



Merckwaerdigh
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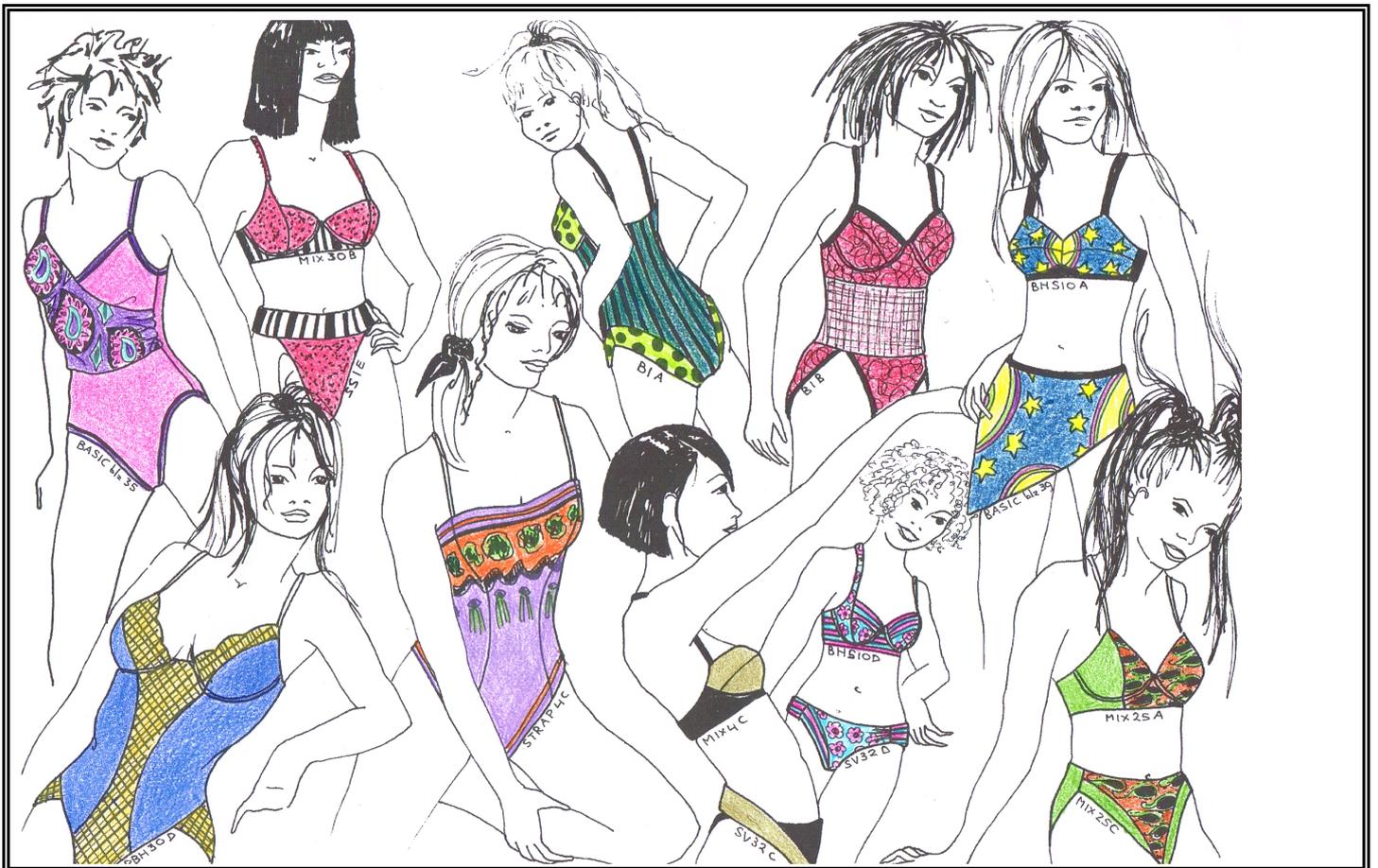
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Adjusting LINGERIE PATTERNS for SWIMWEAR

Sewing patterns originally ment for stretchy lingerie usually are great for swimwear as well. The fabrics have equal stretchability which means the patterns themselves don't need alterations. The main difference is in the kind of notions and the way they are used.



