



Tutorial



1

This tutorial shows you several options on how to make these comfy flat front shorts differently.



The first version is about shorts with a side seam to make the pockets placement better. You can omit the side seam but want to cut your fabric width 1 inch slimmer!



The second version shows you how to make the shorts without side seams and add some cute faux belt loops to the front for some buttons or make the belt loops “real” for using a belt.



The third version is a pair of comfy all-around elastic waist shorts which are perfect for lounging, playing and sleeping. Cut fabric width 1” wider than sizing chart.

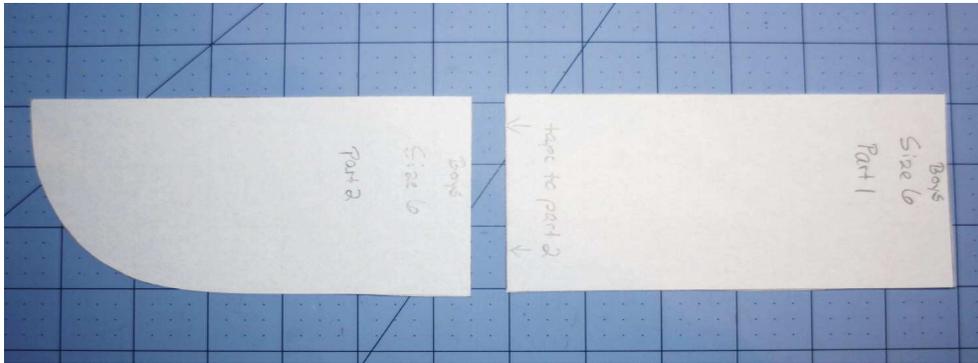
List of required materials:

- Fabric (quilters cotton, knit jersey, lightweight corduroy, twill, plaids, chambray etc.)
- ¼ inch wide non-roll elastic (strong kind, not soft and stretchy unless for baby sizes)
- Sewing machine
- Serger/overlock machine – optional
- Scissors
- Ruler or lip edge ruler and roller cutter
- Pins
- Iron
- Fusible interfacing for pockets – optional
- Damp press cloth –optional for pockets
- Fabric pen - optional

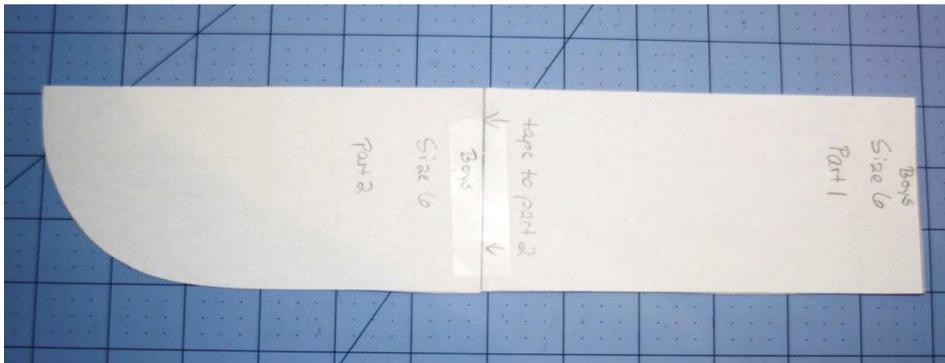
Seam allowance: 3/8" unless otherwise stated

To begin please print your crotch templates without scaling, double check the 1 inch scale to make sure you printed the correct scale.

Cut out your crotch template



.....and tape bigger sizes together as shown:



3

Cut out your fabric panels and position them in front of you with the print direction going vertically (my print is not directional):



Fold both panels from the outer sides towards the inside:



4

If you are making the side seam pin raw edges along the inside (for without side seam skip this step and go to page 6 TO CUT OUT CROTCH):



Cut along fabric fold, repeat on other panel:



5

Now you should have 2 sets of equally wide panels:



To take some width off when making the flat front you want to trim 1 inch off of one panel's side:



6

You should now have 2 panel sets, bottom panel being 1 inch wider which is the backside of the shorts and top panel being 1 inch slimmer (front side of shorts):



To cut out crotch:

Place your crotch template onto the inner raw sides with the long/straight edge facing outwards. Pin and trim around template. Repeat with other panel set:



7

Discard both crotch cutouts.



