BOY'S BREECHES

VARIOUS STYLES c.1570-1790 FOR AGES 9-12 YEARS

HEIGHT	134	140	146	152 CMS
WAIST	61	62	63	64 CMS

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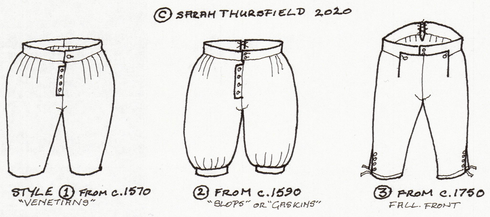

STYLE ① FROM c.1570 "VENETIANS"

② FROM c.1590 "SLOPS" OR "GASKINS"

③ FROM c.1750 FALL FRONT

THREE BASIC TYPES TO USE OR ADAPT. SOME FASHIONABLE SHAPES ARE SHOWN BELOW. BEFORE THE 1660'S BREECHES WORN WITH A DOUBLET. AFTER THAT THEY WERE LESS VISIBLE UNDER THE COAT. FOR MORE DETAILS OF DATEABLE STYLES, CONSULT

JANET ARNOLD, PATTERNS OF FASHION 3, 1560-1620 (MACMILLAN 1985)

NORAH WAUGH, THE CUT OF MEN'S CLOTHES 1600-1900 (FABER 1964)

ANNE BUCK, CLOTHES AND THE CHILD (BERN 1997)

OR CONTACT ME FOR GUIDANCE AND SEWING TUITION.

BREECHES MAY BE PART OF A SUIT OR SINGLE GARMENTS. DEPENDING ON STATUS USE MEDIUM TO LIGHT WOOLLEN, WORSTED, CANVAS, FUSTIAN (MOLESKIN), SILK, OR LIGHT LEATHER (SHEEP OR GOAT). INTERLINE LIGHT FABRICS. LINING CAN BE LINEN, CALICO OR FLANNEL, BUT LINING ISN'T ESSENTIAL.

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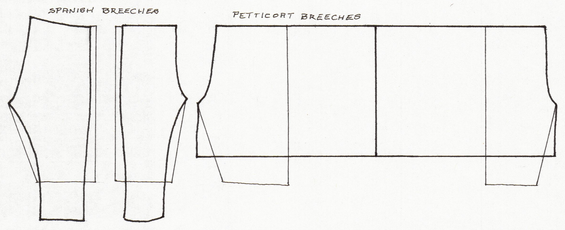
TO ADAPT THE PATTERN

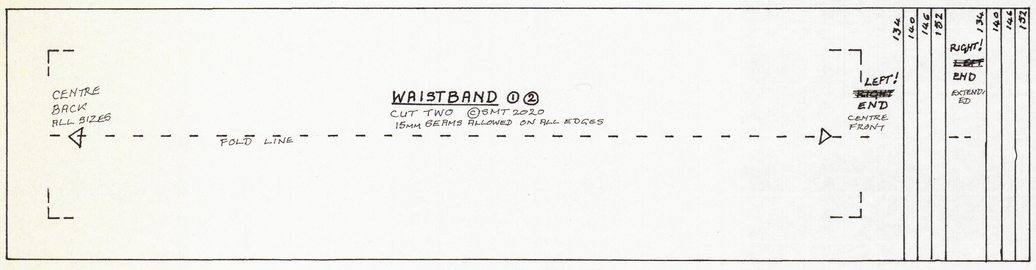
THE WAIST IS ALWAYS HIGH, AND THE CROTCH IS LOW. SO LONG AS YOU KEEP THE CROTCH SEAMS THE SAME (COVER FRONT AND CENTRE BACK) AND ENSURE THAT THE WRIST EDGE IS LONGER THAN THE WAISTBAND, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING TO THE LEGS.

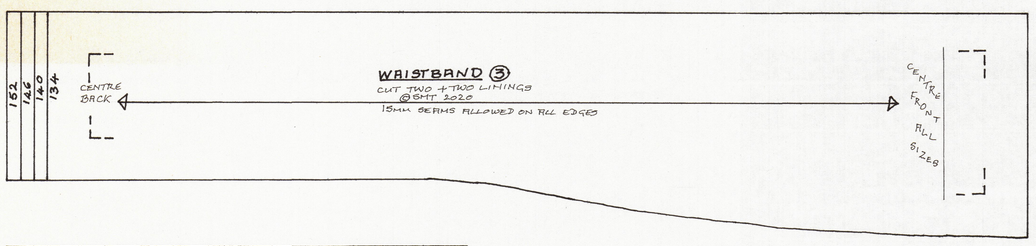
LENGTHEN OR SHORTEN AS REQUIRED, CHECK THE WIDTH OF THE WEARER'S CALF FOR NARROW STYLES.

