

Side Zip Trouser

Sewing instructions · Newbury · SOHO · Saint Germain — side zip closure · task by task, with video links

About This Pattern

These instructions cover the Couture Craft trousers with the **side zip closure** — the Newbury (straight leg), the SOHO (flare), and the Saint Germain (wide leg). Construction is identical across the three styles; only the leg shape differs. The zipper sits in the **left side seam as worn**, giving a clean, uninterrupted front.

The work is organized as a sequence of **tasks**. Each task lists its steps, then links to two video tutorials showing the technique — until Couture Craft's own videos are ready, these outside videos are a good visual companion. The videos show general methods on their own patterns; where they differ from these steps, **your printed pattern and these steps are the authority**.

Note — *Your pattern is drafted to your measurements with your chosen seam allowance already included — cut on the heavy solid line and stitch at your chosen allowance throughout. Every piece is labeled with its name and cut count; **the printed labels are the final word on how many of each piece to cut.***

Reading the pattern

- **Heavy solid line** — cutting line (seam allowance included).
- **Dashed line** — stitching line; fine dash patterns mark folds, creases, and printed reference lines (hem fold lines, the LINER line, placement lines).
- **Grainline arrow** — place parallel to the selvage.
- **Notches** — single ticks mark FRONT edges, double ticks mark BACK edges. The side seams carry notches at the hip and knee, the inseams at the knee; the left side seam carries the zipper stop notch.
- **Check box** — measure the printed box on the cover before cutting anything to confirm print scale.

Notions & supplies

- 18–23 cm (7–9 in) **invisible zipper** (a standard zipper works for a lapped application); hook-and-bar closure.
- Fusible interfacing suited to your fabric weight — for the outer waist pieces, plus narrow strips to stabilize the zipper opening.
- If you chose the **Liner**: lining fabric (a slippery, breathable lining such as Bemberg/cupro or a light acetate).

- Matching thread, machine needle for your fabric, invisible zipper foot (or regular zipper foot), chalk or marking pen, pins, pressing tools.

Task 1 — Cut & Mark

Goal: every piece cut on grain, every notch snipped, every construction mark transferred — lining included if you chose the Liner.

1. Pre-wash or steam the fabric the way you'll launder the finished trousers; press it flat and true the grain.
2. Fold the fabric selvage to selvage, right sides together. Lay out every piece with its grainline arrow parallel to the selvage; anchor with weights or pins. Pieces labeled “on the fold” go with their fold edge exactly on the fabric fold — fold edges carry no seam allowance.
3. Cut each piece on its heavy solid line, following the printed cut count on every label (fronts and backs are mirrored pairs; the waist has **three outer pieces and three matching inside/facing pieces**; plus the belt loop strip and your pocket pieces if a pocket was chosen).
4. Snip every notch with a 3 mm (1/8 in) clip — hip and knee on the side seams, knee on the inseams, the **zipper stop notch** on the left side seam, and the match notches on the waist pieces.
5. Transfer to the wrong side with chalk, marker, or thread tracing: darts, pleats and crease lines, pocket placement, and both hem fold lines plus the finished hem line.
6. **If you chose the Liner:** cut the front and back legs again from lining fabric using the same printed pieces, stopping at the printed **LINER line** (5 cm / 2 in above the finished hem line — the leg labels carry the lining cut counts). Snip the same notches, including the zipper stop notch.

► **Watch it done:** [How to Cut Out a Sewing Pattern](#) · [Transferring Pattern Markings onto Fabric](#)

Task 2 — Interface & Prep

Goal: structure fused where the trouser needs it, raw edges finished while everything is still flat.

1. Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of the **three outer waist pieces** (test on a scrap first — the interfacing should support the fabric without stiffening it).
2. Fuse a 2.5 cm (1 in) strip of lightweight interfacing to the seam allowance of both edges of the left side seam's zipper opening, from waist to just below the stop notch — this keeps the opening from stretching as you handle it.
3. Staystitch the waist edge of the fronts and backs a scant seam allowance from the edge, sewing from the side toward center on each half.
4. Finish the raw edges now, while the pieces are flat: serge or zigzag the side seams, inseams, and crotch seams. (Skip edges that will be enclosed, and skip all of this if you plan French or flat-felled seams.)

► **Watch it done:** [Fusible Interfacing Step-by-Step](#) · [How to Apply Fusible Interfacing](#)

Task 3 — Darts & Pleats

Goal: the back shaping sewn and pressed, front pleats or creases set.

1. Fold each back dart on its center line, right sides together, matching the legs. Stitch from the waist edge toward the point, tapering to nothing at the tip; leave long tails and tie off — no backstitching at the point.
2. Press each dart toward center back over a tailor's ham so the shaping stays three-dimensional.
3. Fold and press any front pleats in the marked direction and baste them flat across the waist edge. If your style carries a front crease, press it now from hem up.

