

When pants patterns are graded, the curve of the crotch remains the same from size to size. This is why the curve is constant on multi-sized pants patterns. Pants change from size to size in length and width only.

Pattern companies grade by taking a basic size 10 pattern and increase or decrease it to create the other pattern sizes.

Between a size 10 and a size 12 there is a difference of 1 1/2". After size 12 patterns increase 2" every size. Smaller than a size 10 the grading is 1" and smaller than a size 6 the grading is only 1/4". What does this mean for you?? If you need to grade the pattern smaller, grade it in the increments that reflect the original size of the pattern. For example, a size 8 pattern would grade 1/4" (1" difference with four cut edges).

To grade: Match the pattern front and back side seams and pin the pieces together. Take the amount to grade one size smaller (for size 6 and under use 1/2", size 8 and 10 is 1", size 12 is 1 1/2" and larger than 12 is 2") and divide by the four cut edges. Measure this amount from the waist to the hem at the side seam only and cut this amount off the pattern pieces. Mark your new seam allowance of 5/8" from the new cut edge and recheck the thigh measurement. Grade a step at a time.

PANTS GRADING

