

*** Slacks**

*** Shorts**

*** Bermudas** 1967

*** Readymades**



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The Long and the Short of It

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Here's how to make well fitting slacks, shorts and bermudas with a special section on selection of readymades.

More women and girls than ever before are appearing in slacks, shorts and pedal pushers for sport and casual wear. From the very brief short shorts to the looser fitting pedal pushers and slacks, pants have become a permanent fixture on the American scene. Credit for starting this trend seems to go to Marlene Dietrich, who appeared in a mannish trouser and jacket costume for a movie and then wore them for street wear.

Fabrics used in pants range from rough and tumble denim and twills to the elegant brocades and velveteens. Which fabric one chooses, of course, depends upon the occasion when the pants will be worn.

BUYING READYMADES - There are two main classifications used in the construction of purchased pants, - play clothes and men's. The "play clothes" construction is similar to the way skirts are made, with a simple one piece waistband folded over and stitched down. Usually the zipper is on the side or at the back. Pockets most often are of self fabric.

The "men's" construction is more involved, with bias facing in a sturdy fabric lining the waistband, which is usually at least 1½ inches wide. The zipper is in the front. A sturdy hook and eye finishes off the closure. The waistband is split at the center back, which makes alteration in this area easy to do. Pockets are generally of twill fabric and reinforced for longer wear.

A well made garment using "men's" construction is generally more expensive and sturdy than a well made garment using "play clothes" construction. More fabric is used and more time is required for the more involved construction. Dressier pants tend to be of

the "play clothes" construction as this has a dressier look, while the "men's" is more rugged appearing.

POINTS TO LOOK FOR - Choose sturdy fabric, as there is considerable strain on pants as they are being worn. Corduroy and velveteen should have twill weave backs to hold the pile securely. Loosely woven fabrics should be underlined. Plaids should be matched, and prints should be printed on grain.

In construction look for double stitched seams, flat felled on active sportswear and plain seams, double stitched, on dressier items. Select pants with reinforced pockets; well sewed belt loops; closely stitched buttonholes; and matching thread, zipper and buttonholes. Hooks and eyes should be sturdy and buttons of good size and quality. In men's construction consider grade of twill pockets and bias inner waistband fabric. Look for 5/8 inch seam allowances, more if you need to alter the garment. Check the top stitching to see that it is evenly done with matching thread. Make sure pants have been cut on grain. Off grain cutting will result in pants that twist and are uncomfortable when worn. There should be a lock stop on the zipper tab so it won't slide down at the wrong time.

FITTING READYMADES - As pants are more form fitting than a skirt, extra care should be taken to have them fit properly. Be sure to try pants on for fit. Each manufacturer has his own sizing which may be quite different from another manufacturer's. Then too, the style of the garment and the fabric used may influence the fit. A bias cut using knitted fabric will fit differently from a straight cut using corduroy. And both of these may be from the same manufacturer! Naturally the design of stretch pants is quite different from the design of looser fitting pants.

EASE - For other than stretch pants a certain amount of ease is necessary for comfort. Try on the pants and see if you can pinch up a tuck of these proportions

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before the pants are skin tight (no ease). Find 1 inch at the waistband, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the hipline, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the thigh, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches at crotch and 1 inch at the hem for pants longer than short shorts. Bend over and touch your toes! Sit down on your heels! Are the pants still comfortable as you sit? If not, select another pair. You should not feel "cut in half" The pants should slide up your legs easily to accommodate your bending and sitting. The waistband should not drag down at center back as you sit. Check to make sure your underthings do not show through the pant's fabric. If you normally wear a panty girdle with your pants, wear it while fitting, as a girdle changes the position of your flesh considerably.

CARE INFORMATION - Read care labels and fiber content. Are you prepared to care for the pants as it suggests on the label? Note use of bleach and ironing temperatures. Remember the authentic Madras bleeds and must be washed separately. Watch for fabric guarantees, such as durability claims, and watch for special features such as permanent press. Ask the saleslady and the store manager about points that confuse you.

Save your labels, marking them with the garment description. File them with your bill for future reference. Using a laundry pen, mark fiber content on seam allowance for easy reference when it is necessary to remove stains. On rough fabrics mark information on tape and sew to inside seam.

UPGRADING READYMADES - If it is necessary for you to purchase pants without all of the features you would like, consider how you can upgrade them to your liking. You might replace buttons; reinforce buttonholes, pockets and seams; remove gaudy trims, line garments made of loosely woven fabrics; back belts with washable backing and hand whip belt eyelets. You will be rewarded with longer wear and personal satisfaction.

