

Interior Base Piece

15" tall and 8 1/2" wide
each section is 3 3/4" tall



top is the fold over flap. this can be left as a full rectangle or have the corners shaped.
It can also be left off entirely, either no closure for wallet or loop and button or a thin strap with snaps

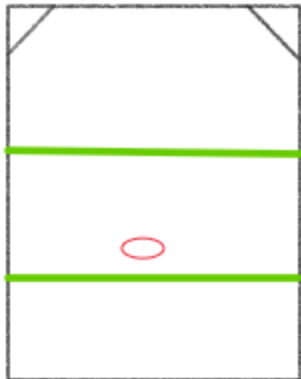
this top 3rd will have either zipper pouch or more card slots, or even phone holder pocket depending on the overall size. Whichever is chosen, it is added on this side.
Either the top or the bottom of this panel can be left open for money/paper slot.

this middle 3rd will be behind card slots (lower 3rd) when the lower third is folded up

This lower 3rd will have the card slots on the opposite side.
Slots are made from a separate piece and sewn on to the opposite side.
There will be a money slot behind the card slots.

Exterior Base Piece

11 1/4" Tall and 8 1/2" wide



This piece is same as the first, but without the lower 3rd.
This will be the outside of the wallet. For better folding, one or two seams would be added where colored line is.

How these two pieces will be assembled and finished.

Finishing steps will be to either sew front to back with right sides together and turn OR sew with wrong sides together and add binding all around.

Alternates

1. if using binding, top flap would only need to be on the second piece
2. if using flap on both pieces, this could also have a zippered pocket added.
3. sizing of this wallet could be made larger for a travel organizer, tablet holder and many other types of organizer.
4. wrist band could be added to create a wristlet
5. sides of this wallet could have accordion type closures so that it then doesn't open out flat - be sure to change direction of the card slots and money pockets so they are accessible.

Snap placement

Before starting any of the construction, be sure you know where you want the snaps, buttons or velcro to be located - if you are using a type of closure.

DO NOT PLACE THEM YET!

Adding the sections to the base layers will possibly shift where they need to be due to the bulk of the fabric. This step is just to ensure they are in your plan.

As shown above, one half of the snap is on the Interior Base Piece - on the flap - on the same side you will be adding the zipper pouch. Not the card slot side. (This will actually be in inside of the finished wallet.)

The other snap/velcro is on the Exterior Base Piece - on the middle section that will eventually be behind the card slots and money slot. (this will be on the outside of the finished wallet.)

Go ahead and mark the general areas with some chalk or safety pins.

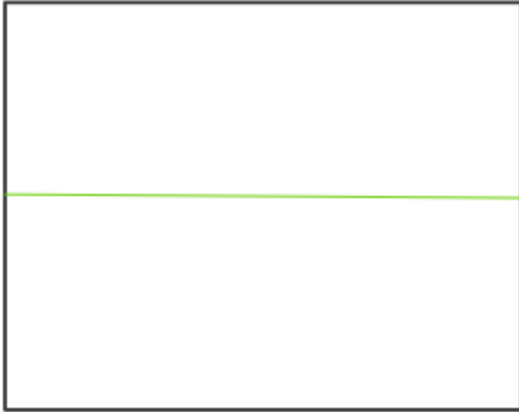
Thoughts on the size of the flap.

I have found that the flap will stay flat better when it is the same size as a 3rd section of the wallet or just slightly smaller.

I have tried smaller flaps - including a diagonal one, but they tend to want to pull away from the wallet - as if the wallet is over full. If you want a smaller flap, you would be better to use a button and elastic loop as it will hold the flap better.
Or you could use 2 snaps - one on left and one on right.

Making the Card Slot Section

While I don't like having more individual pieces to sew together, I find this may be the easiest method to start with.

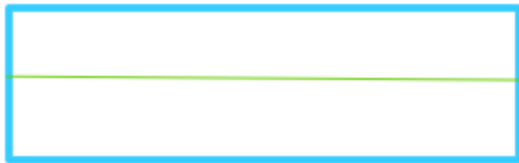


cut 1 piece of fabric that is $7\frac{1}{2}$ " tall and $8\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.

