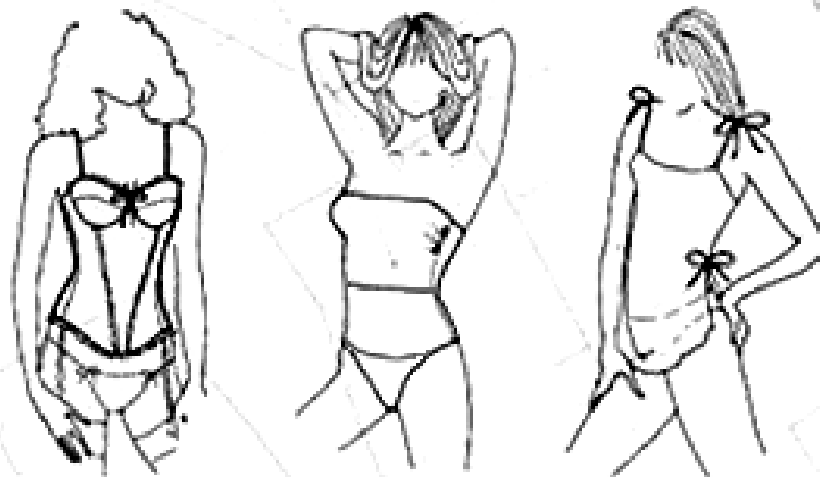


**SECOND
EDITION**

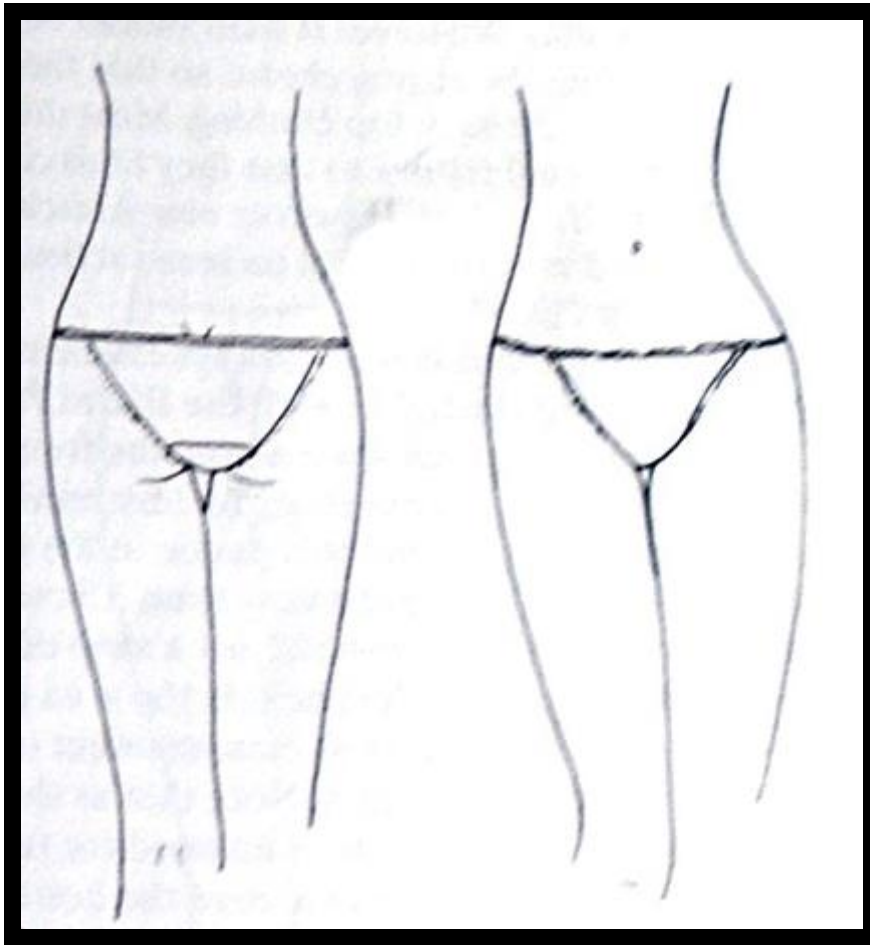
Pattern Cutting for Lingerie, Beachwear and Leisurewear

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 **Blackwell
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1) BIKINI PANTIE BLOCK



This type of pantie, providing minimal coverage, used only to be found in beachwear. It is now also a popular choice in underwear, offered in stretch cottons, soft woven cottons and polyester lace, etc.

The garment is so tiny, especially the front, that a crutch seam across the lower part would look very unsightly. Therefore, after the initial drafting, the back crutch part is added to the front pantie, thereby eliminating the front and centre crutch seams. A separate reinforcement piece (important as garment touches body) is caught in with the back crutch seam but merely neatened and laid on the inside of the front pantie; it becomes more secure when caught in with the elasticated legs and is invisible in wear.

As with both Brief Blocks, extra back length is needed to accommodate the bottom. Also, notice that the front top edge is slightly lowered compared with the brief blocks; minimal panties look better if they dip slightly at the front.

The underwear version is usually elasticated at the top edge; the beachwear bikini is often tied to hold in place. Both require elasticating at the legs.

