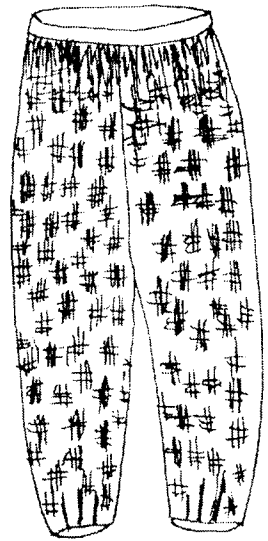


MOMPEI PANTS

Japanese Field Pants

by Chris Jakku

Today, these loose fitting, traditional Japanese pants are often worn by women who work in the agricultural field. Mompei pants were very common during World War 2, and were worn by civilian neighbourhood groups. Typically made of cotton or hemp with indigo kasuri patterns or stripes, these pants are very comfortable and allow freedom of movement. This pattern is modified from a 'Folkwear' pattern of Japanese clothes. It is ideal for narrow widths of handwoven textiles.



Clothing from Narrow Looms

Warp: Cotton 20/2 or 16/2

Weft: Same

Warp sett: 48 epi or 24 epi (yarn doubled) Also double the weft, if the cotton is doubled in the warp.

Width in reed: 14" (35.5 cms)

Warp length: 220" (5.6 metres) plus loom waste. I allow approximately 36" (91.5 cms) for my floor loom.

For smaller sizes, narrow the width and lengthen it for taller sizes.

Thread the loom for plain weave or pattern of your choice. Just remember that twills draw in more than tabby, so allow extra width (or plan a diet!).

Weave four panels of 50" (1.3 metres), and weave an extra 16" (40 cms) for the waist band.

TO MAKE

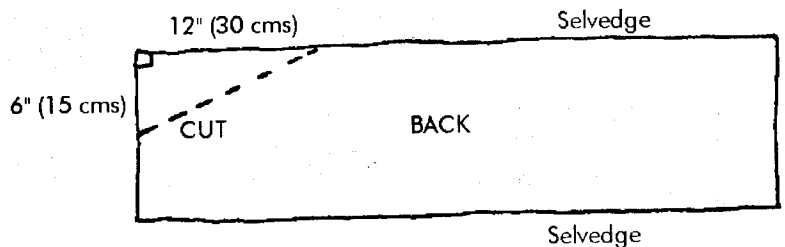


Diagram 1

Cut the fabric into the four panels, two FRONTS and two BACKS.

Place the two BACK panels right sides together and cut the gusset from the inside bottom leg. Don't cut the FRONT panels.

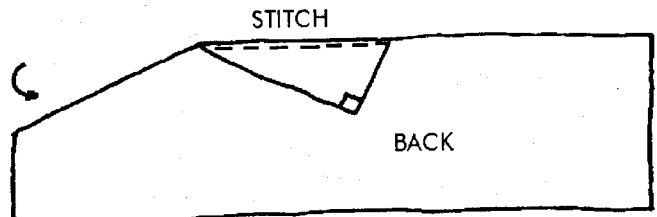


Diagram 2

For each BACK leg, pivot the gusset as shown and with right sides together stitch the inner leg. Zig-zag or overlock to control the cut edge.

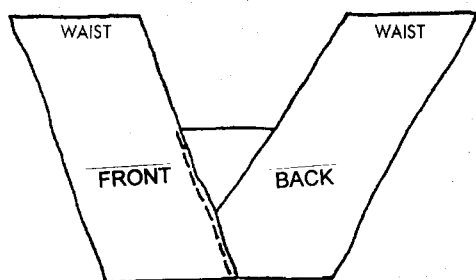


Diagram 3

With right sides together, stitch front leg to back leg.

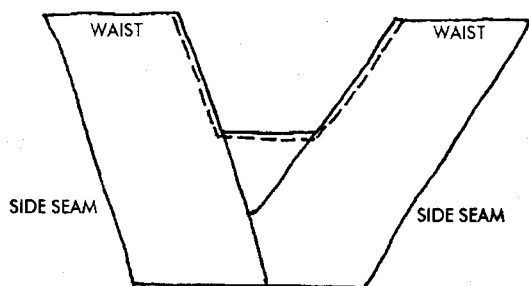


Diagram 4

Stitch crotch line.

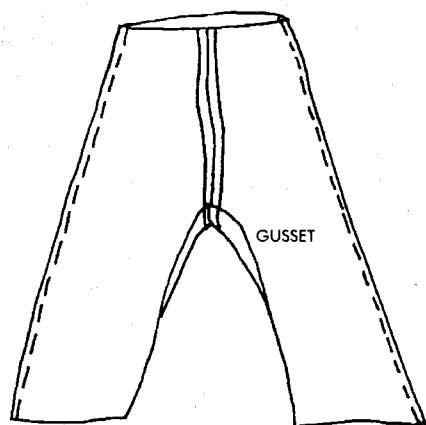


Diagram 5

Side seams are then sewn together. The FRONT piece must be stitched to the BACK at the side seams. Flip construction so that the fronts can be stitched to the backs with the right sides together. This step is simple but tricky until you do it the first time, as the pants have to be flipped to get the side seams together. (I have actually sewn the front panels together, instead of making sure that the front panels are being stitched to the back panels.)

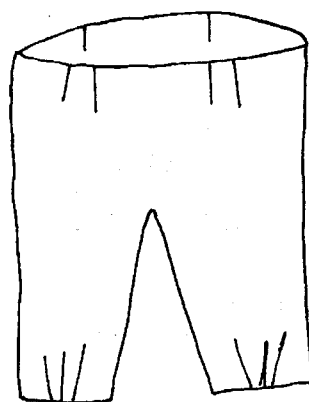


Diagram 6

For further shaping, darts can be put into the back, and I sometimes put pleats into the front, stitched down 5" (12 cms). Sometimes I pleat the front leg panels at the bottom hem lines.

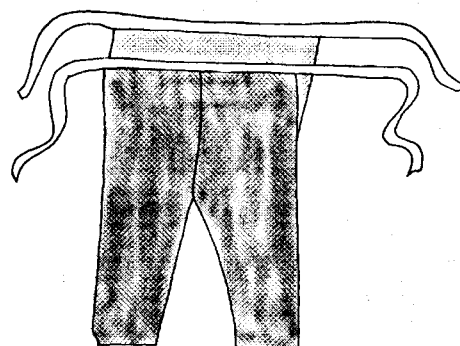


Diagram 7

For the waist casing, cut the 16" (40 cm) fabric in four panels 4" (10 cm) wide. Join these into a long band, and adjust to the length needed. Stitch onto pants as a casing and insert the elastic. For the traditional *mompei* pants, ties were used to fit the waist. More fabric needs to be woven to allow for longer ties so double the waist band allowance to 32" (81 cms). Either way, very comfortable pants are the result. *

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