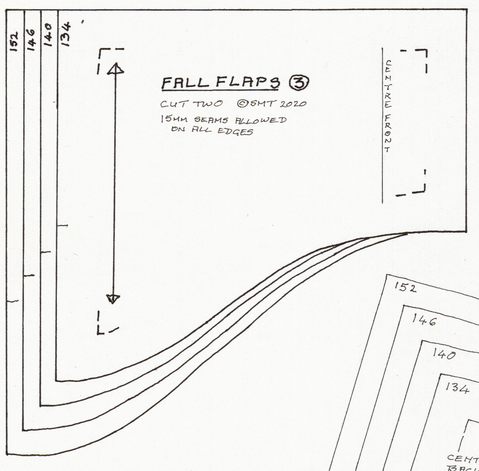
ALL STYLES NORMALLY HAVE A SIDE SEAM. IT'S MORE ECONOMICAL TO CUT OUT, AND ALLOWS FOR POCKETS AND LEG OPENINGS.



DON'T CUT THIS SHEET!
TRACE OFF THE SIZE YOU NEED.

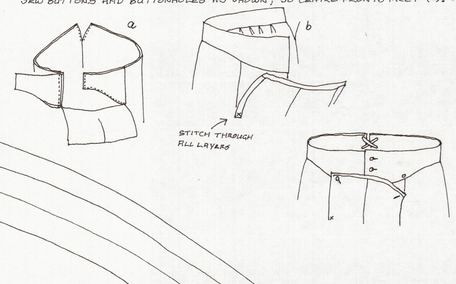






FALL FRONTS

THESE ARE A FEATURE FROM 1750.
CUT THE STYLE③ FRONT, WRISTBAND AND FALL FLAPS IN OUTER FABRIC AND LINING, ALSO THREE BINDING STRIPS IN OUTER FABRIC.
THIS IS BEST WITH AN ADJUSTABLE BACK, SEE "WAISTBANDS" NOTE.
ON BREECHES FRONTS, SLASH FROM WRIST WHERE SHOWN.
WITH RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER SEW FLAPS TO OUTER EDGES OF SLASHES (BELOW). (a)
PRESS. TURN IN EDGES AND SEW ON LININGS. TURN IN BREECHES LINING OVER SEAM.
NB - LINING AND FINISHING OFF THIS SLASH IS FIDDLY! USE YOUR SKILL AND WITS.
SEW WAISTBANDS TO WRIST EDGE OF FLAPS AND BREECHES, PLEATING THE BACK TO FIT.
SEW WAISTBAND LININGS INSIDE, TURNING IN ALL RAW EDGES.
BIND OR FACE THE SHORT EDGES OF THE FALL, THEN BIND THE TOP EDGE. (b)
SEW BUTTONS AND BUTTONHOLES AS SHOWN, SO CENTRE FRONTS MEET (c).



BREECHES BACK

CUT TWO ©SMT 2020
SIDE SEAM TO STRAIGHT GRAIN
15MM SEAMS ALLOWED ON ALL EDGES

TO MAKE ALL STYLES

CHECK BEFORE CUTTING: WRIST SIZE - SEE "GROWTH PROOFING", RIGHT
LENGTH AT OUTSIDE LEG - LENGTHEN OR SHORTEN WHERE SHOWN
LEG SIZE BELOW KNEE - SEE "LEG FINISHING", RIGHT

CUT OUT: ①② BACKS, FRONTS, WAISTBAND, FLY FLAP
(OPTIONAL: KNEEBANDS, POCKETS, BACK + FRONT LINING)
③ BACKS, FRONTS, WAISTBAND + LINING, FALL FLAPS, STRIPS FOR BINDING
(OPTIONAL: KNEEBANDS, POCKETS, BACK + FRONT + FLAP LINING)

LINING: CUT BACKS AND FRONTS THE SAME AS OUTER FABRIC UNLESS:
- THE BREECHES STYLE ② ARE VERY WIDE, WHEN THE LINING CAN BE NARROWER.
- YOU WANT STYLE ① TO "BAG" AT THE KNEE, WHEN THE LINING SHOULD BE 3-5 CM SHORTER.

