

Waistbands on the Selvage

Waistbands play a very important role in the fit and appearance of skirts, pants, shorts, and other similar garments. Waistbands give a finished look to the garment and serve to encase or complete the waistline area.

One of the most critical factors to be handled when applying a waistband is bulk. The number of fabric layers involved in this technique plus the fabric texture plus garment design can lead to a very bulky construction situation. The pointers or techniques listed below are suggested alternatives to the traditional method of application primarily in response to this situation.

Cutting waistband using fabric selvage edge

This technique can be done using the commercial waistband pattern that comes with the pattern or by creating your own.

Using the commercial pattern

- Make any necessary alterations to the width of the waistline pattern based on changes made to adjoining garment pieces – i.e.; skirt front and skirt back.
- On the long waistband edge *opposite* the notches, draw a line $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch below the seam line.
- Using the selvage edge of the fashion fabric, place newly drawn line on the outer edge of the selvage. Cut out around the remaining three sides. (Figure 1).

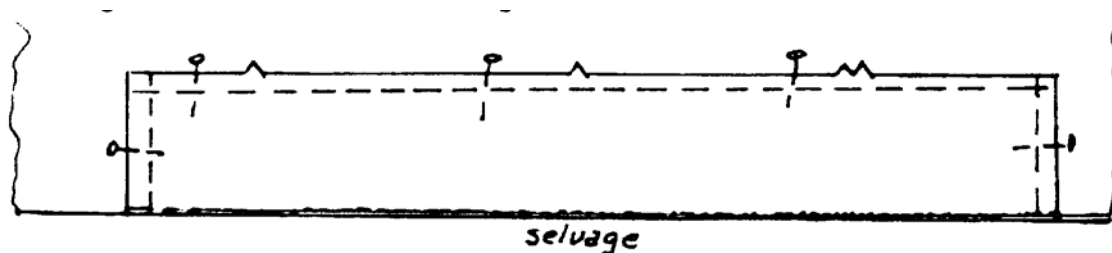


Figure 1

- Interface or determine stabilizing method according to fabric and personal preferences. Apply waistband to garment matching notches along seam allowance. Stitch in place. Prepare ends; turn and press.
- Secure waistband edge in place by machine top stitching or stitching-in-the-ditch.

Creating without a commercial pattern

- Determine your waistline dimension—waistband length needed. The following formula is suggested:

Length = snug waistline measurement + ease (approximately 1 inch) + $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam allowance + underlap (approximately 1 to 2 inches)

- Determine desired width of waistband.

Width = $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam allowance + twice desired width + $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch

- Using the selvage edge of the fashion fabric as one of the length dimension edges, mark size of waistband. Cut out. (Figure 2)

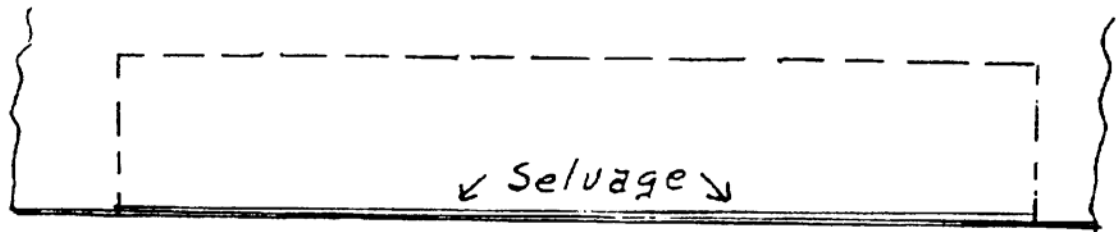


Figure 2

- Interface or stabilize according to fabric and personal preference.
- Position waistband to garment:
 - a) The long cut edge will be matched to the seam allowance of the garment.
 - b) Extend $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam allowance at the overlap end; the 1- to 2-inch underlap will be at the other end.
 - c) The selvage edge will be the back side/inside edge that must be secured to garment.
- Stitch in place along waistline seam line. Prepare ends; turn waistband and press.
- Secure waistband edge in place by machine top stitching or stitching-in-the-ditch.

Other Pointers:

- If applying a waistband to a gathered area, *notch out* some fullness created by the gathers after the waistband has been attached but before the back has been secured.
- *Grade, layer, or cut* seam allowances different widths—treat this area as the enclosed seam that it is.

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