

HAKAMA CONSTRUCTION | PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

This pattern is designed to create a full-leg, divided skirt hakama. Using these instructions as a base, you can make various styles of Japanese pants with a few alterations.

Measurements Needed:

- Waist - Measure where you intend to have your waistband rest on your torso. Depending on the time period and if you are male or female will affect where you wish to have your hakama rest on your body.
- Outerseam – This is from your determined waistline to the floor, without shoes.
- Inseam – This is from the floor to the crotch line, without shoes. Make sure this is at a comfortable place for you!

PATTERN DIMENSIONS

Use the above measurements with the equations below to find your pattern dimensions. To simplify your numbers, you may wish to round any fractions before continuing. Included in the equation is a seam allowance of 5/8 inch. If you prefer to work with a different seam allowance, please make sure to edit the equation before continuing.

Front Tie

Length = waist x 2 + 20in + 1.25in (seam allowance)

Width = 4 + 1.25in (seam allowance)



Back Tie

Length = waist + 20in + 1.25in (seam allowance)

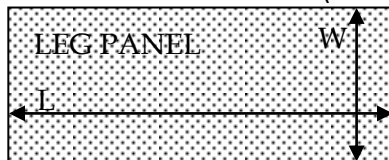
Width = 4 + 1.25in (seam allowance)



Leg Panel (Front & Back)

Length = outerseam + 2in + 0.625in (seam allowance)

Width = waist ÷ 2 + 1.25in (seam allowance)



Inseam Panel

Length = inseam + 2in + 0.625 (seam allowance)

Width = waist ÷ 4 + 1.25in (seam allowance)



DRAFT LAYOUT

It's best to sketch your pattern layout on paper before marking your fabric. You may also want to create a set of paper pattern pieces, depending on how comfortable you are with working on fabric. Drawing your layout will also help determine how much material your custom pattern will use. Stripes and simple plaids are common in Japanese garments. If you intend to use a fabric with a print, keep in mind that you may need extra material in order to layout your pattern pieces so that the print lines-up correctly. Also consider, when working with a print, what direction you want the print to go on your finished garment. What you choose, will determine how to layout your pattern pieces on the fabric. Just remember to go with the fabric grain and not the bias.

Recommending Fabrics:

Linen, Hemp or other plant fibers (common for all social classes)

Silk (common for wealthy social classes)

Wool & Cotton (available to wealthy social classes during the Nanban Trade Period, beginning in 1543)

Fabric Width

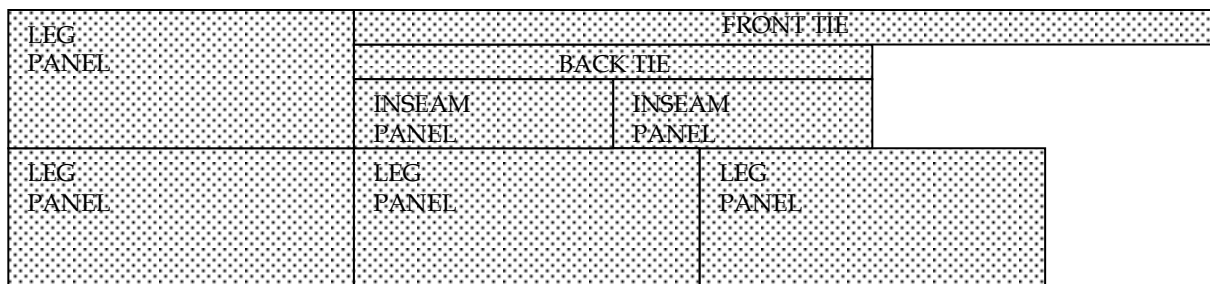
Most commercial fabric is substantially wider than period Japanese fabrics. Looms during this time produced fabrics averaging between 14 and 18 inches wide. The narrow fabric width gives some insight into the way that kosode are pieced together. Most modern fabrics vary between 45 and 60 inches wide. The dimensions of your pattern pieces will achieve the same look, as if using a narrow fabric, but in reality you will most likely use a material that falls in the 45 to 60 inch wide category. The goal of your draft layout is to use the width of your fabric with as little waste as possible.

LAYOUT

Your pattern layout should include:

- 4 - Leg Panels
- 2 - Inseam Panels
- 1 - Front Tie
- 1 - Back Tie

Below is an example of what your draft layout may look like...



**If you want to conserve on material, consider breaking your waist ties into smaller pattern pieces. Just remember to add seam allowance to each piece, in order to sew them together and still end with the correct intending length.*

Once your draft layout is complete, mark your fabric accordingly and cut out your pieces.

