

Waistband

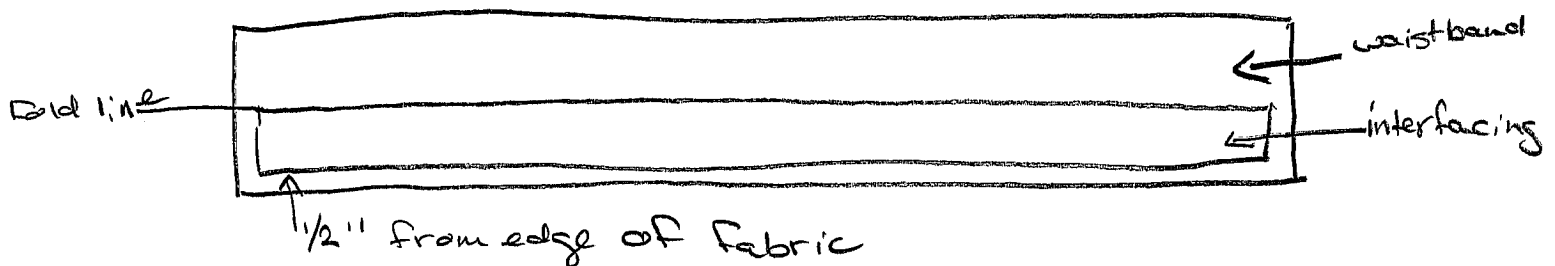
Usually, a waistband is simply a rectangle of fabric attached to the top of a skirt or pants. The rectangle must be long enough to match the waist measurement of the garment, plus two $5/8$ " seam allowances, plus an inch or more for an underlap. Before sewing the waistband on, check to make sure it's long enough! Many of the patterns lately seem to be skimping. If you make the waistband longer than you need, it's simple to cut off the extra - much simpler than ripping out the stitches on a too-short waistband.

Step one -

waistbands need interfacing to give them some stiffness.

The interfacing should be applied only to $1/2$ of the waistband, so a cut edge is in the fold at the top.

Also, to reduce bulk, cut the interfacing $1/2$ " narrower than the waistband, so only $1/8$ " is caught in the stitching that attaches it to the skirt or pants.



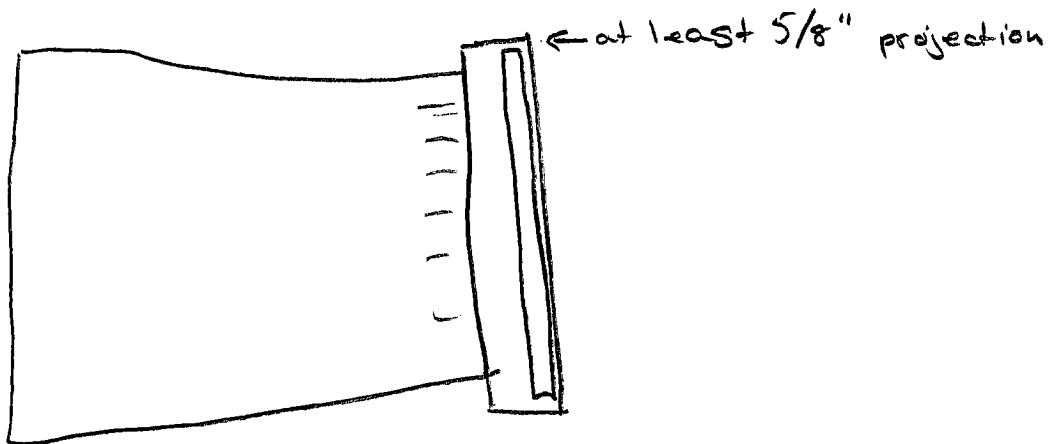
waistband 2

Press the waistband in half, line up the straighter edge of the interfacing with the fold (not so far into it that the interfacing folds, though) and fuse the interfacing onto the waistband, fold the raw edge of the long uninterfaced side $5/8$ " and press.

Step two -

You will be sewing the waistband to the skirt or pants with the waistband on top. This means that you will be starting from the underlap side. If you have cut your waistband without several inches to spare, then pin the waistband so it projects $5/8$ " beyond the overlap of the zipper.

Place the waistband on the skirt or pants with the interfaced half closest to the waist of the garment. Sew the waistband to the garment, matching raw edges,

