Turn edge under and tack to back.

The finishing at the top is a bit different depending on which tie style you decide to use. For the braid: Fold the top of the wool backing from the back toward the front and over the 2" top of the unhooked area of the







## FURTHER READING

Edyth O'Neill has written a wonderful small book, *Pockets and Rollups for My Red Cape*. Her book will give you a look at what the old pockets were like. Filled with history and patterns, this is an easy and exciting journey into tracing the ages of these wonderful fabrics that were so much a part of our history—a lovingly told bit of history that will warm your heart.

*Pockets and Rollups for My Red Cape* can be purchased directly from Edyth O'Neill, 2155 Lightstone, Fredericksburg, TX 78624 for \$24.00 including shipping, by sending a check or money order. Texas residents add \$1.98 tax. Edyth's blog is <http://redcaperugs.blogspot.com>.

*Attaching fabric to the pattern edge to make self binding on the edge of the pocket.*

front of the pocket, turning under the raw edge. Stitch down making sure that you have enclosed the linen or monk's cloth that has not been hooked. A note on choosing the wools for your braid: Choose three different wools that will complement your pocket. One of them can certainly be the back of the pocket or the binding. This trilogy of color will add a special look to your color story. Then braid your wools.

## Braided Tie

Cut your wools (three different ones) into 1" to 2" strips about 60" long. This will give you plenty of length for your tie. You may also sew the lengths together if you need added length. Make sure to press the seams open if you need to make the strip longer.

On each of the three long strips, fold the two long edges in toward the center so that they just meet in the center. Then fold them in half. Pressing them will help you make a crisper braid.

When all three strips are cut and ready to braid, join them at the top together with a large safety pin. When the braid is the length you wish, secure the ends with matching yarn or keep them in place by sewing them with a strong thread or using rug hooking pins.

To sew the braid on the pocket, overlap the center of the braid to the top of the pocket.

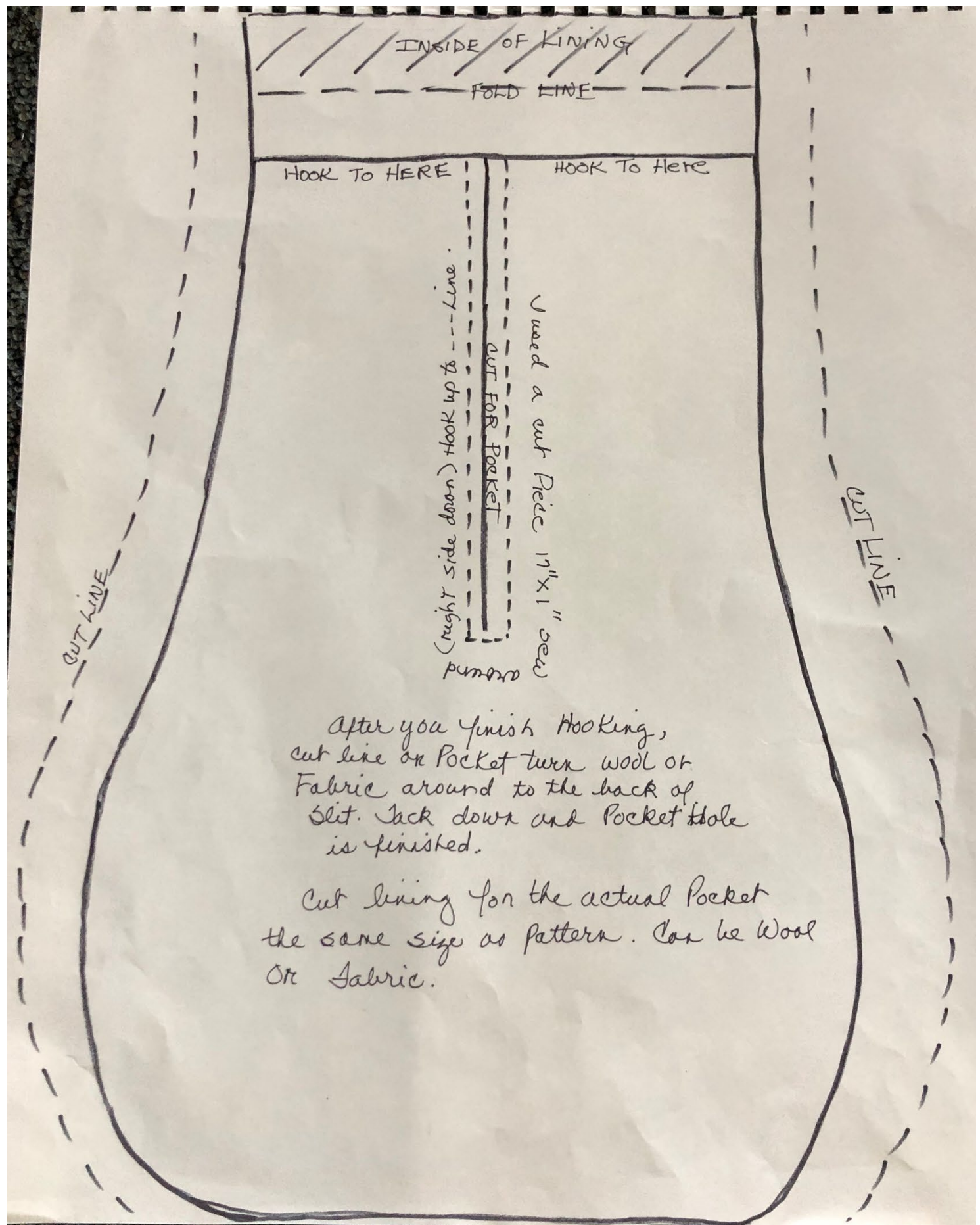
Attach by hand stitching along the edges of the braided tie to the top of the pocket.

