

pant skirt tutorial

Convert a pair of wide-legged pants into a skirt



notes

There are a million tutorials online for converting pants into skirts, so this is by no means an original idea. You will need a pair of wide-legged pants that fit you around the waist (they can be a bit tight in the hips and thighs). The skirt is a straight skirt with a fly-front, plus any features that the original pants had (eg belt loops, pockets). Because the pant legs are wide, there's no 'triangle' at the hem line, as seen in jeans-to-skirt conversions.

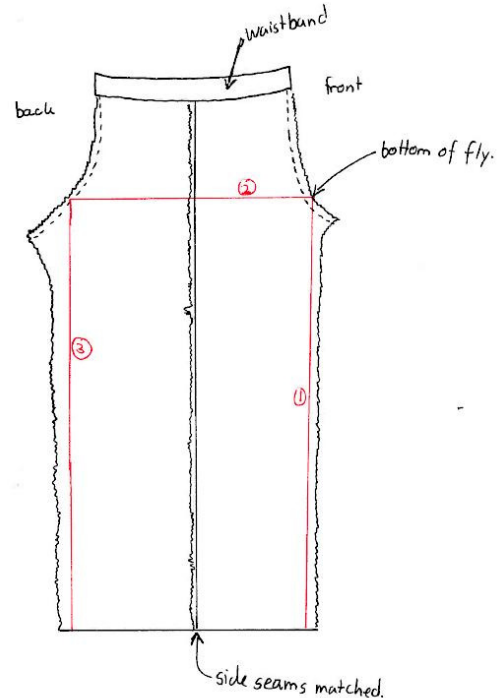
materials, notions and tools

- A pair of wide-legged pants
- Cotton to match
- Tailor's chalk or a water-soluble marking pen
- Seam ripper
- Scissors
- Pins
- A long ruler / set square or other straight edge

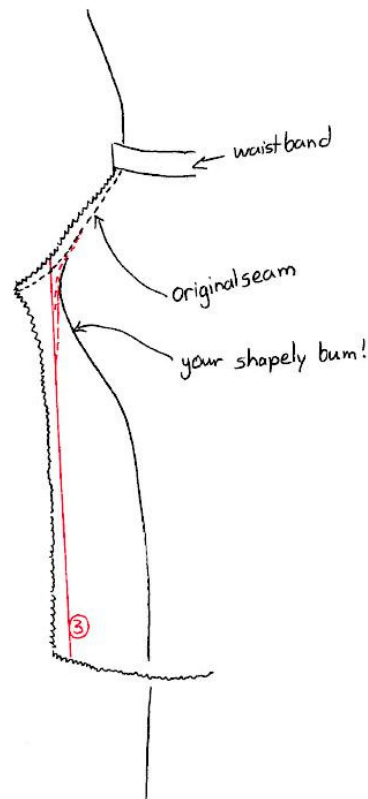


instructions

1. Unpick the inner leg seams of the pants
2. With the pants inside out, lay flat with the side seams matched together in the middle and pin together along the raw edges. It should look something like the picture below
3. Using the ruler/set square and tailor's chalk, draw a line straight down on the grain of the fabric from the base of the zip. This is line (1). To get the line on the grain, pick a thread in the fabric at the start point and try to follow it with your line.
4. Now draw a line at right angles to this line, starting at the base of the zip, and extending across to meet the back seam. This is line (2).
5. Starting at the point where line (2) meets the back seam, draw a line straight down the grain of the fabric. This is line (3).
6. Sew along lines (1) and (3).
7. Turn the skirt right way out and try it on. You will notice a funny bump in the back, but ignore this for now. Decide how long you want the skirt to be and cut it off 2 inches longer than the desired length.



8. Turn the skirt inside out, and put it on. You should be able to see why there's that weird bump in the back – it's the left-over crotch seam, plus the seam along line (3) doesn't meet the back seam smoothly
9. Pinch and pin the back seam until you get a nice smooth curve over the widest part of your bum (dashed red line in the picture at right) then a straight drop down.
10. Mark the dashed red line with tailor's chalk (you may have to enlist a passer-by to help you with this).
11. Sew along this line. Turn skirt right way out and try on again. You may have to repeat steps 9, 10 and 11 a few times to get the fit right.
12. Once you're happy with the fit, check that you can walk in the skirt. If not, use the seam ripper to open up the back seam to just above your knee joint. Sew back and forth a few times on the seam line at this point, to stop it opening any further.



-
13. You can now trim the seams to within half an inch of the seam line, and zig-zag or overlock them to prevent fraying. If you made a back slit, stop trimming 2 inches above the slit, and fold the rest back to the same width as the hem, to make a facing for the slit, as in the picture at right.
 14. Give the new seams a good press to open them up, then turn up the hem and press it too. Sew the hem and the slit facing either by hand or machine.

