

# Navy Polka Dot Bikini

By: nhouse

<http://www.burdastyle.com/projects/navy-polka-dot-bikini>

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I made this bikini without a pattern. I don't know what I was thinking but it turned out pretty good I think. It is a halter top, with tie under bust, and built in cups. The bottoms are low rise. I used a bikini I already own to trace the general outline. There is a possibility with some minor alterations that this could be a reversible

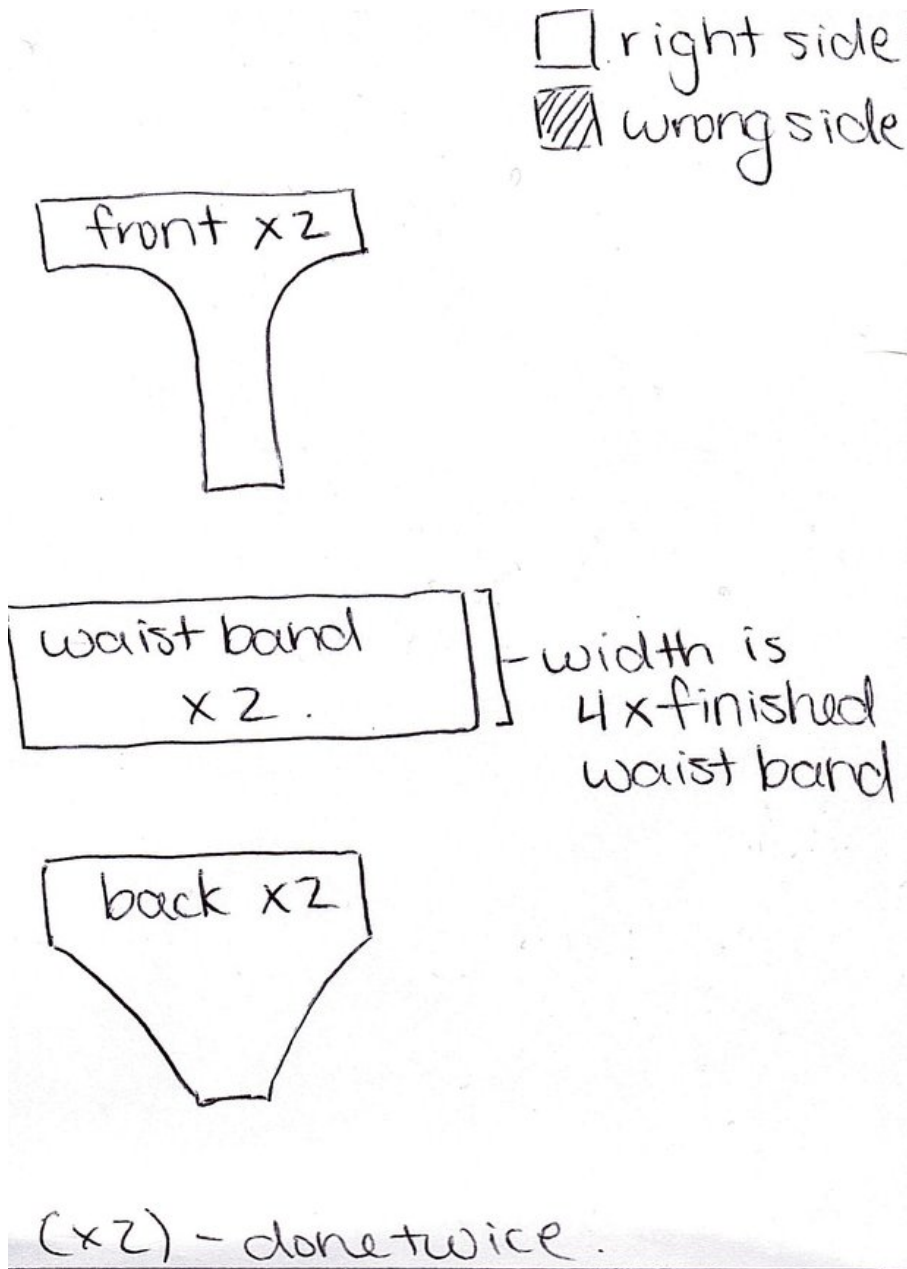
bikini with two separate textiles on either side. This bikini is double layered. If you use my instructions and pattern please give me credit thank you

## Materials

jersey knit bra cups (purchased at fabric store) bathing suit elastic regular narrower elastic (for the drawstring) thread

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### Step 1 — cut out pattern pieces for bikini bottoms



cut:

- 2 front bottom pieces on fold
- 2 back bottom pieces on fold

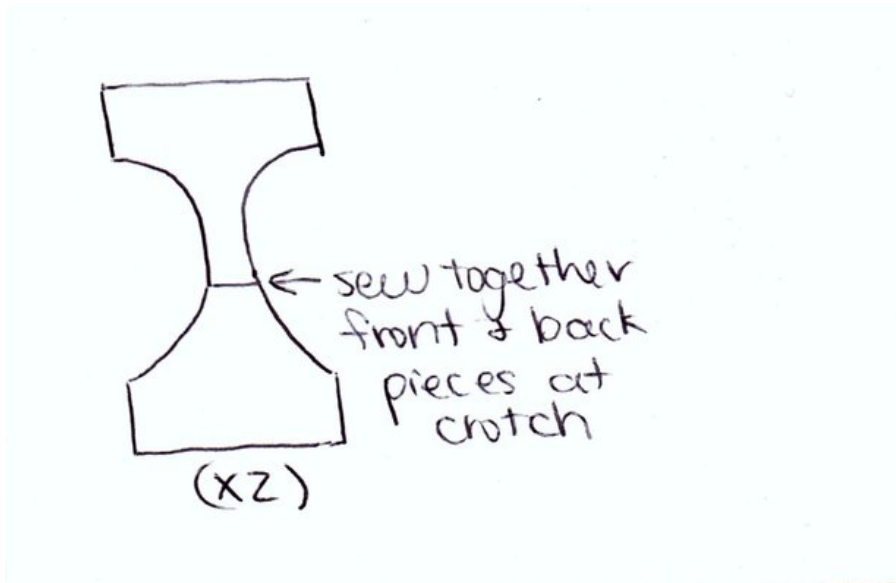
- 2 waist band pieces according to your measurements

\*\*note the legend for the right and wrong sides of fabric

please feel free to ask questions... i am open to criticism for these instructions. i tried to make it as detailed as possible.

