

To make waistband pattern:

Measure the line **l-n**. Multiply by 2 to get the length. The depth should be twice that of your elastic.

Seam allowances:

Add 1.5cm (5/8") to the side seams, and 1cm (3/8") to the waistline, and round off the angle on the waistline, while you are at it. The curved lines **e-l** and **f-n** should also only have a 1cm (3/8") seam allowance. If you are adding lace or other trim to the hems, only 1cm (3/8") is needed, otherwise add at least 3cm (1 1/4"). The waistband should have 1cm (3/8") on the long edges, and 1.5cm (5/8") at the ends.

✿ Cutting Out ✿

Figure 2 shows how to place your pattern pieces on your fabric, which has been folded in two widthways. The waistband has been folded in half and cut on the fold of the fabric. This layout only works with plain cottons and other fabrics with no direction to them. Allow more fabric to match patterns etc.

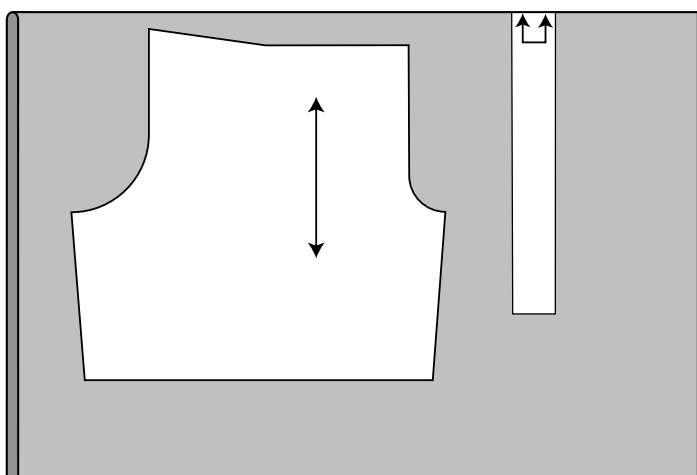


fig. 2

✿ Making Up in Brief ✿ (see any dressmaking book for full details)

Cut out your fabric pieces as shown above, and mark the front and back of the garment. If your fabric does not have an obvious wrong and right side, put big crosses on the outsides of your pieces so you can tell which is the "wrong" side!

Mark the position of the leg elastic.

With the wrong sides together, pin and sew the inside leg seams (lines **e-o** and **f-p** on the pattern) so that you end up with two tubes. Bloomers make a good overlocker/serger project, but if you are using a conventional sewing machine, zigzag over the raw edges of the seams after you have sewn them or use an enclosed type of seam. Stitch on the leg elastic, or a channel for it (the latter is more comfortable; the former is quicker), and hem the bottoms, adding any lace you want.

Stitch together the crotch seam, front to front, and back to back. This is easier if you put one leg of the bloomers inside one another, right sides together, as shown in figure 3. The shaded area with the crosses on represents the wrong side of the fabric.

Fold your waistband along the centre lengthways, with wrong sides together, and press. Press another fold, also wrong sides together, along one edge the depth of your seam allowance (i.e. along the stitching line). With wrong sides together, pin the long side of the waistband (the one *without* the pressed edge) to the waist of the bloomers and stitch them together. Fold over, and hand stitch the pressed fold to the line of stitching you just made, using a slip stitch.

Leave a gap of 5cm (2") or so. Put a piece of elastic around your waist and stretch it so it feels tight but comfortable. Cut a length a couple of centimetres (or an inch) longer than that. Attach a large safety pin to one end of your elastic and thread it through the waistband (and the channels in the legs if you chose to add them), remembering to keep hold of the other end. Sew the ends of your elastic together and slip stitch the gap closed. Hem and trim to taste.

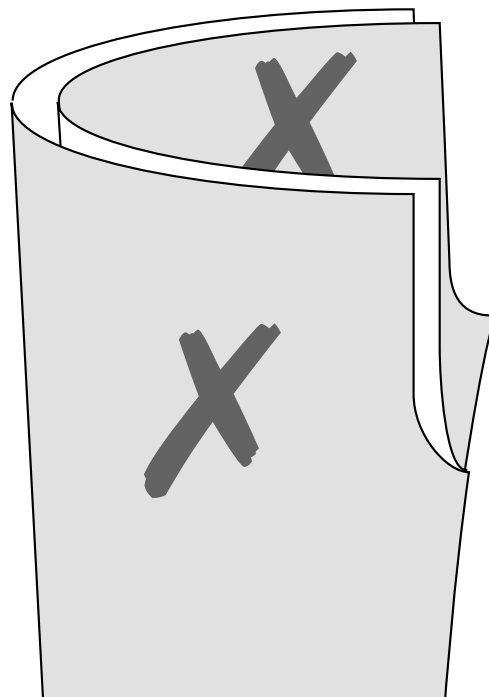


fig. 3