

Tapering legs on pants can be done easily and effectively by tapering the inseams and side seams equally so the pant legs will fall straight. Because of

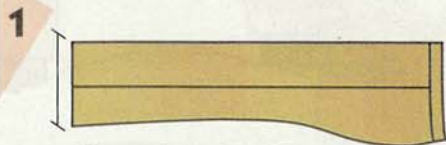
tapering off

By MARY ROEHR

the double row of side seam topstitching, this isn't a suitable alteration for jeans; for pants with a single row of topstitching on the side seams, you'll have to decide whether you want to spend the extra time to remove the topstitching and restitch it.

INSTRUCTIONS

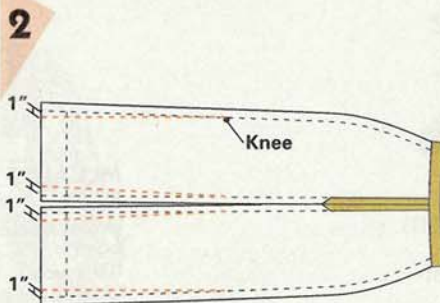
- To determine the amount to decrease each seam:
- Measure the lower edge width of the pants to be altered. Determine the new pant width by measuring the lower edge width of a pair of pants you like. For an accurate measurement, lay the leg flat and measure from crease to crease (Figure 1). If the pants aren't creased, match the inseams and side seams and measure across them as if they had creases. *Note:* This measurement is the diameter, or half of the circumference.



Measure lower leg width from crease to crease.

- Subtract the new width from the old width and divide this amount by two. For example, if your old width is 11" and the new width is 9", the difference is 2"; 2" divided by 2 is 1".
- To remove the determined amount from each inseam and side seam:
- Remove the hems and turn the pants wrong side out.
- Measure in the desired amount from the original inseams and side seams at each leg lower edge. Draw a line from these

points to the knees, tapering to nothing just above the knees; stitch along the lines (Figure 2).



Measure in desired amount from inseam and side seam; stitch, tapering to nothing at knees.

Trim off the excess seam allowances and press the seams the same way they were pressed originally. Resew the hems. *Note:* For lined pants, taper the lining the same amount as the pants. If the side seams were topstitched, taper the side seams first. Rip open the inseams and lay the pants flat so you can easily reapply the topstitching to the side seams, then taper the inseams.

Note: If you sew for profit, the price range for this alteration would be between \$12 and \$17.50. Add \$5 if the pants are lined or topstitched.

RESOURCE

"Altering Men's Ready-to-Wear" (\$20.45, postpaid) and "Altering Women's Ready-to-Wear" (\$22.45, postpaid) (if ordering both books, \$33.50, postpaid), by Mary Roehr, are available from Mary Roehr Books & Video, Dept. SN, 500 Saddlerock Circle, Sedona, AZ 86336, phone (520) 282-4971. Write or call for ordering information.