



*Pattern
Alteration*

Even Hip Circumference



Extension Family Development
and Resource Management Specialists

Before attempting this alteration, review Extension publications E-372, *Principles of Pattern Alteration*, and E-373, *Personal Measurement Chart*, for basic instructions.

Even Hip Circumference shows how to alter garments to fit a figure with even hips. If only certain areas of the garment are tight or loose, you may need different instructions. Review E-374, *Back Hip Fullness*, or E-387, *Large Abdomen*, on alterations for other hip problems.

When the garment is too tight in the hip area, crosswise wrinkles form above the hipline in the front and in the back. The garment may cup under the seat area. When the garment is too loose, vertical folds fall from the waist to the hem in the front and in the back (Fig.1). The *Personal Measurement Chart* (line 4) will help you eliminate these fitting problems by showing how much to alter on *both the front and the back pattern pieces*.

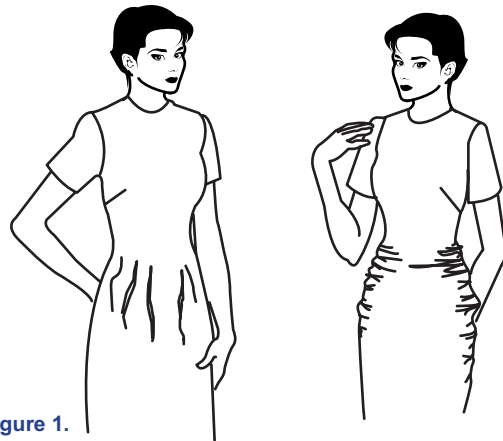


Figure 1.

Basic Skirt and Pants

1. At the waistline, measure in 2 inches from the side seam and draw a vertical line parallel to the grainline or center front line from the waist to the hem.
2. At the side seamline, measure down from the waist line to a point corresponding to the fullest part of the hip. Draw a horizontal line from that point at the side seamline to the vertical line (Fig. 2).

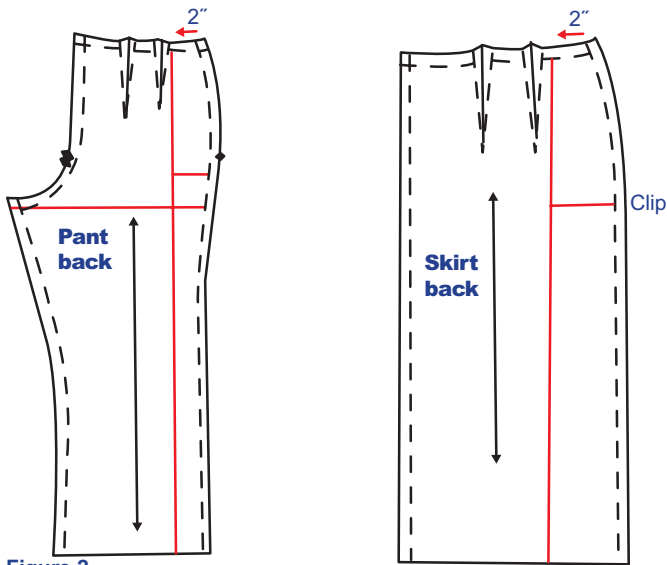


Figure 2.

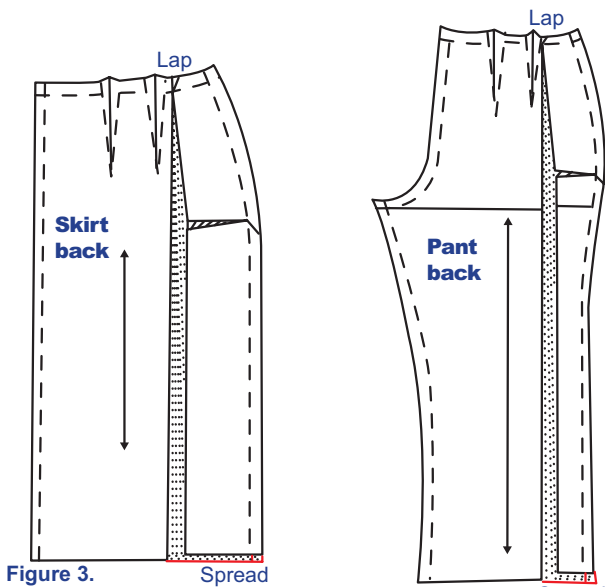


Figure 3.

