



Pajama pants: wear them in or out of the house.

Digital Vision/Getty Images

Pants might seem like a great challenge, but they are actually pretty easy to make from scratch. The measurements are perfect when you use a pair of pants that fit you as a pattern.

What You'll Need:

1. A pair of pajama pants or jeans that fit you just right.
2. Two pieces of fabric. They need to be 5" taller than your pants and 2" wider than your pants.
3. Measuring tape. Chalk. Scissors
4. Sewing machine or sewing kit
5. A drawstring or strip of elastic

Once you have gathered all your materials, we can get started

Fold Pants to Make the Pattern

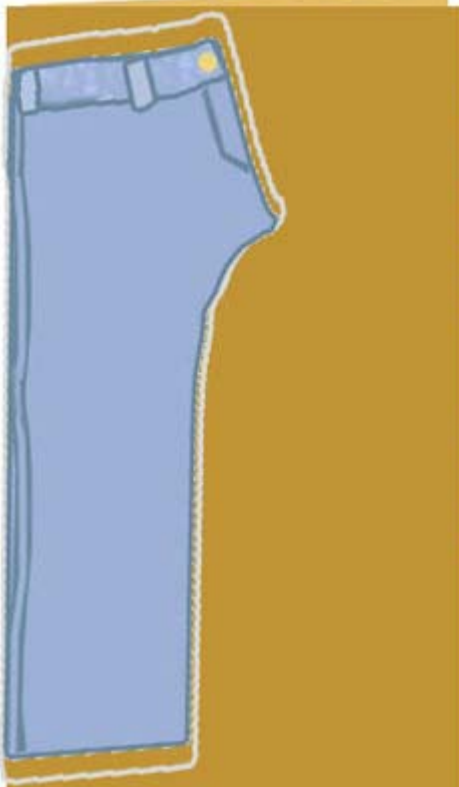


Fold pants in half to make your pattern.

Fold your pants in half, pulling out the crotch seam so that they are completely flat. Make sure that you can see the seam all the way from the ankle to waist on both sides.

Jeans are harder to manipulate like this. Try to use a pair that don't have cargo pockets.

Trace Your Pattern



**fold fabric
in half
and trace
around
the pants.**

**add 2 inches
to the top
and bottom.**

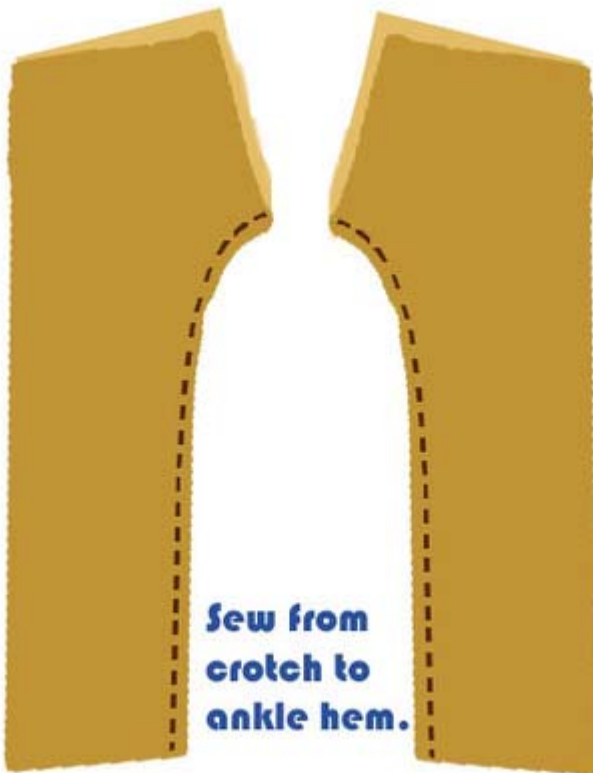
Don't forget to add a couple inches at the top & bottom.

Fold your fabric in half, *wrong-side out*. Lay your pants on the fabric so that the outer seam is lined up with the fold. It is okay if the pants are curved and don't line up perfectly with the fold.

Use your chalk to trace around the edge of your pants. Leave 2" below the ankle and above the waist to allow for hemming. Stay 1/2" away from the edges the rest of the way around.

Repeat this step to make the other side of your pants. Cut each piece around the chalk line. Do not cut the fold of the fabric.

