

APRIL
2016

NATIONAL SERGER MONTH

baby lock

FOR THE LOVE OF SEWING

SEW YOUR OWN SWIMSUIT!



This simple bikini can be created quickly from self-drafted pattern pieces made from a few simple measurements. Play around with a wide variety of knit fabrics for your construction to achieve a stylish swimsuit that is comfortable to wear all summer long!

Created by: Heather Peterson, [Girl Charlee Fabrics](#) & [The Girl Charlee Blog](#)

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner/Intermediate

Supplies:

- Baby Lock® [Evolution](#) serger
- Baby Lock® [Katherine](#) sewing machine
- 4 Spools Madeira® Aerolock serger thread to match fabric
- Madeira® Aerofil all-purpose sewing thread to match fabric
- 1-1/2 yard stretch knit fabric (nylon spandex, ITY, or single spandex preferred)
- 1-1/2 yard lining knit fabric (mesh, nylon spandex, ITY or single spandex preferred)
- 1-3/4 yards of 1/4" cotton-wrapped elastic
- Paper (for drawing pattern)

Instructions:

Making the Bikini Top

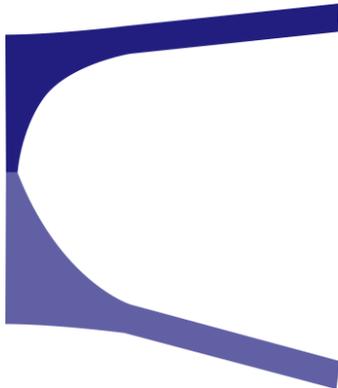
1. Take your full bust measurement (all the way around your body and your breasts at the fullest point).
2. Next, measure your front bust (from armpit to armpit).
3. Take your full bust measurement and subtract the front bust measurement and divide by 2. This will determine the bikini top pattern piece width size.
4. To determine the length of your back strap pattern pieces, use the remainder of the full bust measurement (the front bust measurement x 2).
5. Draw a rectangle that is 14-1/2" by the width of the bikini top pattern.
NOTE: The 14 1/2" measurement will accommodate most bust sizes, but if you want to take an exact measurement measure from the bottom of your breast up over the fullest part to about your collar bone and you can use that measurement in place of the 14 1/2".

Making the Bikini Bottoms

6. To make the bikini bottom pattern piece, take your favorite style of bikini bottom panties and fold in half vertically. Trace the front shape of the panties (dark blue) on your pattern paper.

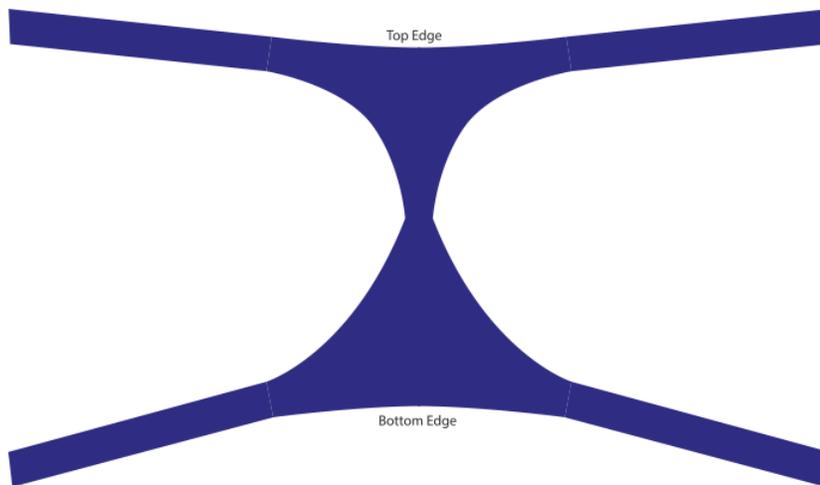


7. Then flip the panties down and trace the back shape of the panties (light blue) on the paper, making one continuous piece. Add 1/2" around entire shape for hem.
8. Extend the sides of the bikini pieces 10" – 11" on the bikini front piece and 13" – 15" on the bikini back piece to create tie straps, then taper the ends.



Cutting and Assembly

9. Fold both main body and lining fabrics lengthwise with the right sides together. On the main body fabric fold, place the bikini bottom pattern and then the bikini top pattern pieces. Cut around both.
10. Cut one back tie that is 4-1/2" wide times your back tie determined length (from step 4) on two layers of fabric tapering the ends like the bottom pattern piece ties. Repeat on the lining fabric.
11. For the center tie, cut one 2" piece on the fold of the lining fabric to a length of 27" (this will create 54" total length).
12. Lay out your bikini bottom main fabric piece. On the bottom of the main fabric bottom front piece, place a mark at 6" for the elastic. Measure 20" around the inside leg opening and place a mark for the elastic. On the bottom front upper edge, place a mark at 5-1/2" for the elastic. On the bottom back upper edge place a mark at 7-1/2" for the elastic.



13. Cut two pieces of elastic to 18-1/2" length, one to 9-1/2" length, and one to 14-1/2" length. Pin the 9-1/2" elastic piece to the right side of the main fabric top edge at the marked position. Pin the 14-1/2" elastic piece to the right side of the main fabric bottom edge at the marked position. Pin each of the 18-1/2" elastic pieces to the marked positions on the inner leg edges.

Serging

14. Set up your Baby Lock Evolution serger to the 4-Thread Overlock setting.
15. Lay your main fabric pieces and lining fabrics for the bikini bottom on top of each other, right sides together. Serger around the entire outside of the pieces, sewing the elastic between the two layers. Leave one tie strap end open. **NOTE:** The elastic pieces for both the top and bottom edge do not need to be stretched, but the elastic pieces for the inner leg pieces will need to be stretched slightly as you stitch to meet the edges.

16. Trim the bulk on tapered ends, turn right side out through the opening and set aside.
17. Take your top bikini piece main fabric and lining fabric and pin together across top and bottom. Serge together the two layers and turn right side out.
18. Take your top strap pieces main fabric and lining fabric and pin together across top, bottom and tapered end, leaving the other end open. Serge together. Trim the bulk on tapered end and turn right side out.
19. Take your center tie piece and fold right sides together down the length and serge the two edges, leaving both ends open. Take one end and push back through the entire length to turn the tie right side out.
20. Change your Baby Lock Evolution serger to the Right-Narrow Cover Stitch setting.
21. Cover stitch around all edges of the bikini bottom pieces, ensuring you catch the sewn elastic in the seam as you go around. NOTE: Where the elastic is slightly gathered on the inside leg, be sure to stretch it flat as you sew. Turn the two layers of the open end to the inside and cover stitch to secure.
22. Cover stitch the top and bottom edges of the bikini top piece.
23. Cover stitch the entire length of the top strap pieces. At each end, snip to clean up the ends and then tie a knot to secure.
24. On the side edge of your bikini top, baste with your sewing machine 1/8", leaving long threads. Gently pull the bobbin thread at the other end until the sides measure around 2". Tie to secure. Sew through all the layers with a regular straight stitch at about 1/8" to secure and reduce bulk. Repeat for other edge.
25. Change your Baby Lock Evolution serger to the 4-Thread Overlock setting.
26. Take your back strap pieces and pin them, right sides together, to the now gathered edge of the bikini top. Make sure that all the gathers are inside the width of the back strap and serge through all layers.
27. Tie a knot around the front of the bikini top to gather the fabric and create two cups and a halter tie. You are done!