Pattern Design Guides by Don McCunn

Boot-Leg Pants

These patterns can be used to make Boot-Leg pants. The instructions include how to create the patterns and basic sewing instructions.

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by Don McCunn

Introduction

A number of different styles of pants can be created by simply altering the basic pants sloper. Boot-Leg pants are one example of this process that requires very little change to the patterns.

The illustration to the right shows how the pants sloper can be changed to create Boot-Leg pants. This pattern can be varied by changing the length from anywhere between just below the knee all the way to the floor.

The blue dotted line is the fitted sloper. The black solid line shows the sewing lines for the Boot-Leg pants. The changes to the sloper are described below.
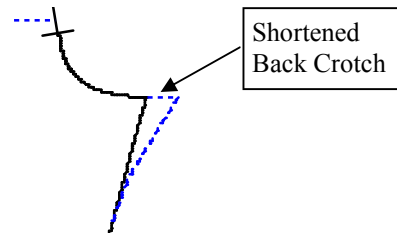
Waist line lowered

CF Tilted

Shortened Back Crotch
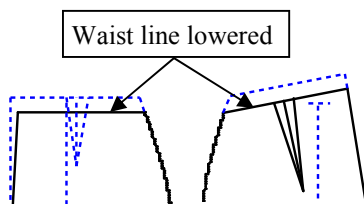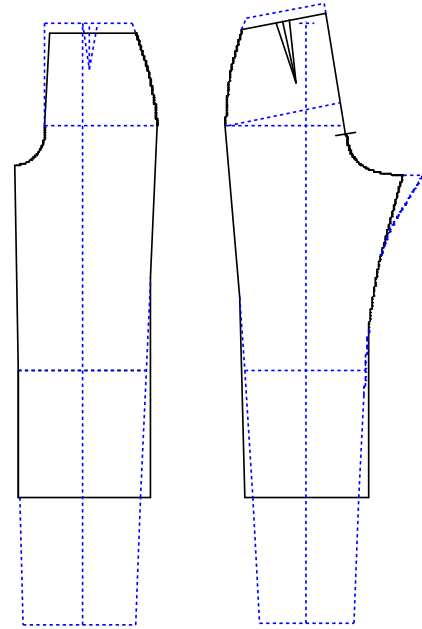
1. Waistband
Lower the waist line 5/8" to allow for a 1-1/4" waistband at the natural waist.
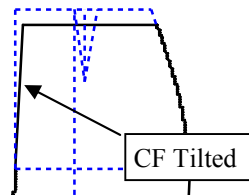
2. Front Dart
Remove 1/2 the front dart by tilting the Center Front line 1/2 the dart width. Leave the remaining dart width for additional ease.

3. Back Crotch Curve
Shorten the back crotch curve by 3/4" to make the pants more fitted at the buttocks.

Front Leg

Back Leg

5. Add Seam Allowances
- Add 1-1/2" seam allowances to the inseam and side seams.
- Add 1/2" seam allowances to the waist and crotch curves.
- Add 2" hem allowance at the cuff.

After you have verified that the pants fit as desired, these seam allowances may be reduced.
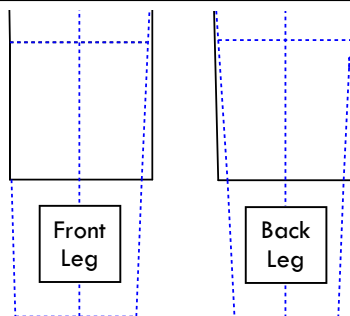
4. Lower Leg
Shorten the back and front legs then straighten the leg from the knee down.

Sewing Instructions

Fabric Selection

Before you can cut out your pants, you will need to select the fabric. Lay out the patterns to determine how much fabric you will need as illustrated in Figure 1. Most fabric is 44" wide.

Interfacing

Depending on the fabric you select, the shape of the waistband can be enhanced by using an interfacing. The interfacing adds a certain amount of body. Some interfacing will stretch while others will not. The weight of the interfacing can also vary. I like to use a fusible interfacing.

Zipper Closure

A 7" to 9" zipper and a hook and eye are used for the closure. When you are using a light weight pants fabric for the Boot-Leg pants an invisible zipper is a good option to consider. To install the zipper, you may choose to follow the instructions included here or the ones included with the zipper.

Materials

Qty	Item	
1	Pants Fabric	___ yds
1	Interfacing	1/4 yd
1	Hook and Eye	
1	7"-9" Zipper	

Step I. Prepare the Fabric

There are a variety of factors that may be involved in cutting the fabric. The steps below are the most common.

1. If the fabric is to be washed, preshrink it.
2. Press the fabric to remove wrinkles and ensure the lengthwise grain is at right angles to the crosswise grain.
3. Straighten one end of the fabric. To do this, pull a single crosswise thread, then cut along the line that is left.
4. Fold the fabric right sides together.
5. Place the pattern pieces on the fabric.
6. Pin the pattern pieces to the fabric.
7. Cut the fabric keeping the fabric as flat as possible.
8. Cut notches as required to align the fabric during sewing.
9. If you are interfacing the waistband, fuse it to the fabric for the outside waistband at this time.
10. To keep the fabric from fraying when it is washed, the edges should be   zigzagged.

Figure 1 - Fabric Layout
Fabric is folded in half lengthwise

Sewing Instructions, cont'd

Step II. Sew the Pants Legs

The zipper can be installed in the center back, center front, or side seam.
The instructions below describe how to add it to the center back seam.

1. Mark then sew the back hip dart.
2. Pin the side seams and inseams of one front leg to the back leg, right sides together, then sew.
3. Press open.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 for the other leg. Be sure you have a left leg and a right leg.
5. Turn one leg right side out and pull it into the other leg so the two legs are right sides together.
6. Pin the crotch curves together.
7. Make a mark 7" down from the waist on the center back seam. This mark is the bottom of the zipper. This notch should be on the straight portion of the center back line. Raise it if necessary.
8. Sew the crotch curve from the zipper mark to the waist at center front.
9. Machine baste the center back seam from the waist to the zipper mark. Use a long stitch.
10. Clip the excess thread from the machine basting at the zipper mark but not at the waist.
11. Trim the crotch curve.
12. Press the center back seam, crotch curve, and center front seam open.
13. Hand baste the zipper to the center back seam. Keep the zipper centered over the center back seam. Keep the hand basting close to the teeth of the zipper.
14. With the zipper foot in your sewing machine, sew the zipper. When you look at the right side of the fabric, this will appear as top stitching around the zipper.
15. Remove all the basting.
16. Hem the bottom of the pants.

Zipper Installation, Inside
(Contrasting colors used for illustration.)

Zipper Installation, Outside

Step III. Add the Waistband

1. Measure around the waist of the pants starting and ending at the zipper. This is the length of the waist line.
2. Cut a straight strip of fabric for the waistband that is 3-1/2" wide (finishes to 1-1/4") by the length of the waist line plus 2-1/2" (2 seam allowances & 1-1/2" overlap).
3. Interface the waist band if desired.
4. Fold the waistband in half lengthwise.
5. Sew the two ends of the waistband as shown in the illustration below.
6. Clip and turn the waistband.
7. Pin the waistband to the top of the pants, right sides together, then sew.
8. Press the seam open.
9. Turn the waistband right side out and hand baste in place.
10. Sew through the seam that joins the waistband to the pants.

Waistband pinned to pants as seen from the inside.

1-1/2"   Fold   Sew   1/2"   1/2"