



# The School of Making



## DRAWSTRING PANT

A DIY pattern for use with *Alabama Stitch Book*, *Alabama Studio Style*, *Alabama Studio Sewing + Design*, and *Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns*

# ALABAMA

CHANIN

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## Drawstring Pant Instructions

### 1. Baste Waistline

To ensure that the waistline doesn't stretch while you're constructing your garment, use a single strand of all-purpose thread to baste around the curved edges of each piece.

### 2. Add Embroidery

If you choose to stencil and/or embroider your project, add this to the right side of the cut Drawstring Pant top-layer pieces, and let stenciled images dry thoroughly before proceeding. Add embellishment as desired. Use one of The School of Making Series Books for inspiration. If you're adding beading, avoid beading in the 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance.

### 3. Prepare for Construction

After completing embellishment, choose Inside or Outside Floating or Felled Seams (see The School of Making Book Series) for your garment. You will pin with fabric's wrong sides together for seams visible on the outside of the garment or with fabric's right sides together for seams that are finished on the inside of the garment.

When pinning knit seams for construction, it is important to follow a method we call "pinning the middle." With right sides together for inside seams and wrong sides together for outside seams, start by pinning the top of your seam, and follow by pinning the bottom of your seam. After pinning both top and bottom, place one pin in the middle, between the two initial pins. Continue by pinning in the middle of each set of pins, until your seam is securely pinned and ready to sew.

### 4. Sew Front and Back Panels

See page 8 of this document for basic sewing instructions, or reference The School of Making Book Series for more in-depth instruction. If you are making a skirt, skip this step and pick up at step 9.

Pin the center seam of your front panels together for your chosen seam construction. Thread your needle, love your thread, and knot off. Using a straight stitch, sew the pinned pieces together, starting at the top edge of the seam and stitching 1/4" (6mm) from the fabric's cut edges down to the bottom edge. Be sure to begin and end your seam by wrap-stitching (see page 9 of this document) its edges to secure them. Repeat this process with back panels. Fell each seam (if desired) towards the sides of your garment by folding over the seam allowances to one side and topstitching them 1/8" (3mm) from the cut edges, down the center of the seam allowances, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the seam.

### 5. Sew Side Seams

Next, pin the side seams, with right sides together and raw edges aligned—making sure to pin the panels together around the side seam pockets, if added—and sew the seams, starting at the top edge of the waistline and stitching 1/4" (6mm) from the fabric's cut edges down to the hem—including the optional pocket in one pass if added to your garment. Begin and end each seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure them. Fell your seams, if desired, towards the back of your garment down the middle of your seam allowance. If you've added the optional side-seam pocket, be sure to reinforce the pocket's stress points by tacking them.



## 6. Sew Inseam

If you're making a skirt, skip this step and pick up at step 12.

With right sides together for inside seams, match the center front and center back crotch seams together and pin into place. Finish pinning the entire inseam into place before stitching together. Starting at the hem of one pant leg, wrap-stitch the edge, and sew together the entire inseam in one continuous pass.

## 7. Sew Waistband

Match the short ends of your waistband with right sides together. Stitch up 1/2" (12mm), leave a 1/2" (12mm) hole for the drawstring, and then stitch the rest of the seam leaving your seam allowance on the inside of the waistband. Fell the seam to each side of the hole and reinforce the top and bottom of the hole with a bartack.

With right sides together, match the seam in the waistband to the center front seam and sew the inner side into place using a straight stitch, making sure the edge you're sewing down is the one with the hole closest to it. Once the edge is sewn down, flip the seam allowance down toward the inside of the pant and fold the waistband in half. Before stitching down the seam allowance, fold the edge of the inside of your waistband under to create a clean finished edge before top-stitching into place through all layers. This will create a clean finished look on both the inside and outside of your pant.

## 8. Insert Drawstring

Pull the ends of your cut drawstring, causing the edges to roll towards the center. Insert a large safety pin through one end of your drawstring. Insert the safety pin and drawstring into the hole in your waistband, and use the safety pin to run the drawstring through the waistband until you've reached the hole again. Remove the safety pin.



## BASIC SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

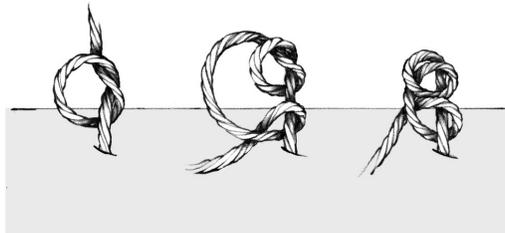
Provided below are notes on our basic construction and sewing techniques. For more thorough instructions on stenciling, embellishment, and construction, reference one of The School of Making Series Books, shown on page 10.