► **Watch it done:** [How to Sew Darts](#) · [Darts for Garment Sewing & Contour](#)

Task 4 — Front Pocket (if chosen)

Patch pocket (lined — the Couture Craft way)

1. With right sides together, sew the pocket to its liner all the way around, leaving a small gap along one lower edge for turning. Trim the corners and grade the curves.
2. Turn the pocket out through the gap and press it beautifully, rolling the liner just to the underside; press the gap's allowances in, level with the edge.
3. Position the pocket on its printed placement — straddling the crease line, top edge 2.5 cm (1 in) below the waist seam line — and edgestitch it to the pant around sides and bottom. **The topstitching closes the turning gap as it goes.** Reinforce both top corners with a small triangle or backstitch.

► **Watch it done:** [Perfect Lined Patch Pocket — Pocket 101](#) · [Lined Patch Pocket, Properly \(tailored\)](#) · [Patch Pockets — Placement & Topstitching](#)

Italian (slant) pocket

1. With right sides together, sew the pocket facing to the slanted front opening. Trim, understitch the facing close to the seam, turn it to the inside, and press.
2. Place the pocket bag against the facing, sew the bag's curved edge closed, and finish that edge.
3. Pull the pocket mouth up toward the waist until it meets the **landing notch (cran)** printed on the front waistline. This pull is deliberate: it adds the bit of tension across the opening — the necessary tightness — that keeps the pocket lying flat and quietly closed on the body.
4. Holding that position, baste the pocket within the waist and side seam allowances so the tension is locked into the later seams.

► **Watch it done:** [How to Sew Front Hip Pockets](#) · [The Slanted Pocket Sewing Tutorial](#)

Task 5 — The Side Zipper

Goal: an invisible zipper in the left side seam (as worn), coils hidden, seam continuing cleanly below the stop. Install it while the seam is still open — invisible zippers go in easiest before the seam below them is sewn.

1. Open the zipper and press the coils gently flat from the wrong side with a cool-to-medium iron, so the stitching can get close to them.
2. Place the open zipper face down on the **right side** of the front leg's side seam edge, coils exactly on the seam line, top stop at the waist seam line. Pin or baste the tape.
3. With the invisible zipper foot, stitch that tape from the top down to the stop notch, sewing right in the groove beside the coils; backstitch.
4. Pin the other tape face down to the back leg's side seam edge, checking the waist edges and hip notches align across the zipper. Stitch the same way, top to notch.
5. Close the zipper and check the seam: the waist edges should meet level and the coils should disappear into the fold. Adjust now if not — this is the moment corrections are cheap.
6. Sew the rest of the left side seam from the hem up to meet the zipper stitching: move the zipper tail out of the way, start 2-3 stitches above and just beside the zipper stitching's end, and sew down — a zipper foot helps you get close. Press the seam open below the zipper.
7. Stitch each zipper tape's free edge to the seam allowances only, so the tapes stay flat inside.
8. **Lapped alternative (standard zipper):** sew the left side seam from hem to notch, machine-baste the opening closed, press open, center or lap the zipper behind the basted portion, topstitch from the right side, then remove the basting.

► **Watch it done:** [Invisible Zipper Step by Step \(Angela Wolf\)](#) · [Sew an Invisible Zipper Perfectly \(Closet Core\)](#)

Task 6 — Assemble the Legs

Goal: two legs joined into trousers, seams matched at every notch.

1. Sew the **right** side seam from waist to hem, matching the hip and knee notches. Press open.
2. **Ease, don't stretch.** Wherever the notches give one edge slightly more length than its partner (the pattern drafts this on purpose — shape lives in that extra), run a long machine stitch just inside the seam line of the longer edge, draw it up a whisper, pin at every notch, and sew with the longer side down against the feed dogs. The fullness should vanish into the seam — no puckers, no tucks.
3. Sew both inseams, matching the knee notches. Press open.

4. Turn one leg right side out and slip it inside the other, right sides together. Pin the crotch seam from center front around to center back, matching the inseams exactly at the crotch point.
5. Sew the crotch in one continuous pass, then sew a second row just inside the first through the lower curve for strength.
6. Trim the curve to half its allowance; press the upper portions of the seam open and leave the curve standing. Press the whole garment.

► **Watch it done:** [Understanding Pant Seams](#) · [How to Ease in Seams](#) · [How to Ease Fabric — 3 Ways](#)

Task 7 — The Liner (if chosen)

Goal: a smooth half-lining hanging free inside the trousers, finishing about 5 cm (2 in) above the hem.

