

Trousers

1. Overlock front crotch seams together, topstitch
2. Overlock legs together down outside seam, topstitch

At this point you have a long flat piece running back leg, front leg, front leg, back leg

3. Overlock remaining raw edges, EXCEPT back crotch, to finish them (single layer – don't join them)
4. Turn over waist to make channel for drawstring and press

(if you are using button hole openings now is the time to mark and sew them)

5. Open out waist channel and place drawstring with ends flush with crotch seam ends and in correct position.
6. Overlock each back crotch seam separately catching in the drawstring
7. Fold over the waist channel again and stitch from about 3 inches from the start, leaving 3 inches from the end also unsewn.

I have abandoned the button holes and am now leaving two gaps about half an inch either side of the centre front seam - you can only do this if the waist edge is nicely finished so if not overlocking – stick with the button holes. You need to make sure that the gaps are too small for the tape to go back through flat (I make mine about half the width of the tape). If you are doing this method remember to leave those gaps when sewing down the waist channel.

8. Sew on pockets. I put a bar tack at the top for strength. There are other ways but do add something.
9. Sew back crotch seam with waist channel unfolded, press seam open and topstitch either side
10. Finish waist channel

I add a bar tack either side of the seam through the tape just to make sure it's secure. There are other ways of doing this but something should be added.

11. Pull the excess tape through the gaps in the waistband (buttonholes or gaps) and cut (take a minute to try and get each side flat and cut in the middle else one tape will be much longer than the other)
12. Fold over the end of the tape twice and secure with cross and box shape stitching. This helps to keep the end stiff and flat and helps to stop it going back through the holes!
13. Sew Inner legs. I tend to go from crotch to hem and then again on the other leg even though it's tempting to do one long run, because the crotch seam matches better that way and any slight errors end up at the hem not the crotch or all on one side. You can then also make a bit of extra stitching at the crotch for strength.
14. Hem legs

Tops

1. Overlock (to neaten) lower edges of facings
2. Sew Front facing to front top

When I reach the V I stop a little short of the point, do a couple of stitches to give it a flat bottom and then go back up the other side (I mark it in). I find it turns through when clipped (two clips, one into each corner) much easier that way.

3. Sew back facing to back top
4. Clip curves, understitch and press facings away from top
5. Overlock shoulder seams starting from edge of facing, matching up seams and through to sleeve
6. Press facing to inside, shoulder seam towards back and top stitch shoulder seams
7. Overlock (to neaten) all remaining edges

On the side seam I overlock right towards the edge in the sleeve and side section but deeper into the curve. This is so when I sew the side seam up there is fabric left for a vent at the bottom, but the seam at the curve has a really small allowance so your nice neaten edges don't need clipping.

8. Give the whole thing a good press on the flat and draw on the edge of the lower edge of facing on the outside of the top. Topstitch following this line.
9. If needed topstitch a little way round the V shape opening (it's hit and miss for me how well I've done this and if it is needed or not)
10. Sew on pocket. I put a bar tack at the top for strength. There are other ways but do add something.
11. Join side seams

So 5/8 allowance at sleeve end. Stitch right next to the overlocking round the curve and then a straight, slanted line down the side seam to the top of the vent.

12. Press side seam open where you can – right down to the hem to create creases for the vent
13. From the right side of the garment turn up the full hem allowance, and turn back half towards you
14. Stitch the corner where the side vent fold crosses the hem curves, along that side vent crease
15. Turn the hem through. There's now a nice corner where the hem and vents meet. Press
16. Stitch all the way around the hem, the side vent across the top of the vent and keep going until you reach where you started.
17. Bar tack or strengthen the seam above the vent
18. Hem sleeves