Refer to Fig. 51

0-1 =	top hip body measurement / 2 (no ease allowance necessary). Square down for CB and CF.	
2 =	Midway for side seam position. (Although not used as such, it is a useful guide to length of elastic or ties.)	
1-3 =	Body rise minus 6 cm.	Square inwards
0-4 =	Body rise minus 3 cm.	
0-5 =	2 cm (extra length over bottom – see Fig. 53). Square across.	
3-6 =	3.5 cm centre crutch width (7 cm on whole pattern). Increase 0.5 cm (1 cm) for sizes 16 & 18.	
4-7 =		
3-8 =	6 cm	Crutch reinforcement sections. Square across.
4-10 =	9 cm	
8-9 =	4.2 cm	Increase 0.5 cm for sizes 16 & 18.
10-11 =	8 cm	
1-12 =	2 cm drop for front height. Square across.	
12-13 =	Two thirds of 1-2.	
5-14 =	Two thirds of 0-2 plus 4 cm. Connect 13-9-6 and 14-11-7 with four straight guide lines.	

For leg shaping:

Divide each line in half.

Front: hollow 1 cm and 0.2 cm.

Back: add 0.5 cm and hollow 1 cm.

Crutch sections: should have right angles at 6 and 7.

Refer to Fig. 52

To eliminate the centre and front crutch seams, detach and join the back crutch section to the front pantie.

Finally, make a crutch reinforcement piece to be cut in a single layer of fabric.

Note 1. It is not necessary to curve the remaining back crutch seam on such tiny panties.

Note 2. As an example for size 12, elasticate each leg to 40 cm and the top edge to 73 cm (top hip measurement minus 15 cm), but check before cutting as the stretchiness of elastic vary.

Note 3. Other uses: this pattern may be used without changes for beachwear bikini bottom.