This piece will be folded in half horizontally, with finished size of $3\frac{3}{4}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Green line is the fold line

The next pieces will be sewn onto the bottom half of this piece to form the card slots.



Each card slot piece is $2\frac{1}{4}$ " tall and $8\frac{1}{2}$ " wide when finished.

The easiest method is to cut 3 pieces that are $4\frac{1}{2}$ " tall and $8\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.

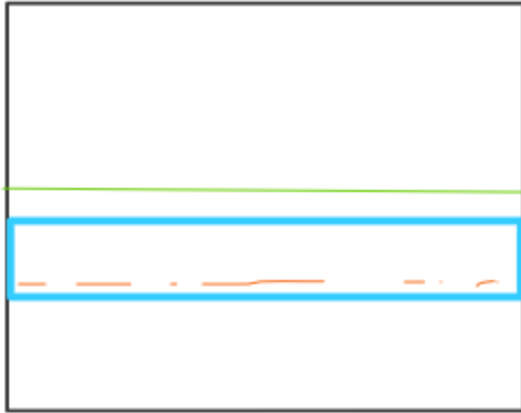
This would be folded in half horizontally for a finished size of $2\frac{1}{4}$ " tall and $8\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.

After folding each piece in half (ironing for a nice crisp fold is suggested), place and sew each of the 3 pieces onto the card slot base piece - remember, these are to be sewn on the bottom half of the base piece.

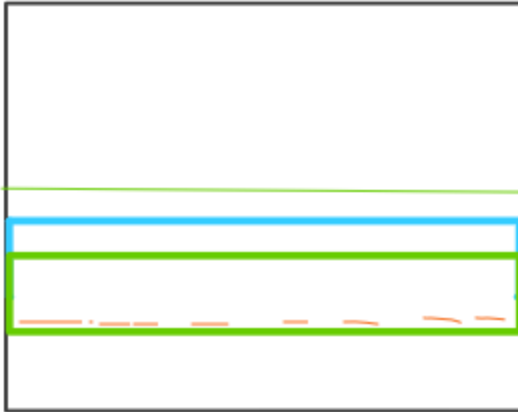
Start with the highest one first.

Folded edge of each strip at the top; raw edges at the bottom.

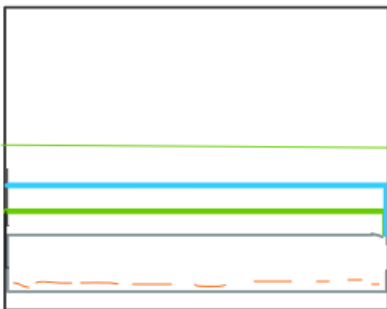
Sew only the bottom edges of these pieces to the base piece.



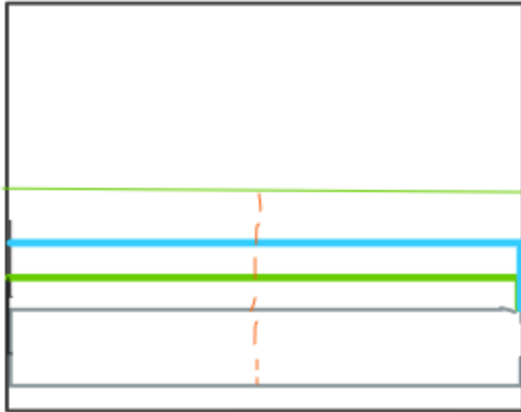
place the first strip about 1/2 inch from the fold of the base piece.
sew 1/4 inch from bottom edge of strip



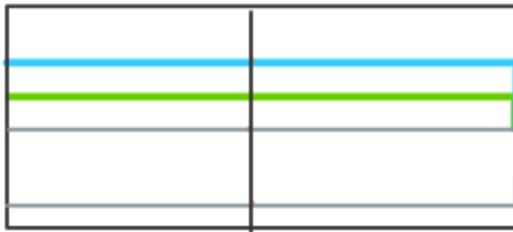
place the second strip about 1/2 inch from the top of the first strip; sew 1/4 inch from bottom edge of second strip



place third strip about 1/2 inch from the top of the second strip; sew 1/4 inch from bottom edge of third strip



after all three strips have been attached, sew down the middle of them all.
You now have 6 card slots attached to the bottom half of the base piece.