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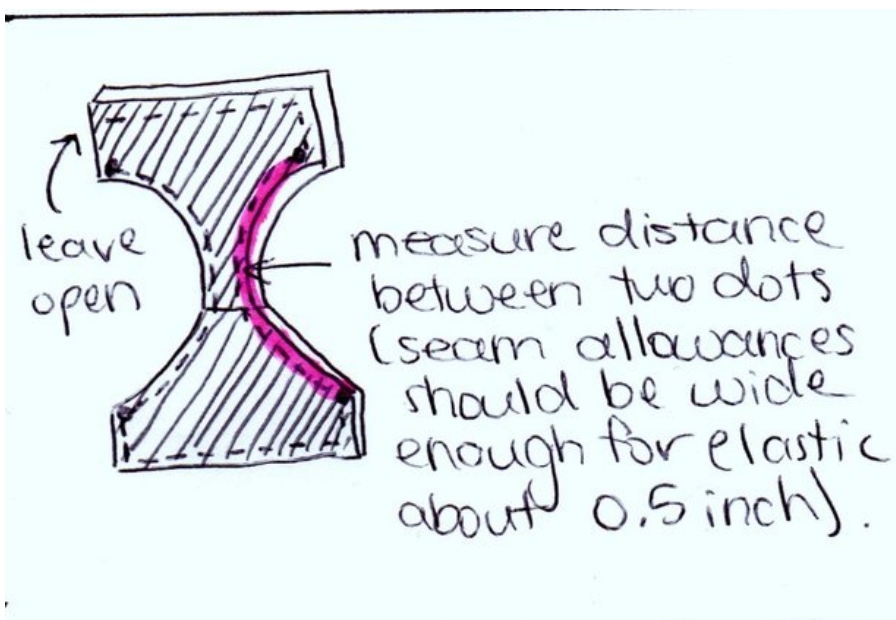
## Step 2 — sew crotch pieces



sew one front bottom piece to one back bottom piece at the crotch and do the same for the other two pieces. (right sides faced together)

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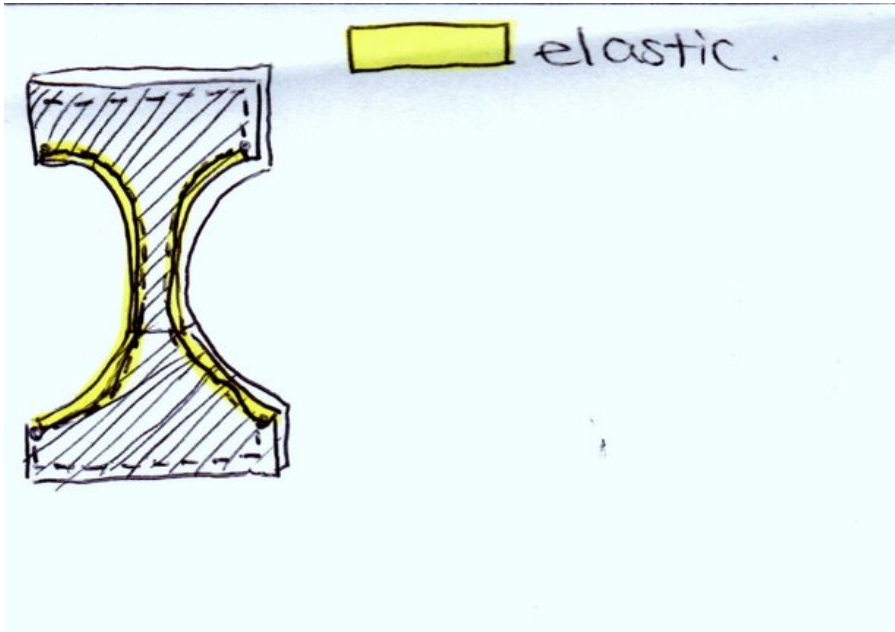
## Step 3 — sew all 4 pieces together



take the two pieces created from the last step and sew them together, right sides together. sew the perimeter, leaving a 1/2 inch allowance. leave opening so that the bottoms can be turned right side out. mark dots as seen on photo and measure the distance (highlighted in pink).

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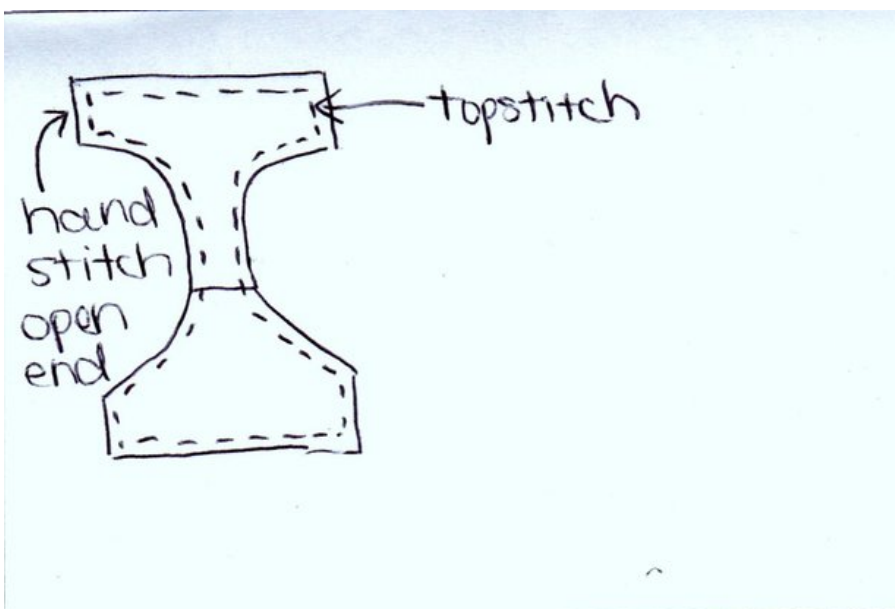
#### Step 4 — elastic time



take the measurement from the last step and subtract 1 inch. this is the measurement of your swimsuit elastic. cut two this length. when sewing the swimsuit elastic on, ensure you stretch it to the length of the space measured on the garment. pin both ends to the dots marked on the fabric and stretch the elastic as you sew. make sure the elastic sits within the seam allowance.

