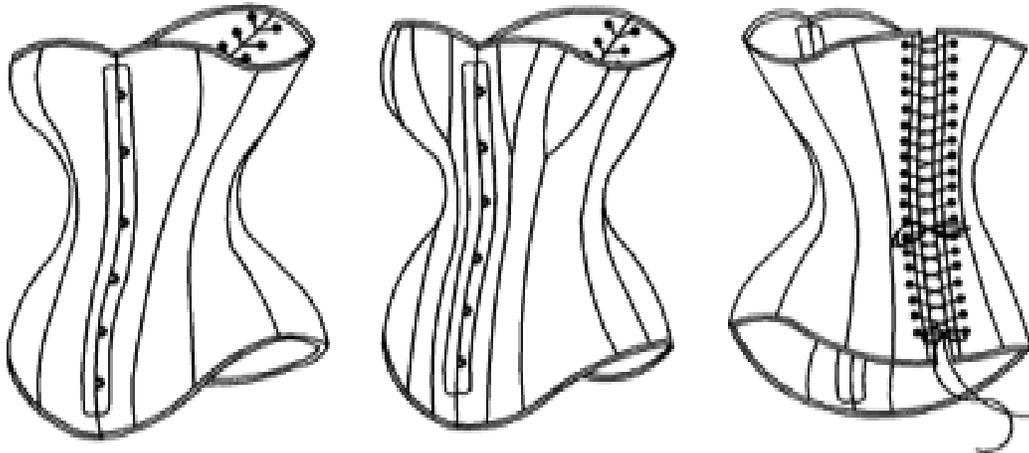


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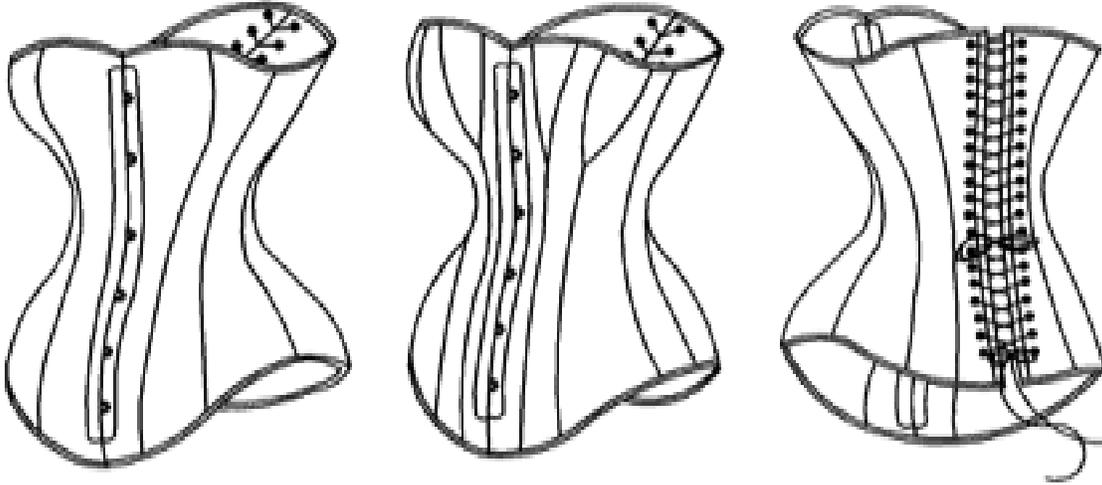
**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
WORKSHOP**

MAKING CORSETS THE EASY WAY
Modern Methods for Period Silhouettes



**Presented by
Jeffrey Lieder**

Dore and Silverado Corset Pattern #100
\$19.00



Laughing Moon Mercantile
2131 51st Street
Sacramento, CA 95817
www.lafnmoon.com

Includes sizes 6-40 for two corsets,
drawers and chemise. Size chart following.

