

Instructions for sewing Hakama (Samurai Pants)

<http://luxnova.home.mindspring.com/samuraigame/hakama.html>

This pattern is for umanori-bakama which are "horse-riding" hakama and divided into pants. Andon-bakama is similar but lacks a division for the legs and is just a skirt.

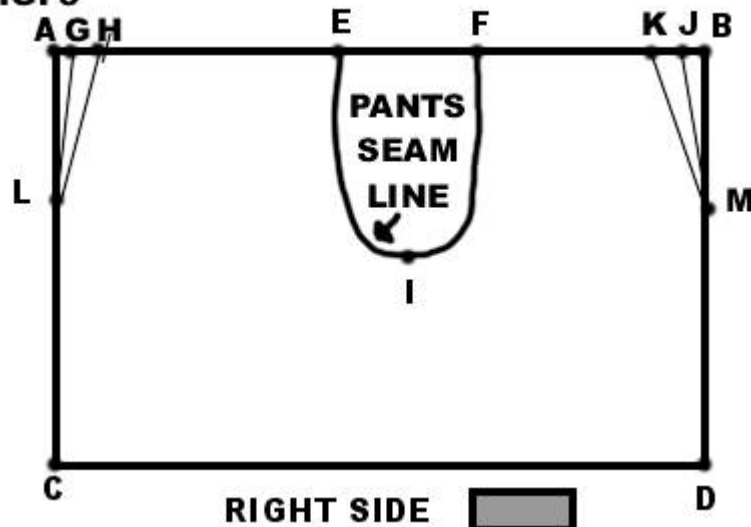
I've constructed the following pattern based on other patterns. The purpose of this pattern is simplicity in cutting the pattern with the least complexity in sewing and minimal use of fabric. But if you are serious about sewing a hakama I would highly recommend Folkwear's Hakama 151 pattern (www.folkwear.com).

1. Size yourself:

- back-to-floor measurement: measure from the small of your back (basically your waist area) to the floor
- waist measurement

2. The width of your fabric needs to be equal to : your back-to-floor measurement minus about 2 inches (if you are conservative you can wait to trim the 2 inches after you've finished the hakama so you can determine exactly how close to the floor you want it to hang). If your fabric is short by just 1 or 2 inches, this is still Ok: your hakama will be a bit above ankle level.

FIG. 3



3. Layout your fabric, doubling it and cut away any folds. Right sides should be together. Layout the pattern using pins and making the following adjustments:

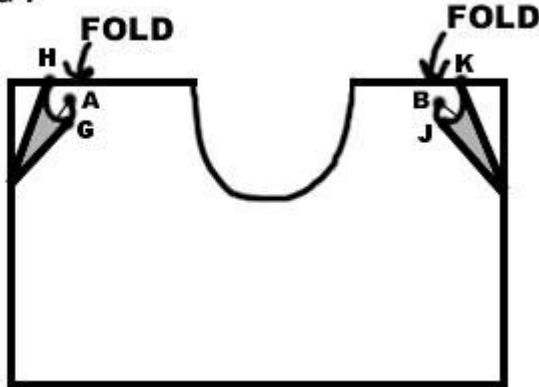
- AB and CD= your waist measurement * 2
- AC and BD = your back-to-floor measurement - 2 inches
- AE = 4/9ths of the AB measurement
- EF = 2/9ths of the AB measurement
- FB = 3/9th s of the AB measurement
- I= 1/2 way between A and C and 1/2 way between E and F
- AG= 2 "
- GH=2"
- BJ=2.5"
- JK=2.5"
- AL = 1/3rd of the way down
- BM= 1/3rd of the way down

Section AE will be the front of the hakama, and FB the back.

4. Cut the section from E to I to F. Save the scraps.

5. Now sew a 1/2 seam from E-I-F

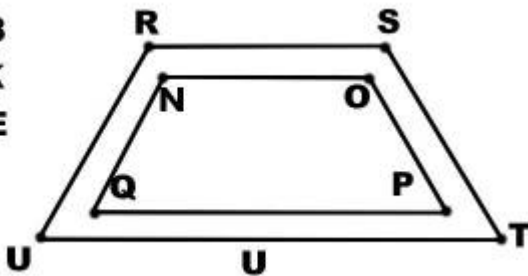
FIG. 6 & 7



6. With wrong side of the material facing you, fold in Points GL with a slight curve. Fold one more time along HL, again with a slight curve. Now sew about from point H to L about 1/4" from edge to keep the fold. Now flip the hakama over and perform this on the other side.