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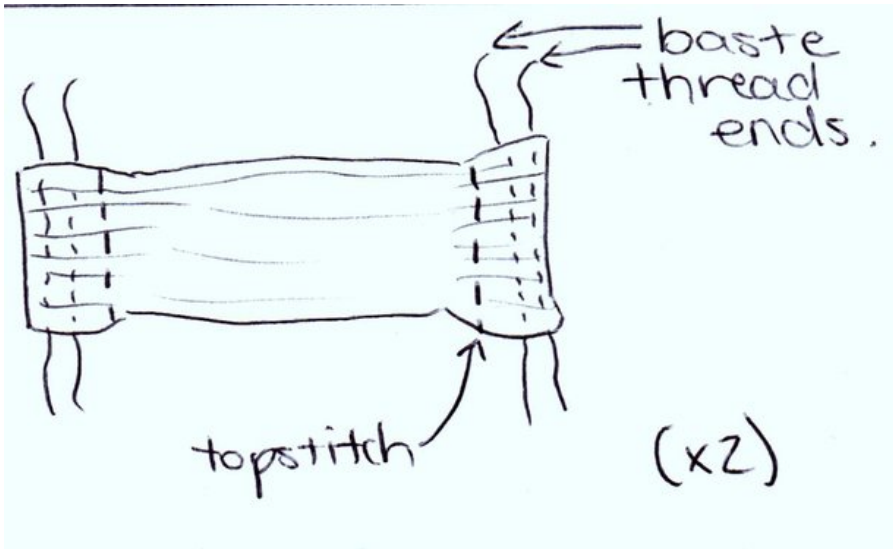
#### Step 5 — invert and sew



invert the garment right side out and sew up opening by hand so the stitch is not seen. then topstitch the perimeter around the garment along the other side of the elastic.

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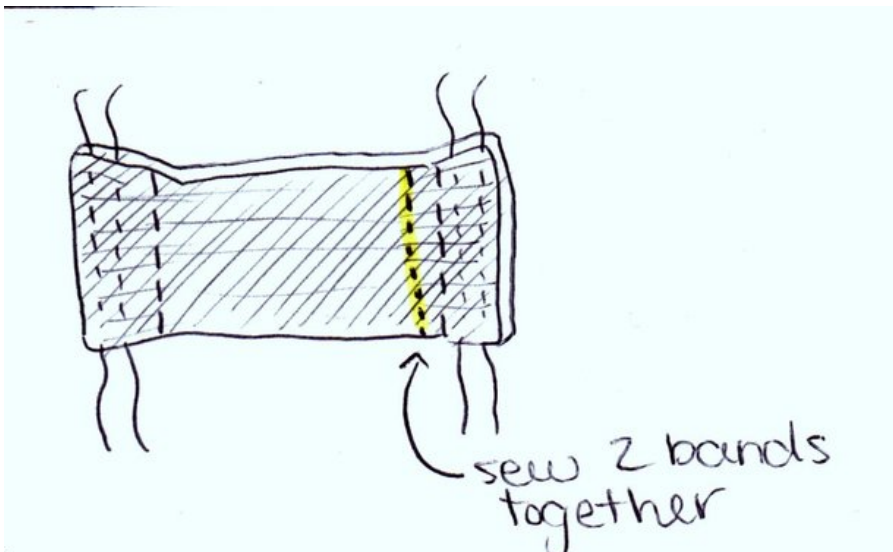
## Step 6 — waist band



be sure to continually try on the waist band as you sew. there may be some trial and error to ensure a nice fit. take the two waste band pieces you cut out and baste 2 lines on either ends and gather the material to be half the original width. then stitch on the inside of both gathered ends to secure the gathering.

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## Step 7 — sew waste band pieces together

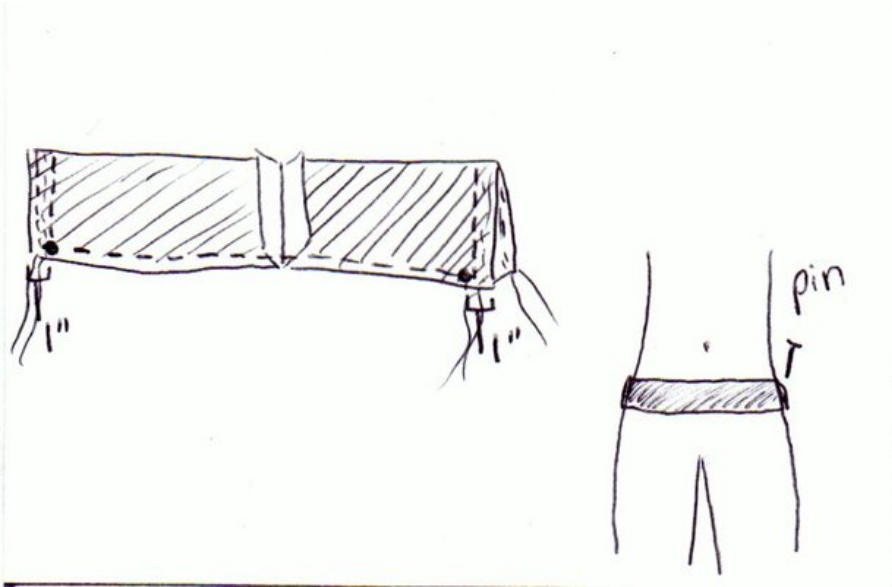


take the two gathered band pieces and lay them right sides together. sew one side right inside the regular stitching or even on top of it.