CORSET MAKING THE EASY WAY
Modern Methods for Period Silhouettes

SUPPLIERS

Farthingales

286 Monteith Ave.
Stratford, Ontario
CANADA N5A 2P8
NO PHONE ORDERS!!!
Order from website only
www.farthingalescorsetmakingsupplies.com

Vogue Fabrics

718-732 Main Street
Evanston, Illinois 60202
voguefabricstore.com
847-864-9600

Fastener Supply

1308-B W Ninth Street
Upland CA 91786
800-224-6610
www.fastener-supply.com

Finebrand

3720 South Santa Fe Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90058
800 526-1164
finebrand.net
Ask for Jose or Kim

Richard The Thread

10405 Washington Blvd
Culver City, Ca 90232 USA
www.richardthethread.com

Corset Making Supplies

P.O. Box 15743
Philadelphia, PA 19103
www.corsetmaking.com

Corset Supplies & Accessories Inc.

239 West 39th St.
New York, NY 10018
877-575-5720 212-575-5720

Steinlauf and Stoller Inc.

239 West 39th St.
New York, NY 10018
212 869-0321
877-869-0321
<http://www.steinlaufandstoller.com/>

Hats by Leko

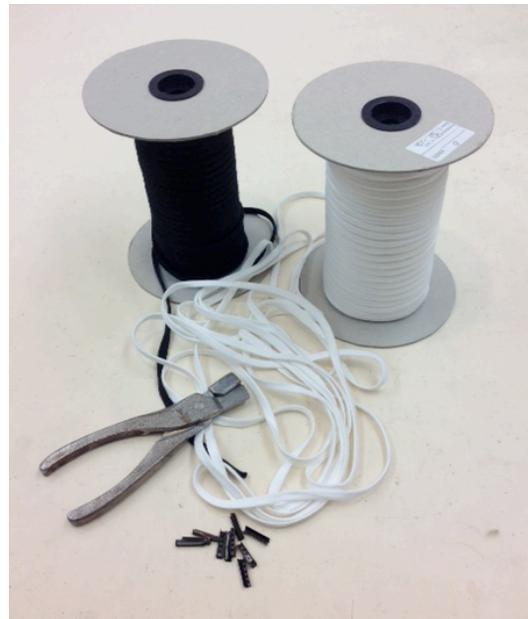
www.hatsupply.com

SUPPLIES REQUIRED

Coutil-1 yard
Outer fabric-if desired
Corset busk 11 1/2"-12" for standard sizes
1/2" bone casing
1/4" spiral bones
spiral bone tips
1/4" steel bones
"00" grommets
corset lacing-5 yards
corset lace tips—2
#6 hook—1
grosgrain ribbon or twill tape—1 yard
bone tipping fluid—optional

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Paper scissors
Fabric scissors
Seam ripper
Thimble
Awl
Ruler
Pencil
Straight pins
Push pins
Needle nose pliers
Lace tipping pliers
Grinder
Hand sewing needles
Thimble
Grommet setter, hole punch



Determine size. DO NOT rely on commercial pattern or ready-to-wear dress sizes. Measure bust, waist, hip and center back length. The **DORE** corset pattern is drafted for a woman 5'5" tall. Make adjustments to the pattern before you cut the coutil. Use the correct front pattern pieces for cup sizes A, B, C and D. With this pattern, often a woman who wears a D cup bra, will wear a C cup corset. If you choose cup size D, be aware that further alterations may be necessary in order to get corset to hug the front bust of the body.

TIP: You may want to cut a corset from canvas, stitch it together, and baste in some bones for a test fitting. This is recommended especially if you are unfamiliar with the pattern, the finished corset is to be highly trimmed and decorated or the size is unusual.

Size	6	8	10	12	14	16	18		
Bust	30½	31½	32½	34	36	38	40		
Waist	23	24	25	26½	28	30	32		
Hip	32½	33½	34½	36	38	40	42		
Size	20	22	24	26	28	32	36	38	40
Bust	42	44	46	48	50	54	58	60	62
Waist	34	36	38	40	42	46	50	52	54
Hip	44	46	48	50	52	56	60	62	64

Mark and cut the coutil. Lightly trace the pattern onto the coutil with a sharp lead pencil. Pay attention to grain lines. Mark a total of 4 front (#1) 4 back (#5) pieces and two of pieces #2, #3 and #4. 5/8" seam allowance is included on the sides of all pieces. **Add an additional 5/8" seam allowance to edges between pieces #3 and #4 if desired for fitting purposes.** At the top of each piece on the WRONG side, label each piece with number and size.

