

Girls Dance Shorts

{free sewing pattern}

by Caroline Fairbanks-Critchfield

Find a complete tutorial with step by step photos at www.sewcanshe.com/dance-shorts-sewing-pattern

Sew dance shorts for your little dance star with my free dance shorts pattern! This easy dance shorts sewing pattern

comes in sizes 2-12, and I'm about to share with you every step with easy to follow instructions and photos.

The main part of these dance shorts can be made with any light to mid-weight knit fabric that has 2- or 4-way stretch. The waistband must be made with dance or swimsuit material that contains spandex. This will keep the shorts on her little booty.

Sizes include 2T, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12.

A size chart can be seen to the right.

You will need:

- 1/3 yard or less knit fabric (make sure the fabric you choose for the waistband includes spandex - think super stretchy swimsuit fabric)
- Eloflex thread for use in your regular sewing machine cutting tools pins

Cutting out the dance shorts:

1. Cut 2 from the Jazz Shorts sewing pattern at the end of this file. Print at 100%. Make sure the two pieces are mirror images of each other.

2. Cut a waistband piece using the measurements specified on the right.



Size	Height	Waist
2T	33-35"	20"
4	36-41"	21"
6	42-47"	22"
8	48-52"	23"
10	53-55"	24"
12	56-58"	25"

Size of shorts	Cut this size waistband
12	28" x 5"
10	27" x 5"
8	26" x 5"
6	25" x 5"
4	24" x 5"
2	23" x 5"

Sewing:

Use a 1/2" seam allowance unless otherwise specified.

1. Fold each leg piece in half right sides together, matching the short inseam. Stitch. Press or finger-press the seam open.

2. Hem each leg. I have included 3/4" hem allowance in the dance short pattern, so you can fold it up 3/4" and then tuck the raw edge under. Stitch close to the fold - no stretching necessary with the Eloflex stretchable thread.

If your fabric is acting fussy, there's no real need to tuck the raw edge under. Knit fabric does not fray so it's totally a matter of preference.

3. Place the hemmed leg pieces right sides together, matching up the front and back edges and the inseams. Pin and stitch around the U-shaped seam from the top front edge to the top back edge.

Make the waistband:

1. Fold the waistband in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Make a mark 3" from the corner on the raw edge. Cut from the corner of the folded edge across to the mark. The strip is folded, so you will be cutting away 2 triangles.

Repeat on the opposite end of the waistband piece.

2. Place pins at the top corners to hold the folded waistband together.

Divide the waistband into quarters between the pins. Refer to my [tutorial blog post](#) for a fast and easy method to do this.

3. Divide the shorts into quarters. Simply mark (or remember) the front and back seams, then add pins at the sides.

4. Place the shorts on top of the waistband, matching the back seam and the middle pin in the waistband.

Pin the waistband to the shorts at the back seam.

5. Pin the waist band to the shorts at 3 of the quarter marks. Leave the end of the waistband on your left open. It will overlap and be sewn last.

Note: The waistband is slightly smaller than the shorts. This is so that it will hold the shorts up!

6. Pin the angled end of the waistband against the raw edge of the shorts. It does not need to stretch.

Start sewing the waistband to the dance shorts at the corner and sew until you get to the first pin.

Once you reach the pin at the center front, remove it and grasp the shorts and waistband over the pin at the side edge. Stretch these fabrics toward you until they are the same length (remember - the waistband is a little bit shorter). Sew until you reach the pin.

Continue stretching and sewing from pin to pin around the dance shorts.