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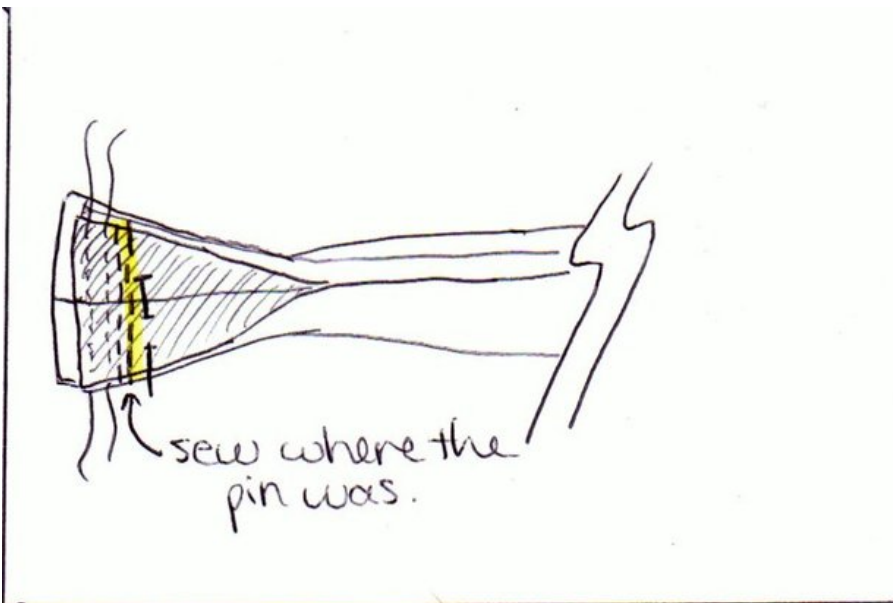
## Step 8 — create a tube and try it on



open the piece and fold it horizontally (lengthwise) like in the photo (right sides together) and sew along the open side, leaving 1 inch on either ends. wrap this piece around your hips or where you want your waist band to sit and pin it in place.

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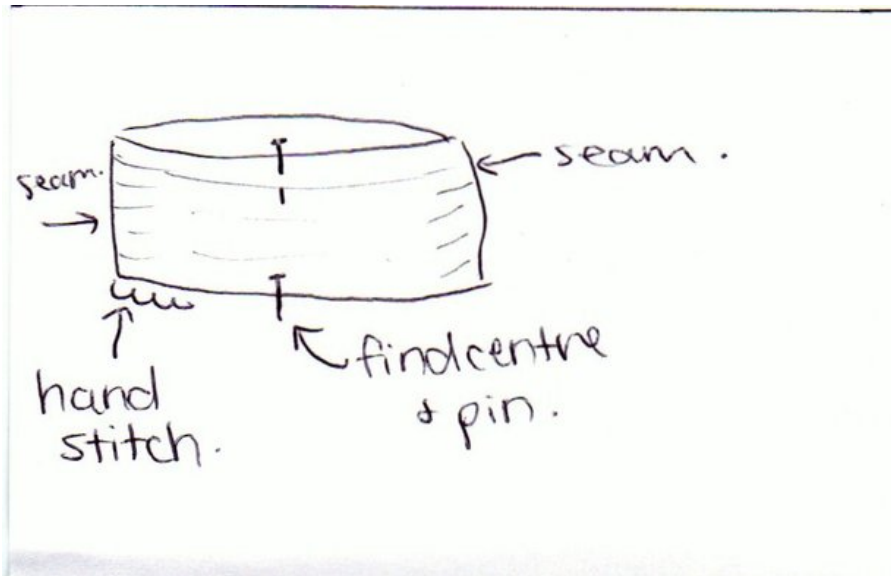
## Step 9 — create a loop



invert the waist band right side out and sew along where the pin was placed. this is a bit tricky because the part being sewed has to be inside out still. (see photo). this will create a loop...your waist band.

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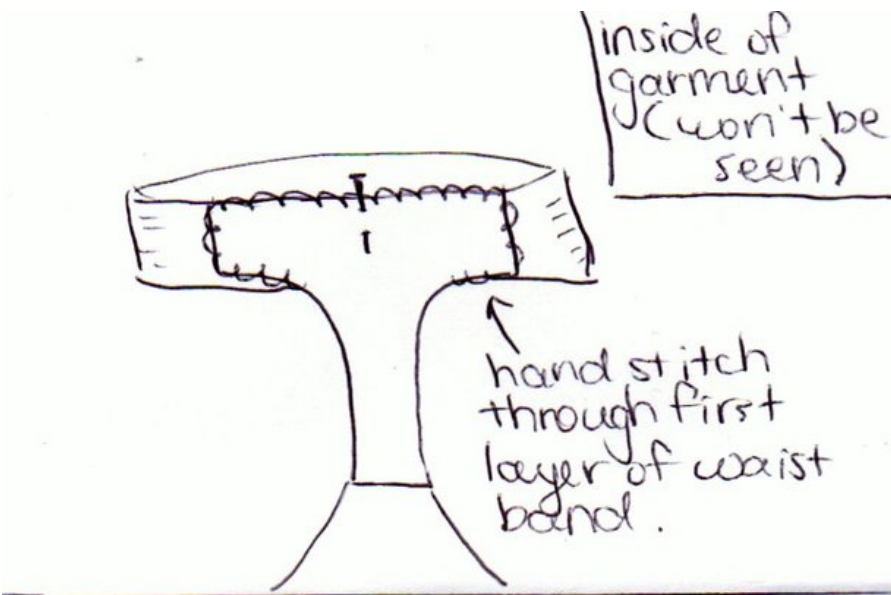
## Step 10 — finish the band



hand stitch the opening of the waist band and find the front centre and back centre of the band and pin. these will be markers to pin the rest of the bottoms to the band.