## Flat Tie

Cut a piece of wool 3" wide and long enough to tie around your waist. Press raw edges under about 1/2". Overlap the center of the tie over the raw edge of the front of the hooked pocket. Just tack it down and then sew the rest of the tie together.

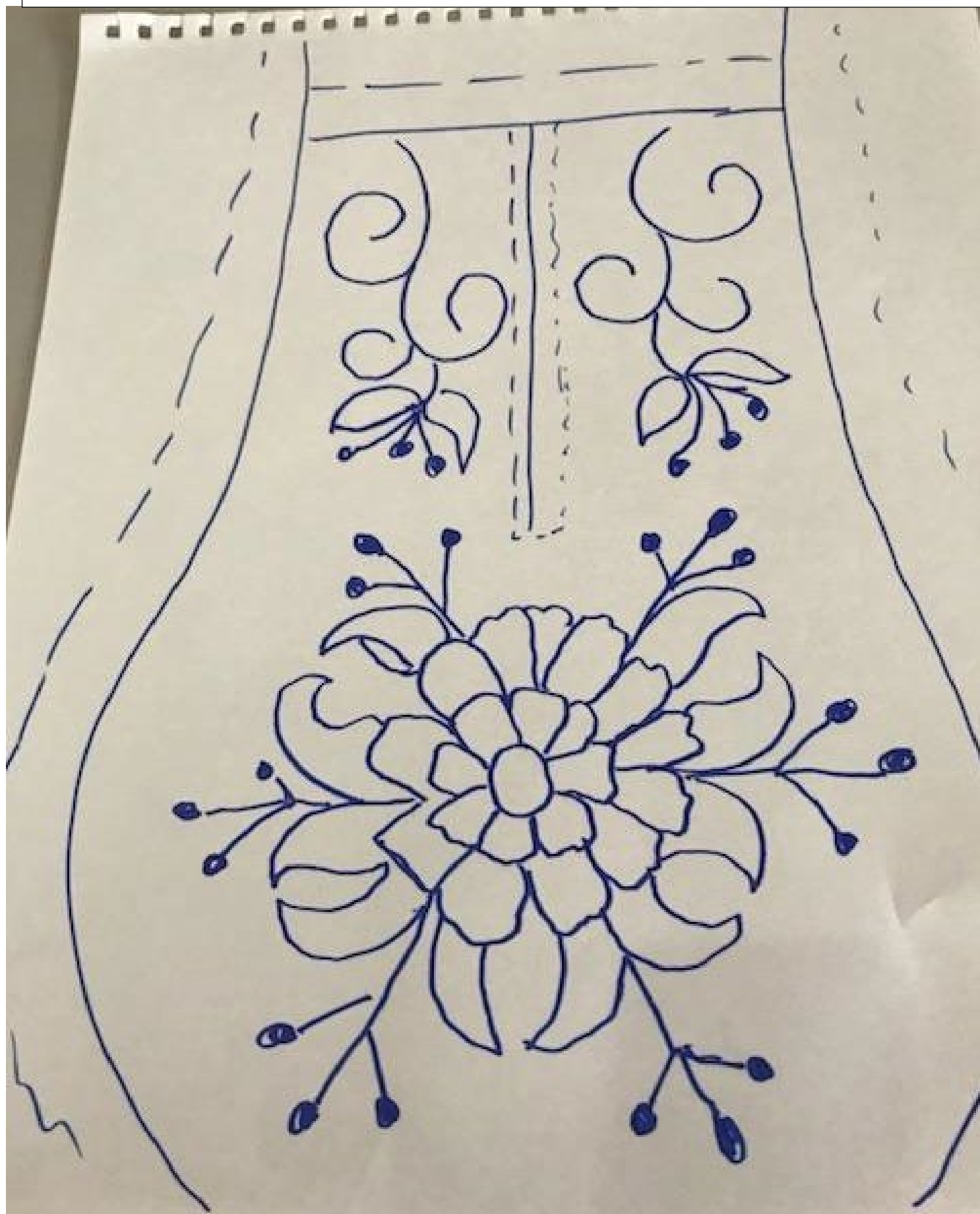
Enjoy your newfound friend, the ever-needed pocket. The warmth of the wools will make this a cozy and friendly addition to your hooking supplies and give your heart a smile. **RHM**