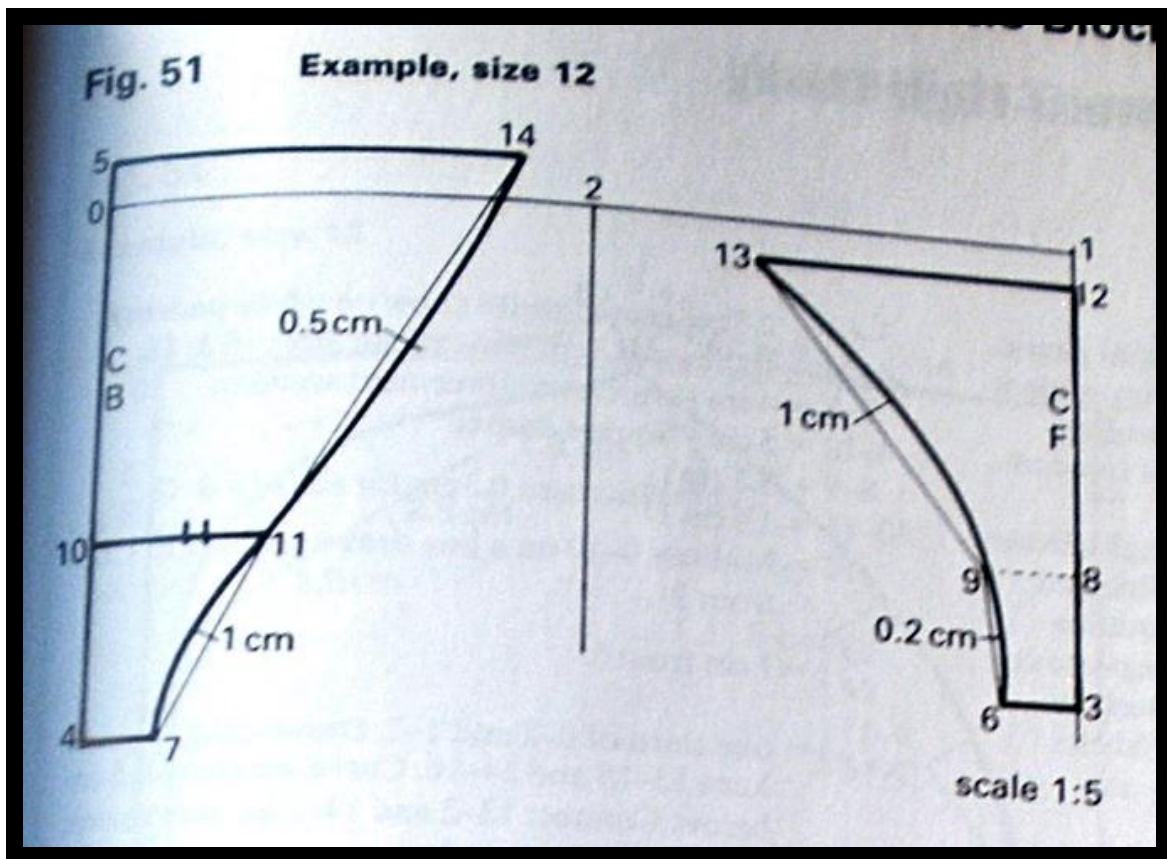


Fig. 51

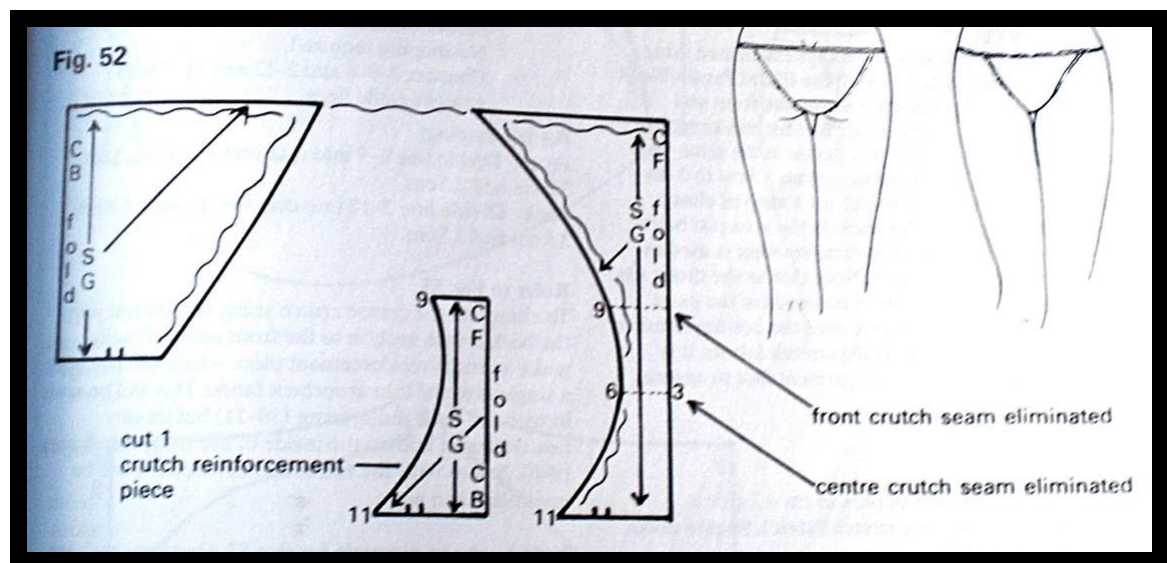


Fig. 52

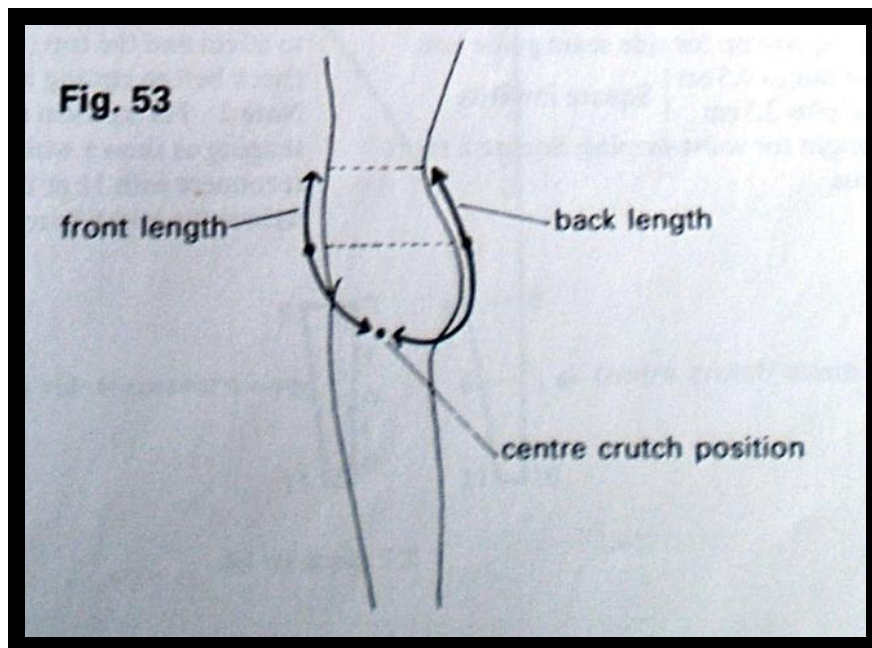
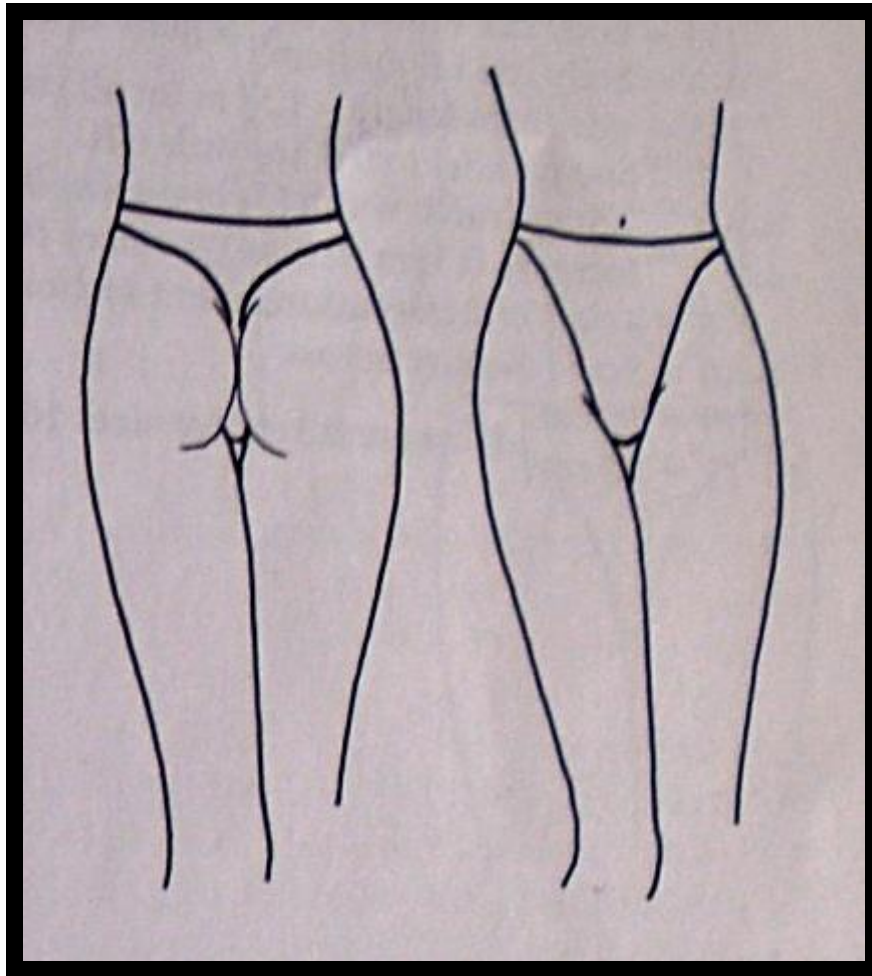