### Love Your Thread

To love your thread, cut a piece twice as long as the distance from your fingertips to your elbow. Thread your needle, pulling the thread through the needle until the two ends of the thread are the same length. Hold the doubled thread between your thumb and index finger, and run your fingers along it from the needle to the end of the loose tails. Repeat this several times to release the tension in the thread, and then double-knot your thread.

### Knotting Off

After bringing the needle up through the fabric, make a loop with the thread, then pull your needle through that loop, using your forefinger or thumb to nudge the knot in place, flush with the fabric. Then repeat this process to make a double knot. After making a second knot, cut the thread, leaving a 1/2" (12mm) tail.



In hand-sewing, your knot anchors and holds your entire seam. One important design decision we make when starting any project is how to handle the knots. There are two options: knots that show on the project's right side (outside) and knots that show on the wrong side (inside). Either of these knots can be used throughout an entire project.

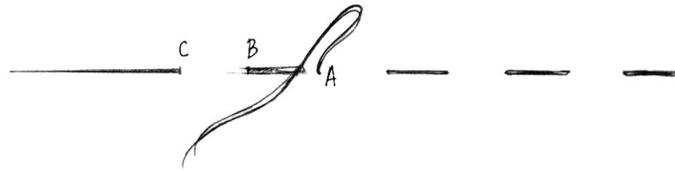
### Examples of Stretch and Non-Stretch Stitches

We use three categories of stitches in our work: stitches that do not stretch, for construction, reverse appliqué, and other embellishments; stitches that do stretch, for sewing necklines, armholes, and other areas in a project that require “give”; and stitches that are purely decorative, for embellishment. Following are examples of non-stretch and stretch:

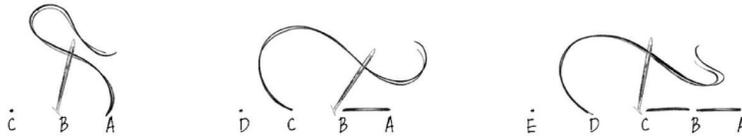


## Non-Stretch Stitch

**Straight (Running) Stitch:** Bring needle up at A, go back down at B, and come up at C, making stitches and spaces between them the same length (about 1/8" (3mm) to 1/4" (6mm) long).

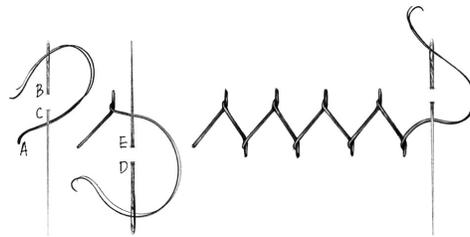


**Backstitch:** Bring needle up to A, go back down at B, and come up at C. Then insert needle just ahead of B, and come up at D. Next insert needle just ahead of C, and come up at E. Continue this overall pattern.



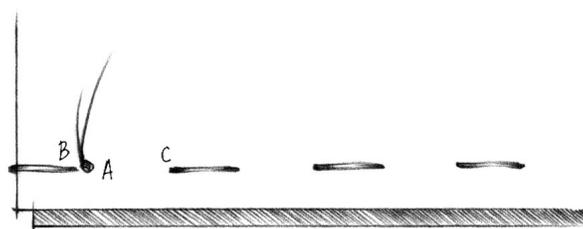
## Stretch Stitch

**Cretan Stitch:** Bring needle up at A, go down at B, and come back up at C, making a downward vertical stitch while bringing needle over thread. Insert needle again at D, and come back up at E, making an upward vertical stitch while bringing needle over thread. Continue to repeat stitch pattern.



## Seams

To start a seam, make a double knot, and insert the needle at point A. Wrap your thread around side of the fabric to the front, insert the needle back in at B, then come up at C, and stitch the seam. Also wrap stitch the end of your seam before knotting off.



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## About Alabama Chanin

Alabama Chanin as a concept and a company began as a DIY enterprise. Workshop programming was a natural outgrowth of the emerging DIY initiative growing around us. Our experiences showed us that face-to-face and hand-to-hand contact helped our customers better understand the what, why, and how of our making processes and the importance of an organic supply chain. And our business continued to grow. DIY offerings expanded, our workshop offerings became more diverse, and our Journal content added additional DIY instruction, stories, and ideas.

Educational programming is one of the fastest growing and most exciting aspects of our business model. So, as the opportunities to educate our team and our customers began to multiply, we realized that we should create a specific home for this knowledge.

To fully embrace our growing model, we have developed an overseeing body that will direct and innovate learning initiatives and educational programs: The School of Making. All of our current and developing educational and training initiatives fall under the umbrella of The School of Making. This arm of the Alabama Chanin Family of Businesses oversees all DIY, Makeshift, and workshop programming, format, and content; it acts as a researching body for new subjects and new ways of disseminating information. Our hope is that The School of Making can be an active voice in our local community, our state, and the making community, at large.

Visit The School of Making:

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