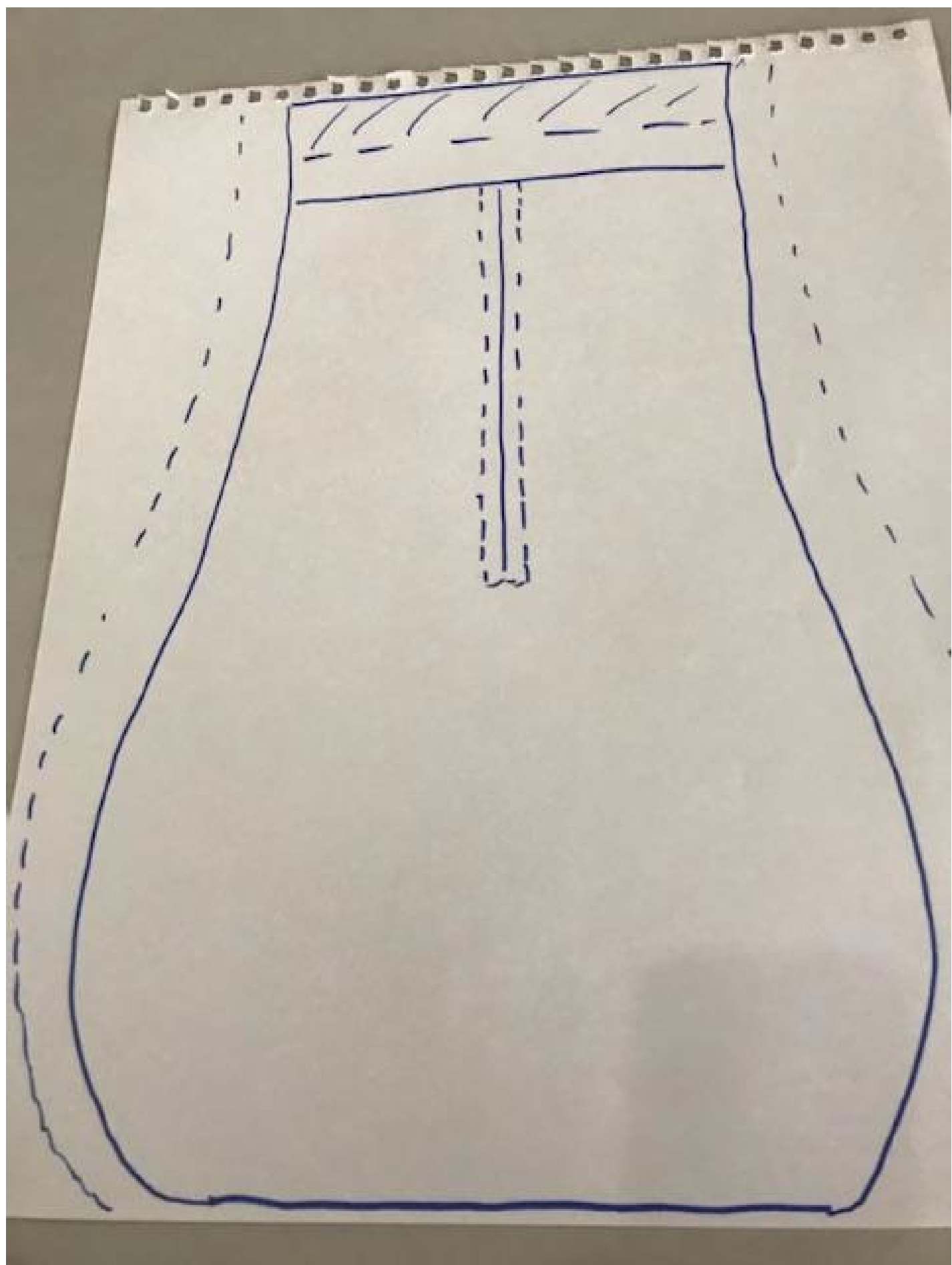




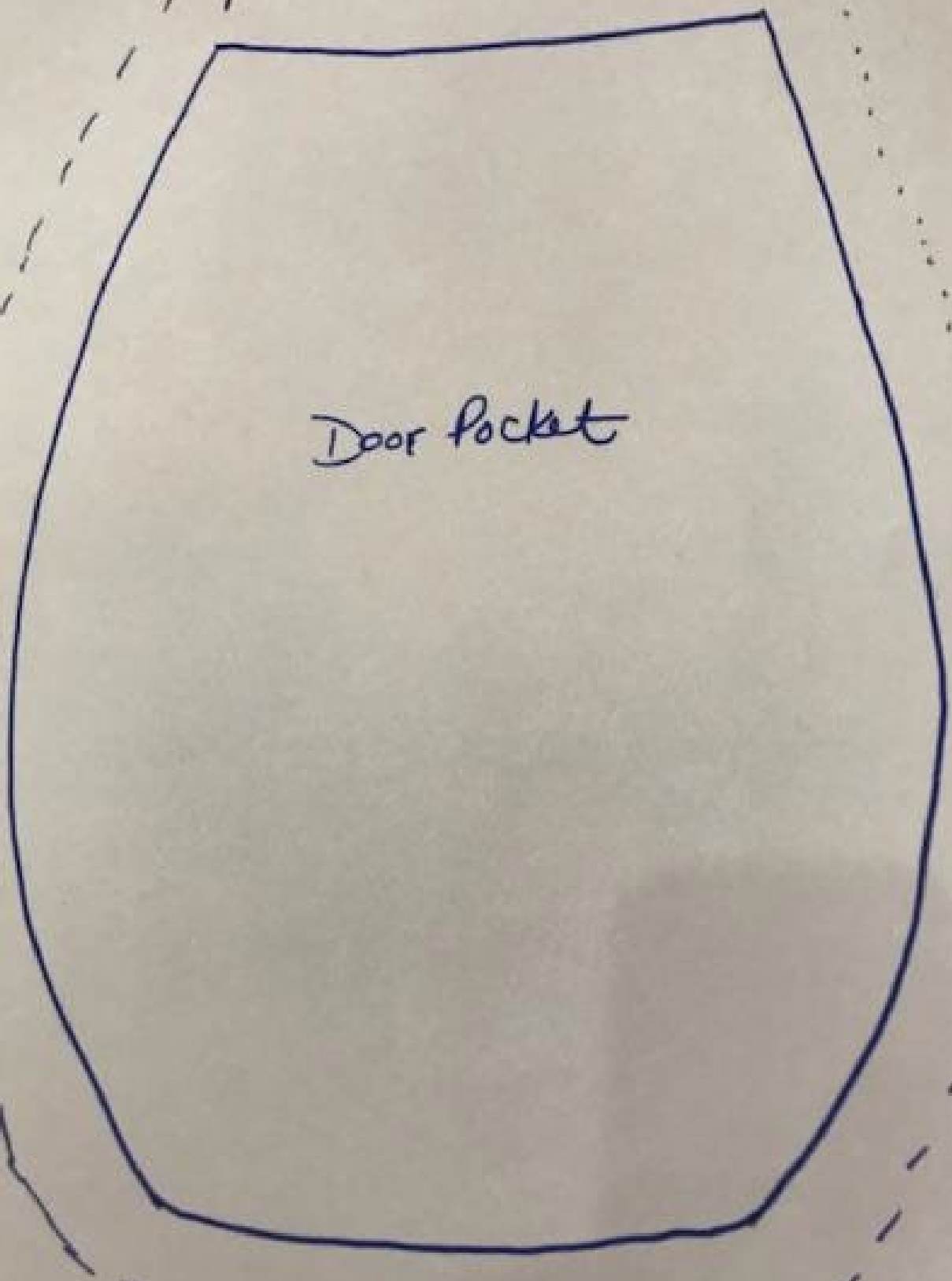


Pattern designed by Nancy Klunder, using the Susan Feller Fraktur kit patterns;  
Pattern offered to SLRH members for personal use