Fig. 53

2) WAIST-HIGH THONG



The thong is even more minimal than the bikini pantie. Related to the G-String, this design avoids the problem of a visible pantie line underneath tight or clinging garments. It also offers the greatest feeling of freedom, being the next best thing to nudity.

Glamorous fabrics are a frequent choice, e.g. delicate lace, shiny silks. Whatever is used should be fine and soft, including the edging elastic, so that the outline doesn't show through top clothing. Most thongs are cut wholly in stretch fabrics so that they fit as closely as possible with comfort. However non-stretch fabrics may be used in certain areas on some styles – see examples in **Fig. 57**.

The top edge and legs are always elasticated using decorative strip elastic. As with the **Bikini Pantie Block** the absence of a crutch seam cross the front will enhance the sleek appearance; the tiny reinforcement piece is cut and sewn into this pantie in the same way. The actual thong width can vary from 0.5 cm to 3 cm – the narrowest being formed of just a strip of elastic.

Since waist-high thongs encircle the area just below the waist line, the body waist measurement is used as the basis for its construction. Note that as the thong sits in between the cheeks, there is no need for the extra back length that provides ease over the bottom in fuller cut panties. As ever, when using stretch fabrics, it is always advisable to cut a trial garment first to ensure perfect results.

Refer to Fig. 54

0-1 =	Waist measurement plus 16 cm / 2 (for a skin-tight fit using stretch fabric). Square down for CB and CF.	
2 =	Midway. Square up for side seam guide line.	
1-3 =	Body rise minus 0.5 cm.	Square inwards
0-4 =	Body rise plus 2.5 cm.	
2-5 =	2.5 cm height for waist shaping. Square a short line across.	
3-6 =	2.5 cm crutch width (5 cm on whole pattern). Increase 0.3 cm (0.6 cm) for sizes 16 & 18.	
4-7 =		
3-8 =	4 cm	Crutch reinforcement sections. Square across.
4-10 =	5 cm	
8-9 =	3.3 cm	Increase 0.3 cm for sizes 16 & 18.
10-11 =	1.5 cm	
12 =	Midway 0-10 on a line drawn parallel to CB from 11.	
13 =	1 cm from 5.	
14 =		
0-15 =	One third of 0-2 and 1-2. Draw straight guide lines 13-15 and 14-16. Curve waistline 0.5 cm below. Connect 13-2 and 14-2 for side seams. No shaping required. Connect 2-9-6 and 2-12 and 11-7 with straight guide lines.	
1-16 =		

For leg shaping:

Front: Divide line 2-9 into quarters. Hollow 2.5 cm, 3.2 cm and 2.5 cm.

Back: Divide line 2-12 into quarters. Hollow 1.8 cm, 3.5 cm and 3.5 cm.

Refer to Fig. 55

To eliminate the centre crutch seam, detach and join the back crutch section to the front pantie. Finally make a crutch reinforcement piece which will be cut in a single layer of thin absorbent fabric. This will be sew in with the back thong seam (10-11) but merely neatened and laid on the inside of the front crutch are (9-8). Just as with the Bikini Pantie Block, it will be invisible when worn.