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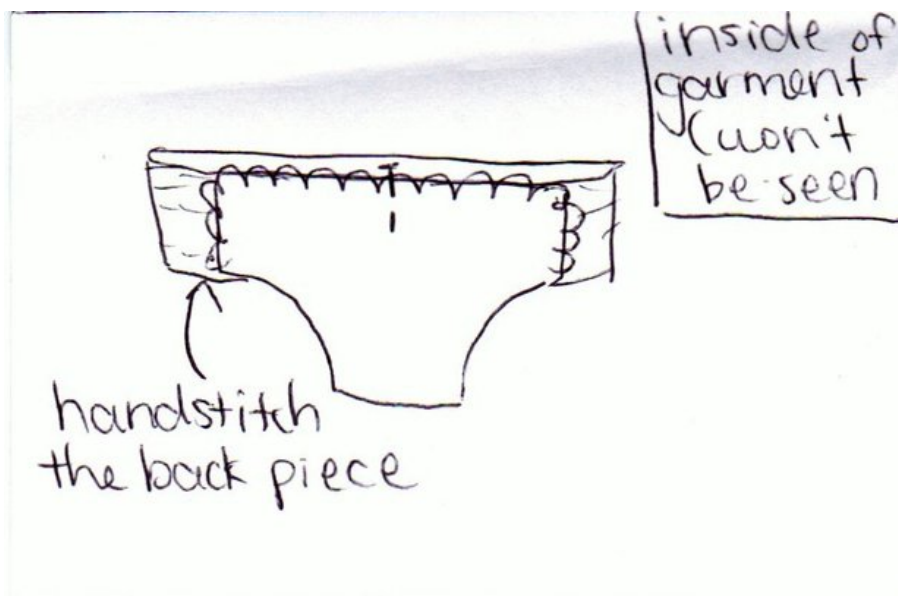
## Step 11 — attaching the bottoms



hold the bottom pieces up on yourself and pin the waist band on loosely to get an idea of how the garment will fit. make necessary adjustments. the next few steps involve looking at the inside of the garment. find the centre of the front bottoms and pin to mark. line up this pin with one pin from the waist band. line up the top of the band with the top of the front piece. hand stitch them together only through the inside layer of the band so that stitches are not seen on the right side. now would be a good time to try on again.

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## Step 12 — attaching the bottoms...continued



repeat step 11 for the back bottoms.

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## Step 13 — finished drawing of bottoms



this is what the bottoms should look like from the front.

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## Step 14 — bra intro



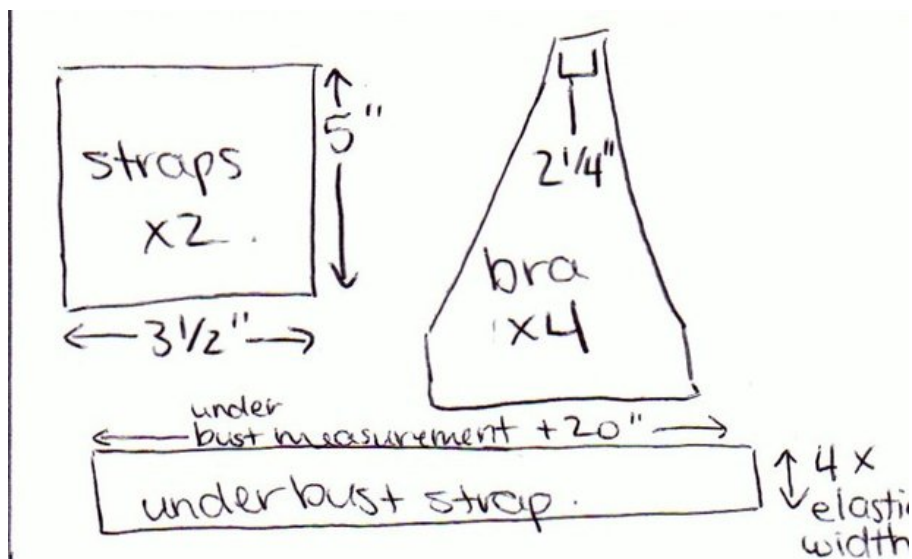
□ right side  
 ▨ wrong side

(after step ; □ refers to outside of garment + ▨ refers to inside).

(x2) - done twice.

the bra part of the bikini is the most difficult part of this garment. i tried my best to create understandable instructions. note the legend. after the bra is inverted right side out, the legend changes a bit. i forgot to fill in the step number for change before i scanned it. the missing number is 22. that is the step where the legend changes a bit.

### Step 15 — cut out bra pieces

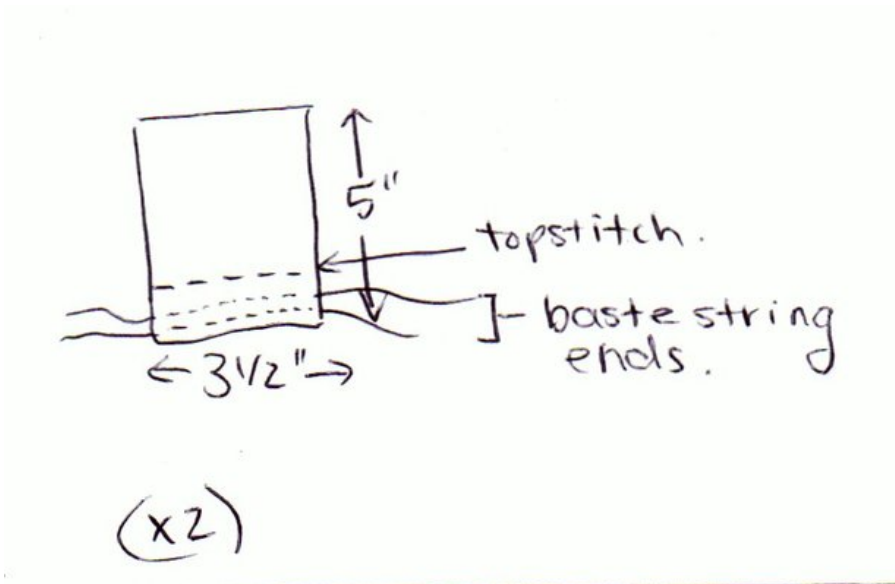


cut:

- 2 strap pieces
- 4 bra pieces
- 1 bust drawstring

\*\*i did not include the pattern for these pieces as i did not use any. use your own chest size as a guide. basically the bra is a triangle shape. create it on a fold to ensure symmetry. see pattern section to get more details.

