

AMTGARD PANT MAKING 101

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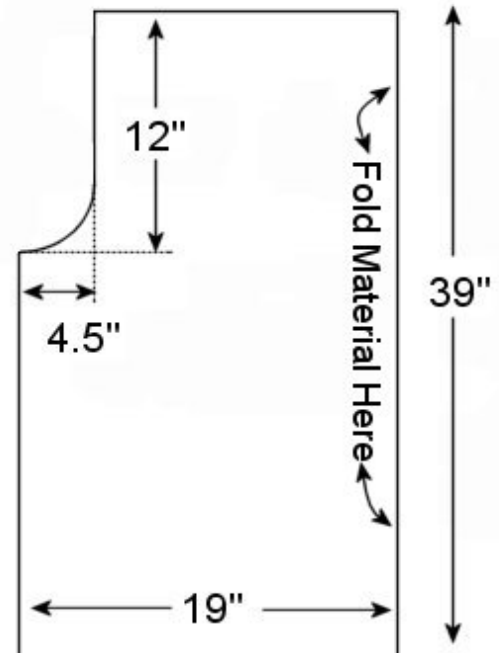
So...the question that plagues many fighters out there...you want pants to fight in, but how do you make them cheaply and easily enough? While fighting, you want pants that are durable, but cheap and quick enough to make that if you rip a pair, you can make another pair by the next week. hopefully this article will help you out.

First of all, the pants that I am explaining in this article are loose, baggy drawstring pants. It takes about 2 yards of cloth and can be made in about an hour by someone with a minor knowledge of sewing (can do basic stitches on a sewing machine).

CLOTH: What cloth should you choose to use? It depends on what purpose the pants are going to have. I suggest staying away from broadcloth or trigger and try and find something in the middle of both of them. Broadcloth is going to rip way too fast and trigger won't hang right; it's just too heavy of a material. A good medium-weight cotton isn't bad, but if you are going to be fighting in them all the time, you are probably looking at a lifespan of only about 3-4 months. A cotton-polyester blend is a bit stronger and works well. Also, if you are going for winter pants, flannel is always a good choice for warmth and strength. For someone around my size (30 inch inseam, 33 inch waist), I'd go for about 2 yards of cloth for the pants. This of course depends on the width of the fabric.

PATTERN: The pattern I use is below. It's a simple pattern for someone that has around a 30" inseam (crotch to bottom of ankle) and a waist of between 30" and 35". If you have a longer inseam, add appropriately to the length of the pattern. Also, if you wish the pants to gather at the bottom, instead of hanging loose, add 10" to the length. Once you have your pattern made, go ahead and lay out the cloth and cut out the two pieces. Remember to fold your material and cut it out as the pattern to the side suggests.

SEWING: Once you have your two pieces of cloth cut out, the first seam that you should sew is the inseam of the pants. For both the inseam and the crotch, I suggest sewing a total of three stitches over each seam. The first stitch should be a fairly tight straight stitch. Follow that with a second straight stitch for strength. Finish the seam up with a zig-zag stitch to keep the material from unraveling.

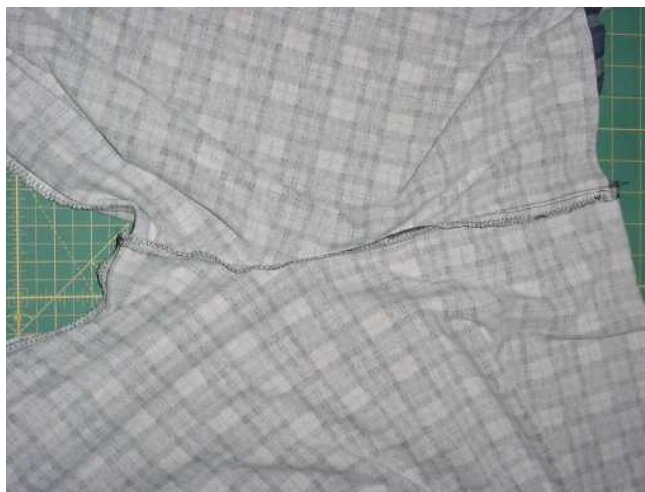




Inseam Picture

Once you have both inseams sewn, you should be left with two complete legs. Now take your two legs and match up the crotches. Pinning them really does make it easier to sew. Go ahead and sew up the crotch with the same three stitches as used above. At the middle of the crotch, where the inseams meet up, it is usually a good idea to go back and forth over this a few extra times to help insure that your crotch doesn't rip out.

Crotch Picture



Now that you have the crotch sewn up, you just have some finishing up to do. First, go ahead and sew in a drawstring. The picture below shows how I usually do my drawstrings. It's basically just like hemming the top, except for two things. First of all, I like the hem to be a bit wider, about $\frac{3}{4}$ " , so that I can fit my drawstring through the pocket it makes. Second, when I get around to the front, I leave an opening in the hem so that I can get the drawstring in the hem. I also usually reinforce the stitch right where I stop sewing so that I can thread the drawstring through the pants. For drawstring material, what I have found that works the best is bias tape. Double-fold $\frac{1}{4}$ " bias tape is strong, cheap, and ties and unties well. You can also use string or anything else you wish. Attach a safety pin to the end of the string/bias tape to aid you in feeding it through the hem.



Drawstring Picture

Last is the bottom of the legs. Here you just try on the pants and see where to hem them. Remember, it's probably a good idea to put on the shoes you fight with and make sure that there is really no way for you to trip over the pants. Test out the length.

If you choose to have them gathered at the bottom, instead of hemming the bottom, either put in a drawstring like the waist or insert elastic in the bottom.

ENDING NOTES: As said in the beginning, these pants take about an hour from start to finish. Oftentimes people get intimidated by sewing because they want the piece of garb to be perfect. Since you will be fighting in these, don't stress about making them perfect. They are fighting garb; learn to make them quickly and make them so that they work for you. Also, everyone's body is a little bit different, so the pattern might need to change a bit here and there. Feel free to experiment and most of all, have fun.



Final Product