Stitch Up the Legs



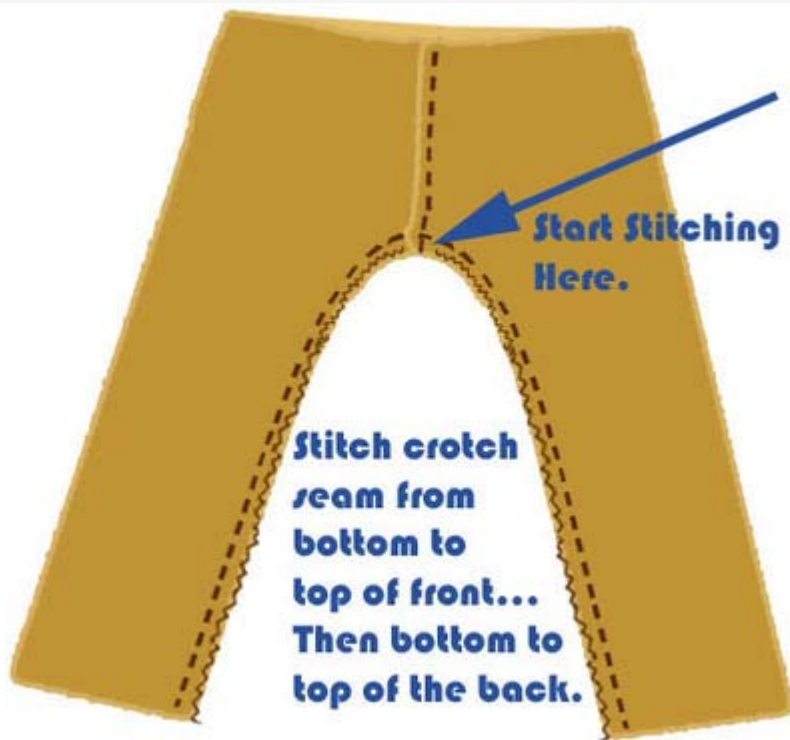
**Sew from
crotch to
ankle hem.**

Start at the crotch and straight stitch to the hem.

Remember, your fabric should be wrong-side out. Start at the crotch and straight stitch all the way to the ankle. Repeat on the other side.

Before you continue, it is important that you zigzag stitch the raw edges. This will keep your pants from unraveling in the washer. It might seem trivial now, but you do not want to skip this bit.

Stitch the Crotch Seam



Start at the crotch and sew up to waist. Repeat with the back side.

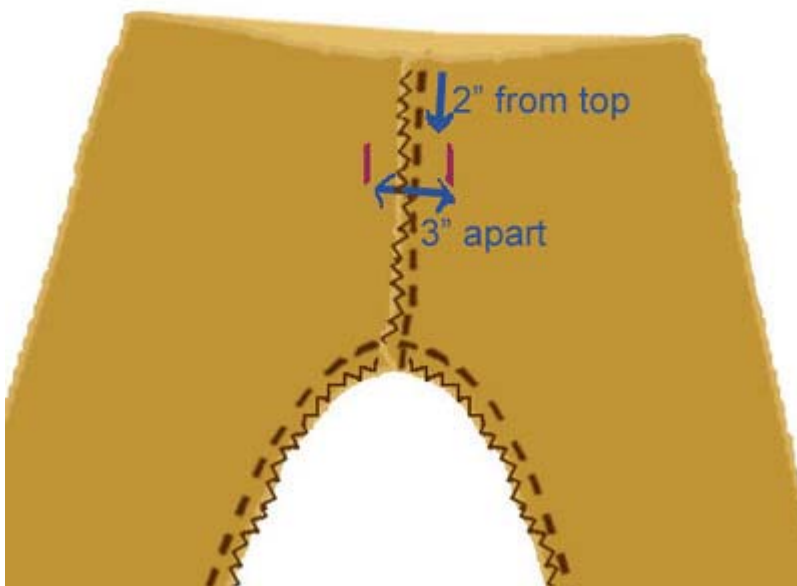
Start at the bottom front of the crotch where the legs meet. Straight stitch from the point up to the waistline. Repeat with the back of the pants, starting at the bottom and stitching to the waist.

Zigzag stitch the raw edges from front to back.

Next, you'll need to add buttonholes for a drawstring, or measure elastic for an elastic waistband.

Add Buttonholes or Measure Elastic

Stitch button holes if adding a drawstring.



Elastic or Drawstring? For a drawstring, you'll need to add button holes.

Right now you have a couple of options to keep these pants around your waist.

Drawstring: On the front of your pants, measure two inches from the top of the waistline to the centre seam. Mark this point. Measure a 1 1/2" out from this point to the right and left. Mark a 1" vertical line on each side, as shown. There should be 3" between each line, and they should be the same distance from the centre seam.

Use a buttonhole stitch or the buttonhole setting on your sewing machine to stitch along the vertical chalk lines.

Elastic: For an elastic drawstring, measure around your waist with the measuring tape. Cut a strip of elastic at this length. We will insert it in the next step.

Fold and Stitch the Waist.