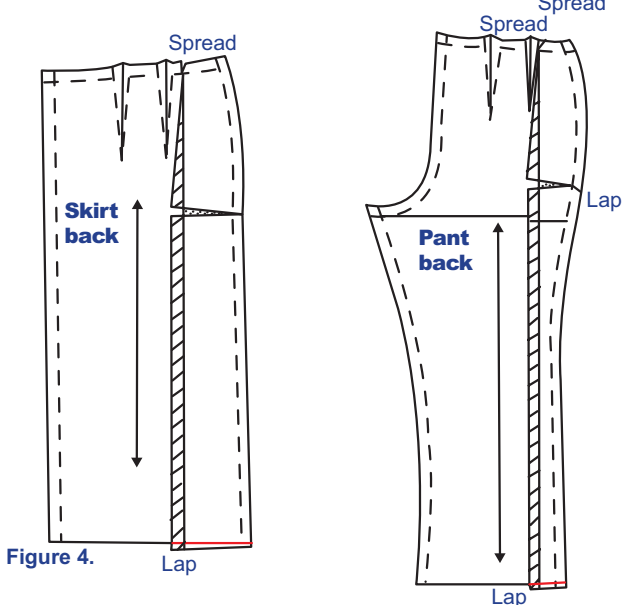


Figure 4.

3. Slash the vertical line from the hem to, but not through, the waist seamline. Clip the waist seam allowance at that point. Slash the horizontal line to, but not through, the side seamline. Clip the seam allowance at that point (Fig. 2).

To increase hip circumference:

4. With tissue paper under the pattern, spread the vertical slash one-fourth the total increase you need at the hip. Keep the edges of the slash parallel below the horizontal slash, which will lap (Fig. 3).

To decrease hip circumference:

4. Lap the pattern one-fourth the total decrease you need at the vertical slash. Keep the lap uniform in width from the horizontal line to the hem. The lap will taper to nothing at the waistline seam, and the horizontal slash will spread (Fig. 4). Place tissue paper under it.

To complete either alteration:

5. Tape the pattern in place.
6. Redraw the seamline, the cutting line and the hemline (Figs. 5 and 6).

Princess Dress or Six-Gored Skirt

Alterations for a basic skirt apply to a dress without a waist seam.

Divide the amount of alteration you need by the number of seams, excluding any center front and back seams. Divide this number by two to determine how much to alter each seam allowance. If the pattern has to be altered more than 6 inches, use the next size pattern and decrease the waist.

To increase hip circumference:

1. Place tissue paper along the vertical seamlines to be altered and tape it in place.
2. Add the amount you need to alter to the cutting line from the fullest part of the hip to the hem. Taper the line from the hip to the original waist seamline.
3. Redraw the cutting and seamlines (Fig. 7).

To decrease hip circumference:

1. Measure down the side seamline to a point corresponding to the fullest part of the hip. At this point, measure in from the cutting line the amount you need to decrease from the hip line to the hem. Then draw the new seam and cutting lines. Taper the line from the hip to the original waist line, redrawing the cutting and seamlines.
2. Trim the excess pattern (Fig. 8).

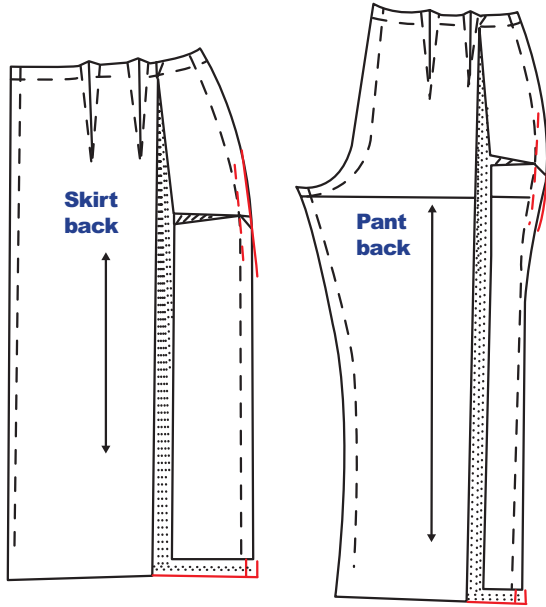


Figure 5.