When assembling corset, make sure that all marks are on the TOP of the corset. If you mark the top of each piece and ALWAYS keep the marks on the top, you will not get pieces reversed.

Mark notches lightly with pencil. After you have cut all coutil layers, transfer notches and 1 ¼" stitch lines to all other pieces with tracing paper and wheel.

Cut outer fabric. Use the coutil pieces as a guide to cut the outer fabric pieces. Cut two layers of each corset piece. Cut only two layers of the front and back from the outer fabric. Be sure to keep scissors on the table and perpendicular. Do not lift the fabric in the air to cut. Stack matching pieces together to avoid confusion during construction.

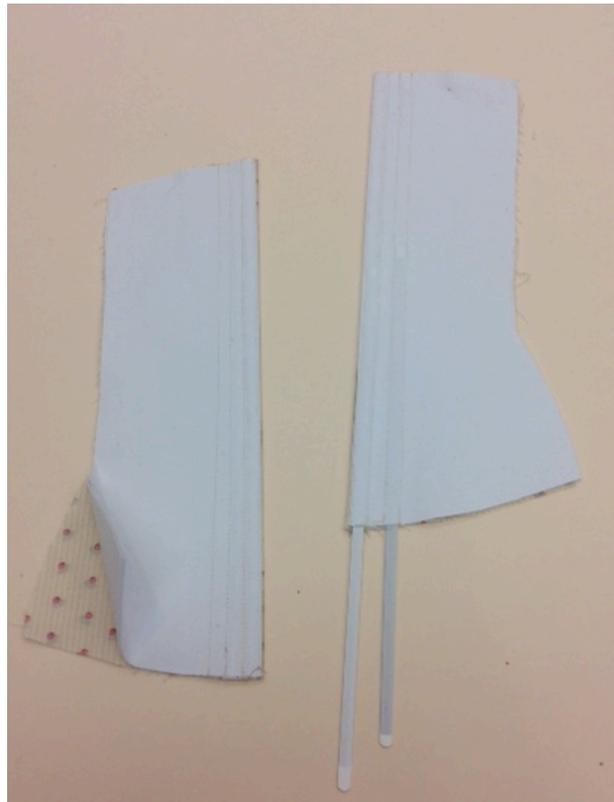
Make the center back. Layer the center back outer fabric between two layers of the coutil, keeping the edges even. (Put the layers of coutil together and add the outer fabric as the filling of the sandwich.) Stitch CB edge with a 5/8" seam. Pay attention to the seam allowance. Small errors in measurement can add up to large differences in fitting.

Press CB seam. Lay the piece flat with right side down. Fold the top layer of coutil open and press the seam. Re-press exposing the right side of outer fabric, favoring the outer fabric to the inside of corset.

