



## **Whimsy Couture Sewing Tutorial**

### **Capris & Pants:**

with ruffle options



*Single layer ~ double layer ~ triple layer Ruffle Pants*

*Wide leg pants*

**Note: the sizing chart gives you average leg lengths without ruffles added so you can make these pants as straight cut style if no ruffles are wanted (also great for boys!) Simply serge/zigzag stitch the leg hems and fold up 0.5", press and sew down with a straight stitch.**

1

**I will be making the single ruffle pants first. Instructions on how to make the double and triple layer ruffle will continue at the bottom of this tutorial in separate sections!**

**List of required materials:**

- Fabric
- Sewing machine
- Serger/overlock machine (optional)
- Scissors
- Iron
- Fabric marker/pen
- Rotary cutter (optional)
- Safety pins
- Straight Pins
- Elastic (3/4 inch wide non roll)

-Sew with a seam allowance of 3/8" unless otherwise stated

-Tuck all hanging threads from the bottom hems under and top stitch

**Foreword: In the making of my patterns I used photos from different projects. Please don't be disturbed if the fabric prints and garment pieces don't match! ☺**

These should be your two pieces of fabric that you cut out according to the measurements given in the sizing chart.



2

This picture shows you that the fabric has been folded over (right side to meet left side)



The folded fabric edge should now be on the right! Place the crotch cutout pattern into the upper left corner as shown by the arrow below. Don't leave any room on the side and top edge. My picture shows the pant fabric lying horizontally:



3

Cut away the crotch area around the cutout pattern. Discard fabric remnant. Repeat with the other leg.



These should now be your two pant legs.



4

Take one leg and place the LEG STRIP onto the inner raw edge as shown. If you prefer the legs to be wide, lay the leg strip flush against the raw edge meeting at the crotch as well! Pin.



If you prefer the pants to be less roomy and more fitting position the leg strip as shown, about 1 inch further into the leg and also away from the crotch. Pin. Trim away fabric and use this scrap fabric as a template for your other leg.



5

To repeat with other leg, place the just trimmed piece onto your other leg as shown and trim:



These should now be your prepared pant legs (in my case the slimmed version).



6 **NOTE: if no ruffles are wanted please finish the leg hems as described on the title page!**

**TO MAKE RUFFLES:**

To add a border please go now to section **Instructions of ADDING a BORDER (cuffs)**

These are your ruffle pieces:



Serge/hem the bottom hems of the ruffles as preferred:



There are 2 ways to make your ruffle with your sewing machine. One is to set your machine to the longest stitch length and to the highest tension number. Sewing with this settings should automatically gather your fabric. If it doesn't then please do the following:

Set your machine to the longest stitch length and your tension to 2-3.

Lay your ruffle strip onto your machine with the raw edges facing to the right.

7

Start sewing at about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in to the fabric and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch away from the raw edge.



This should be your ruffle piece:



Take one leg piece and spread it out in front of you with right side up:

**NOTE: PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK THE INSEAM LENGTH OF YOUR PANTS TO MAKE SURE YOU WILL HAVE A CORRECT LENGTH ONCE YOU ADD YOUR RUFFLE!**

Measure from tip of crotch down to the hem edge and measure your ruffle. Add measurements together and take off about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " for seam allowance.

8

This should be your finished leg inseam measurement! Trim off the leg if necessary!



Take your ruffle and match up the width of the ruffle with the leg's width and distribute all gathers evenly.



9

Flip your ruffle over and pin it onto the leg as shown between the arrows:



Sew with a seam allowance of about 3/8" with backstitching beginning and end. Then serge/zigzag stitch raw edge. This should now be your finished ruffle.



10

Top stitch close to the seam for a nicer appearance:



**TO SEW THE LEG TOGETHER:**

Fold your leg with right sides together and pin the inner seam between arrows:



Sew this area with backstitching beginning and end. Serge/zigzag stitch raw edge. Repeat with other leg:



**TO SEW BOTH LEGS TOGETHER:**

Turn one leg with right sides out and place it next to your other leg:



12

Insert the leg with the right sides out INTO the other leg as shown:\



Make sure to match the crotch area of BOTH legs! I put black squares down to show you the crotch area:



Pin the entire rise between arrows. I marked the rise with dashes:



Sew the rise starting at the top and sew down OVER the crotch area and up the other side. I placed arrows to show you where to start and stop sewing.