Door Pocket







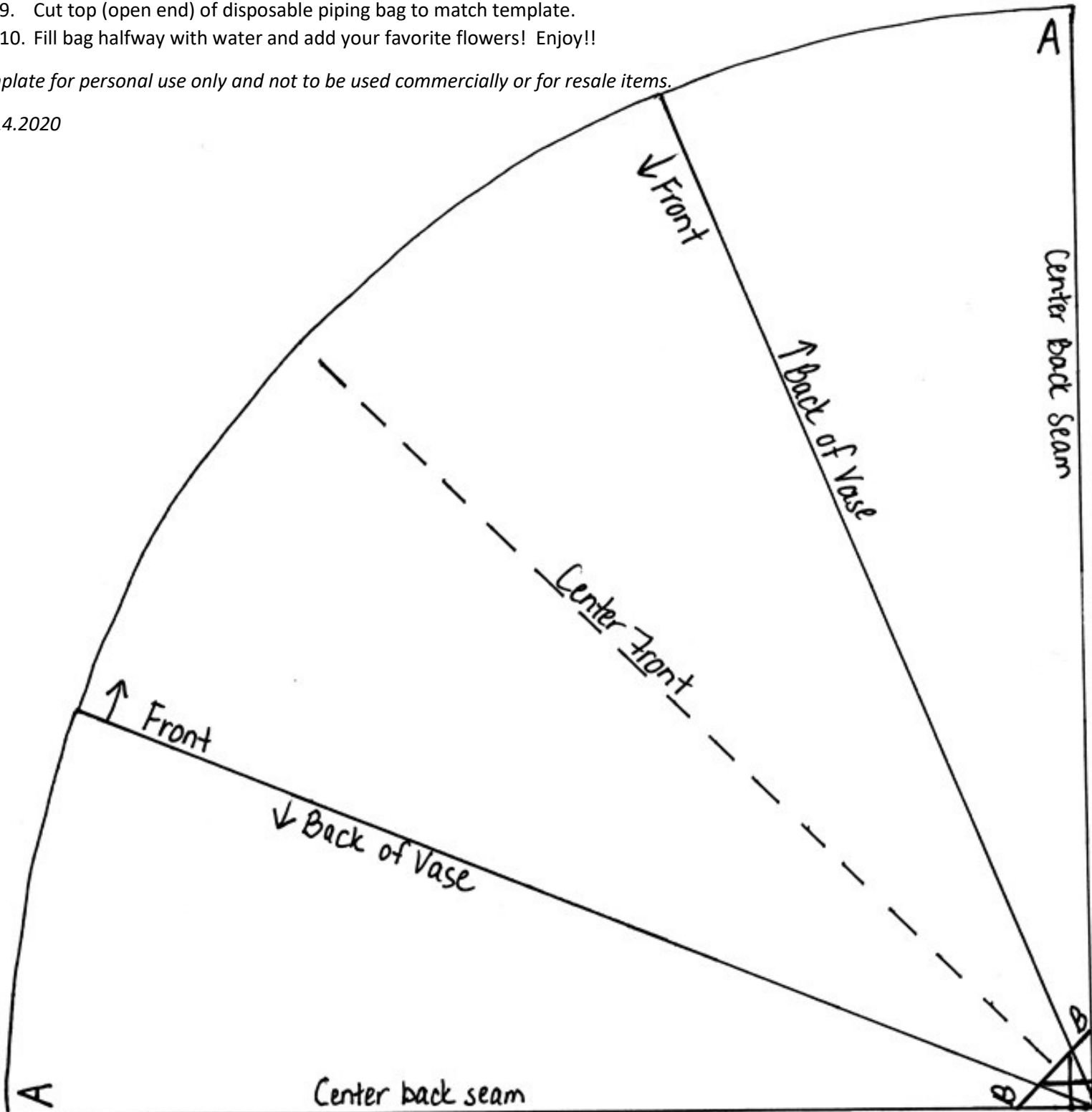


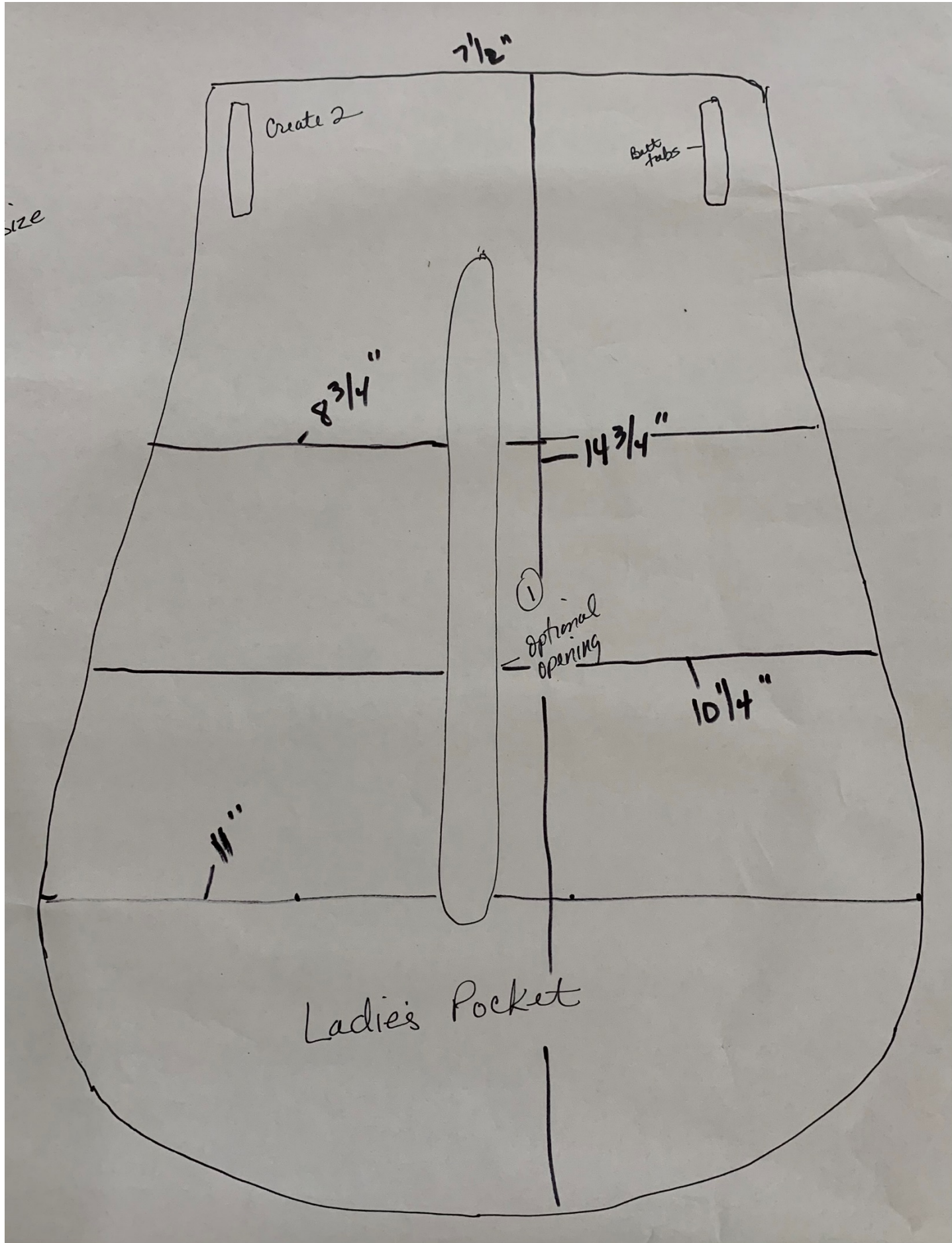


1. Design pattern using template, making sure to center design on front of vase.
2. Trace pattern onto 20" x 20" backing of choice
3. Hook or punch design, except do not hook past "B" at point area "X"
4. Trim  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from finished hooking of backing. Serge or zigzag all edges, especially at the point "X"
