

- ◆ Use ballpoint sewing machine needles, and use your machine’s stretch-stitch except where indicated otherwise.
- ◆ If you find yourself unsure which is the “right” side of the spandex, the cut edges, when stretched, will curl toward the right side.
- ◆ Use flexible fabric glue to put the diamonds on the bodysuit—it comes out looking cleaner than a stitched applique, and stretches better. Put a piece of aluminum foil on the inside, under the area you’re working on so you don’t glue the front to the back. Do one area at a time and let it dry overnight before you move to the next area. Give yourself several days to do this. Expect some of the patches to come loose the first time you wear it. Also be very careful with that glue—it won’t come off your fingers and although it says it can be cleaned up with a damp cloth, don’t trust it. It can leave wet-looking patches if it soaks through and dries.
- ◆ Spandex breaks down with heat. If you use the fusible (iron-on) batting, experiment on some scraps to see what heat level your fabric can handle before it shrinks or melts. Always use a press cloth. If your spandex is really touchy, you may have to flat-stitch the batting to your pieces instead of fusing them.

Bodysuit

Note: When four-way spandex is stretched widthwise, it tends to lose some length. Plan accordingly. You may want the suit to be skin-tight but remember you can always take it in.

- 1) Measure yourself and compare measurements to the pattern. Check the inseam length against the length of your own leg. Compare the center front and back seam lengths to your own torso. While the fabric may stretch, the suit will fit better and be less likely to ride up if the finished suit length is almost the same length as your measurements. Shorten or lengthen the arms, legs, and torso as needed. Especially measure the distance from the top of your shoulder to under the bust, where the bisecting line of the costume is. If you are large-busted you should probably lengthen that upper front piece.
- 2) Lay out pattern pieces so the greatest degree of stretch is on the horizontal. In other words, you want the garment to stretch across your hips, not down the length of your thigh.
- 3) Sew the left top to the left bottom at the waistline. Sew the right top to the right bottom.
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