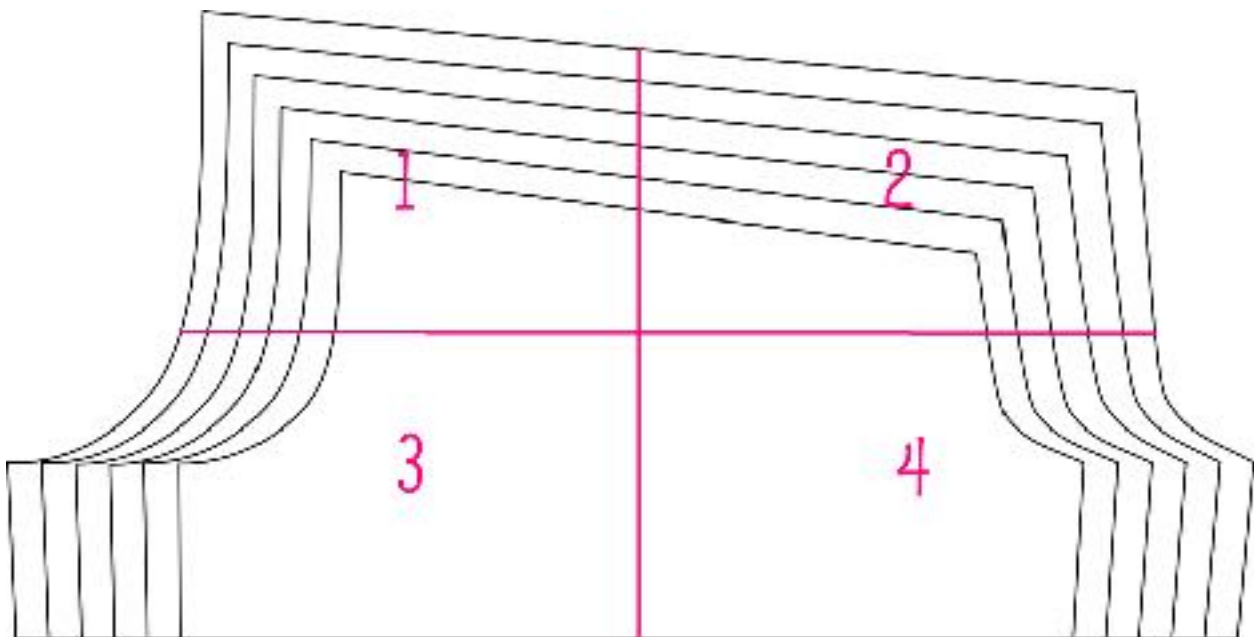
The last pin at the open end of the waistband should also match with the center front seam. Place the two waistband corners together and stretch and sew until you reach the center.

Align the cut edge with the top raw edge of the dance shorts and sew across. This edge does not need to be stretched.

I hope you find my free Dance Shorts Sewing Pattern fun and easy to sew. You might also like my [Tips for Working with Knit Fabrics](#) and [Free Basic Leggings Pattern](#).

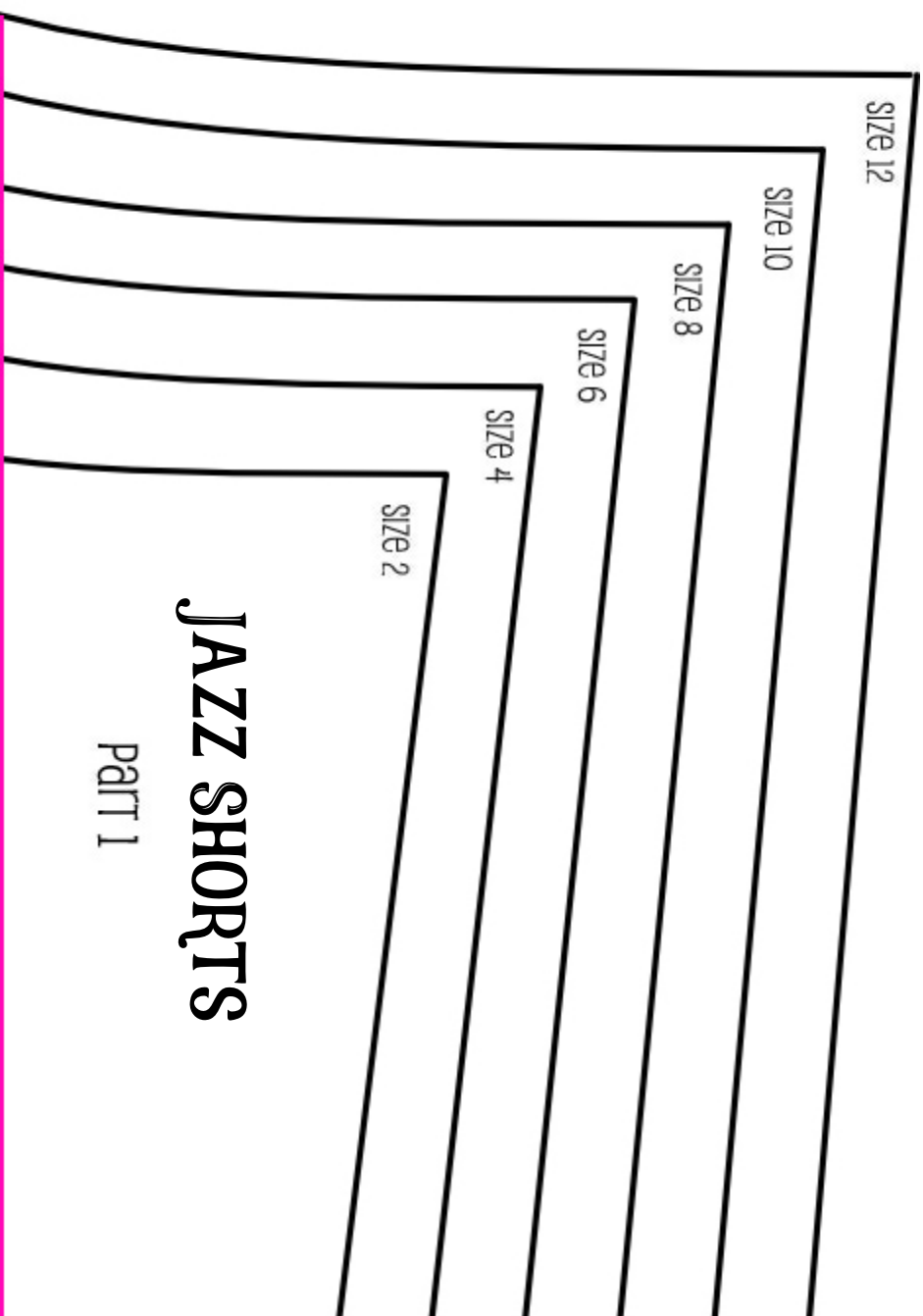
Happy sewing!