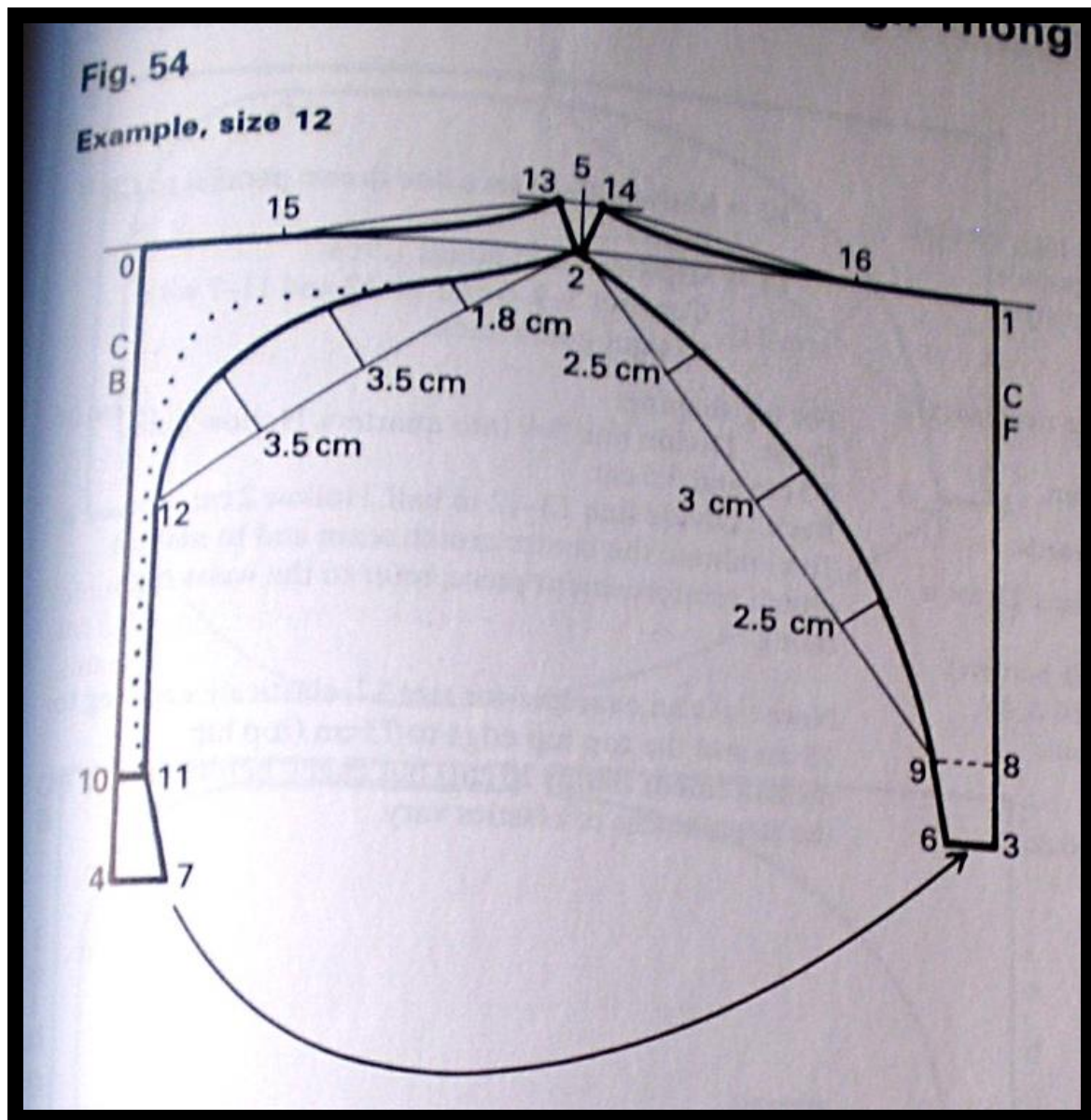


Fig. 54

Note 1. As an example for size 12, elasticate each leg to 60 cm and the top (waist) edge also to 60 cm, but check before cutting as the stretchiness of elastics vary.

Note 2. For an even scantier thong adjust the back leg shaping as shown with the dotted line in Fig. 54 – but reconnect with 11 at the base of the thong so as not to reduce the width here as it goes underneath the body.

