

Great Gifts

Easy Pjs

Lounge around in comfy,
custom pajama pants

Supplies

- 2 yards to 3 yards soft 45-inch-wide woven fabric
- 1 yard $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-wide grosgrain ribbon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ yard 1-inch-wide elastic
- Matching thread
- Safety pin
- Scrap of fusible interfacing

Let's face it: Pajama pants are so comfortable it's hard to change out of them in the morning—and, I'll admit it, some Sundays, I don't. They're soft, cozy, and, in most cases, just get better with age (and multiple washings). Increasing your pajama pant wardrobe is fun and simple when you follow the instructions here. Make some for yourself plus a few pairs for your friends and family!

To make the pants, first choose a size; the provided pattern on page 91 includes a range of hip/waist sizes for adults and adjustments for fitting a child. Then choose a wonderfully soft fabric. Next, prep the fabric, cut, and sew the pants. Finally, create a custom drawstring and elastic waistband. You'll be lounging in these PJs before you know it!

SARAH OPDAHL is a special projects editor for *The Taunton Press*.

tip

ALL ABOUT COMFORT

Choose a soft, wearable fabric for the most comfortable pajama pants. The pants shown are made from a flowy, linen ikat print and an ultrasoft navy cotton shirting.

Simple-sew PJs

A multisize pattern (see page 91) makes it easy to sew pajama pants for everyone in the family. Unless otherwise stated, use a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-wide seam allowance. Because woven cotton fabrics tend to ravel, finish the seam allowances by zigzagging or serging the raw edges together.

1 CHOOSE A SIZE. Select a size from the pattern (page 91) based on the hip (women), waist (men), or waist and length (children) measurement.

2 PREP THE FABRIC. Wash and dry your fabric as you want to launder the finished garment. Press it, cut the fabric in half perpendicular to the selvage, and then lay the layers right sides together, not folded, making sure that the pattern is mirrored.

Quick and simple, it'll be a breeze to sew a pair of these pajama pants for every member of the family.

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Sew the inseam right sides together.

WS



Align the edges of the crotch seam and sew.

WS



Pin, then topstitch the pant hems.

3 SEW THE PANT LEGS. With right sides together, align the inseams of one pant leg and sew. Repeat for the other leg.

4 SEW THE CROTCH SEAM. Turn one leg right side out, and place it inside the other leg, with the raw edges of the crotch seam aligned and the inseams matched. Sew the crotch seam of the pants.

5 HEM THE PANTS. Fold up and press the hem edge $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, then again $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Pin, then topstitch along the inner fold.

Sew buttonholes in the waistband casing to hold the drawstring/elastic.



6 MAKE BUTTONHOLES IN THE CASING AREA. Centered at center front, fuse a 3-inch by 1-inch scrap of interfacing with its upper long edge parallel to and $\frac{1}{2}$ inches below the raw waist edge. Stitch a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-long vertical buttonhole on each side of the center-front seam, with the buttonhole's top $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches from the waist edge. Cut the buttonholes open.

Pin, then topstitch the waistband casing.



7 SEW THE WAISTBAND CASING. Fold down the waist edge $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and press; press the raw edge under $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Pin the casing in place, then topstitch along the inner fold.



Feed the drawstring through the waistband.

8 ADD THE DRAWSTRING. Cut the grosgrain ribbon in half, and sew a ribbon length to each end of the elastic. Attach a safety pin to one end of the strip and, starting at one buttonhole, feed it through the waistband channel until the elastic is centered at the back of the pants. If desired, stitch in the ditch along the center-back seam to anchor the drawstring so it doesn't come out in the wash. Trim each ribbon end diagonally to minimize fraying.

PHOTOS: SLOAN HOWARD, STYLIST: JESSICA SAAL