Diagram for taping the pattern piece together:



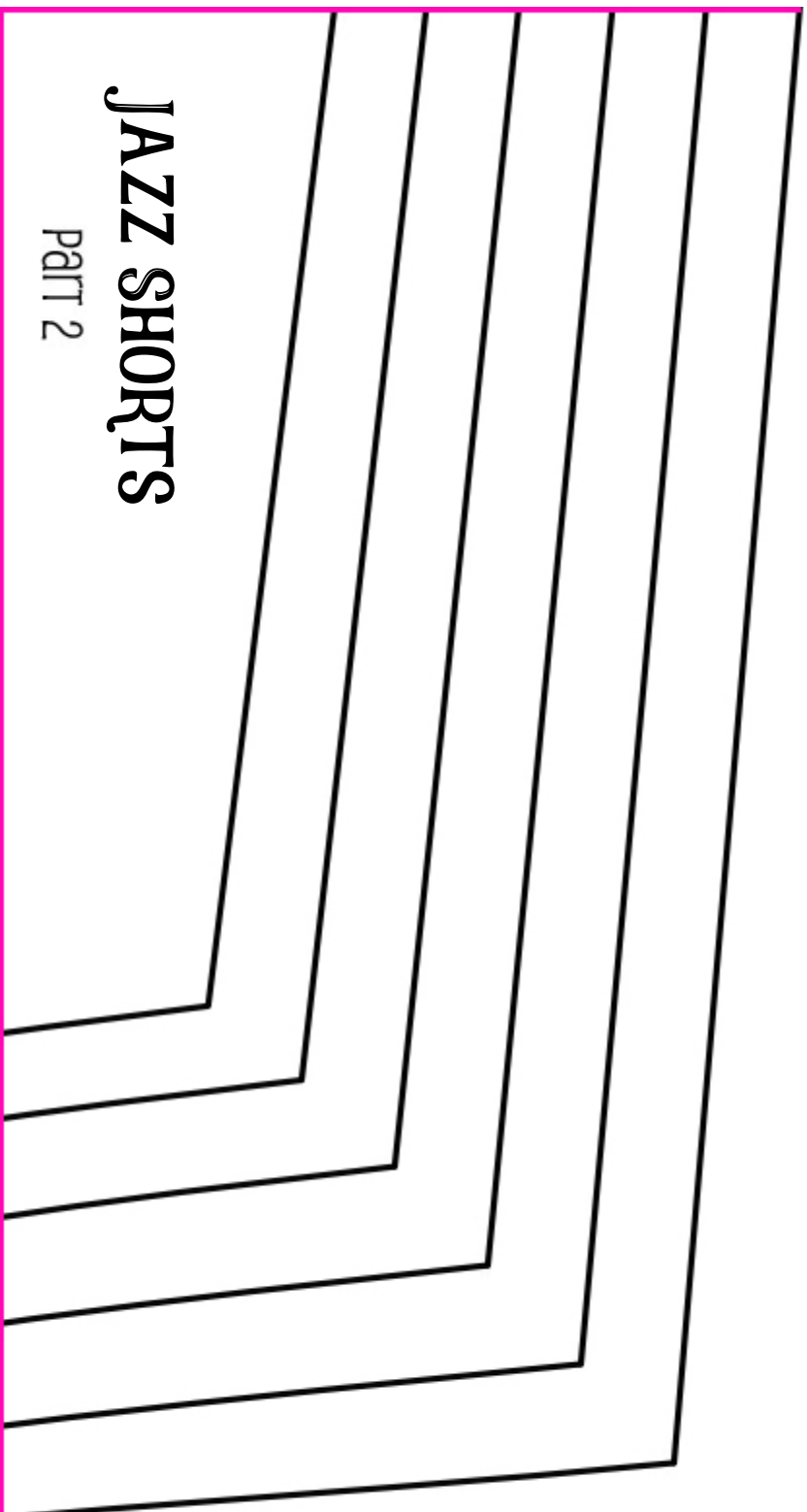


