



TRICOT

Tricot has all the qualities desirable in lingerie: durability, easy care, and comfort because of the stretchability. Tricot is a knit fabric in which each yarn forms loops interlocking above, below, and sideways. The ribs formed by the loops run length-wise on the right side and crosswise on the wrong side. Tricots of 100 percent nylon, 100 percent triacetate, and blends of the two are most common.

Formerly very hard to find, tricot is now available to anyone willing to take a little trouble. Tricot comes in solids and prints and in widths ranging from 44 inches to 108 inches. Tricot weights vary from very sheer (15-20 denier) through medium (30-40 denier) to heavy (50-60 denier). The weight selected for lingerie depends on personal taste and the design and function of the garment. Medium weight is most generally used.

Findings

Use "soft" elastic. This usually has one straight and one fluted or pico edge which may be placed either up or down. One hundred percent nylon elastic is best, but the most easily found elastics are blends with varying percentages of nylon, rayon, and rubber. Use ½-inch wide elastic for the waist and 1/4 inch or less for the legs.

Almost any shrink-proof lace can be used providing it is not too stiff or heavy. Stretch-lace in several widths is ideal for curved edges because it is easy to manipulate. Non-stretch lace comes in wider widths and makes an excellent finish on straight edges. At corners, all laces have to be mitered.

Tools

Your regular sewing equipment can be used with a few modifications. Use bent shears to cut the fabric to reduce the amount of lift and ensure greater accuracy. Shears must be sharp; wipe lint from blades frequently to maintain sharpness. Use the finest, sharpest pins you can find. Mark fabric with transparent tape and a red or blue pencil which will wash out. Do NOT use lead pencil or carbon paper. Use a ball-point needle, preferably a size 10 or 70. Use a blended thread to sew lingerie. Because of their polyester core, these threads are fine yet strong and have the "give" necessary for tricot.

Fabric Preparation

Tricot can become stretched while on the bolt. To relax yarns and also remove any excess finishing solution, thoroughly soak or machine wash the fabric. Use a fabric softener to reduce static electricity. If you are in doubt which is the right and wrong side, stretch fabric edge on the crosswise grain and the fabric will always roll to the right side.

Pinning, Cutting, and Marking

For maximum accuracy, cut off pattern margins (not seam allowances) before placing on fabric. Note the seam allowances. They may be different from those on other patterns and may vary even in the same pattern.