

QUICK TO MAKE BY LOUISE CUTTING

Extend your favorite elastic-waist pants pattern into an easy-to-wear jumpsuit for an elegant evening out.

Pattern: Cutting Line Designs One-Seam Pants. Fabric: Rayon challis, author's stash.

Strapless jumpsuit

Extend pants into a wear-anywhere garment

Jumpsuits are everywhere. You'll see models wearing them in high-end fashion shows and stars wearing them on the red carpet. You'll also see them worn at casual gatherings and even in the kitchen.

To make a versatile version for yourself, begin with a one-piece pants pattern and extend it into a strapless (or strapped) bodice. This comfortable garment has sport elastic in casings above the bust and at the waist.

What makes this jumpsuit a wonderful garment is its stylish options. Make it in soft and lofty terry cloth for

a comfy around-the-house, quick-to-pull-on garment; or use dressier fabrics and wear it for a night that calls for evening chic; or wear it for any activity in between. The fabrics dictate the look: cozy casual, stylish sophistication, or classic elegance. Be sure to choose a fabric with moderate weight and drape. This jumpsuit is so quick and easy to make, you'll want several.

Louise Cutting designs garments for her Cutting Line Designs pattern company and is a Threads contributing editor.

Adjust the pattern

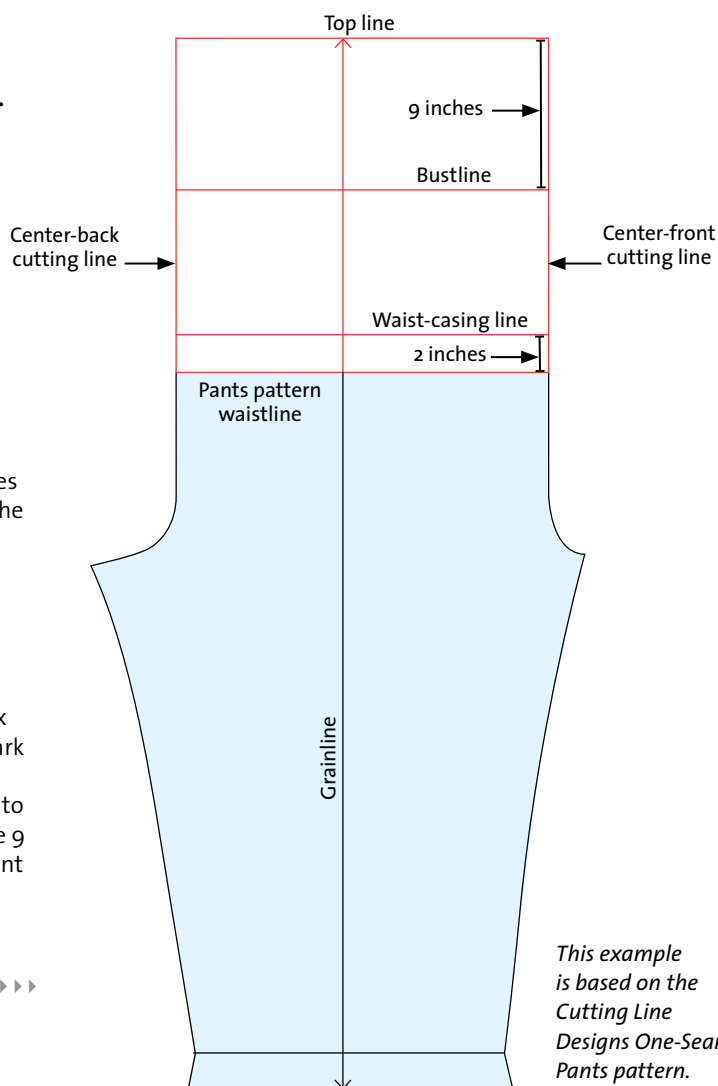
Add tissue to the pants pattern and draft an attached bodice.

1 Make pant-fitting adjustments first. Remove the waist casing from the pattern piece if it is attached. At the pattern's waist, overlap and tape a large piece of tissue paper from center front to center back, extending at least 22 inches high.

