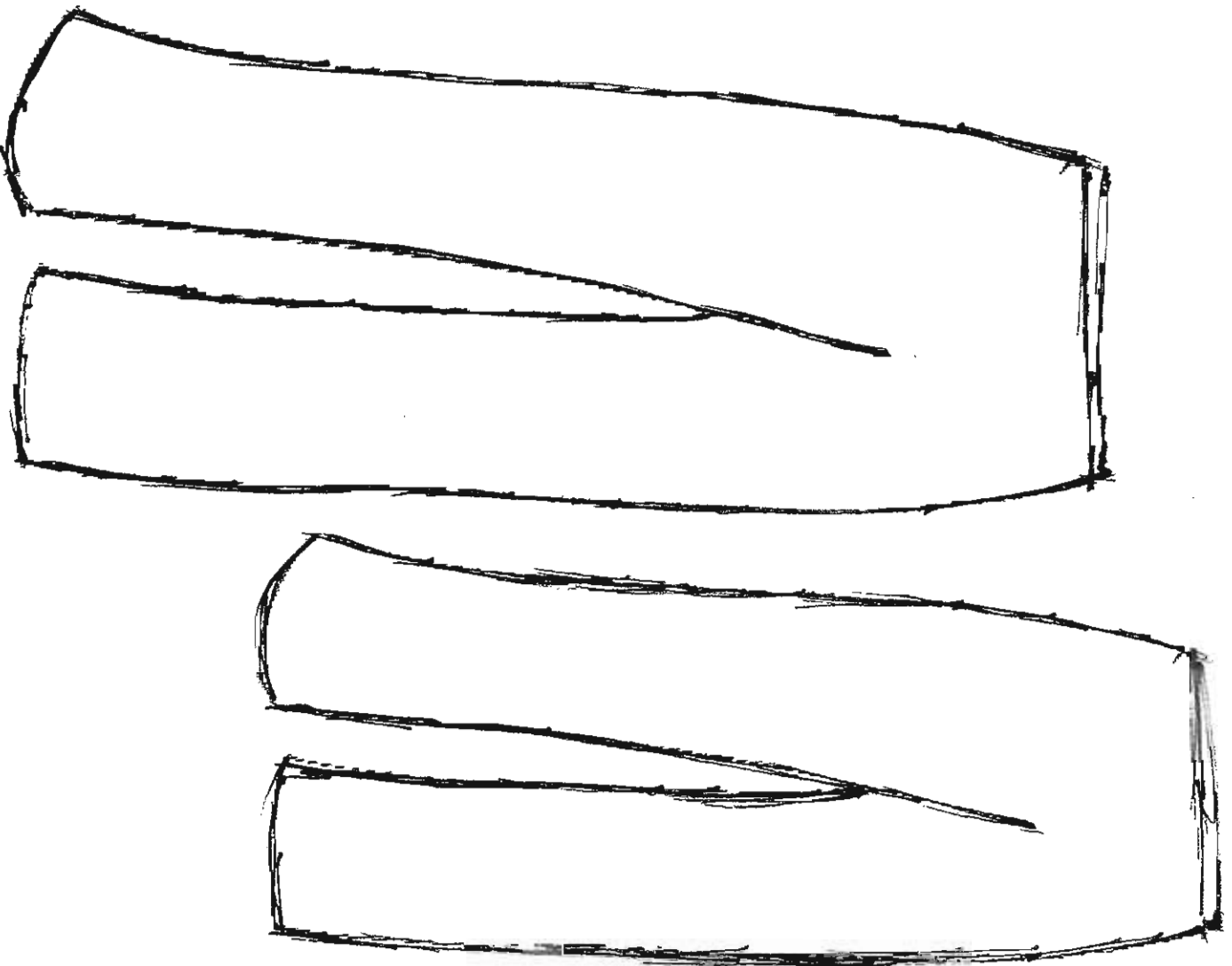


MACHINE KNITTERS of PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

Club Meeting - February 2, 2008 - PANTS - Sonia Carr



GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH MAKING PANTS

I don't know when my obsession for making pants/slacks began. Maybe it was when I was at a seminar to see Jodi Raymond in 1980, just after I purchased the first electronic Brother machine - the 930. They were so very professional looking and looked so comfortable to wear. My only regret is that I live in a warm climate and can only get limited wear, but I certainly do take the opportunity to do so when I can.

First of all, let me tell you that I am a machine knitter and machine knitter only. I do not write patterns or have had anything published. This is my first attempt to try and describe and illustrate 'My Way' of knitting pants. I think I tried every pattern I could buy just to see the different methods of knitting them. It is a combination of many methods and ideas.

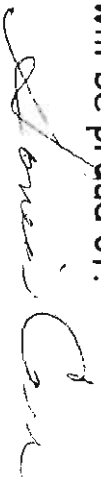
There are a lot of yarns to consider using. I have used Woolray, Diamante, Gloria, Aurora, Chino, Trenzado and Solo.

The Slacks we are going to chart and knit today are very simple ones. They are great worn with tunics. After we have done all the figuring, the slacks themselves are very easy to knit.

There will be 4 knitted pieces, 2 fronts and 2 backs with the shaping reversed.