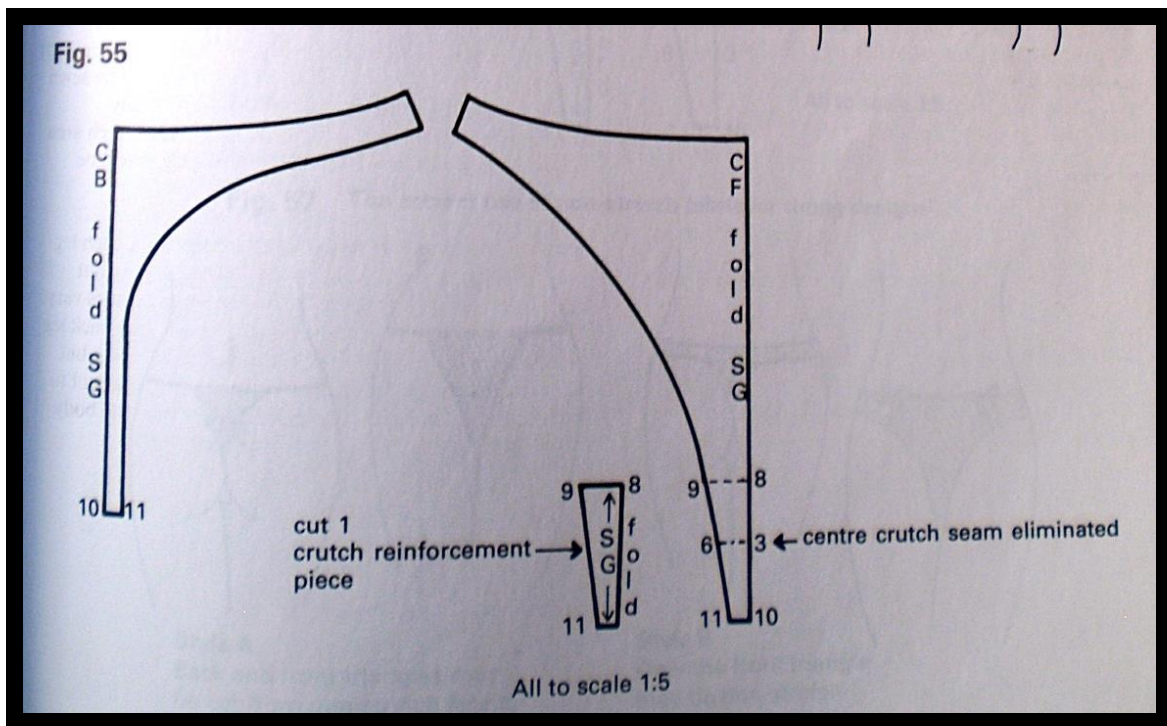


Fig. 55

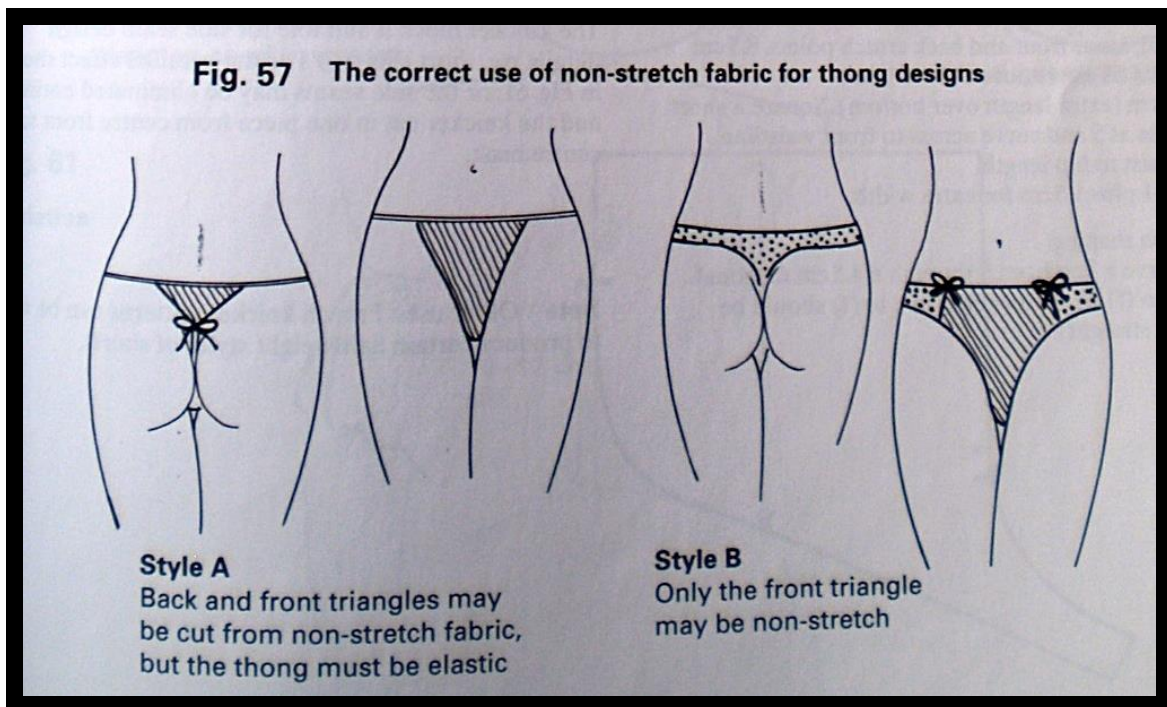
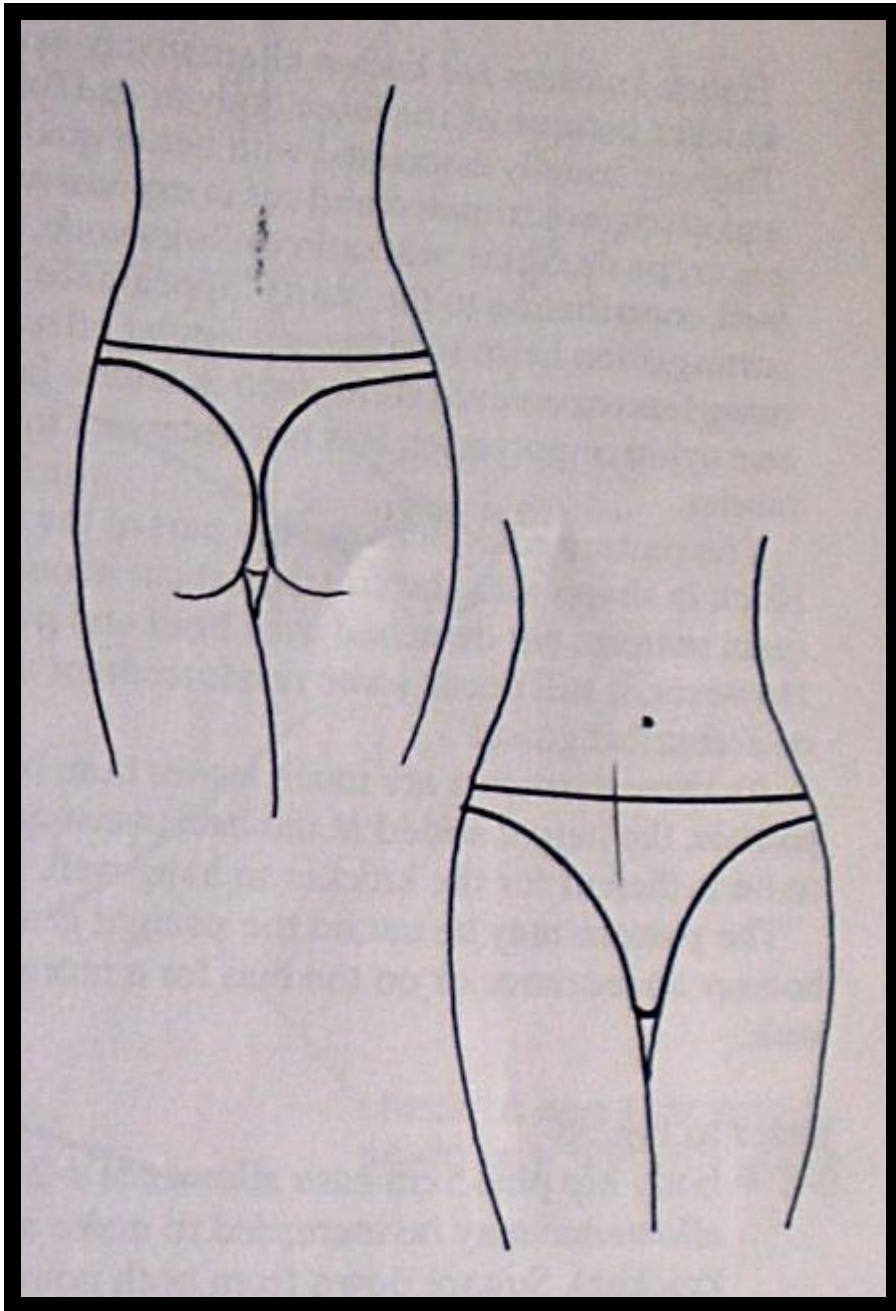