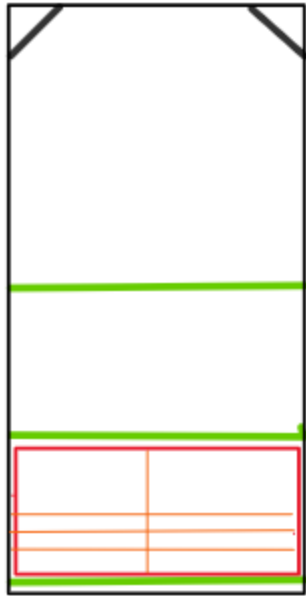
fold the top half of the base piece to the back of the newly created card slots.

This whole section is placed at the bottom of the Interior Base Piece - upside down.
Sew the bottom edge of the card slot section to the Interior Base Piece to hold it in place.

If you would like, you could sew the sides also, but it is not necessary as they will all be joined when the Exterior and Interior Base Pieces are joined.

DO NOT sew the middle seam down again as this will divide the pocket behind the slots in half.

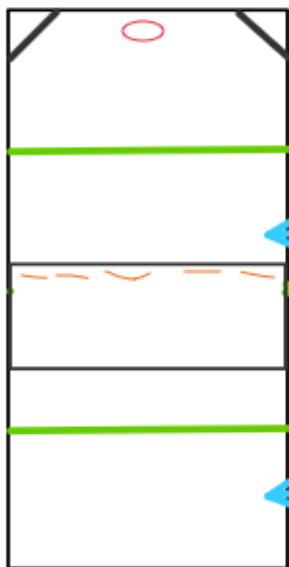




So now you have something like this. (Hopefully your seams came out straighter than my line drawing!)

Turn this piece over now so that the card slots are underneath.

Next, we will add the upper pocket to the top 3rd section.



7 1/2" tall and 8 1/2" wide.

For this section, you will need another piece that is 7 1/2" tall and 8 1/2" wide.

Just as with the card slot section, this will be folded in half to be 3 3/4" x 8 1/2" wide.

Once folded, attach the pocket piece to the Interior Base Piece - on the opposite side as the card slot section.

Place the pocket piece at the very bottom of the upper section with edge of pocket piece 1/2" from the bottom edge of the top section.

Sew the pocket section to the Interior Base Piece.

The card slot section is on the back of this section



Flip the pocket piece up and sew the bottom edge again....this time about 1/8" from the bottom edge.

The card slot section is on the back of this section

So now, the Interior Base piece has been completed as far as attaching the card slots and the pocket section.





With the pocket section face up, fold up the card slot section so it is on the same side as the pocket section and you have something like this.

This is a good time to attach the snaps / velcro.

If you prefer, a button and loop can be used instead.

These are a bit more forgiving as far as placement is concerned than either velcro or snaps are.

- Snaps must line up perfectly to work
- velcro will work if not quite exactly matched.
- a loop has more movement so it can accommodate a button that is maybe not exactly placed. PLUS the button can be sew on after wallet is completely finished.

For the sake of this tutorial, snap placement can also be used for velcro placement.

I will also note where the loop and button should be placed - should you decided to use this method instead.

Attaching the snaps

Put the 2 base layers together - wrong sides together.

Fold up the card slot section - each base piece should look like the following.

INTERIOR BASE PIECE
WITH CARD SLOT FOLDED UP.

EXTERIOR BASE PIECE



The placement of the snaps will be determined by the type of flap you chose to use and how bulky the materials used are.

- If your flap is the full rectangle, you may prefer to use two snaps
 - o place each towards the edges - no closer than 1" to the sides and edge of flap
 - o in the example above, these are noted with the red circles
- If you have a more pointed flap, only one snap is used
 - o place in the center area - keeping at least 1" away from all edges
 - o in the example above, this is noted with the blue circles

The best way to decide where the snaps should go, fold the wallet up as it will be when finished.

Bottom card slot up and flap section down.

Without squishing the wallet, note where the flap of the Interior Base Piece touches the middle section of the Exterior Base Piece.

Mark where you want your snaps - a little looser than a flatly folded wallet is best so that the bulk of the things in the wallet can be accommodated.