7. With wrong side of the material facing you, fold in Points JM (no curve). Fold one more time along KM. Now sew about from point K to M about 1/4" from edge to keep the fold. Now flip the hakama over and perform this on the other side.

**FIG. 8
BACK
PIECE**



8. Create the back piece:

Interfacing: you need the back piece to be stiff, so cut 4 pieces of iron on interfacing with the following measurements:

Divide your waist measurement by 10

NO= 2/10th your waist measurement

QP= 3/10ths

height should be 1/10ths

Sew or iron the layers together. If you do not have iron-on-interfacing which is usually for light to medium weight fabrics you can substitute any of the following:

- 1) 2 layers of sew-on-interfacing for heavier fabrics (this is sold on bolts - you will need to have 1/4 of a yard cut for you)
- 2) 1 layer of buckram (material used for making hats)
- 3) 1 layer of canvas
- 4) 3 or 4 layers of your hakama fabric

9. Cut the casing for the back piece:

Cut two pieces from your hakama fabric that are identical in shape the interfacing piece, but one inch longer on each side.

10. with right sides together, sew from point U to R to S to T, leaving UT open. Now turn inside out and press. Tuck the interfacing piece into the casing.

11. Cut two belts: You now need to cut 2 belts with the following measurements:

Width of both belts: $\frac{4}{30}$ th of your waist measurement

Back Belt: length is 2 times your waist measurement

Front Belt: length is 4 times your waist measurement

You can piece fabric together to create these lengths, rather than cutting it straight without seams - that's what I do.

FIG. 12a FOLD IN HALF TO CREATE CENTER FOLD



FIG. 12b CENTER FOLD FROM 12a

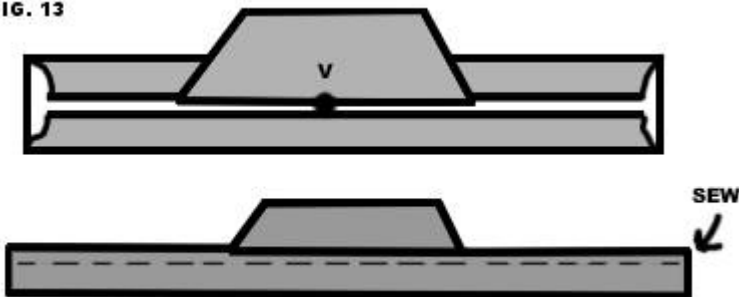


FOLD EACH SIDE TOWARD CENTER FOLD

12b) Now unfold. Using the center fold you created in step 12a as a guide, fold each side in to meet at the center fold (the two sides should meet but not cross each other). Press.

12b. Perform the following on both the back and front belt: Unfold the belt and now fold each lengthwise side in towards the center fold you had created.

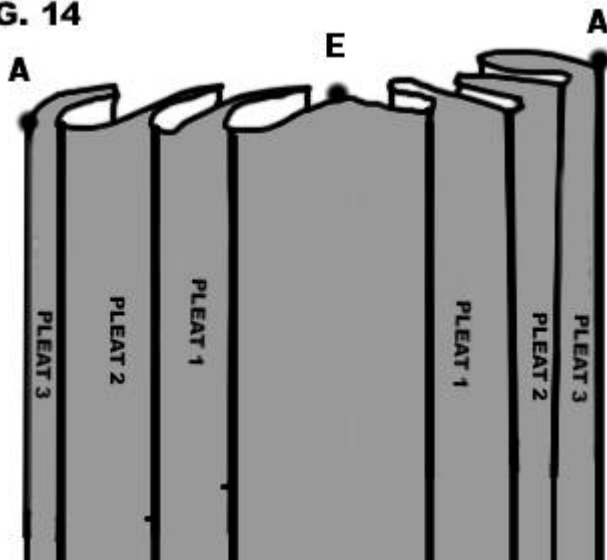
FIG. 13



13. Take the back belt with the folded in sides facing you, and find the center in both width and length. Lay the back-piece against the center line, matching the center of the back piece (point V) with the center of the belt. Fold the belt up so it sandwiches the back-piece. From the center sew about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the open edges of the folded belt in order to seal the belt together - sew to the end, and at the end of the belt tuck the ends inside so the raw edge is hidden. Go back to the center and sew down the other length of the belt.