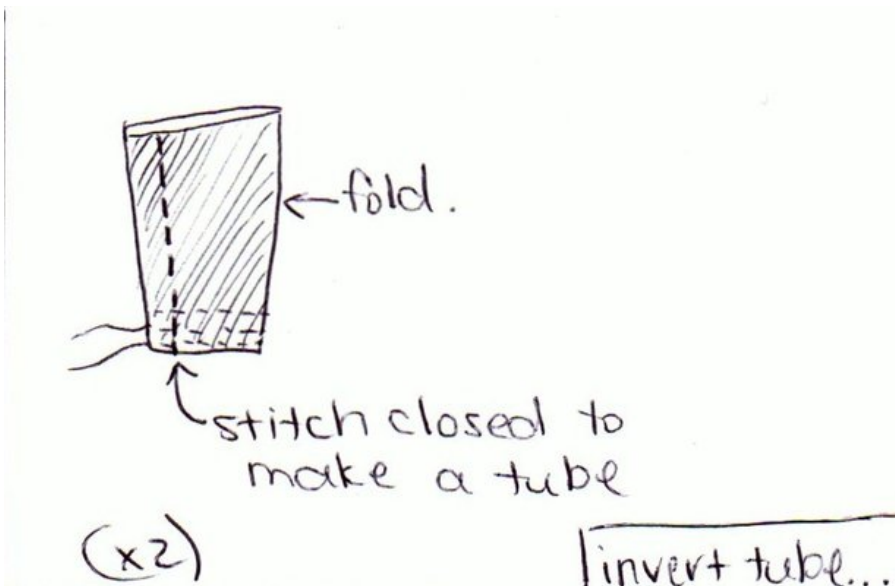
## Step 16 — strap prep



take the straps and baste two lines along the end that is 3 1/2 inches long and gather a little. then stitch along the inside of the basting to secure the gathering.

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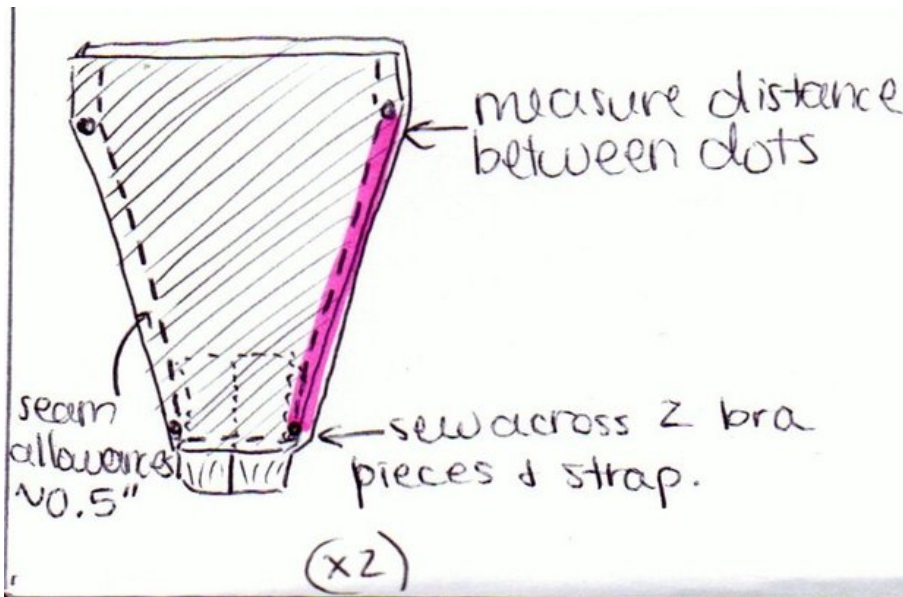
## Step 17 — create tubes



fold straps in half (see photo) and stitch along the open end. then invert them right side out.

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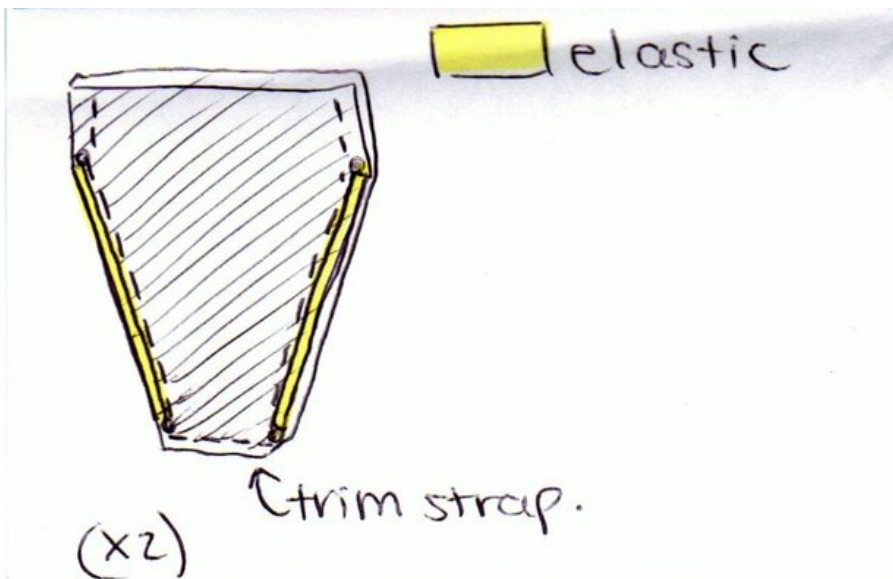
## Step 18 — begin the assembly



take two bikini pieces and lay them right side together and sandwich a strap between them. sew long the strap to secure. ensure the gathering threads are in the seam allowances. sew the bikini pieces together but do not catch the strap within the pieces (i drew the strap dotted to represent what can not be seen). the seam allowances should be about 1/2 inch or as wide as the swimsuit elastic. draw the dots on the bikini parts as seen in the photo and measure the distances (pink highlight).