Fig. 57

3) LOW-RISE THONG HIPSTER STYLE



The scantiest of panties is similar to the **waist-high thong**, but cut just below the hip bone making it a popular choice for wearing under close-fitting hipster styles.

Refer to Fig. 56

0-1 =	Waist measurement 2 (no ease necessary). Square down for CB and CF.	
2 =	Midway. Square up for side seam.	
1-3 =	Body rise minus 9 cm.	Square inwards
0-4 =	Body rise minus 6 cm.	
2-5 =	Side seam length - 1.5 cm for all sizes. Draw a line parallel to 0-1 towards CB.	
3-6 =	2.5 cm crutch width (5 cm on whole pattern). Increase 0.3 cm (0.6 cm) for sizes 16 & 18.	
4-7 =		
3-8 =	4 cm	Crutch reinforcement sections. Square across.
4-10 =	5 cm	
8-9 =	3.3 cm	Increase 0.3 cm for sizes 16 & 18.
10-11 =	1.5 cm	
12 =	Midway 0-10 on a line drawn parallel to CB from 11.	
13 =	Midway CB-5 minus 1.5 cm. Connect 5-9-6 and 13-12 and 11-7 with straight guide lines.	

Note. As an example for size 12, elasticate each leg to 55 cm and the top hip edge to 73 cm (top hip measurement minus 15 cm) but check before cutting as the stretchiness of elastics vary.