To sew the side seams:

Pull your top panel to align both outer edges.....



.....and pin outer edge. Sew between arrows with backstitching beginning and end and serge/zigzag stitch raw edges:



This should now be your finished side seam. Repeat with other 2 panels.



To create front and back rise:

Unfold your sewn together panels.....



Place your lip edge ruler along the waist top edge, aligning the corner of the BACKSIDE flush and the other corner (FRONT SIDE) 1" lower (below the waist edge).



You can either draw a line with your fabric pen or directly trim off this strip with your rotary cutter:



Repeat with other shorts panel. Place it with right side in front of you. Position your lip edge ruler along the waist edge as before but diagonally mirrored:



To slim down legs:

Print out your LEG STRIP and fold your shorts panel with rights sides together then pin the leg strip alongside the inner leg as shown (curve faces towards inside):



Trim around leg strip as shown:



Repeat with other shorts panel and discard cut out leg strips.

OPTION – outside pockets:

Print your pocket template and cut 2 sets of mirrored pieces (one set shown):



Place both pocket shapes with right sides together and pin leaving the bottom edge open. Sew according to black lines, along all sides except bottom edge, with backstitching beginning and end:

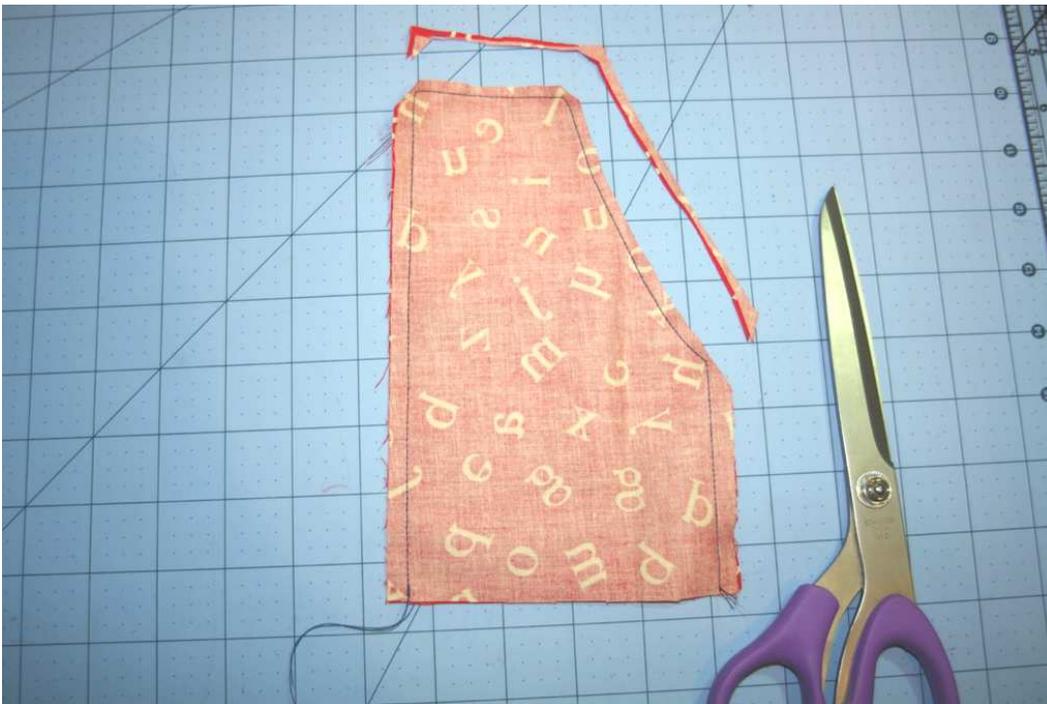


13

This is now your sewn pocket:



Trim off access fabric and corners along the seams:



Turn pocket with right sides out and press:



Fold in the bottom edges to 1/4" and press:



Repeat with other 2 pocket pieces. These should now be your finished pockets (keep bottom open, only folded in and pressed):



Top stitch the curved sides of the pockets if preferred (it's optional but adds a nice finished touch):