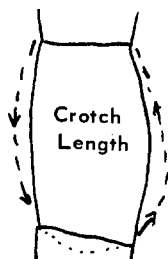
Measuring for Alterations

If you usually wear a girdle while wearing pants, wear it while being measured too. Measure and list inches on blank that follows:

Waist _____; hip at fullest part _____; indicate how far down from waist _____; derriere from side seam to side seam across widest part of hips _____; thigh at fullest part _____; indicate how far down from waist _____.

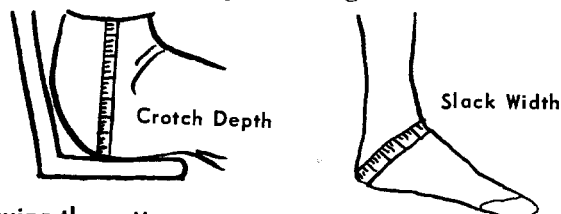
Tie cord around waist and measure length from waist to floor down side seams. Hip size right _____; hip size left _____; measure from cord down side seam to desired length of pants _____; measure from cord through crotch and back up to cord for crotch length _____.

Add $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2" (for ease) to body crotch length. Compare to total of curved seams on center front and back pattern pieces. Adjust to fit.



Sit down on chair.

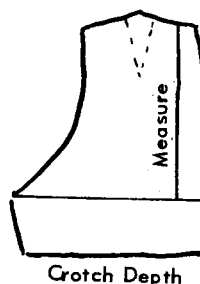
Measure: From waist to chair seat _____ in. Crotch depth. Around heel and instep _____ in. Width of lower edge of slacks. Around calf at fullest part _____ in. for width at pedal pusher length.



Buying the pattern.

Patterns usually are listed by the waistline size. For ease in altering it is best to purchase pants patterns by hip size. If the pattern book does not list the hip size that corresponds to the waistline size on the pattern page this information may be found on a general chart elsewhere in the catalog. If you wish to match plaids or stripes be sure to select a pattern appropriate for this. You may even find one that does not have a side seam, which would eliminate matching and cutting into the continuity of the plaids or stripes.

For accuracy in measuring center front and back seam lengths on pattern, extend grain line on pattern up through top of pattern. Draw a line at right angles to grain line, starting at top of inside seam. Measure up to waist. Measure back pattern the same way. Add $\frac{3}{4}$ " ease to body crotch depth and compare to pattern. Adjust to fit. This will be crotch depth of the pants.



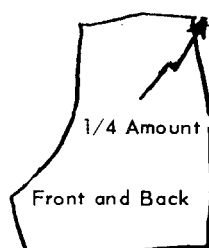
Compare your size with the size of the pants. Measure hip and thigh widths at the same distance down the hip as your measurements were taken.

Make appropriate adjustments in pattern using the following methods.

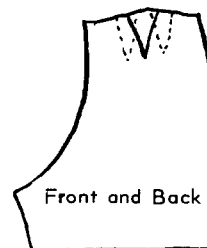
Measuring the Pattern

Allow the following amounts of ease for comfort: 1 inch at waistline, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches at hipline, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches at crotch, for crotch length- $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches at thigh, 1 inch at hem.

INCREASE WAISTLINE - Add $\frac{1}{4}$ of the amount needed on front and back side seam. Taper to nothing at the hip line notch. When the extra material is needed only on the front of the pants, add $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount needed on each side seam on the front of the pants.

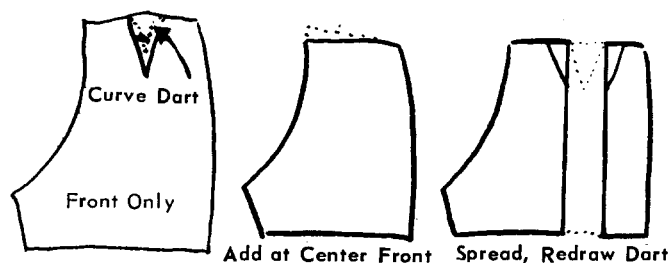


Increase Waistline

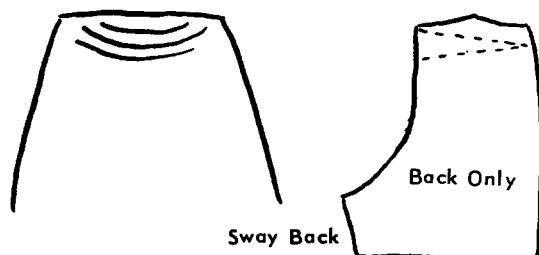


Decrease Waistline

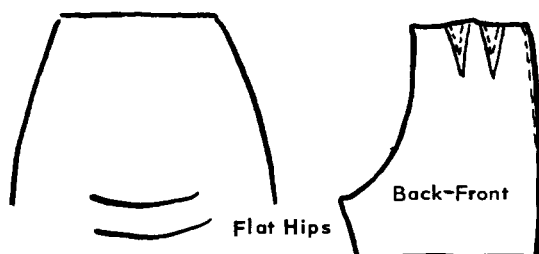
DECREASE WAISTLINE - Add a waistline dart. Do not remove excess fabric from side seam as this makes the seam too bias. You may need to reposition the darts so they are centered between the center front or back and the side seam. If you do not do this and merely add a dart between the existing one and the side seam you will create a broadening look!



