

Instructions for Making Roosting Pouches

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(Materials)

- High-loft polyester batting.
- Dark, solid, pre-washed cotton or denim fabric; 1/8 yard (11cm) for a small pocket; 1/4 yard (23cm) for a large pocket. Do not use any type of loosely knit materials. The fabric should be heavy and tightly woven to prevent the inside padding from being pulled through the material by the bats' claws.
- Cotton or polyester thread. (Bat claws may snag in nylon threads.)
- Optional - Velcro®. (Do not use "sticky back" Velcro®. It will clog the mechanism of a sewing machine and may stick to a bat's wing or foot if it comes loose.)

Roosting pouches should typically measure 7.5" wide by 9" long (19cm x 23cm) when finished. This size will easily accommodate four to six medium-sized (10g to 20g) adult bats. To make this pouch, begin by cutting two pieces of material into a rectangle that measures approximately 9" wide by 20" long (23cm x 51cm). Place the wrong sides together and stitch around three sides. Turn the rectangle inside out so that the seams are on the inside (see Figure A).

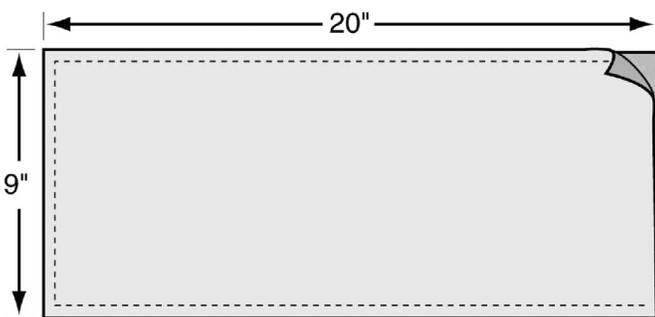


FIGURE A

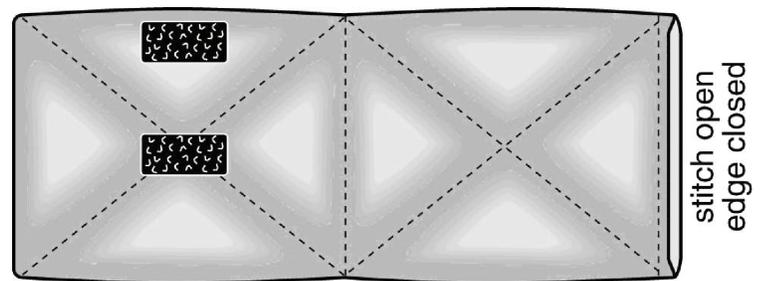


FIGURE B

Then measure and cut three to four layers—approximately 1" (2.54cm) thick—of polyester batting to fit inside the rectangle. The pouch should be approximately 1" thick on each side. Place the batting inside as if putting a pillow inside a pillowcase. Fold the open edge of the material to the inside and stitch across the top. Hold the batting in place by stitching through all layers diagonally, horizontally, etc. as shown (see Figure B). Stitch on Velcro®, then fold the rectangle in half (the Velcro® should be on the inside). Then stitch two edges closed through all layers, leaving one end open to form the entrance (see Figure C).

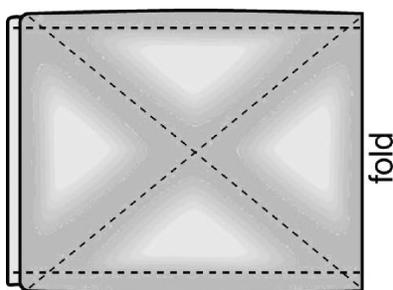


FIGURE C

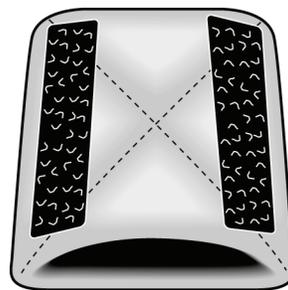


FIGURE D

Turn the pouch inside out. The pouch can be hung either from the walls or the ceiling of the cage (see Figure 21d). Fabric roosting pouches should be turned inside out and washed daily in mild, unscented detergents only. After drying, all lint should be removed with a stiff brush. A duplicate pouch should always be available for the bat to roost in while the others are being washed.

To prevent further injury to recuperating bats, place a pad on cage floors. You can construct a simple, inexpensive waterproof pad by cutting quilt batting to fit the cage floor, then covering the batting with a soft vinyl. Cut the vinyl to fit the batting, and then seal the edges either by sewing or with a hot-glue gun. You can also use children's floor mats or cut a playpen mattress to fit the cage floor. Mats should have thick vinyl covers. Do not use terry-cloth fabrics on cage floors.