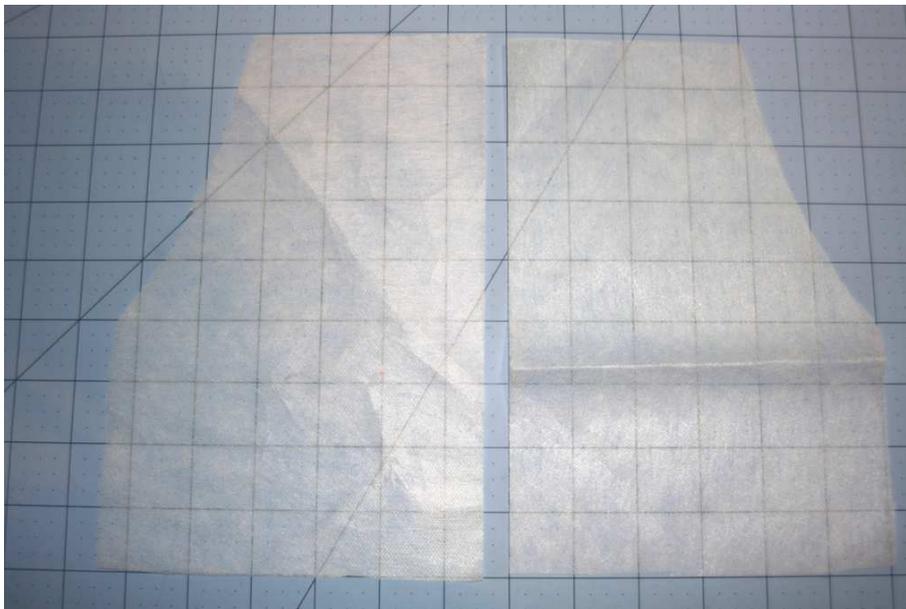
To use fusible interfacing for sewing on pockets:

This step is optional but recommended as pockets gets lots of use and might tear the area where it's sewn on to the shorts. Fusible interfacing provides an enforcing area anywhere you want to sew pockets or buttonholes!

I use this brand but it also comes as flat yards on a roll which might end up less expensive if you only need a small amount.



Cut 2 shapes 0.5 inch bigger all around as shown (one piece with the curve on the right, the other piece with the curve on the left):



Place your shorts with right sides facing up in front of you and position the pocket 2.5" down from the top edge on the FRONT with the lower cut top edge. For this version I made the shorts with the side seam, to have it easier positioning the pocket along the sides. Have the pocket curve (which is the opening of the pocket) face to the side seam. Pin all straight edges of pocket to the fabric leaving the curve open:



Turn shorts around so the wrong side is facing up now. Take one interfacing piece and place it with the rubbed side down into the margins of the pins. Pin the interfacing shape down as well (make sure the curve is facing to the side seam):



Transfer shorts to your ironing board and carefully remove interfacing pins making sure the shape does not shift (leave other pins in that hold the pocket):



Take a dampened press cloth (kitchen towel works well) and lay it carefully on top of the interfacing. With your iron set on high heat and steam press down on the towel and hold it for 10-15 sec. Best is to follow the interfacing instructions!



Once all pressed, remove towel and turn shorts to press pocket without steam and around the pins. Best is not to press over the pins as some can melt under high heat. Double check pocket for accuracy and sew it on with backstitching beginning and end. Leave curved side open:



This should be your reverse side of the pocket:

