

HOW TO ADD AN ADJUSTABLE WAISTBAND

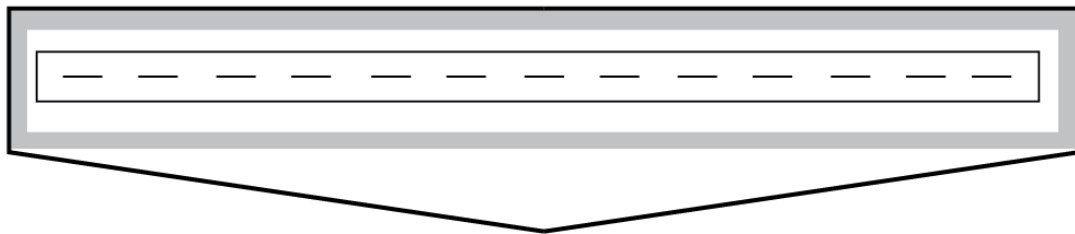
Adding a button elastic to a skirt or pants can extend the lifetime of your handmade garment. So I'm a big fan of adjustable waistbands. With this small tutorial you should be able to add one to any skirt or pants.

When you feel like adding button elastic you have to do this to the facing back waistband of your skirt / pants. This way you don't see that the waistband is adjustable on outside of your finished garment.

Add the button elastic before you add the facing back waistband to the rest of your skirt / pants.

Put the facing back waistband on your table. We'll try to add a button elastic that is as long as possible. I made a small drawing to show you.

First keep in mind that we need to keep 1cm (3/8 inch) seam allowance = grey zone. Cut the elastic exactly between two buttonholes. Do this on both sides. Make the elastic as long as possible. Now place the elastic perfectly in the middle of the waistband. Pin together.



We'll have to make two buttonholes in the waistband to keep the elastic in place. I'll explain the left one. We'll do it where I drew the black line. That's perfectly in between the first and second buttonhole of the elastic. Mark this line on your fabric with some tailor's chalk. Also mark the top and bottom of the waistband onto your fabric. This is where we'll make the button whole.



A small hint: if you open up the buttonhole, you can add some pins so be sure not to cut to far!

Repeat this step at the right hand side of the waistband. Pull the elastic through when finished.



Fold the end of the elastic inwards and stitch it flat on top of the waistband. Make sure not to pull the elastic in this phase.

Add two buttons (diameter = width of elastic) before you add the waistband to your finished garment (I forgot to take this picture, so did it afterwards).

To add the button easily, pull the elastic to the side that you're sewing.



Finished!