Serge/zigzag stitch raw edges:



### **Instructions of ADDING a BORDER (cuffs):**

Please do this BEFORE you sew your leg pieces together!

For adding a border to your pants cut two strips of fabric the same length as your pant leg measures in width. Choose the width freely and double the measurements. Let's say if you like your border to be 2 inches wide cut your fabric strips  $4 \frac{3}{8}$  inches. The extra  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch is for the seam allowance.

Then fold over the two strips. Let the bottom edge meet the top edge and press. Cut it to the width of the pant legs.

15

Now lay the border with cut edges onto your pant leg as shown right here:  
(picture is from a different project)



Sew along with an allowance of about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch. Serge/overcast edges of both pant legs. Topstitch if desired.

Now you may go back to section **TO SEW BOTH LEGS TOGETHER** and continue sewing your pants.

These should now be your almost finished ruffle pants:



**To adjust the front & back rise:**

Take your pants top edge (waist) and unfold it so the center seams are now facing to the sides. I placed my arrows to show you my center seams:



Place your ruler onto your top edge and slightly shift it downwards on one side. Draw a line with your fabric pen or pencil.

Leave the other side of the ruler right at the top edge! You should have a diagonal.



Trim off the diagonally drawn line with a roller cutter and lip edge ruler or just with scissors:



18

Fold your pants back to where you will have your seams centered again and now you can see that you have a lower front rise and a higher back rise:



**To make the casing:**

Serge/zigzag stitch the TOP edge:



19

Fold down your TOP edge to 1 ¼ inch and press the entire top edge:



This should now be your folded down top edge:



Mark the BACK side center where you will insert the elastic to about 2 inches:



Sew close to the INNER folded edge leaving the opening. Backstitch beginning and end. Also sew another line close to the OUTER edge to make the casing more defined and neat (no need to leave an opening for this):



Secure a safety pin to your elastic and insert it into the casing. Close the opening with your machine with backstitching. Done!



### **How to sew in leg elastics:**

These bloomers are an example of what sewn elastic would look like! I have also added some lace to the very bottom of the bloomers to give it an extra touch!



This section contains photos from different projects)

Wind some elastic manually onto your bobbin. I use the shown brand but any brand available at craft/fabric stores will be fine! Wind the thread tight but not too tight. You can pull slightly on your elastic thread while you are winding it up.



Insert the bobbin with the elastic thread into your lower part of your machine and thread the upper with regular thread. Insert your fabric into your sewing machine with right sides up and start sewing right at the edge with a good 4 inches of elastic thread hanging out. Set your machine to the longest stitch length and the tension to 2-3. Sew right along the drawn line. Be sure to check while you are sewing if your elastic thread has not jumped out from over the bobbin. That sometimes happens and will make your elastic not being gathered. If that happens rewind your elastic thread!



Once you have finished the first row of elastic you may raise your presser foot and turn your fabric around while both threads are still in. Position your fabric as you would while first starting but leave all threads in as shown.



Insert your needle again right at about half your presser foot's width so you can sew right next to the first row of elastic.



Once you reach the end repeat the same thing as you did with the first and second row. Your fabric should now start to gather up. If not please check your elastic thread in your lower machine compartment as it can happen that the elastic thread snaps away from going over the bobbin!



Sew at least 2 rows of elastic thread to make your leg nicely gathered. Once you are done shirring leave about 4 inches of elastic thread hanging out!

**Tip: if you happen to run out of elastic thread in the middle of sewing just rewind some more elastic thread onto your bobbin and start sewing just about 1/8 inch BEFORE the spot where you ran out. Then when you are all done with shirring double knot the elastic thread on the inside. Then take a sewing needle and feed the regular threads from the outside in and insert the needle into your garment and pull it through to the wrong side. Then double knot the threads and trim off with leaving about ¼ inch on.**

Tip: if your sewn elastic doesn't look much gathered steam press it real quick! Steam pulls it together!

Note: To make shorts or bloomers simply cut your fabric shorter! It's the same pattern and sizing chart. Again, there is no rule on how short or long to make shorts.

## **INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO MAKE DOUBLE LAYER RUFFLES:**



**NOTE:** it is important to finish your ruffle first and then determine the total inseam length of your pants to make the inseam fit correctly (especially important for full length pants).