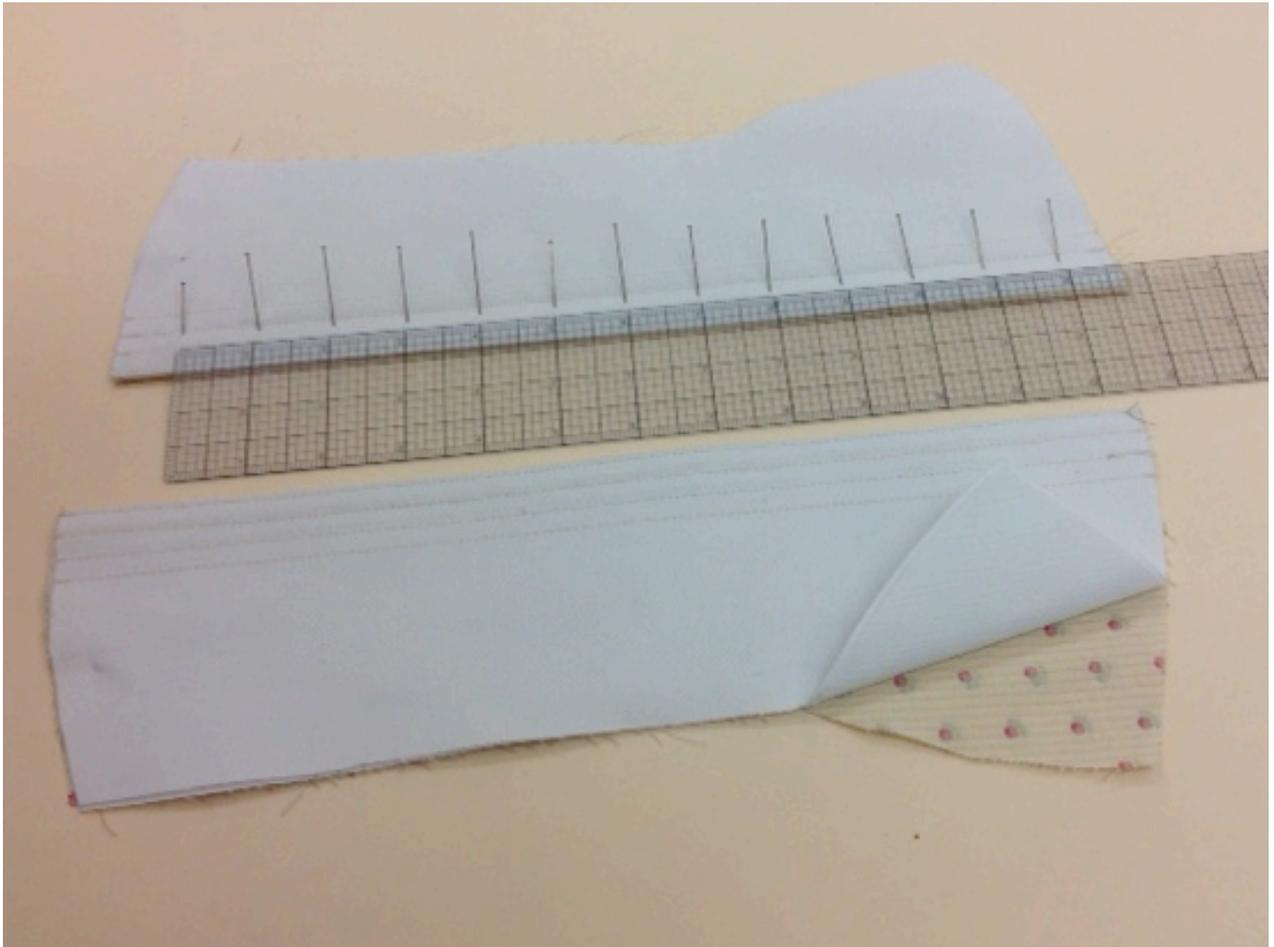
TIP: Grade seam allowances as you go. Trim seam allowance closest to the body to about 3/16". Grade remaining seams accordingly wider.

Edge-stitch along the finished center back edge using the #5 foot with the needle in the left position. Change to regular presser foot, move the needle to center position and stitch three more rows to form channels for 2 1/4" steel bones with a space for "00" grommets in between.

Cut and tip steel bones for the first and third casings at center back. Bones must be shorter than the overall length of the corset (measured from raw edge top to raw edge bottom) by 1" total. DO NOT use spiral bones for these casings—the grommets will pull out with wear. Tip cut ends of bones with metal tips or grind and dip in tipping fluid and allow to dry. Inset bones into casings.



Insert white steel bones in first and third channel

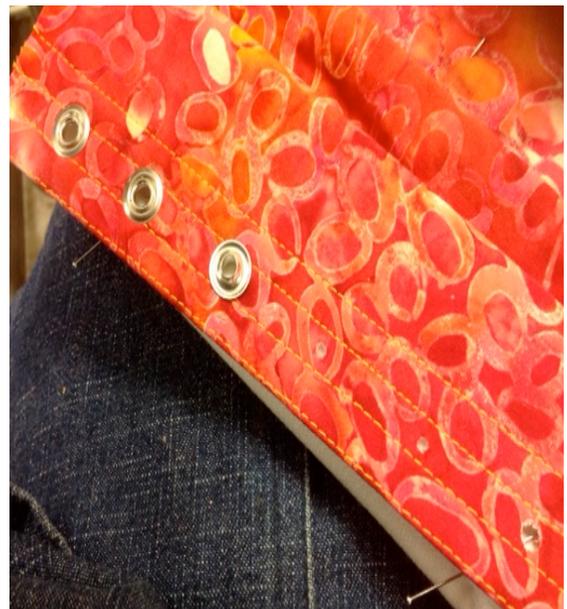


Mark placement for grommets—evenly spaced starting about 1” from top and bottom edge

