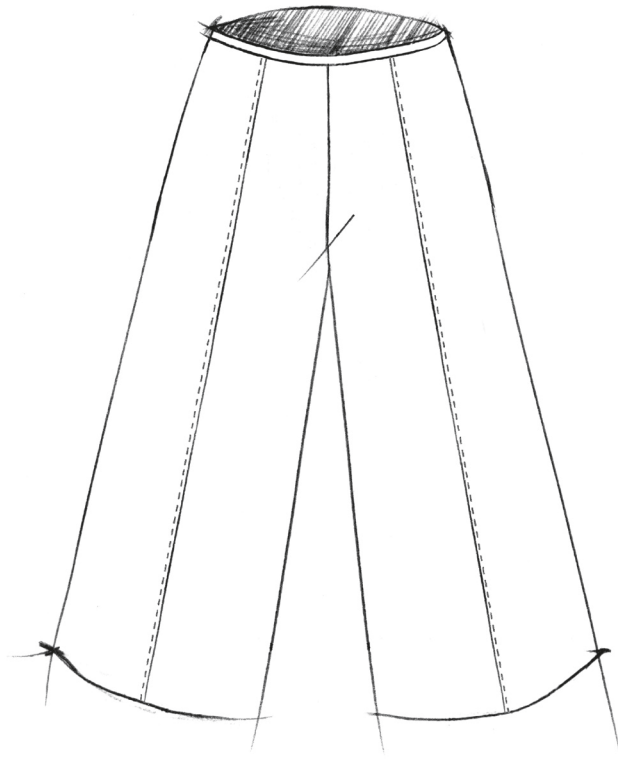




# The School of Making



## THE CROP PANT DIY KIT INSTRUCTIONS

For use with The Crop Pant DIY Kit from The School of Making

## 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 STENCILING AND/OR EMBROIDERY (OPTIONAL)

If you choose to stencil and/or embroider your project, add this to the right side of the cut Crop 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 CENTER FRONT + CENTER BACK PANELS

See page 3 of this document for basic sewing instructions, or reference The School of Making Book Series for more in-depth instruction.

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 4 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. ATTACH SIDE PANELS

Next, pin the center front panel to the side panels—with right sides together and raw edges aligned—and sew the seams. Begin and end each seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure them. Repeat this process with the center back panel. Fell your seams, if desired, towards the sides of your garment down the middle of your seam allowance.

## 6. SEW INSEAM

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. BIND WAISTLINE

Using fold-over elastic and starting at the pant's center-back waistline, encase the waistline's raw edge with the folded elastic, basting the elastic in place as you work. Overlap the elastic's raw edges at the center back by about 1/2" (12mm), and trim off any excess elastic.

To sew the elastic in place permanently, use the stretch stitch of your choice, stitchin through all of the layers down the middle of the elastic.



## 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 books from The School of Making Book Series, shown on page 6.

### LOVE YOUR THREAD

To love your thread, cut a piece twice as long as the distance from your fingers 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 into place, flush with your fabric. Then repeat this process to make a double knot. After making the second knot, cut the thread, leaving 1/2" tail.



## KNOTTING OFF (CONT'D)

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.

### STRETCH + NON-STRETCH STITCHES

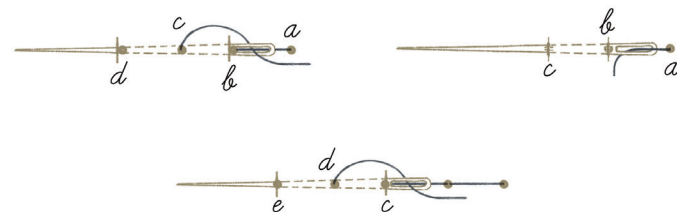
We use three categories of stitches in our work: stitches that do not stretch, for construction, reverse appliqué, and other embellishments; stitches that do stretch, for sewing necklines, armholes, and other areas in a project that require "give"; and stitches that are purely decorative, for embellishment.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

#### NON-STRETCH STITCH

**STRAIGHT (OR RUNNING) STITCH:** Bring needle up at A, go back down at B, and come up at C, making stitches and spaces between them same length (about 1/8" to 1/4" long).

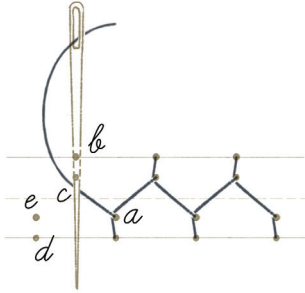


**BACKSTITCH:** Bring needle up at A, go back down at B, and come up at C. Then insert needle just ahead of B, and come up at D. Next insert needle just ahead of C, and come up at E. Continue this overall pattern.



## 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.



ZIGZAG STITCH: Bring needles up at A, go down at B, and come back up at C. Insert needle again at A, and come back up at D. Insert needle again at C, and come back up at E. Continue to repeat stitch pattern.

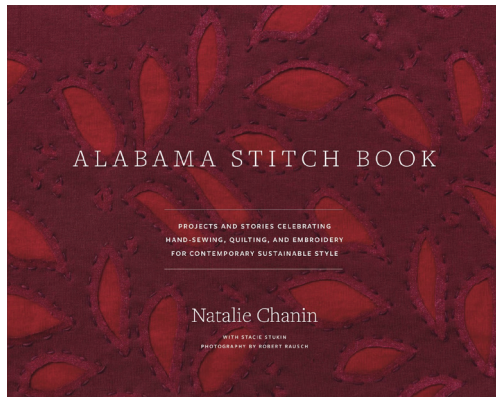


## SEAMS

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.



## THE SCHOOL OF MAKING BOOK SERIES AT A GLANCE



### *Alabama Stitch Book*

*Alabama Stitch Book* is a collection of stitching, beading, and embroidery instructions, stories, and projects from Alabama Chanin. Projects include our best-selling Corset, Swing Skirt, “boa” scarf, bandana, and more.



### *Alabama Studio Style*

*Alabama Studio Style* expands upon the stitching, stenciling, and beading techniques introduced in *Alabama Stitch Book* and introduces twenty new clothing and home decor projects. This book also includes recipes and stories.



### *Alabama Studio Sewing + Design*

An encyclopedic compilation of techniques used to create the Alabama Chanin line of organic cotton clothing. Included are dresses, skirts, tops, and accessories.



### *Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns*

*Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns* explores fit, patternmaking, and how to create a garment to fit your unique shape. It includes three new patterns with several variations as well as previous open-sourced patterns on a disc at the back of the book.



### *The Geometry of Hand-Sewing*

*The Geometry of Hand-Sewing: A Romance in Stitches and Embroidery from Alabama Chanin and The School of Making* by Natalie Chanin is a comprehensive guide to hand-stitching and embroidery. This book focuses solely on the stitches themselves taking embroidery stitches and breaking them down into different geometric grid systems that make learning even seemingly elaborate stitches as easy as child's play.



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## ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF MAKING

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 DIY 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.

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## VISIT THE SCHOOL OF MAKING:

[theschoolofmaking.alabamachanin.com](http://theschoolofmaking.alabamachanin.com)

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