POINTS OF INTEREST

- ⌚ Whenever the instructions mention a scalloped lace galloon just replace this with a lycra (or spandex). Often a contrast colour will do the design even more justice.
DO NOT FORGET TO ADD SEAM ALLOWANCES all around the pattern, there is no scalloped selvedge!
- ⌚ Trim the whole garment with clear elastic and not with picot elastic which is not chloride and sun resistant.
- ⌚ Straps elastic will not last on the long run as well in chloride and bright sunlight, replace this with channeling of the same lycra as the swim or beach wear
- ⌚ Discard the hook and eye closure in the crotch and just stitch the seams, preferably with a blind seam.
- ⌚ Replace the hook and eye closure of the bra with a bikini clip. There is no need to adjust the width of the bra band. Some pleats and wrinkling are not a problem in this garment since there will not be any upper clothing over it.
- ⌚ Do NOT use cotton as a lining in the crotch, use mesh or a quick-dry thin lycra.

CHOICE OF FABRIC

The choice of a fabric is directly connected to the goal of the garment. The quality is less important when the garment is only used for lounging at the beach or an incidental dip into the water compared to swimming for some hours every day.

- ⌚ Choose (*especially for intensive swimming*) preferably a firm quality lycra or spandex in which the knitting is pretty dense. You might check this by stretching the fabric slightly and hold it against the light. The more dense the knitting, the less light will shine through. The fabric will be less sheer but, even more important, very strong even when wet. The part of the garment you are sitting on will wear out quickly from rubbing on the sand or beach chairs.
- ⌚ The fabric needs a good stretch in both length and width, a minimum of 12% lycra is advisable. Watch out for large print, the pigments in the paint might stick the fabric together and will make it less stretchy.
- ⌚ Use a chloride resistant lycra. You will not be able to determine this yourself but sometimes the seller might know this through the manufacturer.
- ⌚ Choose a colourfast lycra resistant to sunlight. Often this quality is visible when the colour is all the way through the fabric. This is specially important with prints, most of the time these are not through and through and will fade in the sunlight.
- ⌚ A quick-dry lycra will be nice, specially when swimming a lot. Most synthetic fabrics dry quickly but the more dense and firm the lycra the longer drying will take. Cotton lycra will take quite some time to dry completely. That's why it's not a good idea to use this as a lining in the crotch, this will stay wet longer than the rest of the garment ...

WASHING and DRYING

Swimwear will only be used a limited amount of hours a day. It's tempting to wear it again the next day without washing first. NOT a good idea! Dirt and bacteria affect the lycra yarns which will cause loss of stretch sooner. Leaving the garment in the laundry basket several days has the same effect.

- ⌚ Rinse the swimwear right after wearing it, you might even add a little hand soap at the start.
- ⌚ When the time has come for the washing machine use a program of maximum 30 degrees and a soft detergent.
- ⌚ Do NOT wring after rinsing or washing, just gently squeeze the excess water. Roll the swimwear in a towel and squeeze the last drops out, the towel will absorb the water, your swimwear will be almost dry after this.
- ⌚ Do not store the swimwear until it's completely dry, fungi affecting the stretch of the lycra won't stand a chance this way!



REMNANTS LYCRA

Use leftover lycra parts for adding an extra strap, ruffle or any decoration in another bikini or bathing suit! Lycra doesn't fray because of the dense knitting and the stickyness of the fiber. No need to trim every part all the time.

You might also use it to cut out all kind of designs and add it to the swimwear. This might be sewn like an applique all the way around but also very simple with a few stitches (or a button) in the middle to leave the rest loose.