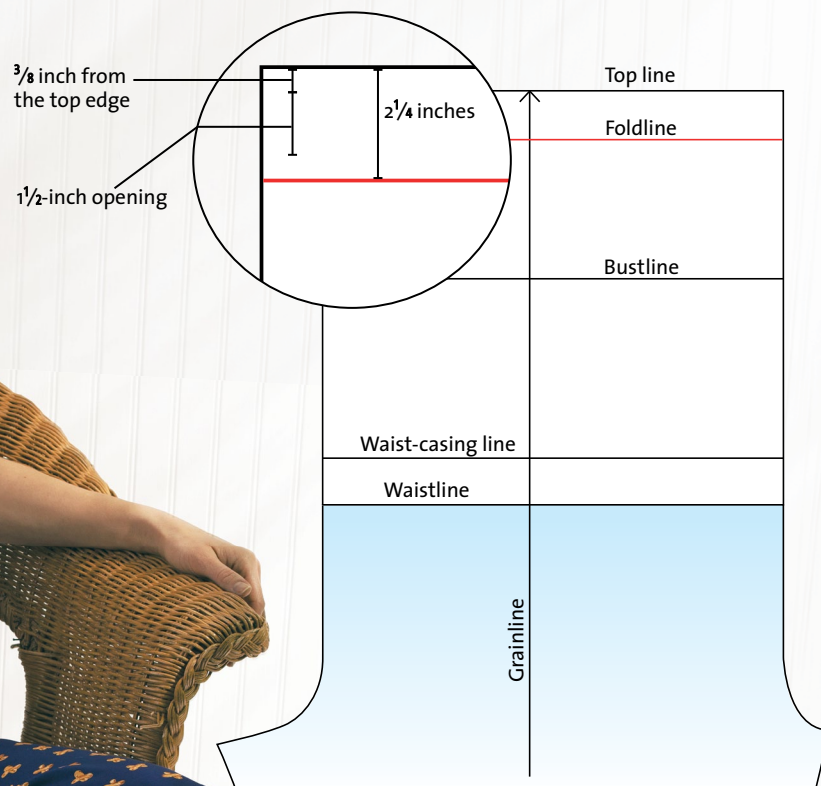
2 Draw three vertical lines on the new tissue. Extend the center-back cutting line, the center-front cutting line, and the pattern's grainline marking. Draw a horizontal line 2 inches above the waist from center front to center back, parallel to the pattern's waistline. Label it "Waist-casing line." This is where the waist casing will be sewn to the jumpsuit's wrong side.

3 Determine the bustline. Stand in front of a mirror in your underwear, and measure the distance from your bust apex (bust point) to your waist directly under your bust. Place a mark that distance up from the waist-casing line on the pattern. Draw a line parallel to the waist-casing line from center back to center front at the mark. Label it "Bustline." Draw another line 9 inches above and parallel to the bustline, also from center front to center back. Label it "Top line."

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4 Measure down the center-back seam $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the top line and add another parallel line. Label it "Foldline." This is where the upper casing will be turned.



5 Cut a separate pattern piece for the waist casing. It will be sewn to the inside of the garment at the waistline. The casing pattern piece's length is equal to the pattern's complete waist circumference (double the pattern piece's waist). The casing's width is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches (the elastic width plus seam allowances).

Dress down the jumpsuit for a casual event.

Pattern: Cutting Line Designs One-Seam Pants. Fabric: Rayon challis, author's stash.

Construct the jumpsuit

Cut and sew the jumpsuit pieces, then add the waist casing. Fold the casing above the bust and add elastic.

CREATE THE WAIST CASING

1 Cut out the jumpsuit. Mark the pants pattern waistline on the fabric's wrong side with tailor's chalk. Mark the foldline on the right side. Assemble the pants section using the pattern instructions, and continue stitching the center-front and center-back seams to the top line. Leave a 1-inch opening for elastic that ends $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from the center-back seam's top edge. Serge the raw fabric edges.

2 Add the waist casing. Make sure the casing is the same circumference as the garment, plus two seam allowances. Serge all four sides of the casing. With right sides together, stitch the two short casing ends using a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch-wide seam allowance. Leave a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch opening to insert the elastic.

3 Slip the jumpsuit's waist casing into position, wrong sides together. Place the casing opening at the center-back seam. Pin the casing's bottom edge along the marked waistline. Pin the top edge in place. Stitch through all layers $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from each casing edge, creating a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-wide channel.



4 Cut elastic per the pant pattern instructions. Insert the elastic into the waist casing and stitch the two ends together. Hand-stitch the insertion opening closed. Sew two parallel rows of stitches $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart through the elastic and all layers, stretching the elastic as you sew; this prevents the elastic from rolling.



COMPLETE THE BODICE

1 Turn the bodice top edge to the wrong side along the foldline. Press to form the top casing. Topstitch approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from the folded edge using the presser foot as a guide. Stitch again $\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the first row of stitching.

2 Wrap a piece of 1/2-inch-wide elastic around your upper bust. Pull the elastic snugly until it feels comfortable, but not binding. Cut the elastic that length. Insert the elastic into the top casing.

3 Stitch the two elastic ends together, making sure the elastic isn't twisted. Hand-sew the opening closed. Sew two evenly spaced rows of stitching through all layers. Steam the waist and top elastic flat using lots of steam. If desired, add $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-wide straps to cover bra straps.