**Zig-Zag stitch all around the top.
Fold down the hem and stitch.**

**Make sure to stitch under the
button holes!**



Zigzag and stitch. Be sure not to stitch through the button holes.

Zigzag stitch all along the raw waistline.

Fold down the waist 2" to hem. If you put on buttonholes, make sure that you are stitching below these. Straight stitch all the way across. Thread your drawstring easily by attaching a safety pin to the end.

If you are inserting an elastic waistband, straight stitch all the way around until you are 2" from your starting point, leaving an opening to insert the elastic. Use a safety pin to thread your elastic through the opening and all around the waist. Stitch the elastic ends together. Finish stitching the waist closed.

Hem the Bottom and Finish

**Zigzag stitch
raw bottoms/
then fold up
and stitch all
around to hem.**



Zig-zag the raw bottoms and stitch your hem. Turn your pants inside out and try them on. decide how long you want the pants to be. Zigzag stitch the raw edges of the ankles. Fold in and pin the bottom hem where you want it. Take off the pants and turn them inside out again.

Straight stitch along the hem, a 1/2" away from where your raw edge is. You can also stitch along the bottom of the hem for a finished look. Make sure that you are evenly stitching all the way around the leg. Once your pants are finished, you can modify them:

How to Make Bellbottom Pants



How to make Bell Bottom Pants

To add a little flare to your jeans, all you need is a bit of fabric and a few minutes of stitching. I'll show you how to get that boho look and make a pair of bell bottom jeans.

- Pants or jeans
- 1/4 yard of fabric
- Measuring tape
- Scissors
- Seam ripper
- Sewing machine or kit

Once you have gathered all your materials, let's get started.

Open the Side Seam

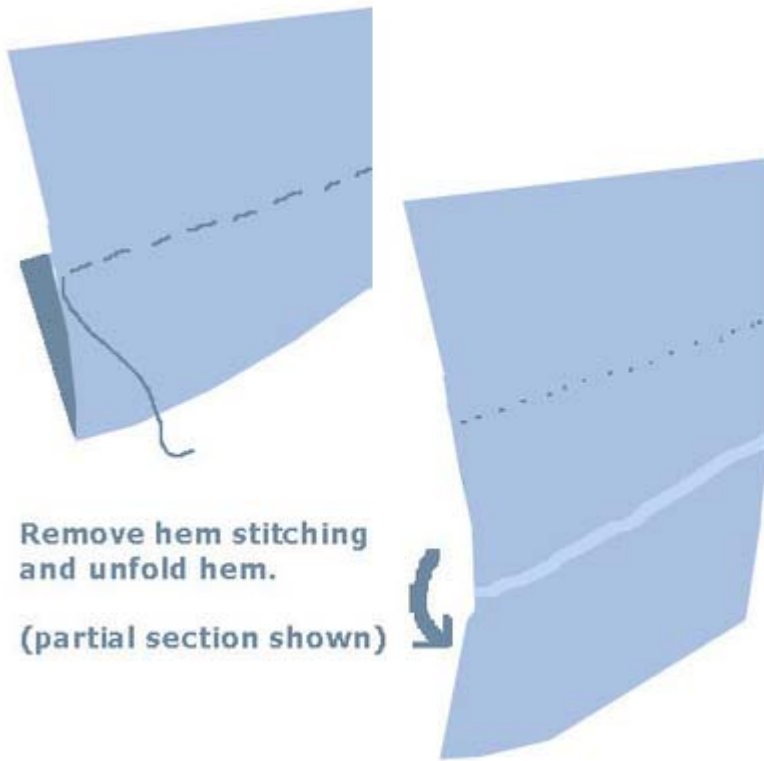


**Cut the leg
seam from
mid-hip
or knee.**

How to make Bell Bottom Pants

Use your seam ripper to open the side seams along the legs. You can also use scissors to clip the thread, but you have to be careful not to cut the fabric. This is when you decide if you want your bell bottom triangles to reach your knee or thigh.

Undo the Leg Hems



How to make Bell Bottom Pants

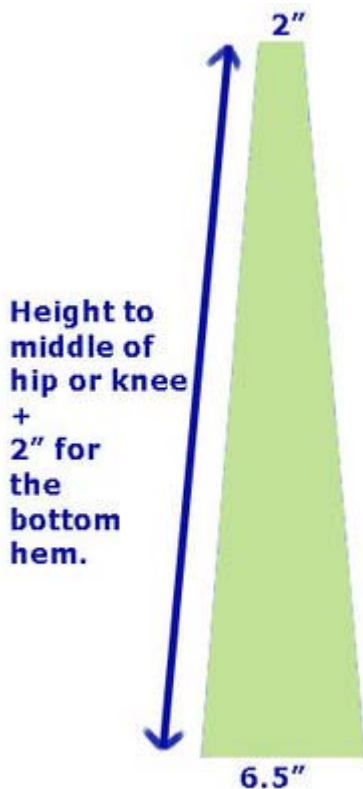
The bottom of your pant legs are folded up to form a hem. We want to take out this hem while we're stitching in our panels.