5. Starting at "A" on center back seams, join sides by sewing using ladder or mattress stitch using buttonhole or other strong thread. Be sure to either stitch inside of hooked loops or between hooked rows so no backing will show at the seam.
6. When close to the point, tuck "X" inside of the cone and finish joining sides to the point of the vase.
7. Whipstitch top edge with choice of coordinating yarn.
8. Make braided hanger with 3 strands of yarn and use large eye needle to slip braid into hooking at sides of vase and secure both ends of braid on the inside of the vase with several knots.
9. Cut top (open end) of disposable piping bag to match template.
10. Fill bag halfway with water and add your favorite flowers! Enjoy!!

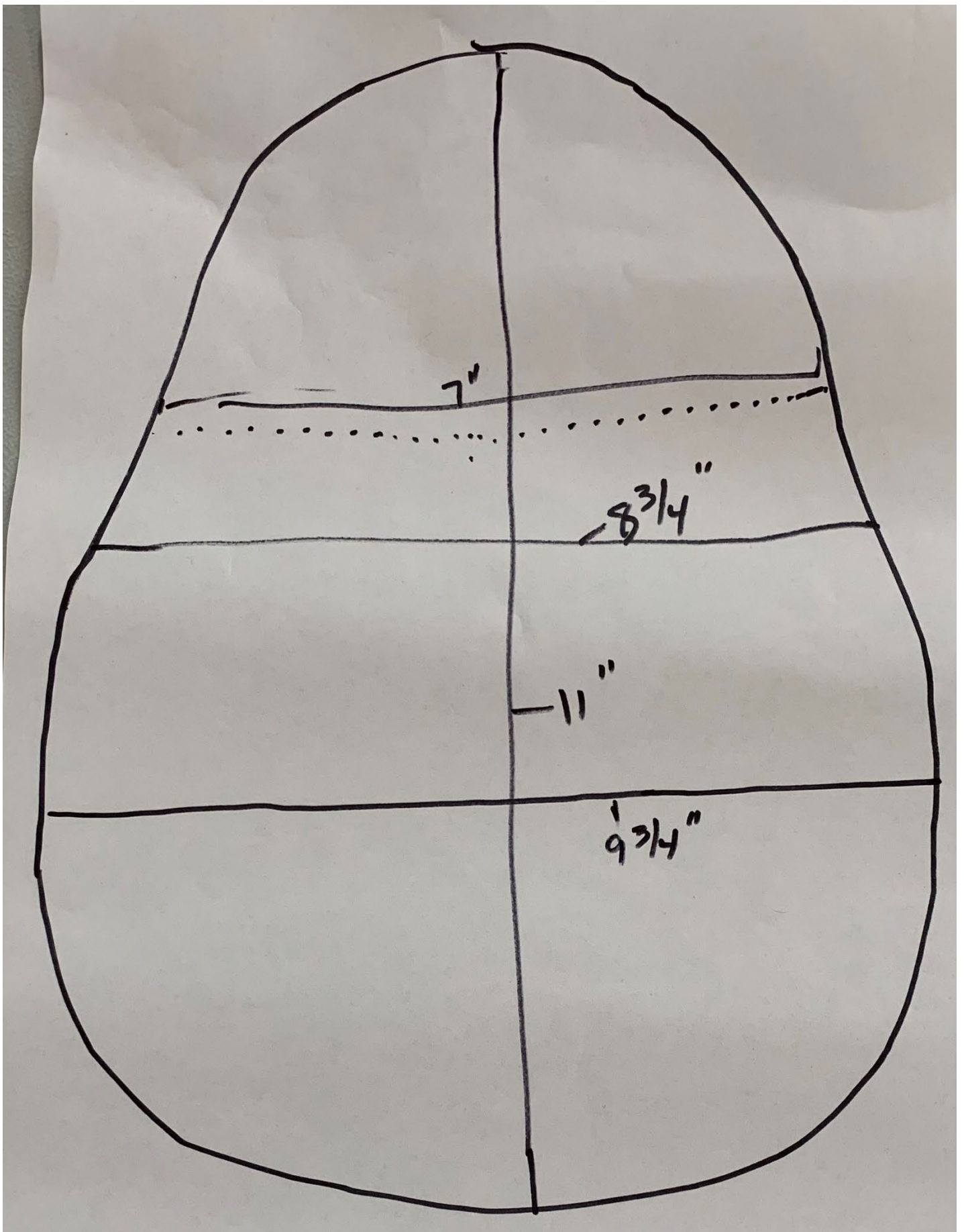
Template for personal use only and not to be used commercially or for resale items.