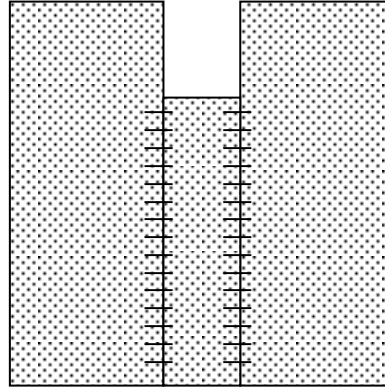
**If you have material that can be ripped on the grain, you may speed up this process by simply ripping the material instead of cutting. I do not suggest using this technique unless you are familiar with ripping material and are sure that the fabric you are working with is indeed capable of being ripped on the grain.*

LET'S SEW!

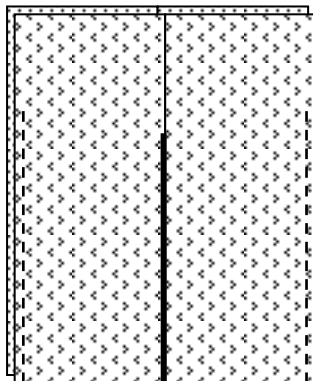
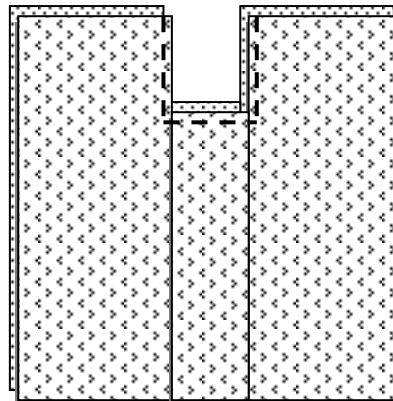
**Optional – Prep all pieces by finishing any raw edges with a zigzag stitch or serger machine.*

Making Pant Legs

With right sides together, sew leg panel to inseam panel. Then take the second leg panel and sew it to the other side of inseam panel. Press seams towards center inseam panel. Repeat these steps with the remainder of the leg panels and inseam panel. You will have two pieces that will look similar to the image below.



Next lay the two pant legs on top of each other, with right sides together. Pin and sew along the crotch line. It is optional to soften the sharp corners by curving your stitch around the corners where your inseam and leg panels meet.



Turn pants so that side seams align, with right sides together. Pin and sew side seams together, stopping at the point where the side openings of hakama begin.

**This opening may be different depending on the individual's preference. No matter how deep or shallow you wish to have this opening, make sure that it is long enough to allow for it to fold down in the back, past your buttocks. It will be difficult to use the washroom otherwise. A good general rule to find this number is to measure 1/3 down your outerseam measurement.*

DETERMINE PLEATS

Decide on the amount of pleats you wish to have in the front of your hakama, and the back of your hakama. For example, I will use 6 in the front and 2 in the back. The front width of your pant should equal your waist measurement + seam allowance. Use that measurement and subtract 1/2 of your waist measurement. This gives us the amount of fabric width that needs to be eased into your pleats. Now take that number and divide by the number of pleats. This will give us the width/depth of each pleat. You will then need to determine the spacing between each pleat. 1 ½ to 2 inches apart is a good basis to begin with and you can decide if that is aesthetically pleasing for the pant size from there.

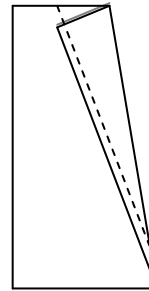
With your pant turned right-side-out, mark the placement of your pleats and side folds. For the side folds, mark 3 inches from edge of side seam.

**Aesthetically, hakama lay and look best when you over lap the two center pleats at the crotch seam on both front and back of pant.*

Once your pleats have been marked, pin them in place and use a baste stitch to sew them together.

Side Openings

Finish your side openings by folding back corners 3 inches at an angle, then tuck under raw edges. This will create a finished edge, that is a 1 ½ wide hem near the top of the waistline. For best appearance, use a hidden stitch to sew in place or top stitch along the entire fold.



Add Ties

Once your side folds and pleats have been basted in place, both front and back, sew on your front and back ties. Press your seam allowance towards the wrong side of fabric along the long sides of both tie pieces. With ties open and right sides together, sew on ties by matching center of ties to the center seams of pant (front and back). Once ties are sewed to front and back waistline, fold ties in half with wrong sides together and stitch ties closed.

Hem

2 inches is allotted for hemming your hakama, but it is best to determine your hem length while wearing the garment. For best appearance, use a blind stitch (by hand or by machine) to sew your hem.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these instructions, you can contact me via email at yamamura.kitsune@gmail.com

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