12. 12a) Perform the following on both the back and front belt. Fold the belt in half the long way, with wrong sides folded inward. Press. This is to create the center fold.

FIG. 14



14. Pleating the front: Lay out the hakama with **WRONG** side down, right side up, and so that the pants seam from EIF is laid out straight. In front of you should be the center point E, with points A and A on either side. See picture. We are going to create the folds that will hang down in the front of the hakama. (Note, I'm pleating "under", so that folds pleat under the last pleat made when moving from the center outwards. But this might not be natural for some, so you can flip your hakama so the wrong side is facing you and pleat with each fold overlapping the last fold from the center out).

First, figure out what 40% of your waist measurement is. Layout a ruler: when you are working the folds, you want the total width of the front piece of the hakama to fit within this measurement (40% of your waist measurement). Now, bring in the fabric on either side of point E

to form 1 pleat in the center along E, and **UNDER** this pleat, two more pleats on either side of it. Each pleat goes under the next. Use your 40% of waist measurement to work the pleats out. Once you're done, press the pleats, and then sew across the top to hold the pleats.

FIG. 14b

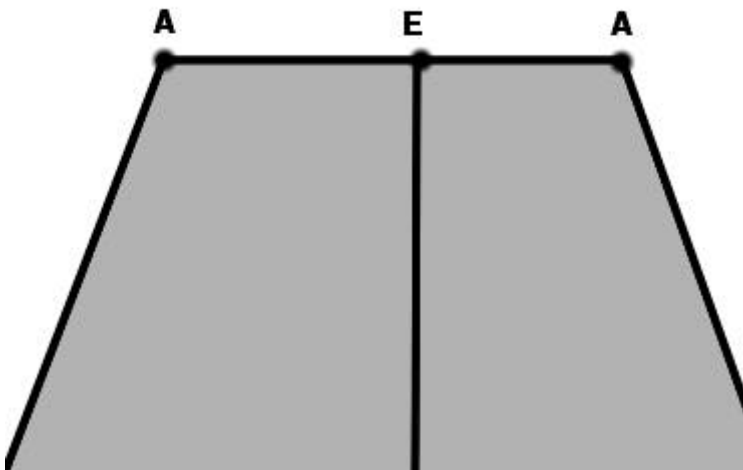
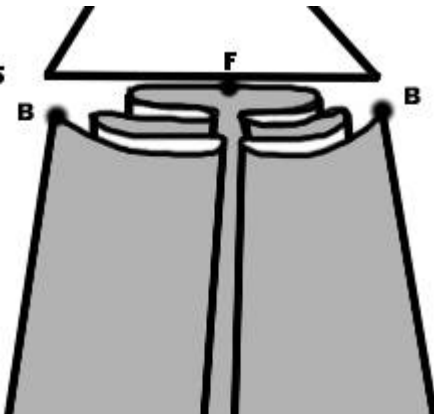


FIG. 15

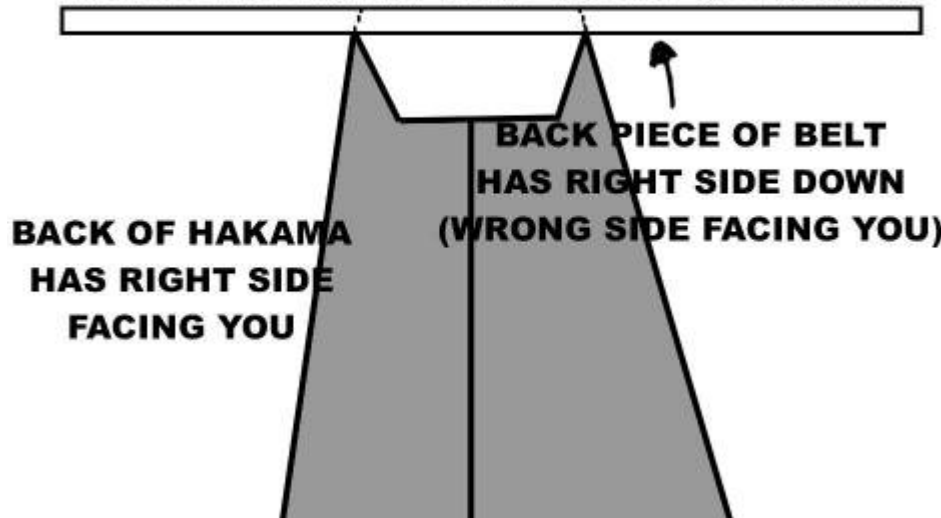


15. Now we're going to pleat the backside. Again, layout the hakama, **WRONG** side down, right side up, with the center point F in front of you, and points B on either side.