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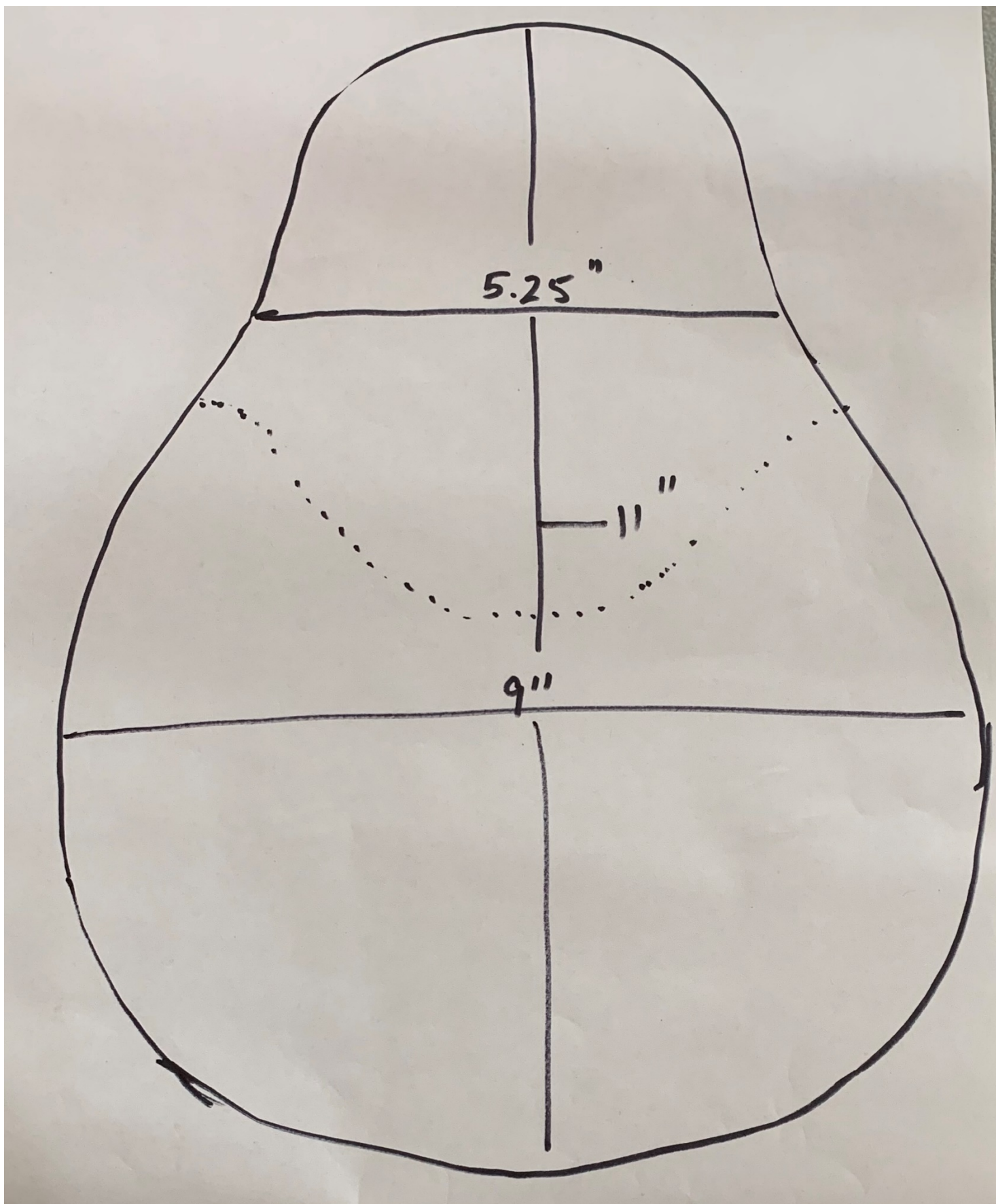


Pattern from Lisa Hooper



Pattern from Lisa Hooper





Pattern from Lisa Hooper