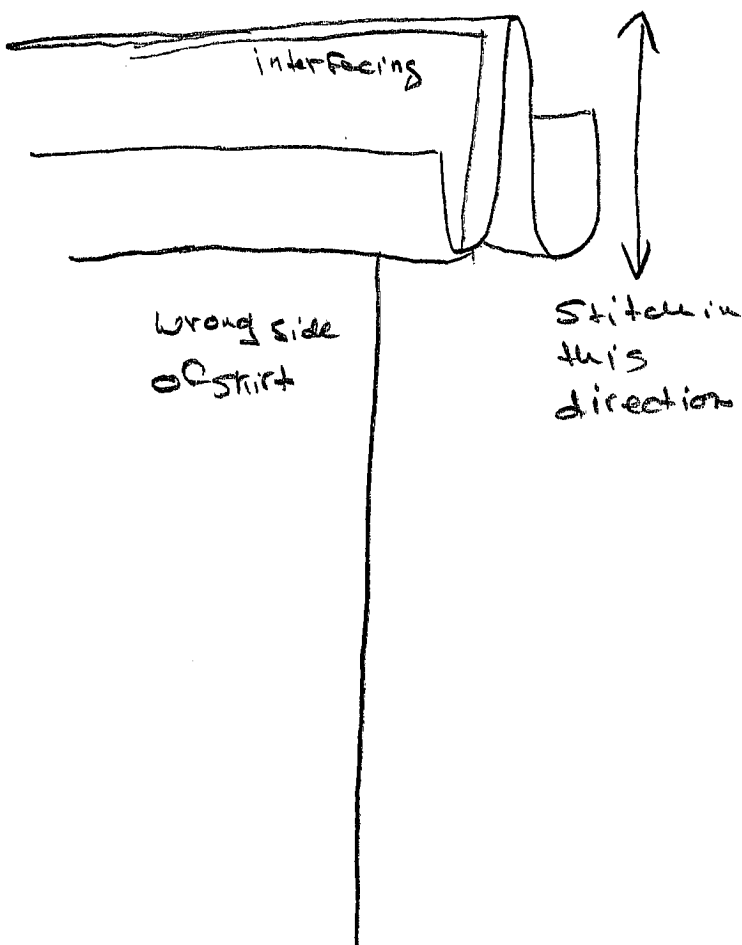


step 3-

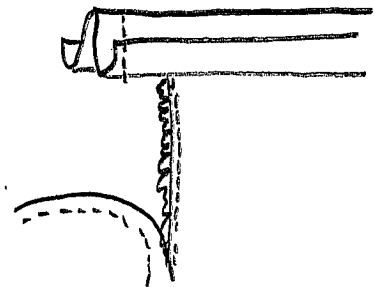
press the waistband up away from the garment.
The seam allowances will be enclosed by the band,
so don't press them open.

step 4-

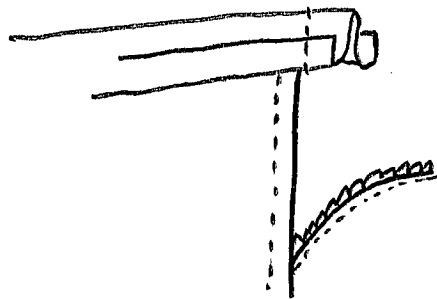
on either end of the waistband, fold the band
right sides together, matching the folds of the seam
allowances, then stitch across and turn right side
out.



on the underlap side
(same as zipper underlap)
stitch about 1" away
from the zipper teeth.

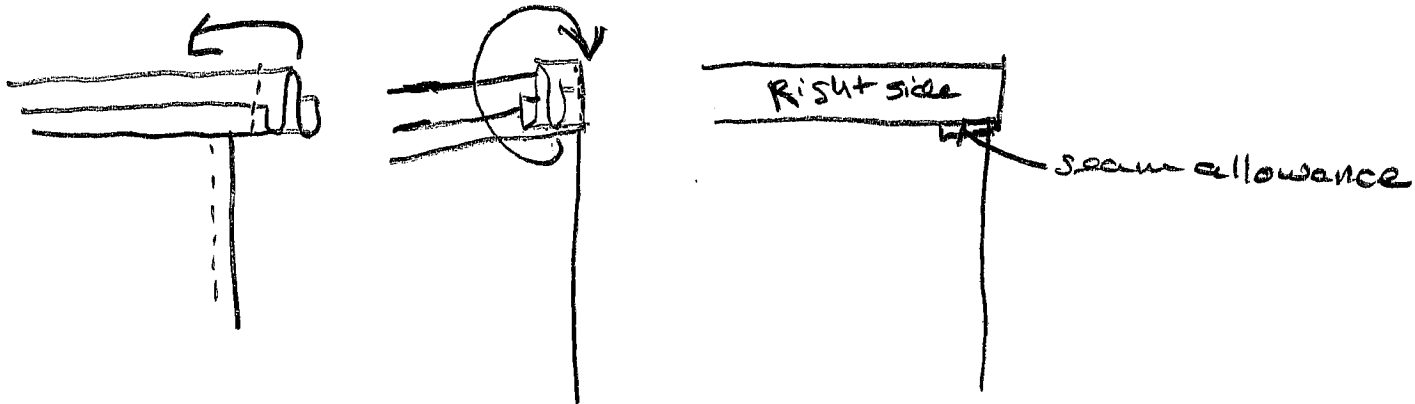


on the overlap side, stitch close to the fold of the overlap, leaving only enough for the turn of the cloth, about $\frac{1}{16}$ ". (more for thicker fabric.)



step 5 -

Fold over the seam allowance to one side, pinch it with your thumb, your index finger inside the waistband, and turn it right side out.



Step 6 -

hand stitch the folded edge of the waistband on the inside of the skirt. Catch only the seam allowances!