Blocking is a very important factor in making the slacks to have a professional look. Actually, that is true of all knitting as I'm sure you have been told time and time again. Always use your swatch to see how much blocking your yarn will take. Some acrylic yarns will take a hard blocking while others will just tolerate a light block.

I hope you enjoy this session of making slacks - it is a start and I'm sure you will come up with improvements and methods that may work better for you. So with all this said, hopefully you will go home fully enthused and take the time to make yourself or a friend a pair of pants that you will be proud of.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Carr".

Machine Knitters of Pensacola, Florida - Meeting February 2, 2008.

CALCULATION SHEET for PANTS

GAUGE: 8.42 st/in 12.3 rows/in (you must be exact)

MEASUREMENTS

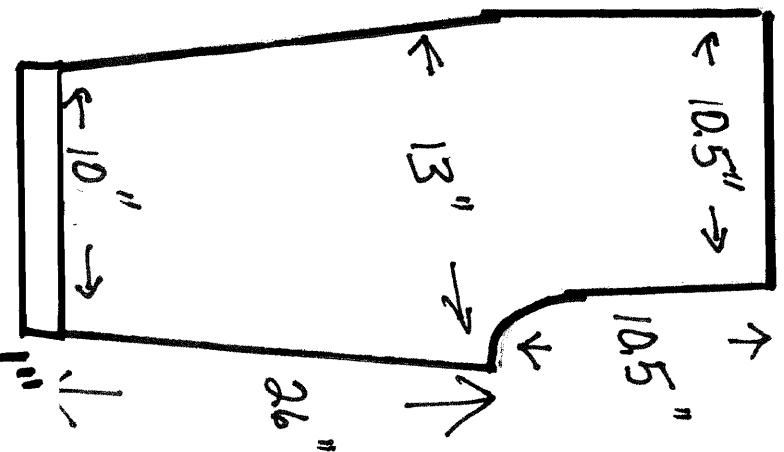
1. Hip - 41 + 1 inch ease $\div 4 =$ 10.5 (A)
2. Upper Thigh - 22 $\div 2 =$ 11 + 2 inch ease = 13 (B)
3. Crotch Depth - 10 + 1/2 inch ease = 10.5 (C). To get this measurement, sit on a hard, flat surface.
Measure STRAIGHT from waist to hard surface.

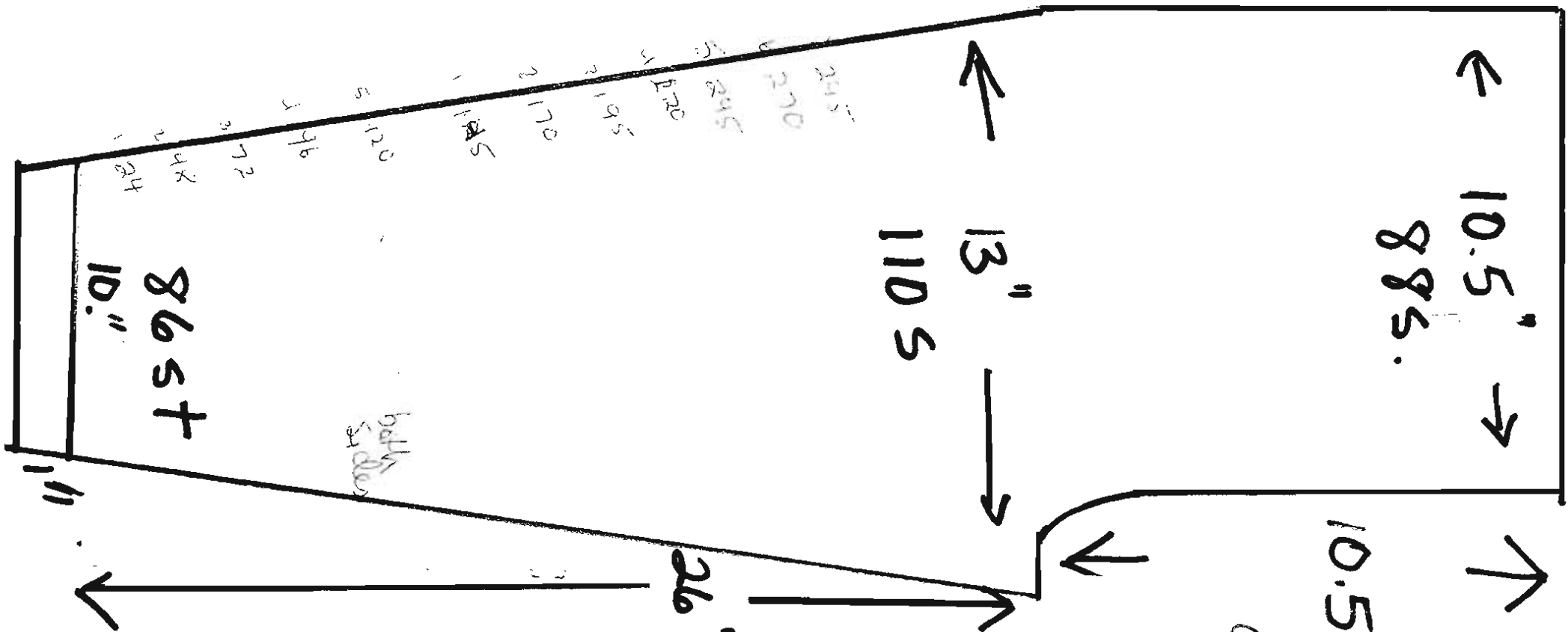
4. Total Length - 37.5 inches. (D) Measure from waist to the length desired, or measure a favorite pair of slacks.