Instead of using 40% of your waist measurement as the width, you are going to use the bottom of the back-piece (not counting the belt which extends on either side) to size it. Instead of 3 pleats you will have 2, and instead of tucking each pleat underneath, the pleats will go on top of the last pleat. Bring the 2nd and last pleat on each side over and on top of the first pleat, so that the pleats meet in the center (the first pleat will be hidden by the 2nd).

Again, sew across the top to hold the pleats.

FIG. 16
MATCH BOTTOM OF BELT TO TOP OF HAKAMA



16. You will now sew the back-piece with belt (back in step 9 you sewed the back-belt to the back-piece) to the back side of the hakama. Lay the back side of your hakama down with the wrong side facing up at you. Take the back-piece/back-belt and lay it upside on the hakama, with the right side facing the hakama, wrong side facing you. Align the bottom of the belt with the top of the hakama. Sew together. Now, when you flip the back-piece/back-belt up the seam will be on the inside of the hakama.

17. Sew the front belt to the front: In step 12a and 12b you created folds. Lay the front belt out, with the wrong side up and the two folds pressed in towards the center fold, exactly as seen in figure 12b. Identify the center of the belt (center of it's longest length) and then identify the center of the hakama front's top. Lay the front top of the hakama on the belt, aligning the front's top to the center fold, and ensuring that the belt is evenly placed so that equal amounts extend on either side of the hakama front. See figure

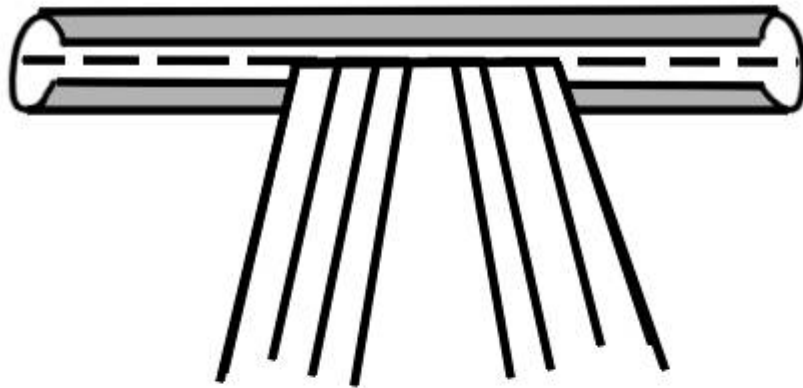


FIG. 17

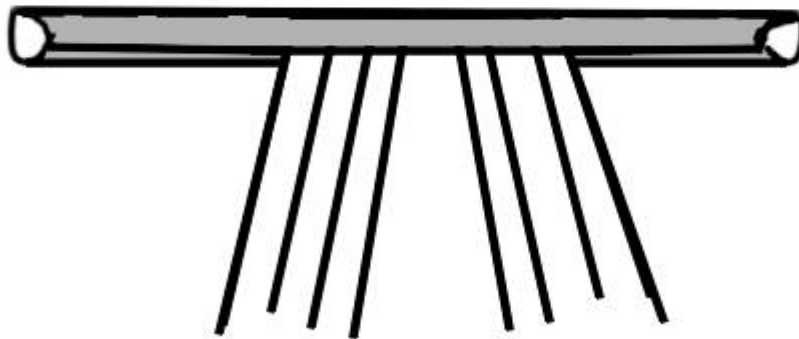


FIG. 17b

**TUCK ENDS
INSIDE**

17.

17b. Now fold the belt down on that center line so that the belt is encasing the hakama. See figure 17b. Sew from one end of the belt bottom to the other end. This will close up the belt and sew it to the hakama at the same time. Make sure to tuck in the far ends of the belt so that fabric edges aren't exposed and sew up those ends as well.

18. Sew the sides together matching point L to point M and point C to point D, then sewing down from point L/M to point C/D. This creates the seam along your outer thigh, creating the first leg of the Hakama. Repeat on the other side.

19. Hem the bottom of the hakama. The edge of the hakama should be around or above your ankle. See instructions on the website on how to wear the hakama.