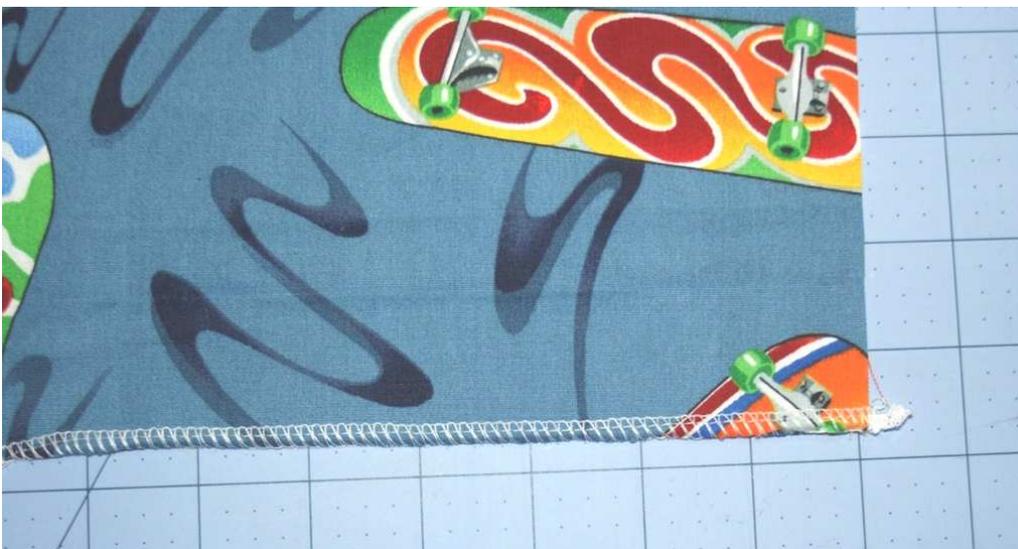


To repeat this on the other side of the shorts it's important to double check the distance by comparing both sides closely as shown. The distance from the pocket inside and the middle seam is crucial as this will show if it's not even. Always take a ruler to make sure:



To prepare the bottom hem:

Serge or zigzag stitch both leg hems:



To sew the legs together:

Place your shorts with right sides together and pin the inner leg seam. Then sew between arrows with backstitching:



Repeat with other side. Serge or zigzag stitch raw edges.

To sew both leg pieces together:

Turn one leg with right sides out and position next to the other leg piece which should still be with wrong sides out:



Insert the leg piece with right sides out INTO the other leg piece:



This is how it should look like now (almost all the way inserted):



Grab the crotch area of both pieces.....



.....and start pinning the front and back rise:



Sew between arrows starting at the top edge and sew down the rise and over the crotch area, back up the other side until you reach the top again:



Serge or zigzag stitch the raw edge. This is now your finished rise (front and back of shorts):



To finish the top edge (waist):

Serge or zig zag stitch the top edge:



Fold entire top edge down 1 inch and press:



Have your piece of elastic ready (cut it to 1/3 to 1/4 shorter than the shorts measure from side seam to side seam):



Position one end of the elastic right into the top edge flap on the side seam:



Fold top edge over the elastic and.....



.....pin through the top edge:



Repeat on other side:

Note – if your shorts do not have the side seams, sew the elastic on to the sides of shorts slightly facing more towards the BACK!



Sew down elastic on each side with backstitching.

The following picture is from the other version but shows it much better where to sew the elastic down:



Our first version shorts should look like this now:



Fold top edge down again and pin right underneath the elastic:



Sew between arrows right along the serged/zigzag stitched seam (making sure not to sew over the elastic):



Note: while sewing you want to hold the shorts taut (pulled straight) from the top and bottom (or left and right side) so it's easier to sew a straight line while the elastic pulls it together.

Then continue sewing the entire top edge (including front).



To finish the leg hem:

Fold the bottom hem up 1" towards the wrong side of fabric and press. Then sew along the serged/zigzag stitch seam with backstitching. Repeat with other leg:



We are now done with the first version!

Second version – shorts with flat front and faux button/belt loops:

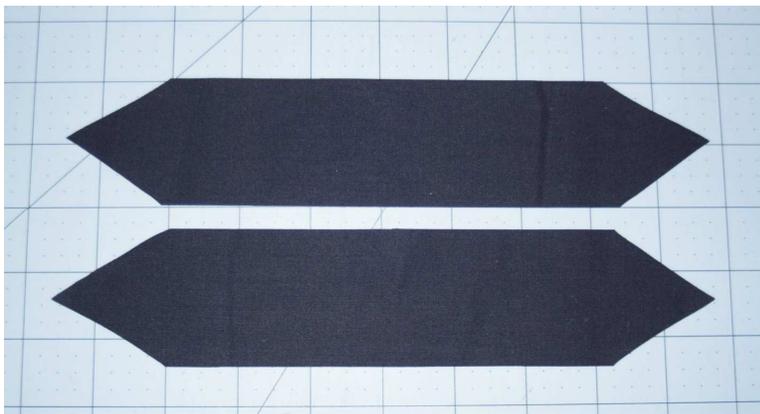


These shorts are made WITHOUT the side seam but I added faux button/belt loops which of course can be made in working order (more about this later).

