



Easy Waistband Casings — Elastic and Drawstrings

12.150

Page 1

A casing is a fabric tunnel through which elastic or a drawstring can be threaded to pull in or draw up the fabric. Casings can be used at sleeves and pant hems as well as for garment waistbands. The most common use of casings is for waistbands on pull-on pants and skirts, pajamas and exercise pants/shorts. This treatment is best-suited for straight edges.

The basic construction of the casing is the same whether you're inserting elastic or a drawstring. The difference is that a drawstring must exit the casing so the ends can be tied. This is usually made possible with two buttonholes located at the garment center front.

A casing should 1/4" wider than the elastic (or drawstring) so the elastic or drawstring can move easily through the tunnel, but not so loose that it twists easily.

Fold-Down Casing for Elastic

Before making the casing, try on the garment to establish correct fit. Mark the desired folded edge of the casing. Then measure to see if there is adequate fabric to make the casing. If an inadequate amount of fabric remains, an applied casing must be added. For more information on adjusting fold-down casings or adding an applied casing, see Guidelines 11.125 and 11.226.

On the garment front and back, mark the casing foldline and stitching line provided on the pattern.

After stitching the garment fronts and backs together and finishing the seams, fold down the casing cut edge 1/4" and press.

Fold the casing allowance to the wrong side along the casing foldline and press in place (1); pin.



Stitch the casing lower edge beginning approximately 1" from the center-back seam. Stitch completely around the garment ending 1" before the center-back seam.

Stitch along the casing upper edge, about 1/8" from the fold.

Pin one end of the elastic to the garment seamline, and put a safety pin in the other end, or thread it through a bodkin (2).



Thread the elastic through the tunnel, adjusting the fullness of the waist as you go.

Overlap the elastic's ends 1/2" and sew them together (3).



Easy Waistband Casings—Elastic and Drawstrings

12.150

Page 2

Work the last of the elastic into the casing; stitch the casing closed (4).

Fold-Down Casing for a Drawstring

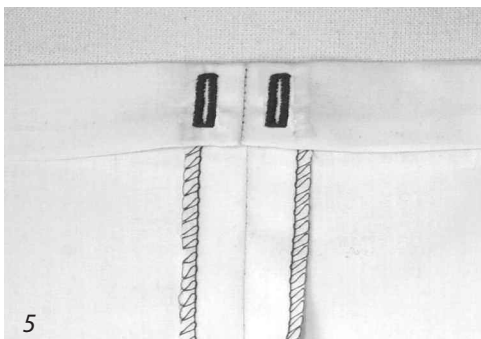
Mark, fold and press the casing in place as with the elastic casing.

Decide if you want the drawstring to tie on the inside or the outside of the garment. (The example will tie on the inside.)

Open the casing fold and mark the location of the buttonholes. They should be in the center of the casing on either side of the center-front seam, and they will fall between the casing foldline and the casing seam allowance. The buttonholes can be made on the seam allowance for sturdiness. If you prefer to have them farther apart, reinforce the buttonhole area by applying a small amount of interfacing at the buttonhole location.

If you want the drawstring to tie on the outside of the garment, sew the buttonholes in the same way, but on the other side of the casing foldline, so the buttonholes are on the right side of the garment.

Stitch the buttonholes (5).



Fold the casing in place. Stitch the casing lower edge in place beginning and ending at the garment center back. Do not leave a section of the casing unstitched; the drawstring is inserted through the buttonholes. Stitch along the casing upper edge 1/8" from the fold.

Pin one end of the drawstring to the seam allowance, and feed the drawstring through the buttonhole using a safety pin or bodkin (6).

Tie knots at the ends of the drawstring if necessary. 🖱