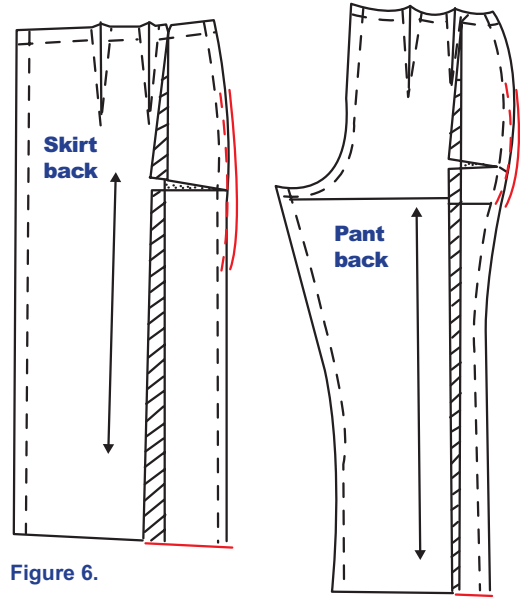


Figure 6.

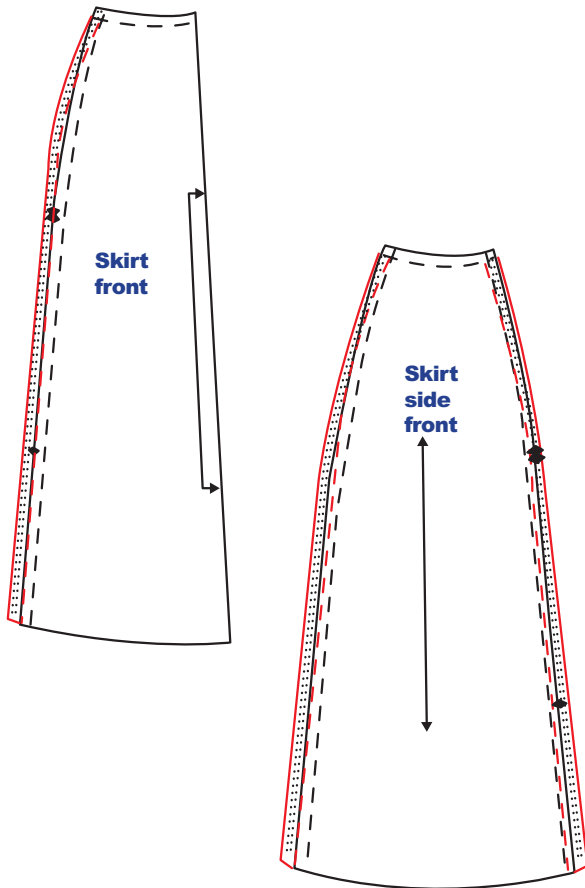


Figure 7.

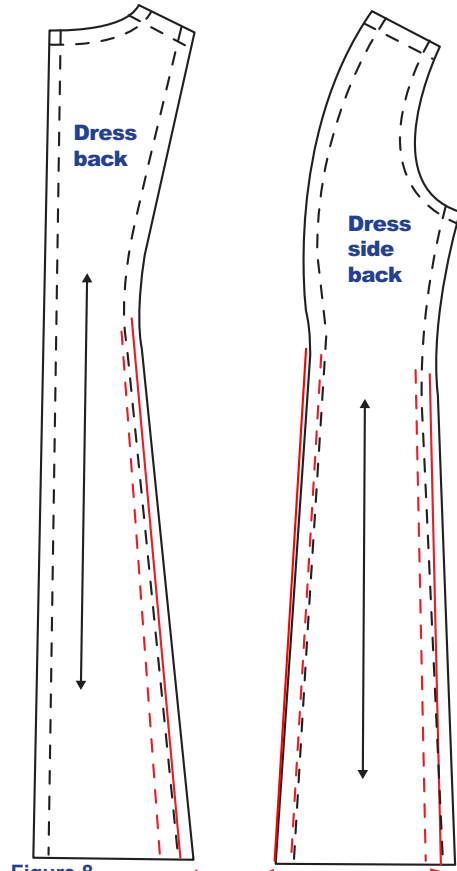


Figure 8.

Trim away original pattern

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Revised