1. Assemble the lining exactly as the trousers but with **no pockets**: darts (or ease the dart intake), right side seam, inseams, crotch — and leave the left side seam open above the zipper stop notch. Press seams open.
2. Hem the lining first, while it's easy to handle: turn 6 mm + 6 mm (1/4 in double fold) at its lower edge and machine stitch. It should finish about 5 cm (2 in) above the trouser's finished hem.
3. Slip the lining inside the trousers, **wrong sides together**, matching side seams, inseams, and darts.
4. Baste lining and trousers together around the waist edge — from here the two are handled as one when the waistband goes on.
5. At the zipper, turn the lining's opening edges under and slipstitch them to the zipper tapes, clear of the coils, so the lining never catches in the slider.

► **Watch it done:** [How to Line Trousers](#) · [How to Line Pants \(Spencer Sew Along\)](#)

Task 8 — Belt Loops

Goal: five loops made and basted at their marks, ready to be caught in the waist seam.

1. Press the belt loop strip in thirds lengthwise (or fold right sides together, seam, and turn) and edgestitch both long edges.
2. Cut the strip into 5 equal loops.
3. Baste each loop at its printed mark on the trouser waist, raw end up, loop hanging down, within the seam allowance.

► **Watch it done:** [How to Make Belt Loops](#) · [Belt Loops for Beginners](#)

Task 9 — The Waistband

Goal: the shaped waist assembled and attached on the printed waist stitching line, and the facing — drafted a touch deeper than the outer band on purpose — finished one of two ways and secured with one final line of stitching along the waistband seam. The extra depth is your fold-over room; use it.

1. Assemble the waist pieces exactly as their printed labels direct: join the outer pieces at their seams, join the facing pieces at theirs, right sides together, matching notches; press the seams open. Note the printed **waist stitching line** on the band — the outer band sews to the trousers on that line, and the facing's lower edge is drafted about 1 cm (3/8 in) deeper so that, folded over, it reaches past that seam inside.
2. **Choose the facing's lower-edge finish now, while it's flat.** Option one — **seam binding**: enclose the facing's raw lower edge in rayon seam binding or bias tape, edgestitched through binding and facing; it stays flat, no bulk, and the bound edge will overlap the waist seam inside. Option two — **turned edge**: press the raw edge under; the extra drafted depth means the fold still overlaps the waist seam by a little. Either finish works — binding is flatter on thick fabric, the turned edge needs no notions.
3. Sew the outer band to the trouser waist, right sides together, exactly on the printed waist stitching line — matching the band's seams and notches to the trouser's side seams and marks, catching the belt loop ends (and the basted liner, if you sewed one).
4. Press the seam up into the band, fold the band over along its top, and sew the short ends level with the zipper tapes. Trim the corners, turn, and press — the facing's finished edge (bound or folded) now overlaps the waist seam on the inside.
5. **Secure the facing:** from the right side, stitch one clean line exactly along the waistband seam — in the ditch — through all layers. That single line of stitching catches the facing's edge beneath and locks the band closed. Press.
6. Bring each belt loop up over the band, turn its raw end under, and bar-tack it at the top edge.

► **Watch it done:** [Curved Waistband with Facing, for Any Pants](#) · [Cut & Sew a Contoured Waistband](#) · [Bias / Seam-Binding Edge Finish](#)

Closure — button or hook & bar (your choice)

1. **Hook and bar** (the natural choice above a side zip): sew the hook on the underside of one band end and the bar opposite, just above the zipper pull, so the closed band lies flat with no strain; slipstitch the band ends to the zipper tapes. Hand stitches stay invisible outside — catch only the facing layers.
2. **Button:** if your band ends carry an overlap (per the printed labels), work a buttonhole in the overlapping end and sew a flat button beneath, with a short thread shank.

► **Watch it done:** [4-Part Hook & Bar in a Waistband](#) · [How to Sew a Hook and Bar](#)
· [Sew a Button with a Thread Shank](#)

Task 10 — Hem & Final Press

Goal: hems folded on the printed lines, stitched invisibly or topstitched, everything pressed.

1. Try the trousers on with the shoes you plan to wear. Your hem length was drafted from your measurements — confirm the printed **finished hem line** falls where you want it.
2. Turn each leg up along the first printed fold line and press; turn again along the second fold line so the raw edge is fully enclosed. Press. (The lining hangs free, already hemmed, about 5 cm / 2 in shorter.)
3. Stitch the hem: machine blind hem or hand catch-stitch for an invisible finish, or a straight topstitch for a casual one.
4. Give the whole garment its final press — seams flat, creases sharp, waistband rolled with the facing just inside, and a gentle press over the closed zipper (protect the coils with a press cloth).

► **Watch it done:** [Hemming Pants with a Blind Hem Stitch](#) · [Hand-Sewn Blind Catch-Stitch Hem](#)