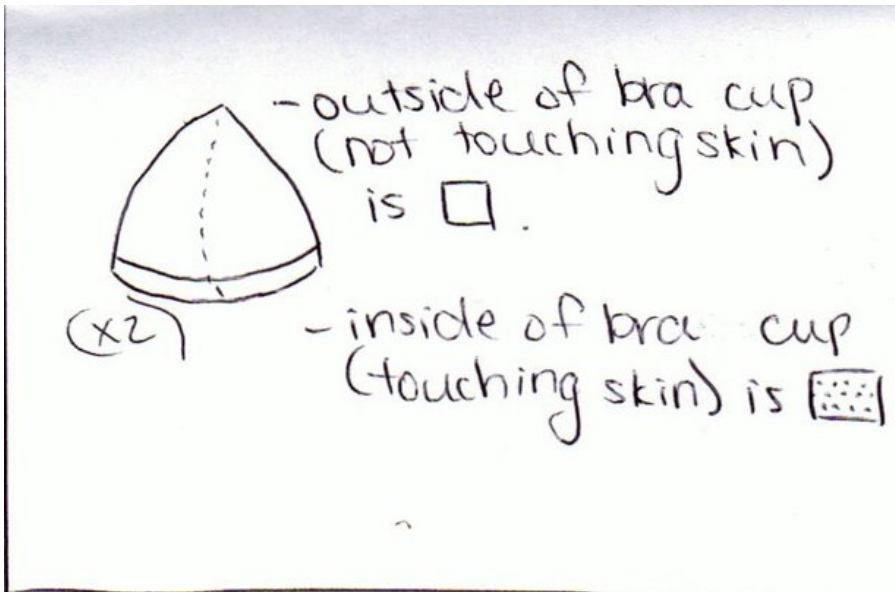
repeat this step for the other bikini part..... 2 boobs, 2 parts

## Step 19 — elastic time



take the measurement from the last step and subtract 1 inch. this is the measurement for your elastic. you need 4 swimsuit elastic pieces this length. 2 per bikini part. pin ends of elastic to dots on fabric and sew as described for the bikini bottoms. trim the strap that has the gathering threads.

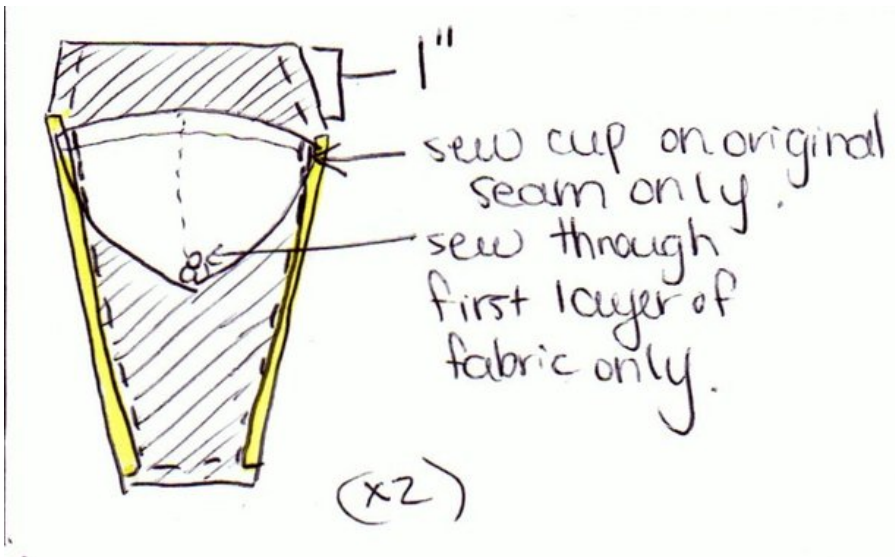
## Step 20 — bra cup intro



this legend is so that you can see which way the bra cup is facing.

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## Step 21 — attaching the cups

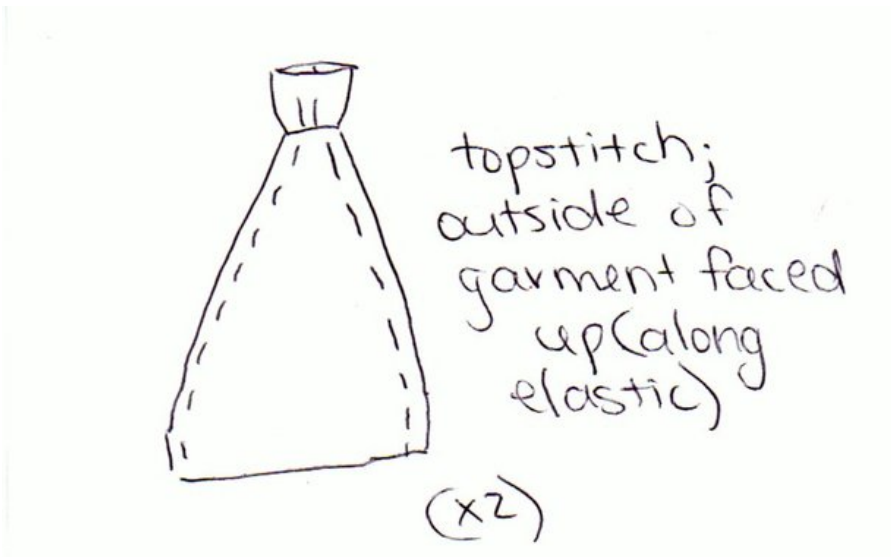


lay the cups on the bikini tops, with the elastic of the top facing up and the cups facing you. the part that would be against your skin is facing away from you. see the cup along the original seams of the bikini tops. this will prevent any seams from showing on the right side of bra. the sides are the only parts that attach the cups, except for a few hand stitches at the pointed top of the cup. this is sewn only through the first top layer of fabric. before you secure this hand stitch, invert the bikini and "mold" the fabric to the cup to ensure there is no bunching or stretching. also..... make sure the bottom of the cup is 1 inch away from the bottom of the bikini top.

\*\*i included an actual photo of what this step looks like. this photo is at the end of the instructions.

