

**205-1**

Angela Wolf demonstrates the basics of hemming.

Watch the video for this project online at:

[http://youtu.be/q7N\\_moWotIA](http://youtu.be/q7N_moWotIA)



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Please continue to page 2 for project instructions.

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## Partners



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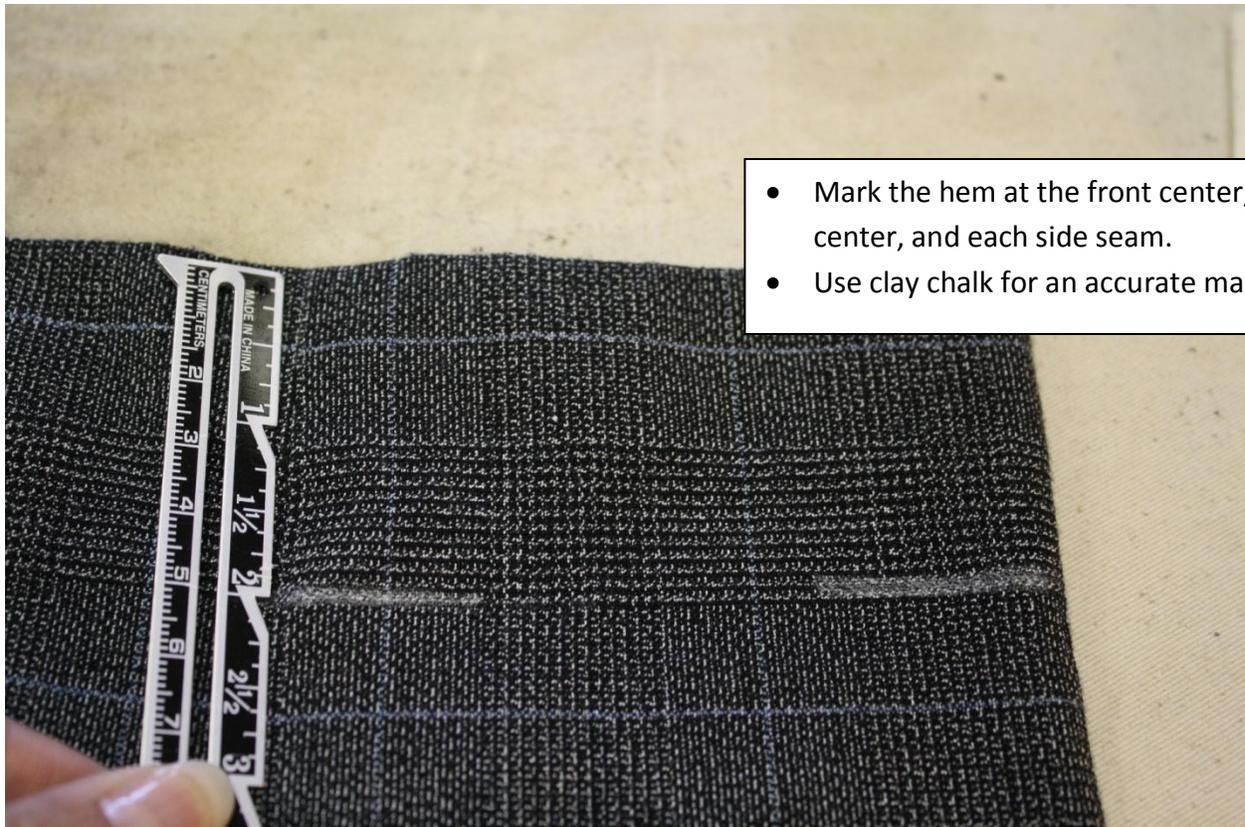
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# Easy Alterations: Hemming Pants

by Angela Wolf

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- Mark the hem at the front center, back center, and each side seam.
- Use clay chalk for an accurate marking.

Hemming pants is one of the most necessary alterations for men and women. Mark the hem on the center back seam - while the person is standing straight and wearing the correct shoes.

**TIP:** For a man's trousers or women that wear flats - hem the front  $1/2$ " to 1" shorter in the front. This helps to prevent a large break in the center front seam.



- Carefully rip out the original hem stitches.



- Turn up hem along the chalk markings.



- Make sure the hem is straight all the way around.



- Press hem. Use a press cloth as not to damage the pant fabric (I have not used one here so you can see what I am doing 😊)
- Press pant hem flat with front crease and back crease at each end.
- Press with a lot of steam.
- Use clapper to create a crisp hem.

- Trim off the excess fabric in the pants hem. The ideal pant hem differs on the design of the pant, but typically you will find 1-1/2" to 2".
- Finish the raw edge with a serger or with a zigzag stitch.
- Hand-stitch or machine stitch the hem up.



Hemming with the sewing machine using the blindstitch foot and stitches is quite simple.

- Fold your hem up and then fold your hem back as shown. This will allow the machine to stitch along you serged edge.



- Machine stitch along the serged edge with the hem folded back. The blindstitch will catch the pant fabric every few stitches.



- Here is what the right side of the pants will look like. I have used white thread and a wide stitch so you can see the stitches. If these were shorter, they would blend right in with the fabric.

## Hemming pants with less of a break in the front:

When hemming pants with less of a break, usually in men's trousers or women's narrow pants legs, the front of the pant leg is hemmed shorter than the back. You will hem the pant exactly as shown above, except for a few changes.



- Mark back hem at center back seam.
- Add a slash mark with chalk to show there is an angle at each side seam.
- Mark center front seam 1/2" to 1" higher than back marking.
- Press hem, using the front hem mark and the back hem mark as the guide. Make sure the hem is crisp and straight from front to back.



- Snip the center front seam allowance 1/4" to 1/2". This will allow your hem to lay flat with the front being so much shorter.



- Hem by hand or run through the sewing machine using the blind hem stitch as shown above.
- Spread slit open while hemming the center front.

**See how easy that was!**



**Happy Sewing!**

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