MAKE UP LINING LIKE OUTER, PUT INSIDE BREECHES MATCHING THE SEAMS. TURN IN RAW EDGES TO FINISH WHERE THEY AREN'T ENCLOSED IN WRIST- OR KNEEBANDS.

WITH POCKETS: WITH RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER (AND CHECKING LEFT AND RIGHT LEGS) STITCH POCKETS TO BACKS AND FRONTS AT SIDE SEAMS, SEE LEFT.
PRESS POCKETS OUTWARD.
PLACE BACKS AND FRONTS TOGETHER,
STITCH OUTSIDE LEG SEAMS ABOVE AND BELOW POCKET OPENING.
STITCH ALL ROUND POCKET BAGS, MEETING SIDE SEAMS. CLIP INTO BACK SEAM ALLOWANCE, SEE LEFT, SO THE POCKET FOLDS TO THE FRONT.
PRESS SEAM OPEN, TACK TOP OF POCKET TO FRONT WAIST EDGE.

WITHOUT POCKETS: STITCH OUTSIDE LEG SEAMS FROM WRIST TO LEG OPENING.

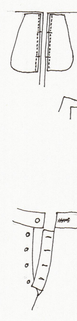
CONTINUE: STITCH INSIDE LEG SEAMS. PRESS SEAMS OPEN.
STITCH LEGS TOGETHER ROUND CROTCH FROM CENTRE BACK WAIST (REF "GROWTH PROOFING" RIGHT) TO MARK AT CENTRE FRONT (①②) OR TO WRIST (③).

FLY FRONT: MAKE UP FLY FLAP, SEE LEFT. STITCH TO CENTRE FRONT EDGE ON WEARER'S ~~RIGHT~~ LEFT (CHECK YOUR REFERENCES!)

FOR FALL FRONT WAISTBAND, SEE TOP.

WAISTBAND: YOU COULD JOIN THIS AT CENTRE BACK AND ATTACH IT AS ONE PIECE, BUT DO READ "GROWTH PROOFING" FIRST.
WITH RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER, PIN WAISTBANDS TO WRIST EDGE OF BREECHES AND LINING. START AT CENTRE BACK, ENSURE THAT EXTENDED END IS ON WEARER'S RIGHT. MATCH CENTRE FRONTS OF BREECHES TO CENTRE FRONTS OF BANDS.
PLEAT BREECHES TO FIT BANDS. TACK AND STITCH.
PRESS BANDS UPWARDS, PRESS IN ALLOWANCES TO INSIDE OF BAND.
FOLD BANDS DOUBLE, STITCH ALL ROUND.
ADD BUTTONS AND BUTTONHOLES.