The best way to remove hem stitching is with your seam ripper, but scissors will work if you're careful not to clip the fabric.

Once your legs are both swinging free, it's time to measure the bell bottom fabric.

How-to Bellbottom Pants

Measure the Panel Fabric

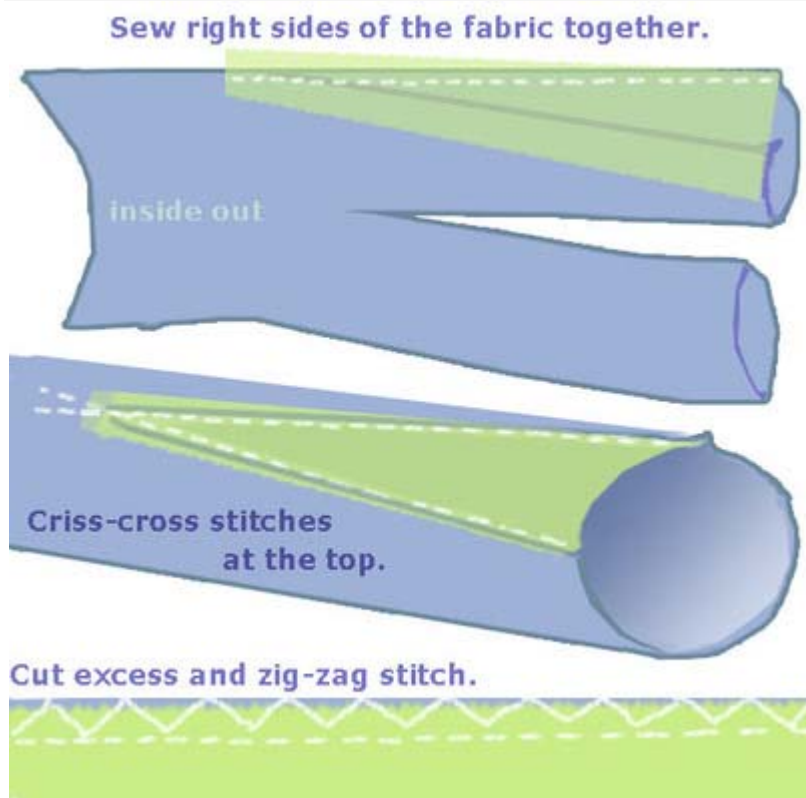


How to make Bell Bottom Pants

You will need a panel that tapers down to about 2" at the top. A good finished width for the bottom of your panel is between 3"-6". This picture shows a bottom width of 6.5", which includes a 1/2" for seam allowance.

Measure the height of your opened seam on your pants, and add two inches. Once you have cut your two panels, we can stitch them in.

Stitch on the Panels



How to make Bell Bottom Pants

Turn your pants inside-out.

Lay the triangular panel face-down on the open seam and align the edges of the fabric. Make sure that about 2" of the triangle panel extends above the top of the open seam in the thigh or knee area. This is because we will be crisscrossing the seams at the top. Straight stitch from the top of the triangle to the bottom hem.

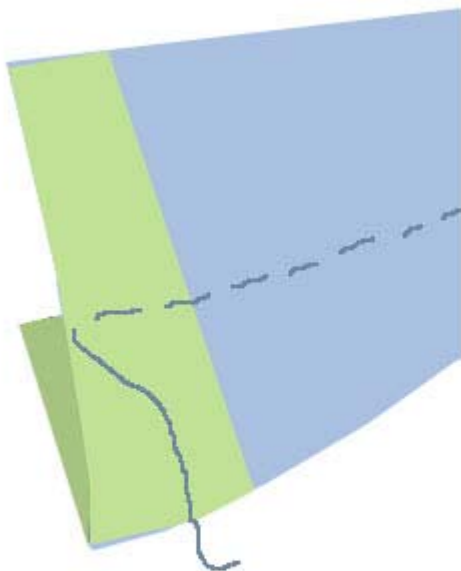
When you sew on the other side of the panel, cross over the first stitch as shown above. this will help the top of the triangle come together.

Finish the raw edges on each seam with a zigzag stitch to prevent the fabric from unraveling.

Sew the other side of the panel onto the leg.

When you've got both legs done, it's time to re-hem the bottoms.

Re-Hem the Bottom



**Re-hem the bottoms.
(partial section shown)**

How to make Bell Bottom Pants

Fold up the bottom hem on each leg and press with your iron.

Stitch all along the bottom hem to finish off.