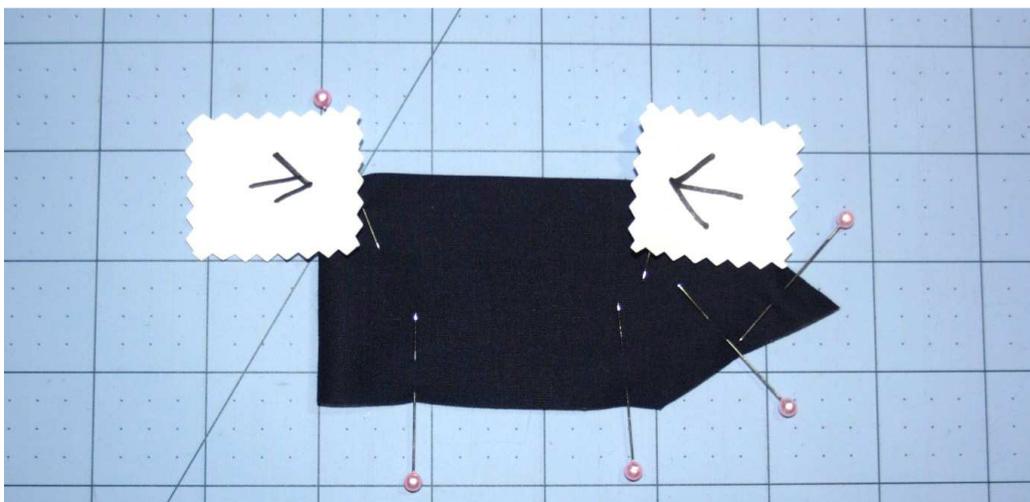
Make these shorts starting at page 2 continuing to first part of page 4, then skip to page 6 and follow the steps through to page 25 (with or without adding pockets) but without paying attention to the cut sides and differently measuring front and back panels! Then follow through with page 31 to finish leg hems.

To cut belt loops:

Cut out the belt loop template and pin to fabric then cut around it. These should be your cut belt loops (for real working belt loops please cut 5):



Fold belt loop fabric over with right sides together and pin leaving an opening along the straight edge of 2.5":



33

Sew with backstitching and end:

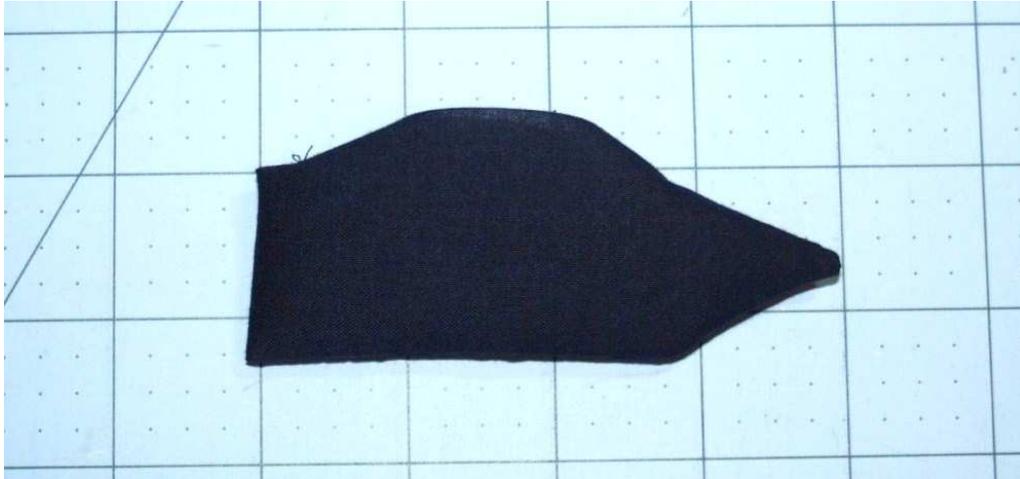


Trim off excess fabric as shown:

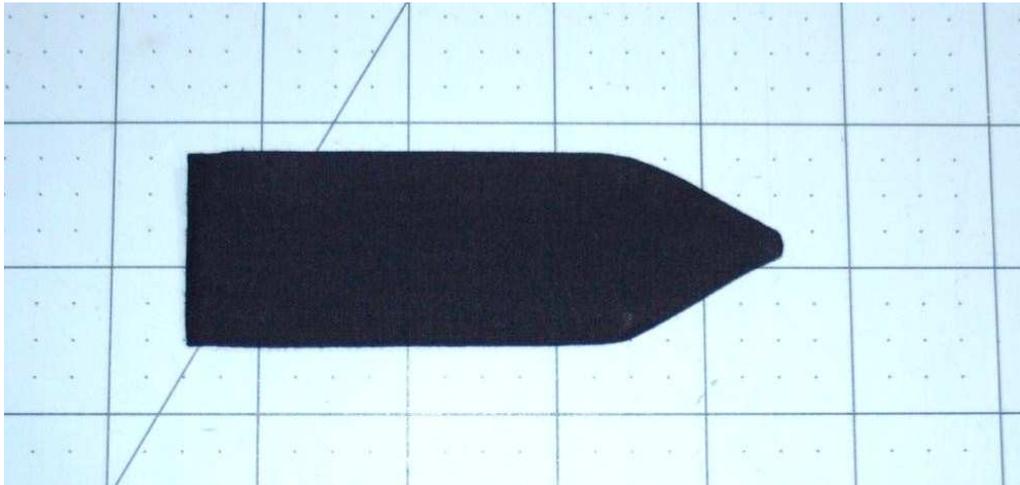


34

Turn belt loop with right sides out :



Fold in opening and press:



To sew FAUX belt loops on:

In order to sew on real working belt loops first top stitch the entire belt loop and pin ONLY top and bottom triangle to shorts! Also add 2 belt loops to each side and 1 to the back center!

For this tutorial I am making the faux belt loops with buttons so please pin belt loops to shorts aligning the top edge of loops with top edge of shorts.

35

The position of the belt loops can ideally be about 2-3" away from sides:



Sew belt loops on with backstitch beginning and end:



All done!

36

Third version – all around elastic waist shorts:

These shorts are super comfy and are probably the easiest to make!



Make these shorts starting at page 2 continuing to first part of page 4, then skip to page 6 and follow the steps through to page 25 (with or without adding pockets) but without paying attention to the cut sides and differently measuring front and back panels!

Then come back here to continue finishing the waist!

Leave an opening for the elastic of 2.5" and sew between arrows right on top of the serged/zigzag stitched seams, backstitch beginning and end:



37

Secure a safety pin to your elastic (measurements can be found on the sizing chart) and insert it into the casing:



Once both ends meet, overlap them slightly and pin and either handsew or machine stitch the ends together several times:



38

Close the opening with your machine and backstitch. You may sew in a size tag or other to mark the backside. All done!



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For questions please email whimsycouture@hotmail.com

Thank you so much for using this pattern!

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SIZING CHART for BOYS SHORTS:

This sizing chart is for the **FLAT FRONT** shorts with SIDE SEAMS!

If you are making shorts without side seams please cut your width 1" slimmer!

For shorts with all-around elastic waist add 1" width to the sizing chart measurements!

Please cut TWO (2) of the following:

SIZING CHART:

Size	width	length	yardage
0-3m	16"	11"	1/3 yd
6-9m	17"	13"	1/2 yd
12-24m	18"	15"	1/2 yd
2t	19"	16"	1/2 yd
3t	19.5"	17"	1/2 yd
4t	20"	18"	1/2 yd
5t	20.5"	19"	2/3 yd
6	21.5"	20"	2/3 yd
7	22"	21"	2/3 yd
8	23"	22"	1 1/4 yd

Pockets & interfacing:

Cut 4 of pocket template – 2 of interfacing (0.5" wider all around)

Guide for waist elastic (3/4") only for all around elastic waisted shorts!:

0-3m	14.5"
6-9m	17"
12-24m	18.5
2t	20"
3t	20.5"
4t	21"
5t	21.5"
6	22"
7	23.5"
8	24"