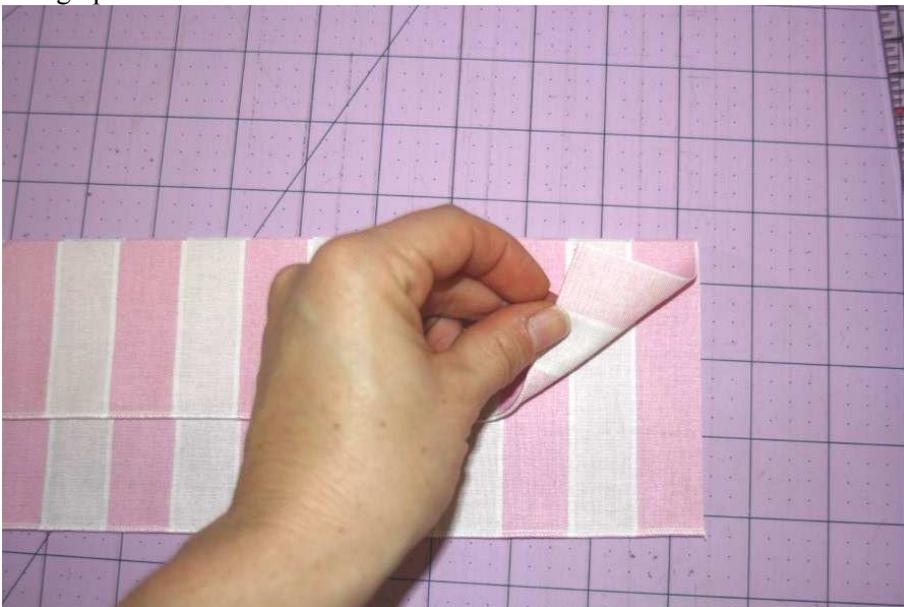
Take in consideration if you are using a serger/overlock machine to hem your bottom edges of your ruffles or if you are folding it down and then sew. This will determine the total inseam length.

Choose the length of your TOP ruffle (which is measured from top to bottom) and cut your BOTTOM ruffle about 1-1.5 inch shorter in length. I cut mine 4" and 2.5".

Hem/finish your bottom hems:



Lay your shorter ruffle strip on top of your longer ruffle strip as shown. Both fabric prints should be facing up:



Sew both sandwiched strips together to create the ruffle effect as described on page 6. Continue attaching the ruffle as described starting on page 8!



## **INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO MAKE THE TRIPLE LAYER RUFFLES:**



**NOTE:** it is important to finish your ruffle first and then determine the total inseam length of your pants to make the inseam fit correctly (especially important for full length pants).

Cut your ruffle strips (length) as desired. You need short strip and 2 identically long strips. Ideally is to cut the short strip about 2" and the 2 long ones 3" that way you will have a nice even look for all layers.

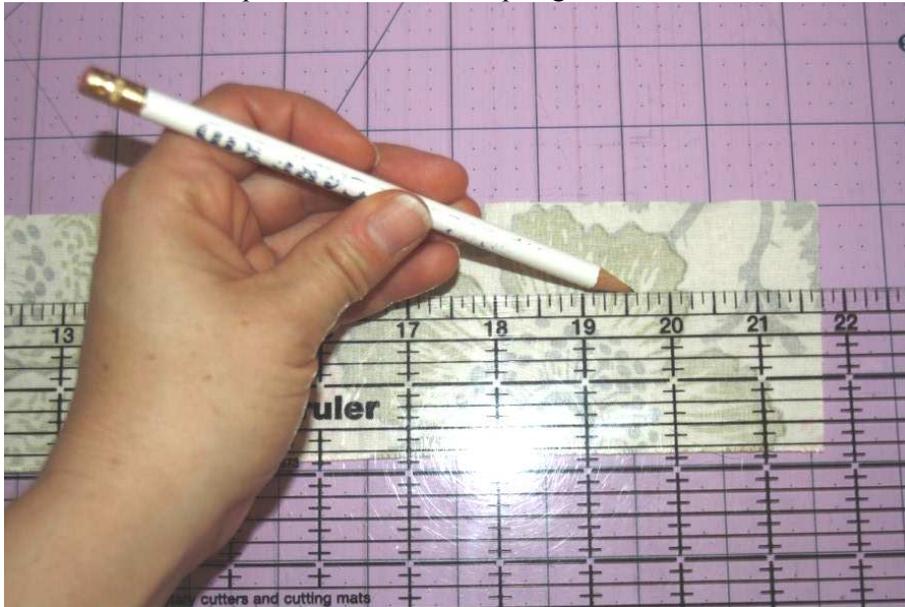
Hem/finish the bottom edges which I have done here already:



Hem/zigzag stitch the TOP edge of your BOTTOM ruffle:



Take your SECOND ruffle strip and lay it in front of you with the right fabric print side down. Draw a line across entire strip at 1 inch from the top edge as shown:



Position your SECOND (middle) ruffle strip with right side down right along the drawn line and pin:



Sew right on top of the hemmed stitch line along the entire strip:



This is how your sewn together CENTER and BOTTOM ruffle strip looks like now:



Place your TOP ruffle strip with right side up right along the UPPER edge of your sewn together strip.

You may pin all 3 layers in place along the top edge:



Go back to page 7 to read how to make this strip into a ruffle and continue sewing the ruffle onto your pant leg.



Thank you so much for using this pattern!

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**Pattern revised 08/2012**

## Sizing Chart for Capris & long Pants (with optional ruffles)

This sizing chart is for straight cut capris & pants. If you desire to add a ruffle you want to adjust the inseam. These pants will also fit for boys without ruffles.

**The fabric length in the chart does not reflect the inseam with any ruffle added!! The given lengths are for pants without ruffles since you can choose freely your ruffle length and take this off of the pant length.** Before you finish the bottom hem or add your ruffle of the pants please double check what inseam is correct for your pants.

Prewashing your fabric may prevent any shrinkage.

These pants measurements are for wide leg pants. You will find info on how to adjust for slimmer legs in my tutorial!

Cut 2 pieces of fabric in the following measurements:

SIZE	FABRIC WIDTH	FABRIC LENGTH CAPRIS	FABRIC LENGTH PANTS	FABRIC YARDAGE <u>without ruffles</u>
NB	16"	12.5"	14"	Capri ½ yd, long ½ yd
3-6m	17"	14"	16"	Capri 1/2yd, long 2/3 yd
9-12m	18.5"	16.5"	18 ¾ "	Capri ½ yd, long 2/3 yd
18-24m	19"	17"	20"	Capri ½ yd, long 2/3 yd
2t	19.5"	18.5"	21.5 "	Capri 2/3 yd, long 2/3 yd
3t	20.5"	20"	23"	Capri 2/3 yd, long ¾ yd
4t	21"	22"	25"	Capri 2/3 yd, long ¾ yd
5t	22"	23"	27"	Capri 1 1/3 yd, long 1.5 yd
6	22 ¼ "	24"	28"	Capri 1 1/3 yd, long 1.5 yd
7	22.5"	26"	30"	Capri 1.5 yd, long 1 2/3 yd
8	23"	29"	34 "	Capri 1 2/3 yd, long 2 yd
10	23.5"	30"	35.5"	Capri 2 yd, long 2 yd

The yardage does not include ruffles or borders! Add extra for those – in most cases you would need about 1/8 yd and double/triple for double and triple layer ruffle.

Sizing guide for waist elastic:

Appr. Average full length inseam measurements:

NB	12"	6"
3-6m	14"	7"
12-18m	18"	10"
24m	19"	12"
2t	19.5"	12.5"
3t	20.5"	13.5"
4t	21"	15.5"
5t	21.5"	17.5 "
6	22"	19"
7	22.5"	21"
8	23"	22.5"
10	24"	24 ¼ "

These measurements are only a guide so please choose what is closest to the size you are making.

**RUFFLE INFORMATION:**

To cut your RUFFLE strips measure the pant width (front and back!) and count it x 2 (add a few more inches if you prefer your ruffle to be fuller)

There is no rule as to how wide (measured from top to bottom) your ruffle will be! Choose freely anywhere from a slim ruffle width of about 1" to max. about 6-7" for wide ruffles for bigger sizes.

Please cut the pant fabric length shorter to adjust the inseam length. Take the seam allowance in consideration as well which is 3/8 inch x 2 (3/8 inch for pants and 3/8 inch for ruffle). I suggest to go about half way which means if your ruffle measures 2 inches in width cut the fabric length about 1 inch shorter. It looks nicer when ruffles reach a bit longer especially with long pants. This doesn't apply for borders.

