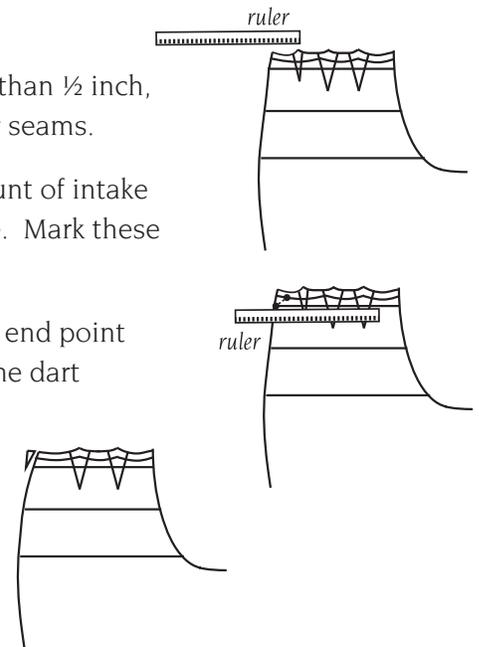


Eliminating Darts for a Shaped Waistband

Follow these directions when you are lowering the waist seam on your pants pattern to accommodate a shaped waistband. Assess your pattern's darts after you have adjusted the Front and Back pattern pieces for the curved waistband. Any dart that extends 1" or less below the waist seam line should be eliminated. Darts that extend 1¼ - 2½" below the waist seam line may be eliminated at your discretion. Be cautious about eliminating darts that extend more than 2½" below the waist seam as it may skew the fit. If you have several darts on your pants pattern, consider eliminating them gradually as you perfect the fit over time.

Follow this process to eliminate a dart:

- › If you have not already drawn on your 5/8" seam lines along the waist, side and center seams, do it now.
- › Begin by observing the location of the dart to be eliminated. Is it an equal distance between seams or closer to either the side seam or the center seam?
- › Measure the intake of the dart at the waist seam line. If it is more than ½ inch, consider dividing the dart adjustment between the side and center seams.
- › Determine which seam or seams will absorb the dart and the amount of intake that needs to be eliminated from each seam at the waist seam line. Mark these adjustments at each location on the waist seam line.
- › Lay a ruler on the pattern so it is parallel to the HBLs, touches the end point of the dart and intersects the seam from which you are removing the dart intake. Mark this point on the seam line.
- › Use a fashion ruler to create the new seam line from the bottom point you have marked through the adjustment at the waist seam. Then adjust the cutting line so it reflects the new seam line. Trim off the excess pattern paper.



Repeat the process with each additional dart you wish to eliminate.