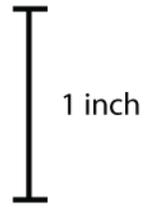
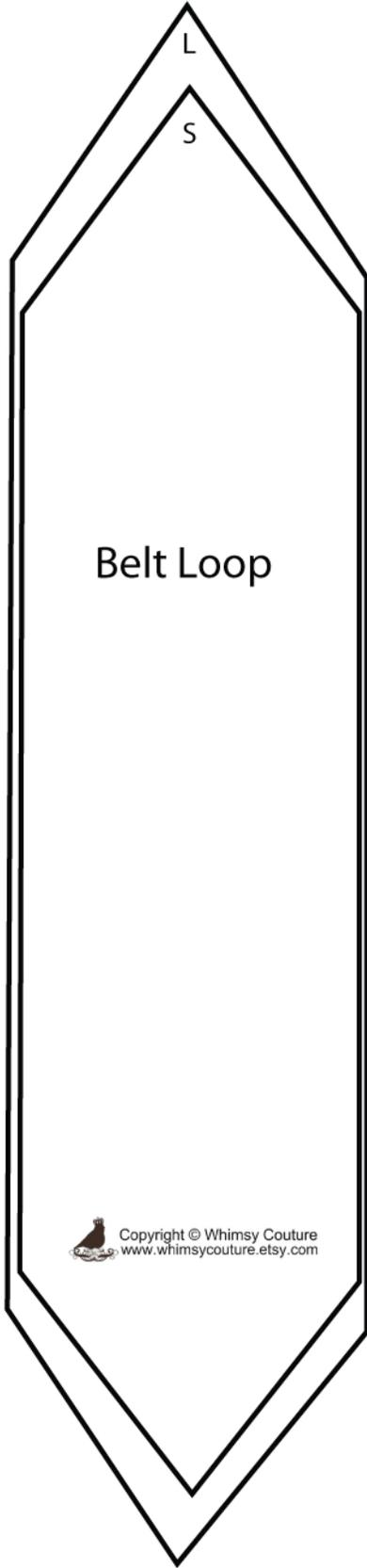
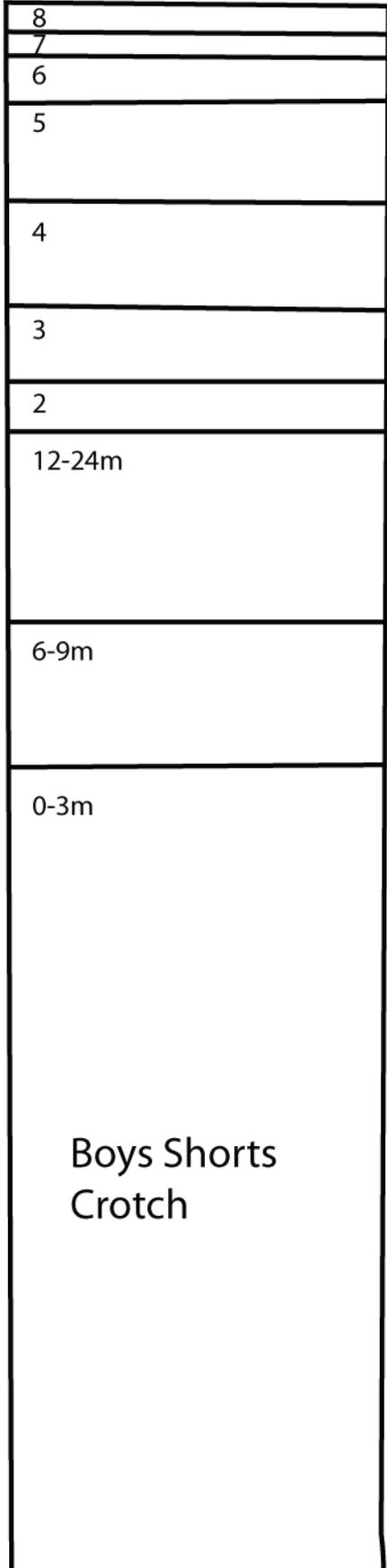
These measurements are only a guide and the individual child needs to be measured to ensure proper fit.