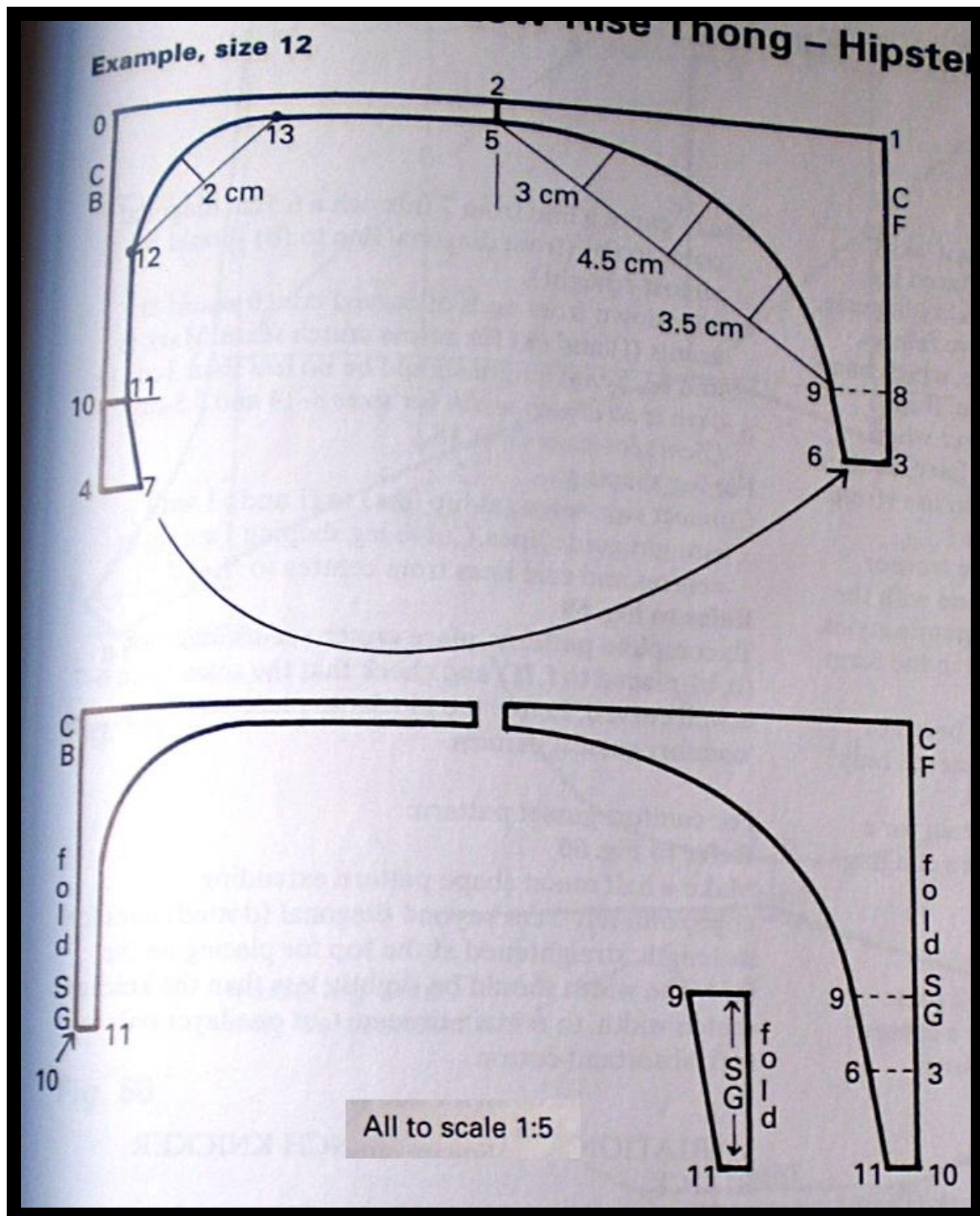
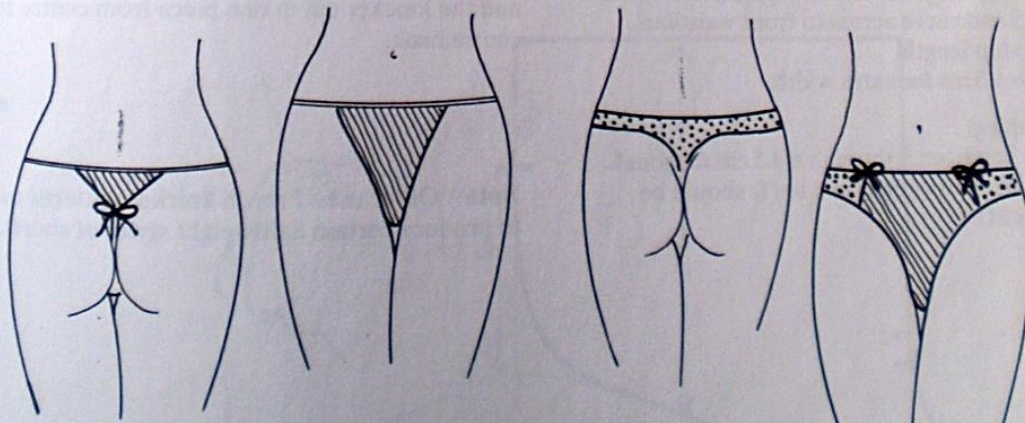


Fig. 56

Fig. 57 The correct use of non-stretch fabric for thong designs



Style A

Back and front triangles may be cut from non-stretch fabric, but the thong must be elastic

Style B

Only the front triangle may be non-stretch

Fig. 57