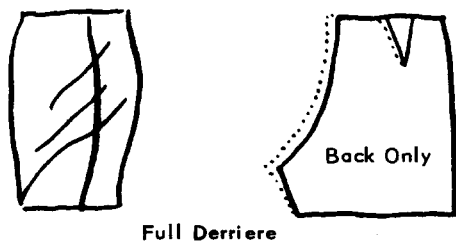
SWAY BACK - Horizontal wrinkles below the waistline and above the hips is the typical effect of a sway back. Correct by taking a tuck in the pattern about 2 inches down from the waistline. Fold up needed amount at center back and decrease to nothing at side seam.



FLAT HIPS - Sagging below the hipline and draglines to the front are the symptoms. Make darts in back smaller. Remove excess at side seam. If also slightly sway back, alter as above.



FULL DERRIERE - Characteristics are fullness above hipline in back and draglines from leg front to back hip. Add on at back crotch seam $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount needed all the way up to the waistline. Deepen dart to accommodate increase. Taper leg seams to nothing at hems.

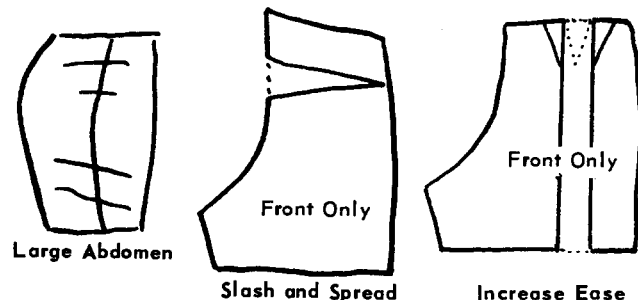


HIGH ABDOMEN - Pants show wrinkles which emphasize the stomach. Sometimes curving front darts will give more ease in this area. Dart tucks may be used instead. Otherwise, extra material should be added to the center front waistline seam, tapering to nothing at the side seams. If additional material is needed crosswise, slash pattern through dart to hemline and spread the amount needed. Redraw dart.

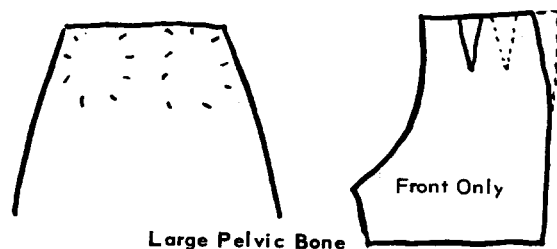
High Abdomen



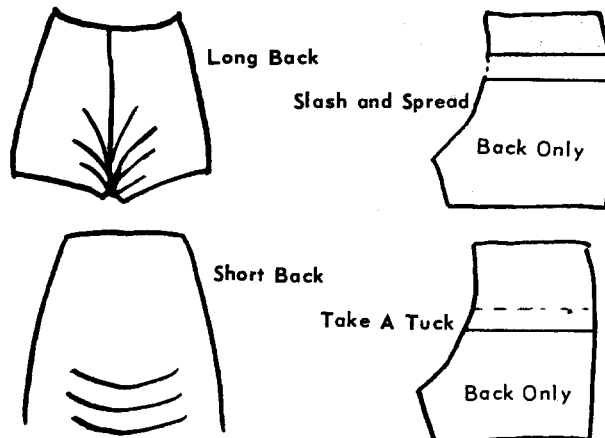
LARGE ABDOMEN - Draglines are evident from back to front. Side seams are pulled forward of perpendicular. Slash pattern from crotch seam to side seam and spread pattern amount needed at crotch seam to nothing at side seam. Increase ease from 2 inches to 3 inches to accommodate abdomen.



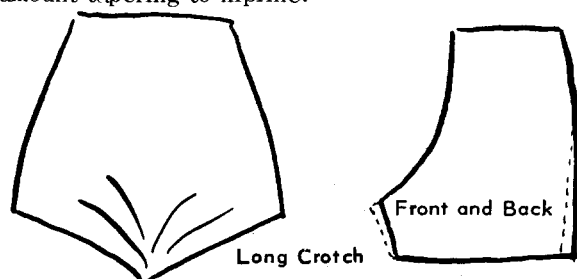
LARGE PELVIC BONE - Bones cause distortion of fit. Add extra amount at side seams. Move front darts to over bone area and enlarge darts. Pin to fit smoothly.