Mark grommet placement and insert “00” grommets between center back bone casings. Top and bottom grommets must be 1” from raw edge. Grommets should be 1” apart or closer and evenly spaced. Insert grommets with the washers on the **OUTSIDE** of the corset.



insert grommets from inside

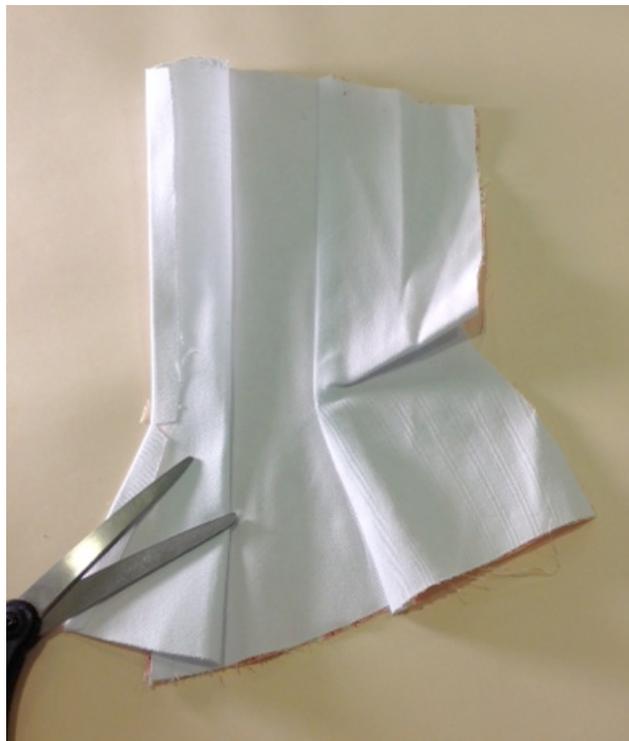


use washers on the outside of the corset



Layer side back piece #4 by placing right sides of outer fabric together. Stitch with $5/8$ " seam allowance.

IMPORTANT!!! Leave the inner center front coutil piece free. Stitch, grade and press. Align raw edges. Fold under $5/8$ " seam allowance on CB piece so that it "kisses" the seam at side back. Make a short snip into the seam allowance to release tension at waist if necessary. Press seam allowance under.



Leave inner layer free when layering piece #4

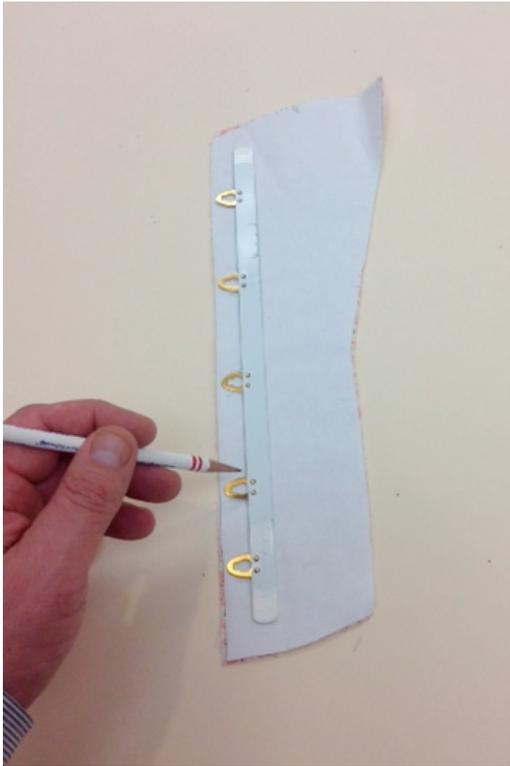
Edge stitch along folded edge with #5 foot with needle set to the left or right. Use regular presser foot to make a bone casing by stitching a parallel line 1/4" away from first stitching line toward center back. Make sure that the stitched channel can accommodate a spiral steel bone.



