

Sewing Instructions - Billa's Pants

By Sonia Scott

These fall front pants are tailored in traditional Federal or Regency Era style for a man of great stature and volume. If you are recreating these pants for display no alterations to the pattern are needed, but a suitably rotund mannequin will be needed to fill them out properly. If you are creating them for a modern interpreter, please adjust the pieces using measurements from the intended wearer. A grid method can be used for the initial scaling, and a full muslin mock up is necessary for an accurate fit. Instructions for both scaling a pattern using a grid system and creating a muslin mock up are readily available on the internet. Once you have your pattern pieces sorted out assembly can begin. Be careful to pay attention to grainlines patterns in your facing fabric, and mirrored pieces. This garment should use 100% linen lining fabric to reinforce structural elements. If you choose to use a different type of fabric add a stiff interfacing to the waistband, fall front, and cuff reinforcements. All seams should be completed using a running back stitch unless otherwise stated.

1. Begin by basting linings onto their corresponding facing fabric pieces.
2. Sew G from G2 to G4, leave a gap in this seam between G7 and G8 for the center button hole.
3. Sew the front rise of A, from A4 to A5, leaving an identical gap between A11 and A12 for the center button hole.
4. Open pieces A and G and iron the center seams flat. Then matching right side to right side align the center seams so that the button hole gaps match up. Sew between G6-A6 on the right to G6-A6 on the left.
5. Open and match button hole gaps with the wrong sides facing each other, iron this seam.
6. Fold each side, G1-G3, toward the center of the fall front and iron. Fold the raw edge of G1-G3 under and iron. At G3 snip the fabric about 3cm along G1-G3 folding the raw edge and the folded edge in to create a small triangle at the bottom of the fall front, iron and then top stitch around all the edges as seen in the images.
7. Unbaste modesty panels, piece B.
8. Match the right side of B facing fabric to the right side of A facing fabric at points B2 to A8 and B3 to A7. Align B lining in the same manner. Sew through all 4 layers.
9. Open seam on both the right and wrong side and iron flat. Fold raw edges in and top stitch leaving B1 to B2 unsewn.
10. Sew C from C3 to C4, matching right sides of facing fabric together.
11. Match wrong side C1 to right side A1, sew A1C1 to A9C3 and A1C1 ~15cm toward C4 and A2. Snip seam allowance at point A10, turn inside out and iron flat.
12. Fold the front pocket flap open and pin in place, then match C1 on the inner side of the pocket with the right side I7 continuing to I6 matching A2. I1 to I5 appears to be extra fabric included in case the pants needed to be let out.
13. Open seam and iron flat.

14. Unbaste piece E and match right sides E3 with B1, match lining in a similar fashion, and sew through B2A8, A9C2, C1I7, and match E4 with I2. Leaving a gap in the lining on one side for the watch pocket.
15. Place the watch pocket welt on the right side of waistband E as seen in the images. Using tailor's chalk or other medium, mark the opening for the watch pocket, the size can vary as long as it is covered sufficiently by the welt. Cut opening on facing fabric only, the rest of the pocket should fall through the gap left in the lining of the waistband as seen in the images.
16. Take D and place it on the top half of the hole you have just cut, sew between D1 and D2. There should be a significant amount of extra fabric left on either side. Repeat this step with the lower half of the hole adding a piece H right side to right side of the facing fabric between the facing fabric and the pocket lining.. Push pieces D into the hole and sew D together leaving a large seam allowance.
17. On the right side fold in the sides and top of both H pieces, top stitch the sides onto the facing fabric of the waistband, and the upper sides of H to each other. Turn the pocket inside out and tuck the raw edge of H in and stitch in place as seen in the images.
18. On one side of the center back sew piece F, matching F1 or F3 to E5. Bring the other side over and match the other E5 to the remaining F point. Continue this seam from E5F through I2 to match both I3 points. Iron both seams flat.
19. Sew front and back pants together matching A3 to I4, passing through the junction of A4 and I3, continuing to A3 and I4 on the other leg. Iron this seam flat.
20. At the cuff, sew piece J matching J1 to A2 and J3 to I6. Iron seam flat
21. Fold seam allowance in toward the center of J and iron flat. Finally fold J up, tucking the raw edge from J2 to J4 under and whip stitch all three sides in place.
22. Back up at the waistband, tuck all raw edges in and top stitch, for the top of piece F sew a 1cm hem.
23. Finishing touches: Almost the entire top of these pants have been top stitched along the edges. Button holes should be added to the fall front, modesty panels, side pockets, and the waistband as seen in the images. Additional buttons appear on the waistband to attach braces or suspenders, depending on the intended wearer; these buttons should be placed so that the braces and pants fit comfortably. These buttons should also be heavily reinforced as we see in the images as they are perhaps the weakest part of the garment and tend to pop off at inconvenient times.