

Sew 'n' Sew

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THE FIT OF PANTS

Pants are showing up everywhere this season from casual playwear to dressiest eveningwear. Whether your preference is for slim pants, or full pants, or somewhere in between, there is a silhouette, and pattern, available for you. You can make them in casual knits or multiple layers of the sheerest chiffon. Take your inspiration from classic men's wear – the choices are unlimited.

PICK A PANT STYLE

Pull-On Pants: These relaxed pants can range from slim to very full and the slimmer the pants, the more likely that they will be made of knit fabric. The fuller the pants leg, the more likely they will be made of a soft flowing fabric. The waist is either fully or partially elasticized. These pants require a minimum of fitting.

Classic Pants: These moderately fitted pants can be very simple or very detailed. The predominant characteristic is a fitted waistband. The shaping of the pants can be achieved through darts, pleats, gathers, or a combination of these details. There can be belt loops, fly front closure, pockets, and/or cuffs. This style of pants requires attention to fitting.

Stirrup Pants: These slim knit pants can have either an elasticized waist or a fitted waistband. Naturally, an elasticized waist requires less fitting than the fitted waistband. While knit fabric makes circumference fitting easier, because of the stirrup, you will need to do precise length fitting.

If you have never sewn pants before, or if you have sewn them and not been satisfied with the results, you will want to follow some simple fitting rules.

Classic Pants

⌘ The hip cut in fitted slacks should be similar to the hip cut in a straight skirt with the fabric falling smoothly to the floor.



⌘ Allow at least 1-inch ease in a fitted waistband. You will be more comfortable, and the pants will fall more gracefully over your curves.

⌘ In fitted pants, allow at least 2-inches of ease at the full hip but

less than 2-inches in stretchy fabrics. You should have a minimum of 3 to 4-inches of ease in classic trousers.

⌘ Front zippers add fullness to a full round tummy and should be worn in well-fitting trousers with pleats pressed so the fullness is centered over the leg. There is no substitute for classic pants that fit well in a fabric that suits your figure and style.



✂ You will look thinner in loose-fitting pants, as opposed to curve-hugging types. Wearing one size larger is more flattering than squeezing into one size smaller. Straight legged, classic trousers with front pleats normally add softness and, if they fit properly, help conceal large hips. Proper fit means the pleats fall in a straight line rather than pulling at an angle toward the side seams. There should be at least 4-inches of ease through the hipline. Classic trousers are easy to dress up with a silk shirt or dress down with a casual turtleneck.

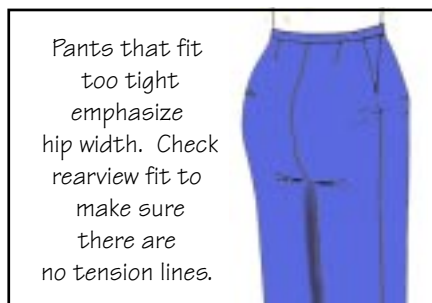
Trousers are better at flattering figures and sport a somewhat wider leg than past styles, falling straight from the full hip to the ankle. Those that taper from upper fullness to narrow ankles add visible pounds to figures that are full through the hip and waistline.

If you are looking for a classic trouser pattern and don't have a flat tummy, look for one with pleats pressed toward the hip. This trick helps create the illusion of a flatter tummy by arranging the fullness to either side of your curve and centering it over the leg and thigh.

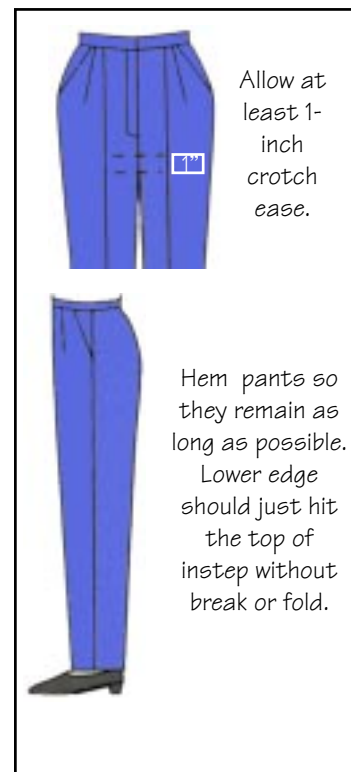
✂ With the exception of body hugging pant styles, allow 1-inch of ease in the crotch length. Pants that hang too low in the crotch are uncomfortable and make legs look shorter. Pants that are too tight in the crotch also are uncomfortable and leave unsightly wrinkles in the fabric through the thigh area.

✂ Hem pants so they remain as long as possible. The wider the pant leg, the longer it should be in order to balance the look and create a long line. The lower edge should just hit the top of the instep without a break or fold. Pants make any figure look taller because of the long fabric expanse from the waist to the floor. To look your tallest in pants, match the color tone with your pantyhose and shoes.

✂ If the wrinkles point up from the crotch line in either the front or the back, the crotch curve needs to be lengthened. Take a deeper curve in the crotch seam by lowering the seam at the bottom of the curve up to $\frac{3}{8}$ -inches. If wrinkles point down from the crotch line in either the front or the back, the crotch curve needs to be shortened. Make a shallower curve in the crotch seam by raising the seam at the bottom of the curve up to $\frac{3}{8}$ -inches.



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As you select pant styles, consider the alternatives in relation to your figure and the look you want to achieve. We can have the best of all worlds in this fashion category. Within each style is a pant you can adapt for your figure so you are always in fashion, yet comfortably and attractively dressed 