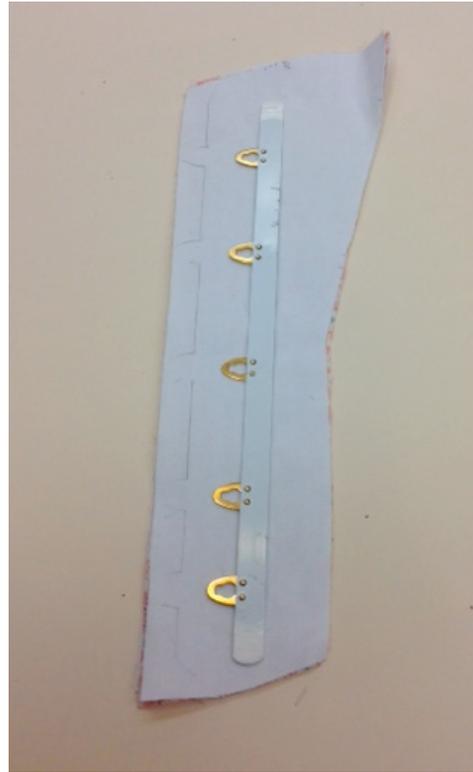
Fold under so that folded edge "kisses" piece #4

TIP: Make sure that raw edges of all layers are matched before stitching. Pivot stitching slightly at top of hip curve and keep seam allowances even.

Stitch center front. Layer the outer fabric between two layers of coutil aligning the front edges. Mark loop placement on the right side. Stitch, backstitching at openings for loops on the right side of corset front. Stitch left center front seam with a continuous seam.



Mark loop placement on right side of corset



Loop placement marked lightly with pencil



Corset front center front stitched with "broken" line of stitching for loops



Insert button half of busk. Mark hole positions for busk buttons using the loop side of busk as a guide. Make holes with an awl, spreading the apart weave of the fabric rather than tearing holes. Work the awl back and forth to separate the weave. Insert busk with the buttons into the center front piece. Make sure that the buttons go through the outer layer of fabric and one layer of coutil. Hold tightly in place with a few pins.



Insert button half of busk. Use an awl to make openings for buttons

Insert loop half of busk. Slide the loop side of busk through the openings in the seam. Hold busk in position with several pins.



Stitch busks in place. With right side of corset up, carefully stitch around the busks using a zipper foot. Be careful not to hit the busk with the machine needle, but stitch as closely as possible to hold the busk tightly in position.



Press carefully to align raw edges. Because the outside fabric is favored inside, edges may not match exactly.

Continue to assemble the front. Layer outer fabric and coutil piece #2 with the center front pieces. **IMPORTANT!!! Leave the inner center front coutil piece free.** Stitch, grade, press.



Stitch front inside coutil piece in place to cover raw edges. Press under seam allowance of inside CF coutil piece, making a small clip at top of hip curve if necessary to create smooth seam. Edge-stitch in place.

Use regular presser foot to make a bone casing by stitching a parallel line 1/4" away from first stitching line toward center front. Make sure that the stitched channel can accommodate a spiral steel bone.



Repeat process-layering piece #3 with piece #2. Stitch, grade, press.



Align raw edges at side seams and baste together if desired.

Join front and back sections with wrong sides together for fitting. Machine baste together with 1 ¼” seam allowances toward the outside for fitting.



Cut a 5-yard piece of corset lacing and tip the ends. Lace corset from the bottom up, skipping on cross at the waist. The “skip” creates two lace loops which are used to tighten the corset once the busk is fastened.



Lace together very loosely. “Skip” an eyelet at waist

FOR FITTING—Lace the corset very loosely. Fit over camisole or knit tank top. Fasten busk and tighten laces to snug in. Try to keep the center back opening parallel. Make all adjustments at the side seams.