For all questions or suggestions to make this pattern better please email me at

whimsycouture@hotmail.com

Thank you so much for using this pattern!

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8

3-7

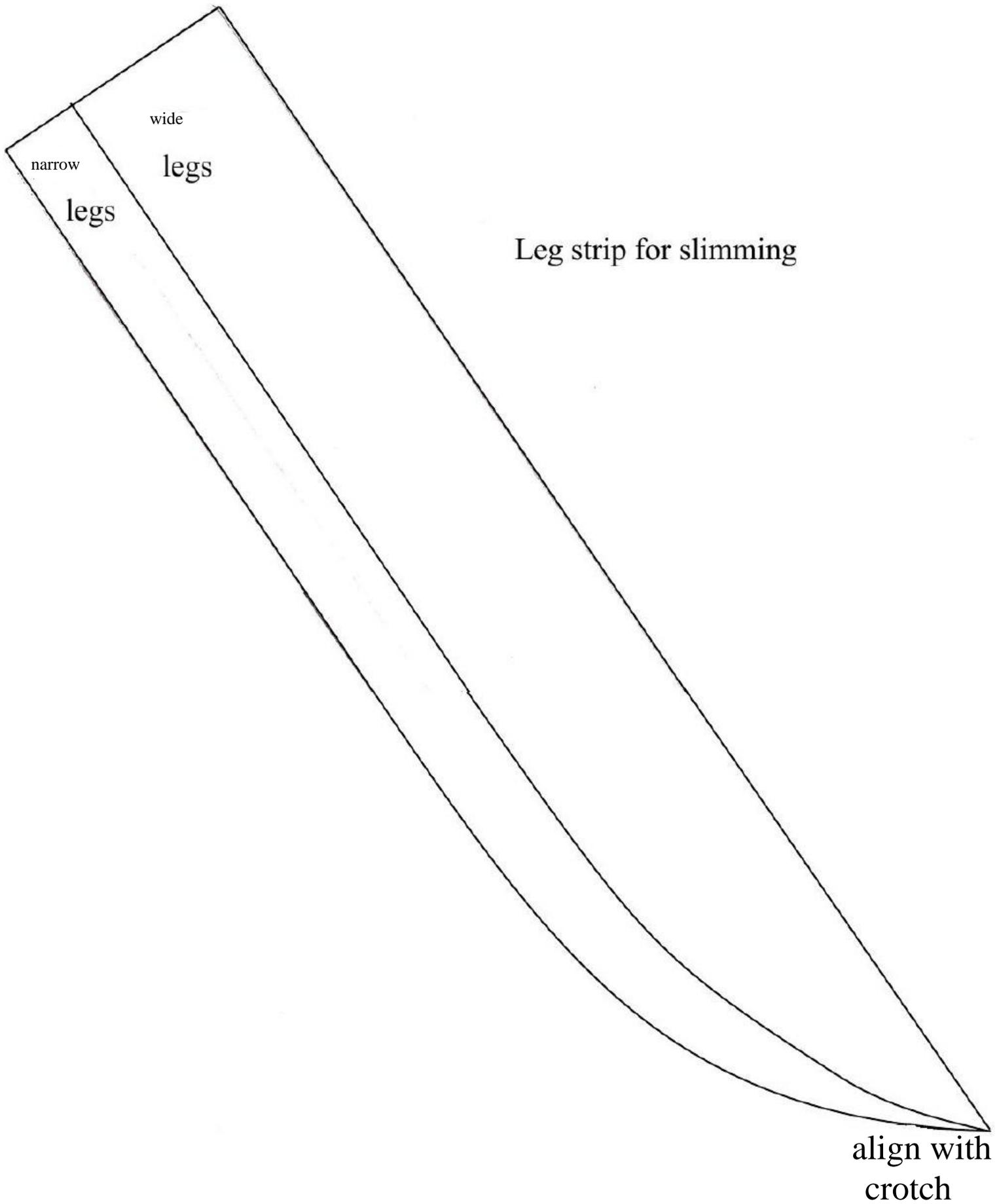
12m-2t

up to 6m

Boys Shorts Side Pockets



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narrow

legs

wide

legs

Leg strip for slimming

align with
crotch