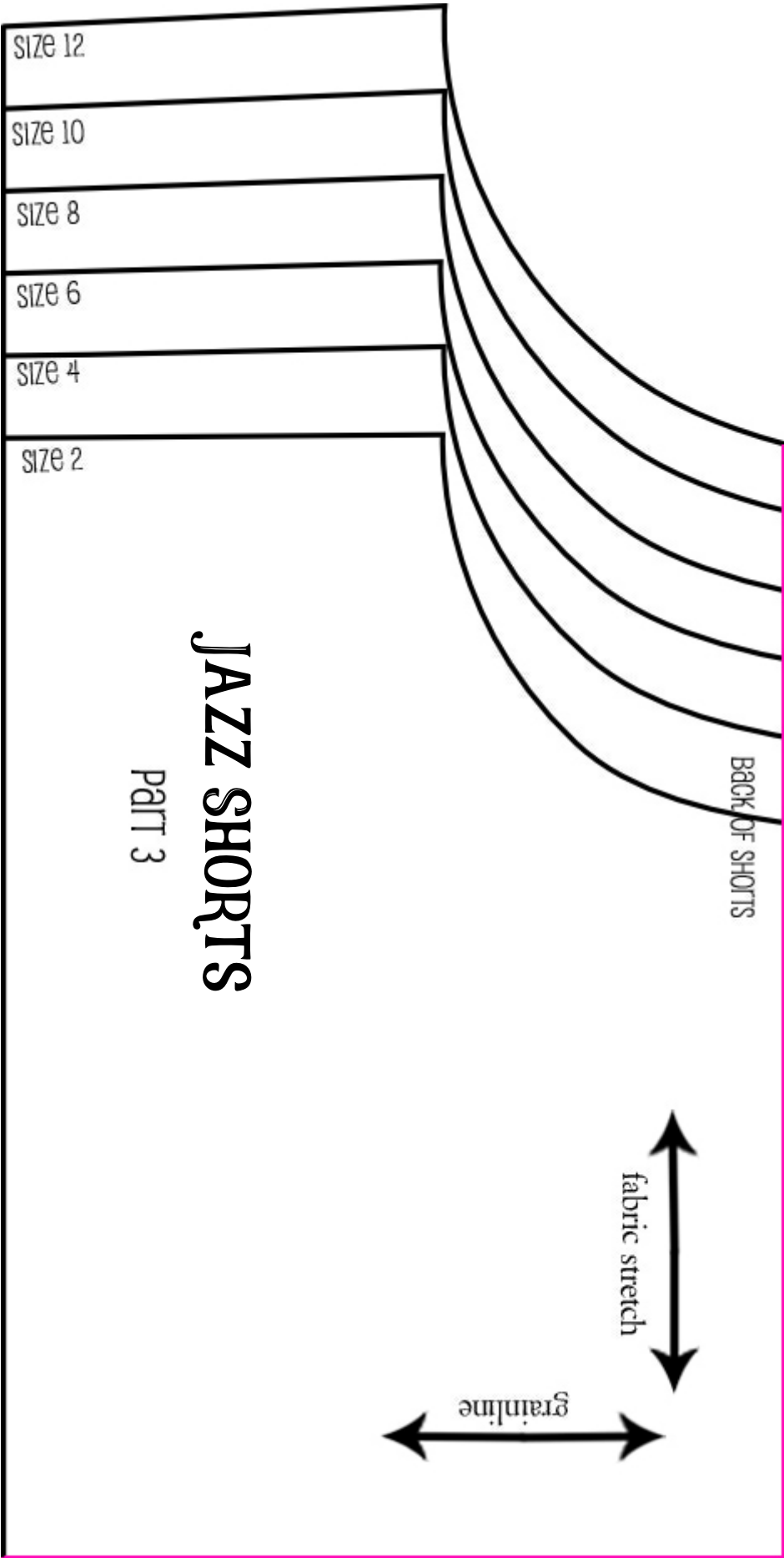
one inch
square



JAZZ SHORTS

PART 2







JAZZ SHORTS

PART 4