Fold side seam allowances toward back and hold in place **BEFORE** facing actor toward mirror. The extra seam allowance flanges can cause the actor to think that she looks larger. By holding the flanges back, you will present a more flattering shape.

Fitting watch points are: 1. center front length, 2. center back length, 3. bust level, 4. hip level, 5. circumference, and 6. waist and hip fit.

There should be a 2” gap at center back when corset is snugly laced. Make adjustments at side seam if gap is not even from top to bottom. If the wearer is especially wide in the hips, a triangular wedge piece can be inserted at the side seam or side back seam.

Make fitting adjustments. Remove basting and lacing. Re-stitch side seams with seams to inside, leaving back coutil piece free. Press seam allowance toward the center back and grade. Fold under remaining seam allowance on back coutil piece and lay over front seam allowances. Edge-stitch in place with #5 foot.



Make a small clip into seam allowance at top of hip curve if necessary to create smooth seam. .

ALTERNATIVE CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUE ALLOWING FOR FUTURE ALTERATIONS

Apply bone casings, following instructions below and insert bones. Bind off top and bottom of each front and back of corset separately.

Sew side seams with right sides together, press open and tack down.



Serge side seams before binding, leaving seam allowances available for future alterations



Apply bone casings. Apply bone casings or Prussian tape as indicated by lines marked on pattern. For standard corsets, apply bone casings on inside. Make sure that the bone casings extend from raw edge to raw edge. Don't leave extra tails of bone casing to trim off later. It is a bit expensive and should not be wasted. For decorative effect, apply bone casings on outside if you like.

Bone casing can be dyed with fiber reactive dyes if you want to use as a decorative finish one outside. Be sure that dye is well set and excess dye is rinsed completely from tape before applying to corset.



Guide for position of bone casings



bone casings ready to stitch

Cut and tip 1/4" spiral bones to fit all long casings. All bones must be at least 1/2" shorter than raw edges of corset at the top AND the bottom.

TIP: Use two pair on needle nose pliers to tip spiral bones. Squeeze the side of the "U" shaped tip cover lightly with one pair of pliers while applying pressure on top and bottom with a second pair of pliers.



True right and left sides of corset. Pin the two sides together at the waists with wrong sides together. Pivot corset so that the top half lies flat. Check alignment of raw edges. Trim as necessary. Pivot corset to smooth bottom half. Check alignment and trim as necessary.



Pin along waistline and make sure left and right sides are even. Trim if necessary.



Bind top and bottom with bias binding, French bias tape, cording or Ultra suede. Be careful not to hit metal bones with machine needle. Stretch binding slightly across center front top and bottom to help the finished corset to hug the body. Lace beading or other trim can be applied by hand.



TIP: Make self-binding by cutting 4 true bias strips at least the length of CF to CB by 2 1/4". Press in half lengthwise and trim edges evenly. Align the raw edges of the corset with the folded edges of the binding with right sides together. Stitch with 1/4" seam allowance, using the edge of the presser foot as a guide. Press the binding over the raw edges and slipstitch to finish.

DO NOT use regular grosgrain for binding. Regular grosgrain does not have enough flexibility to conform to the curves of the corset. Millinery grosgrain, French Belting or Sawtooth grosgrain creates a smooth and thin binding. Untrasuede is a good choice if the outer fabric is too bulky or ravels too much for self-binding. Untrasuede makes good binding for stock, non-decorative or rehearsal corsets, too.

Piping can be used to finish the edge of the corset. The cord in the piping can be pulled snug at center front and tied in a bow once the busk has been fastened.

Apply additional trim as desired.

Finishing and wearing: Sew a #6 hook at the bottom center front of the corset on the button side if desired.

This is used to secure the corset lace loops when they are pulled tight and drawn around to the front of the body.

One can get into the corset by themselves by loosening the lacing, putting the corset on and fastening the front busk and reach around back for the lacing loops. Then, cross the loops and pull to tighten the corset and adjust the fit. Once the corset is tight enough, draw the loops around to the lower center front and tied under the hook. The corset is held secure because of the upward tension created by the lacing around the body.

Wear over a camisole or tank top. Hand wash, line dry.