TRIMMING WITH CLEAR ELASTIC

Use clear elastic 5 to 8mm wide, more narrow will be too weak and wider will give discomfort in wearing. First stitch this with a serger on the seam allowance at the WRONG of the fabric. Fold the seam allowance back to the wong side and topstitch with a narrow zigzag stitch at the WRONG side of the fabric. The stitch will be on the seam allowance when the needle is going to the right and it will be just BESIDE the seam allowance when the needle is going to the left. This way you will not feel the change from one layer to a double layer.



HANDMADE LYCRA STRAPS

It is quite easy to sew straps with the same lycra you used for the swimwear. Use clear elastic at the inside of the channeling for extra support. The straps will be the same width as the clear elastic. use 6 to 15mm width because more narrow is hard to process and wider the straps will not be smooth.

- ⌚ Cut 2 strips of lycra; 1 meter long and width 4x the width of the clear elastic + a few mm extra. The extra width is needed for the thickness of the seams to be able to turn the straps inside out.
- ⌚ Fold the strips lengthwise and pin the layers transverse to the fabric.
- ⌚ Place the clear elastic on top of the lycra at the raw edge. Do NOT use pins to avoid the elastic to move back and forth during stitching.
- ⌚ Stitch the clear elastic with a narrow zigzag stitch along the INNER side of the seam.
- ⌚ The stitching provided a channel you can turn inside out. although you can buy special hooks for this purpose it's just as easy to sew a firm yarn at the end of the elastic and attach this to a safety pin or a thick blunt. Push this in the channeling and slowly slide it through. This way you can pull it all inside out.



Of course his will all apply as well to the sewing patterns by **Merckwaerdigh**.

PATTERNS SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR SWIMWEAR

BASIC - all kind of variations on the patterns are also described as swimwear in the pattern work book

BAD24 - 2 swimsuits you can varie on in different ways

BAD3 - 2 swimsuits of which one with a thong back

BIK61 - 2 bikinis to mix and match

BHB40 C en D - 2 swimsuits with an underwired cup

JST6 - bandeau bikini + tankini bikini

MIX5L C en D - retro bikini pantie + larger size tankini top

Lingerie sewing patterns also suitable for SWIMWEAR :

BIKINI TOP : *replace the hook and eye closure with a bikini clip*

BHB40 - A and B as an underwired bikini top

BHL15 - all designs as large sizes underwired bikini tops

BHS10 - A / B as a soft bikini top - C / D / E as an underwired bikini top

BHST2 - A / B as an underwired bikini top - C / D **without boning and hook&eye closure** as a tankini top

BUS2 - A / B **without boning and hook&eye closure** as a tankini top

CUPL16 - A / B as an underwired bikini top - C / D **without boning and hook&eye closure** as a tankini top

EFG40 - all designs as large sizes underwired bikini tops

MIX25 - C as an underwired bikini top

MIX30 - B as an underwired bikini top

MIX4 - C as an underwired bikini top - D as a tankini top

MIX5L - A as large sizes underwired bikini top

O2 - A / B **10cm shorter** as a tankini top

PBH30 - A as an underwired bikini top - B **without boning and hook&eye closure** as a tankini top

STRAP4 - A as an underwired bikini top - B **without boning and hook&eye closure** as a tankini top

BIKINI PANTIE

JST6 - A as a bikini pantie (*the other designs are already described as bikini*)

MIX25 - A as a bikini pantie

MIX30 - C as a bikini pantie (*design A is not suited for a bikini pantie*)

MIX4 - A / B as a bikini pantie

SH20 - all designs as bikini pantie

SHL30 - A as a bikini pantie - B as a RETRO high waist bikini pantie

SS1 - all designs as bikini thong

SV32 - B / D as a bikini pantie - C as a bikini thong (*design A is not suited for a bikini pantie*)

SWIMSUIT : *without a hook and eye closure in the crotch*

B1 - bodies A / B

PBH30 - bodies C (*thong*) / D

STRAP4 - bodies C / D (*thong*)