Always finish your ruffle first especially when making a double or triple ruffle and then check total inseam measurement BEFORE sewing the ruffles on!

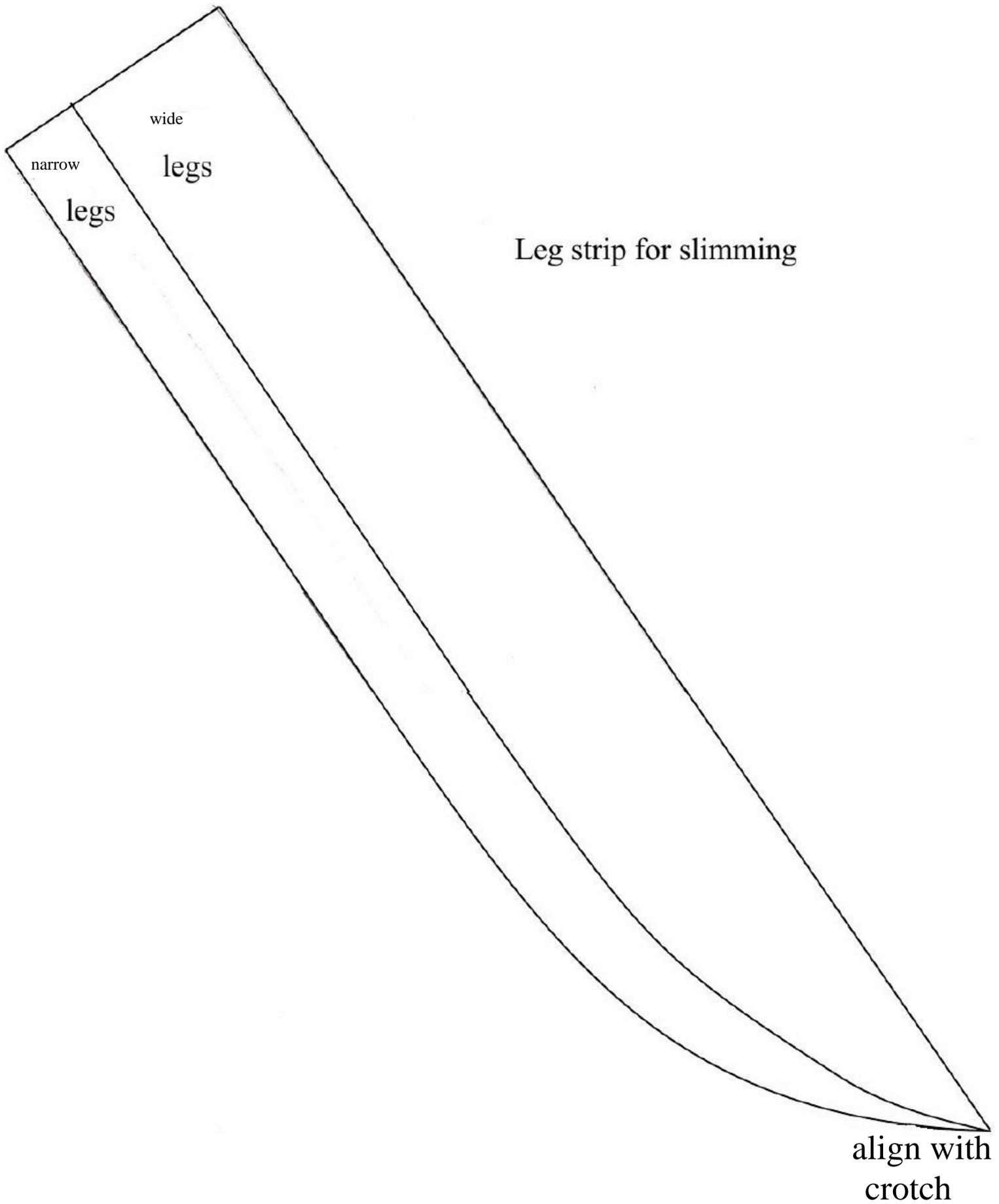
For all questions or suggestions to make this pattern better please email me at

[whimsycouture@hotmail.com](mailto:whimsycouture@hotmail.com)

Thank you so much for using this pattern!

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Sizing chart revised 08/2012



10

8

7

6

5t

4t

3t

2t

18-24m

9-12m

3-6m

0m

# Pants Crotch

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1 inch