



# 5 OUT OF 4 PATTERNS

## Sewing School: Adding Elastic to Swim Bottoms

1. Let's start with cutting our elastic. To make this easy for any swim bottom, here's how to determine elastic length.

A. Measure front of the leg opening and **subtract seam allowance**. Write that down: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Now, multiply this number by .80. Write that down: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Measure back of leg opening and **subtract seam allowance**. Write that down: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Now, multiply this number by .70. Write that down: \_\_\_\_\_

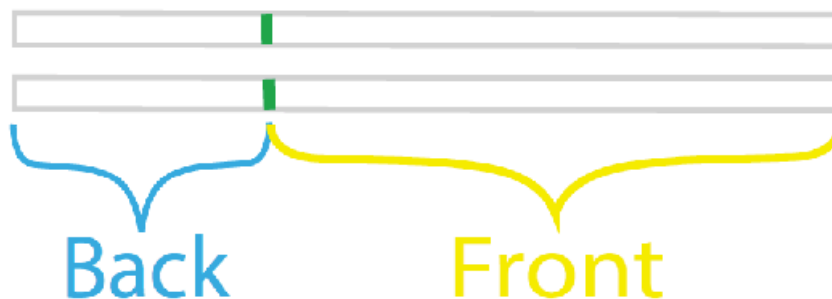
**Line B** \_\_\_\_\_ + **Line D** \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

This answer is how long your leg elastic will be. Be sure to cut two because, well, two legs.

2. Let's determine where to mark our elastic.

**Multiply Line 1D** \_\_\_\_\_ x .70 = \_\_\_\_\_

Now, mark each elastic this distance from one end. The **SHORTER** section will be for the **BACK** of the leg.

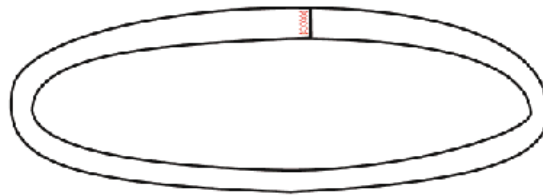




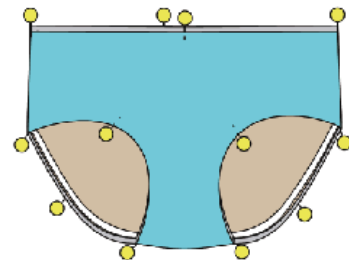
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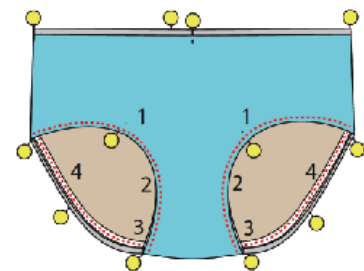
3. Take each piece of leg elastic and overlap the ends 1/4". Sew each elastic piece into a loop by going back and forth several times with a zigzag stitch.\*Tip: Wash away Wonder Tape really helps to hold the elastic together while you're getting your sewing machine ready to sew!



4. Pin or clip one elastic loop to the leg opening of your swim bottoms. Place mark on elastic at the crotch seam, with the shorter length going toward the BACK of the swim bottom. Overlap of elastic should be next to side seam. (I don't put it right on the side seam because it can get bulky.)



5. As you sew on your elastic with a zigzag or serger, pull hard under the tush (instead of all the way to the side seam). I tend to pull a little in the front (1), a little more through the crotch (2), a lot under the tush (3), and then a little up the sides of the tush (4). This is a personal preference!



6. Roll elastic toward inside/wrong side of swim bottoms and clip or pin in place. Edge stitch the elastic down using a coverstitch or zigzag. Repeat on other leg.

