



Hip Line Media

PANTS THAT FIT, FINALLY! Adjusting Notes

This is a brief recap of the pivot and slide method. You will need to watch the video to completely understand the system.

After you have measured your body for the 3 width and 3 length measurements, measure your pattern. Be sure to use the handy chart to record these measurements. Fill the chart out completely by adding the amount of ease you desire and figuring the difference between your measurements and the patterns measurements. That will give you the adjustment amount. Divide that amount by the number of cut edges associated with the adjustment area. Now you have the amount to add or subtract from you pattern.

A note on cut edges: Some people get confused by this. It's really simple. Above the crotch there are 8 cut edges and below the crotch, there are 4 cut edges. So, the hip and waist have 8 cut edges (center front, center back, side seam and inseam) and the thigh has 4 cut edges (side seam and inseam). If your adjustment amount is very small for the hip or waist you can choose to adjust only 4 cut edges.

A note on the thigh measurement: Your thigh should be equal to the patterns or larger. If your thigh is smaller than the pattern, you bought the pattern too big!! You must grade the pattern smaller so that the thigh measurements are equal or your measurement is larger. If you attempt to make the thigh smaller you will likely upset the grainline of the pant pattern and the pants will never hang properly. Trust us – take the time to work the pattern correctly and the reward will be worth it – pants that fit, finally! Check out our grading notes if you need to grade the pants pattern smaller.

Now that you have all your adjusting notes complete, let's do it! We do one pattern piece at a time. It doesn't matter if you do the front or back first, we adjust both pieces exactly the same way. These notes are intended to guide you along with the video – you must watch the video to understand the complete process.

Start with the hem. To lengthen, measure up from the original pattern hemline and slide your new pattern paper up to the new mark. Match the grain line and trace in the pattern outline up to the waist. If you need to shorten, measure down from the original pattern hemline and mark. Now slide your new pattern paper down to the mark, match up the grain lines and trace in the pattern outline up to the waist.

Next comes the thigh. Remember, it will either be o.k. or you'll need to add. To adjust for the thigh, our pivot point is from the hem to the new thigh mark. Pivot and adjust at the side seam.

For the hip, our pivot point is from the knee to the new hip mark. Remember to pivot and adjust on both the side seam and crotch (center) seam if you divided by 8 cut edges. If you had a small amount to adjust (1 inch or less) we recommend you make your adjustment at the side seam only.

For the waist, our pivot point is from the thigh to the new waistline mark. Remember to pivot and adjust on both the side seam and crotch (center) seam.

The last set of adjustments is the waist-to-waist and seat depth. Waist-to-waist is always added or subtracted at the center front and center back. Seat depth is always added or subtracted from the side seam. The waist-to-waist and seat depth connect to form the waist stitching line of the pattern. Mark your adjustments for waist-to-waist and seat depth at the same time. If you are adjusting both by the same amount, all you need to do is slide the pattern up to the increase or down to the decrease and draw in the new waist. If you are adjusting just one or both at different amounts, simply pivot the pattern so the new marks lay right on top of the original patterns waist cutting line.

Now you need to mark the darts (if you have any) on your new pattern. Line up your grainlines and slide the pattern up or down so the new waist line is on top of the old pattern waist line. Your lines may not lay right on top of the other but you will be able to get close. It's important to keep the grain lines straight when you draw in the new darts. Take a moment now to mark any notches that are on the original pattern too. This will aid you in your sewing.

Follow this same exact procedure and adjust the pant back (or front if you started with the back). Once both pattern pieces are adjusted, you may want to lay them on top of one another and make sure the side seams match in length and curve. This will insure you've done the length measurements on both pattern pieces. Now, cut it out in a muslin and baste it together to do a final check for fit.

Once you try the pants on, you can double check for fit and adjust for any wrinkles that may appear. There are three types of wrinkles that may appear. A vertical wrinkle is due to excess fabric in width. A horizontal wrinkle is caused by not enough fabric in width. A diagonal wrinkle is caused when a person measures differently on one side of the body.

We offer a comprehensive fitting book, *The Sew/Fit Manual* at our website that gives you detailed instructions on fitting the bodice, skirt and pants. We also offer individual books on fitting pants and dresses. Please visit our website for these books and additional DVD projects at www.HipLineMedia.com. When you master the fundamentals, you can create something unexpected!