

Student Strategies from Marie:

A few students had a question about the placement of the ruler.

“Do I need to keep the ruler away from my butt crack in order to include my cheeks in my bowl measurement?” My answer was no, but maybe that was just my personal preference.

My reasoning for “keeping it in the crack” was that the drafts already include volume for your cheeks and that everyone would want the crotch curve to be close-fitting on the block, which could then be lowered away from the body as a style preference during patternmaking. I was envisioning a fit more like the pants below. The crotch seam goes in between the cheeks, pretty much exactly where we placed our bendy rulers.



Butt Bridge and Hip Caliper

Before the question came up, I hadn't really considered that this might not work with all bodies or all personal preferences.

Marie strongly felt like the volume of her cheeks needed to be included in the bowl, did some brainstorming and experimenting (I love it when ya'll take ideas and run with them!), and came up with a solution that gave her results she was thrilled with.

Marie's solution: Make a Butt Bridge!

I won't share photos of Marie's butt, but before putting on her skirt block and bending the flexible ruler around her crotch, she used painter's tape to add a piece of thick paper (heavy enough to hold its shape but flexible enough to follow the curve of the body) to her underwear to create a "butt bridge". This bridge kept the ruler from going into her crack and allowed her to include the volume of her cheeks in the bowl.

Marie loved the results and felt like this was key to the success of both of her blocks. If this sounds interesting to you, give it a try! Or better yet, make two bowls and do some experiments in multiple mockups to find what works best for you.

Butt Bridge and Hip Caliper

Another bowling tip from Marie: Hip Caliper

Before tracing her newly butt-bridged bendy ruler on the paper, she decided to take another new measurement: a hip caliper. Knowing the distance from hip rubber band to hip rubber band gave her extra assurance for how to lay the ruler onto the paper once it was removed from the body.

“So the bottom line (ha!) is that for me, it's all about the bowl. Once I got the bowl to accurately reflect the space my body requires, your drafting directions worked like a charm.” -Marie

Do you have ideas for extra measurements or bowl tracing tips?