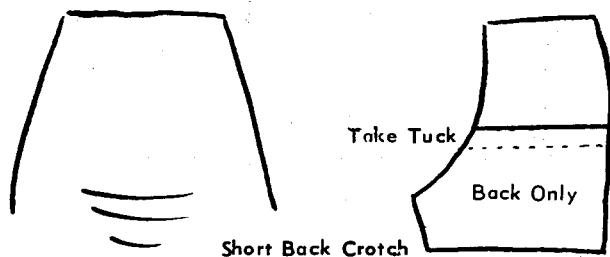
SHORT OR LONG BACK - Too much fullness the entire length of the crotch seam means too long a back for the wearer. A pulling crotch seam back and front means the wearer is longer than the pants! If crotch seam is too short, slash pattern from side seam to center seam half of the way up the crotch seam. Spread $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount needed and piece pattern. If too long, take a tuck in the same location, removing $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount of excess. Repeat for other pattern piece. Remember to leave $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches total ease.



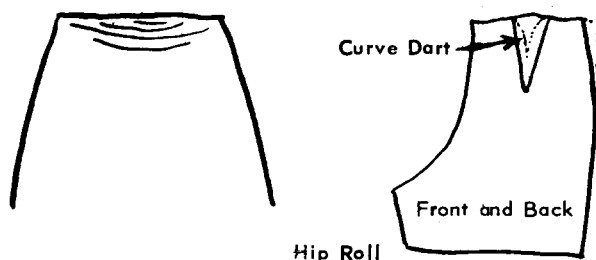
LONG CROTCH - Wrinkles at the crotch. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ needed amount on inner leg seam from crotch to hem. If leg width seems too wide, take in side seam same amount tapering to hipline.



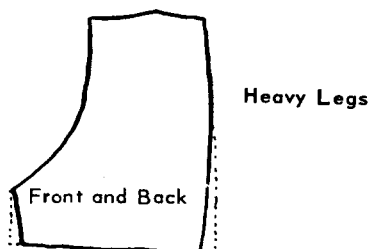
SHORT BACK CROTCH - Fullness below hips, but hips fit well. Remove fullness by taking a tuck in the crotch seam near the inner leg seam. Alter pattern for back only!



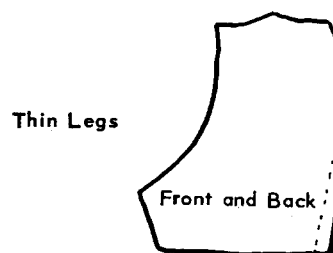
HIP ROLL - Flesh just below waistline at side seams distorts fit of pants. Shorten and curve darts, or dart tucks may be substituted. It may be necessary to straighten out the side seam to cover widest area, then curve in abruptly to waistline.



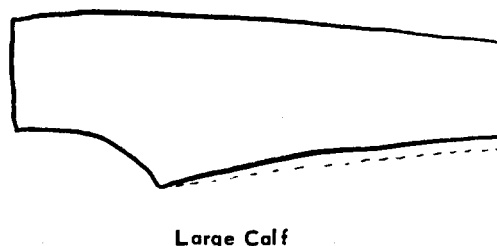
HEAVY LEGS - Heavy thighs will require a widening of the leg part of the pattern. Mark $\frac{1}{4}$ of the addition needed on side seams at thigh line. From hipline draw a new side seam to extended thigh width, then taper back to nothing at hemline of pedal pushers or slacks. Do same on the inner leg seam, drawing from top end of seam through mark, then taper to hem. Repeat for other pattern piece. For shorts draw straight to hipline mark, then add equal amount at hem. Connect.



THIN LEGS - Reverse the above process. A very slender person may peg the slacks by using foot measure plus 1 inch ease to determine the pants width at the hem and drawing a new side seam from the hipline to the new hem width.



LARGE CALF - Measure pattern at hem for pedal pushers. Compare to size of calf. Adjust pattern, depending on style and ease desired. One inch ease will provide comfort without being baggy. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount on inside seam. Draw line from desired hem width up to crotch. Reverse process to narrow the pants leg. If a great deal of alteration is necessary, add $\frac{1}{4}$ to outside seam and $\frac{1}{4}$ to inside seam to avoid too bias a seam. Repeat for pattern back.



HIGH HIP - Most people have one hip higher than the other, which causes the pants to be pulled to one side. You will have four pattern pieces for your pants when you finish with this alteration: A left front, a left back, a right front, and a right back. You will not be able to cut on a center fold with the material doubled as the sides are not alike. Subtract one hip measurement from the other. Add the difference between the two hip measurements at the side of the waistline seam. Taper to the center front. On side seam, add $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount needed at side seam and taper to hipline.