Sew on the snaps

Remember that the snaps of the flap will be sewn to the inside Interior Base Piece - the piece with the card slot and pocket sections attached - on the same side as the attached sections.

The other snaps are sewn on the outside of the Exterior Base Piece middle section.

Before attaching any snaps, double check you have the correct placements by folding the wallet all up together as if it was finished. I can't tell you how many times I have thought I had it correct, but on this final check realized I had the wrong placement.

Using button and loop instead of snaps.

This method is easier as you can wait to attach the button until after wallet is completed.

The loop used is generally a piece of elastic. While there are specialty elastics being sold in various colors for these types of applications, a simple hair elastic works perfectly well.

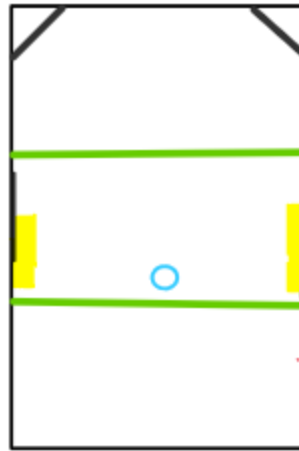
The elastic piece should be roughly 3" long - if using a hair elastic, you could either cut it to this size, or just overlap the extra length in between the Interior and Exterior Base Pieces.

In the illustration below, the elastic is the blue on the Interior Base Piece and the button is the green on the Exterior Base Piece.

INTERIOR BASE PIECE
WITH CARD SLOT FOLDED UP.



EXTERIOR BASE PIECE



When using a straight piece of elastic, the loop is best with the edges of the elastic as close as possible to each other.

When using a hair elastic, twist the elastic to form 2 circles - or squish the middle of the sides so they are almost touching.

Sew the elastic in place of the BACK SIDE of the Interior Base Piece.

Remember to fold the loop down onto the fabric (again on the back side) when the Interior and Exterior pieces are sewn together. Doing this will allow the loop to stick out of the wallet flap.

An even easier method is to wait until the wallet is finished and attach the elastic to the inside of the flap and cover its raw edges with a patch of fabric or ribbon.

Finishing the wallet

Now it is time to connect the Interior Base to the Exterior Base.

With the Interior Base piece on the table - with card slot and pocket sections face up, lay the Exterior Base piece face down on it.

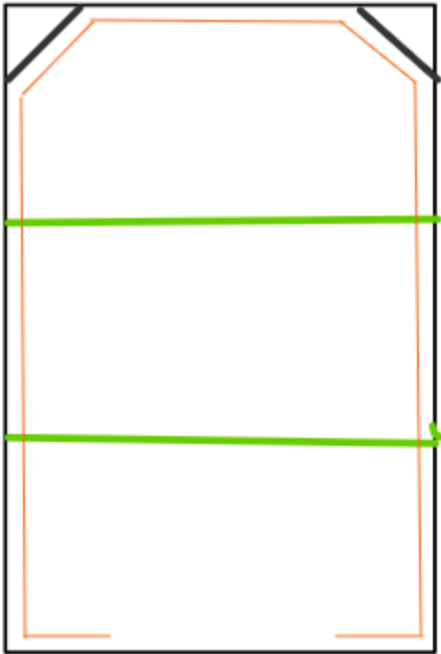
Exterior Base piece face down will have the snap face down.

Sew around the entire wallet - 1/4" from the edges. - leaving a few inches open so it can be turned right side out after.

On the below diagram, sewing line is marked in red. Note the opening left.



elastic loop, if used would be tucked between the Interior and Exterior Base Pieces



Turn the piece right side out and smooth all the outer edges.

Tuck the open edges (lower edge that was left for turning) in between the two base pieces and hand sew the opening together.

If you would like, you could sew another seam all the way around the outer edges.

This would close the portion that was left open for turning, but the bulk of all the layers may make this difficult.

Congratulations! You have successfully finished your wallet.

There are many variations you could add to this wallet to make it truly customized.

- add a zipper to the upper pocket
- replace the upper pocket with another set of card slots
- add an exterior pocket
- add a wristlet strap
- put a smaller flap over the upper inside pocket