5. Inseam - 27 inches - 1 inch for hem 26. (E) Subtract the Total length (D) from your Crotch Depth (C)

6. Crotch Curve - 2.5 inches. Subtract (A) from (B)

7. Width of Bottom Hem - 10. (F). Determine this from current styles of from your favorite slacks. 8" gives a nice modest taper and 10" gives a wider hem. It is a matter of choice. You are the designer, choose what you like.





$$\frac{8425}{12.3} \approx 685$$

10.5' - 130n

Notch B.O.

$$1105 - 885 = 225 \times 2 = 450$$

Front - 185 - 6/5/3/2/2

Back - 265 - 10/6/4/2/2

26" - 320n

FOR 1ST EVERY 24 ROWS X
1st EVCR 25 ROWS 7X

12 st. each side - 320n.

$$\begin{array}{r} 13 \sqrt{320} \\ - 8 \quad 240 \\ \hline 52 \\ 8-1=7X \end{array}$$

$(24) + 1 = (25) r$

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \quad 24n \quad (5X) - R.120 \\ 15 \quad 25n \quad (7X) - 175 \\ 25n \text{ even} \quad 25 \\ \hline 320 \end{array}$$

KNITTING THE SLACKS - the easy part

After all your calculating you are now ready to knit the slacks. This is the way that I knit them. It is not necessarily the right way or the only way but "My Way".

Your pants will be knitted in 4 pieces, 2 fronts & 2 backs.

FRONTS - if you like to knit a permanent crease into your fronts, take an extra length of yarn and wrap the center stitch (in the same direction) each row.

I start with waste yarn and cast on the number of stitches required for the bottom width. Knit the number of rows needed for the inseam and increase as your charted patterns tells you.

RC000 - Shape the crotch as per charted instructions. I like to short row but if you prefer to decrease by binding off, then do so. After shortrowing the required number of stitches, knit one row over all needles and then bind off those needles that were shortrowed. Then knit straight to the waist and scrap off.

Do 2 fronts and 2 backs reversing the crotch shapings.

BLOCKING - the fun part

Block all pieces carefully, but thoroughly. If you wish to put a crease into your slacks, do so now, and also if you have knitted the permanent crease, block that also.

HEMS AND WAISTBAND & SEWING TOGETHER

For putting my slacks together, I use the sewing machine. You

must use the Zipper Foot to get a narrow seam.

Seam the center fronts and center backs. For the Waistband re-hang the stitches doubling every 3rd and 4th stitch. When you come to the center seam double up the 2 stitches. I find that this works no matter what size you are making. That is one reason I don't bother with a waist measurement.

KNit the Waistband - MT knit one row. Then make a marker row. You may do this using ravel cord, or any other method you like. This is how I like to do it.

COL. Push every other needle out to hold position. Depress your RIGHT PART button and with MT knit one row to the right. This will leave long loops that you will rehang to form the band.

MT-1. KNit 17 rows.

MT+1 KNit 1 row

MT-1 KNit 16 rows - 36 rows total - This is great for a 1" wide elastic band

Hang the band from the long loops formed from the marker row on every other needle and then bind off. Take a wooden dowel or something similar, and insert into the band to set the stitches.

If you find that you want a narrower or wider waistband, just adjust the rows.

KNit the Bottom Bands

Seam your side seams together. Rehang the bottom from your scrap yarn and double up every 6th and 7th stitch. Then proceed to knit the bands as above for the Waistband.

FINISHING UP - The Hooray I'm Almost Done Part

Sew inseams. Finish up by mattress stitching the bands and

**insert your elastic into the waistband
BLOCK all seams and bands.**

CALCULATION SHEET for PANTS

TENSION _____

GAUGE: _____ st/in _____ rows/in (you must be exact)

MEASUREMENTS

1. Hip - _____ + ease \div 4 = _____ (A)
2. Upper Thigh - _____ \div 2 = _____ + ease = _____ (B)
3. Crotch Depth - _____ + 1/2 inch ease = _____ (C). To get this measurement, sit on a hard, flat surface. Measure STRAIGHT from waist to hard surface.
4. Total Length - _____ inches. (D) Measure from waist to the length desired, or measure a favorite pair of slacks.

5. Inseam - _____ inches - 1 inch for hem _____. (E) Subtract the Total length(D) from your Crotch Depth (C)

6. Crotch Curve - _____ inches. Subtract (A) from (B)

7. Width of Bottom Hem - _____ (F). Determine this from current styles of from your favorite slacks. 8" gives a nice modest taper and 10" gives a wider hem. It is a matter of choice. You are the designer, choose what you like.