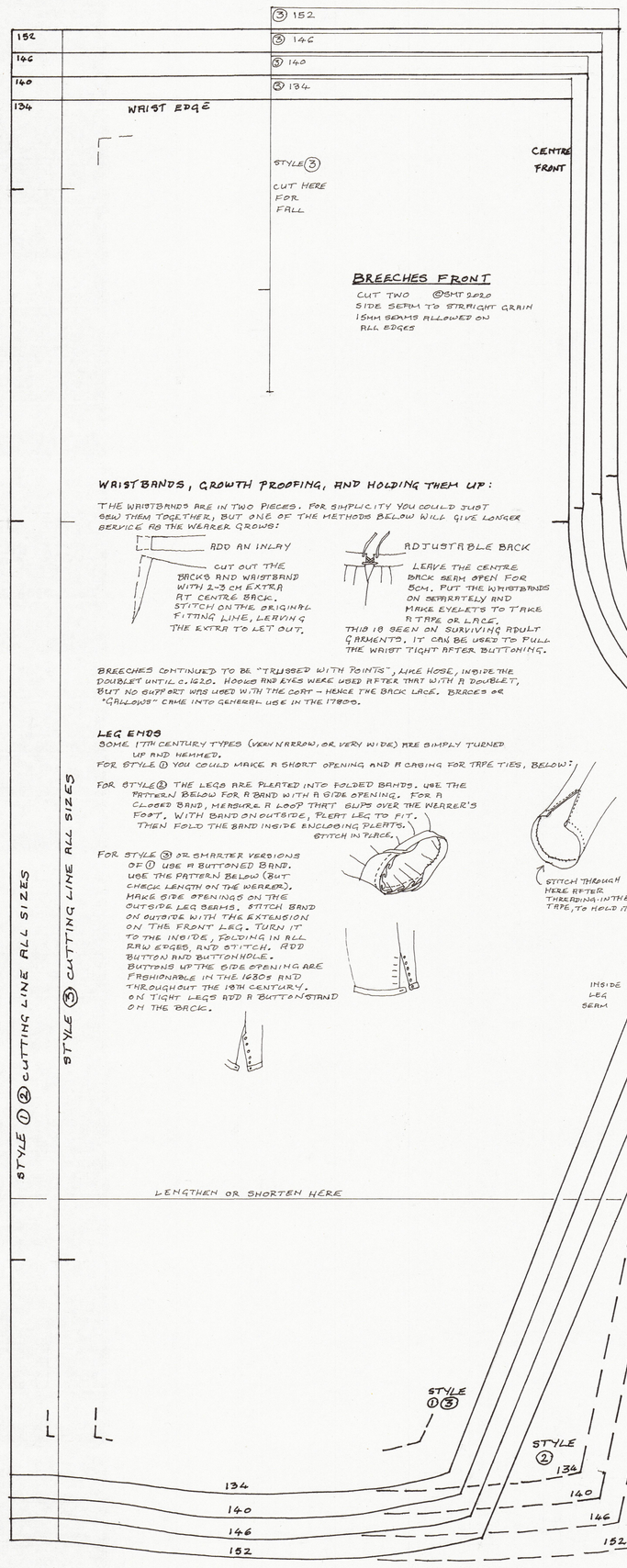
TO FINISH: DEAL WITH LEG ENDS BY THE APPROPRIATE METHOD, RIGHT.







INSIDE LEG SEAM



BREECHES FRONT

CUT TWO ©SMT 2020
SIDE SEAM TO STRAIGHT GRAIN
15MM SEAMS ALLOWED ON ALL EDGES

WRISTBANDS, GROWTH PROOFING, AND HOLDING THEM UP:

THE WRISTBANDS ARE IN TWO PIECES. FOR SIMPLICITY YOU COULD JUST SEW THEM TOGETHER, BUT ONE OF THE METHODS BELOW WILL GIVE LONGER SERVICE AS THE WEARER GROWS:

THIS IS SEEN ON SURVIVING ADULT GARMENTS. IT CAN BE USED TO PULL THE WRIST TIGHT AFTER BUTTONING.

BREECHES CONTINUED TO BE "TRUSSED WITH POINTS", LIKE HOSE, INSIDE THE DOUBLET UNTIL C.1620. HOOKS AND EYES WERE USED AFTER THAT WITH A DOUBLET, BUT NO SUPPORT WAS USED WITH THE COAT - HENCE THE BACK LACE. BRACES OR "GALLOWS" CAME INTO GENERAL USE IN THE 1780S.

LEG ENDS

SOME 17TH CENTURY TYPES (VERY NARROW, OR VERY WIDE) ARE SIMPLY TURNED UP AND HEMMED.

FOR STYLE ① YOU COULD MAKE A SHORT OPENING AND A CASING FOR TAPE TIES, BELOW:

FOR STYLE ② THE LEGS ARE PLEATED INTO FOLDED BANDS. USE THE PATTERN BELOW FOR A BAND WITH A SIDE OPENING. FOR A CLOSED BAND, MEASURE A LOOP THAT SLIPS OVER THE WEARER'S FOOT. WITH BAND ON OUTSIDE, PLEAT LEG TO FIT. THEN FOLD THE BAND INSIDE ENCLOSING PLEATS. STITCH IN PLACE.

FOR STYLE ③ OR SMARTER VERSIONS OF ① USE A BUTTONED BAND. USE THE PATTERN BELOW (BUT CHECK LENGTH ON THE WEARER). MAKE SIDE OPENINGS ON THE OUTSIDE LEG SEAMS. STITCH BAND ON OUTSIDE WITH THE EXTENSION ON THE FRONT LEG. TURN IT TO THE INSIDE, FOLDING IN ALL RAW EDGES, AND STITCH. ADD BUTTON AND BUTTONHOLE.
BUTTONS UP THE SIDE OPENING ARE FASHIONABLE IN THE 1820S AND THROUGHOUT THE 19TH CENTURY.
ON TIGHT LEGS ADD A BUTTON STAND ON THE BACK.

INSIDE LEG SEAM