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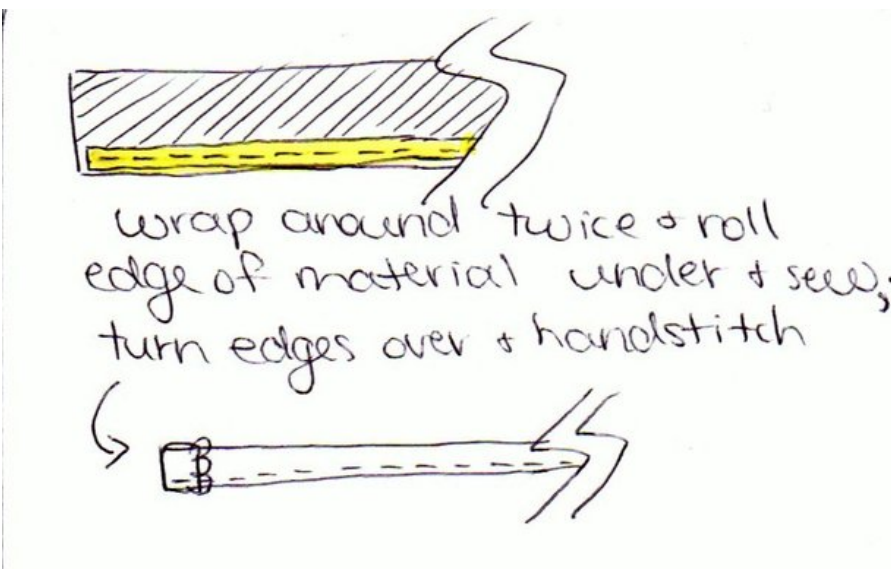
## Step 22 — invert and sew



invert bikini pieces right side out and sew along the elastic like how you did with the bikini bottoms.

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## Step 23 — create a drawstring

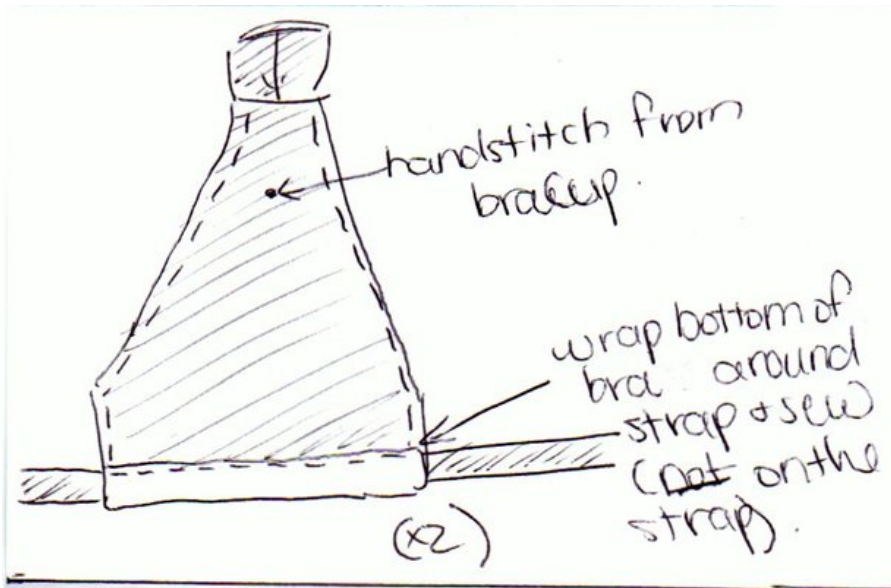


make a drawstring for under the bust and to be tied in the back. this should have an elastic wrapped inside and it should be a narrower elastic, because the hole that it will have to fit through is a but smaller than 1/2 an inch. the drawstring can be as long as you like. i recommend measuring below your bust and then adding about 20 inches. cut the fabric so it is about 4 times the elastic width. sew the elastic along one side of the fabric....roll and fold under end and sew again. then turn up end and hand stitch. ( see photo).

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## Step 24 — putting it together



now lay the drawstring across the bottoms of the bikini parts and fold the bottom edge around the drawstring and sew down to encase the drawstring. (do NOT sew on the drawstring or you will not be able to adjust the fit). make sure the right cup is on the right and the left is on the left.

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## Step 25 — finishing up the neck

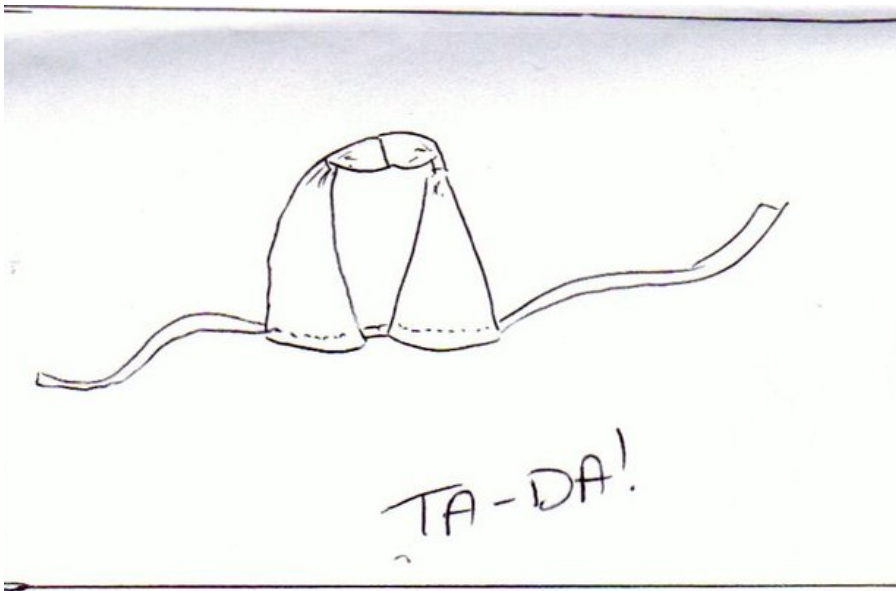


try on the bra and pin the straps around the neck. this should be slightly snug so that you boobs are nestled in nicely. :P sew along the pin ....repeat to ensure security.

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## Step 26 — finished drawing of bikini bra top





you are done. YAY

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If you use these instructions and pattern, please credit me. This took a long time to put together\*\*\*\* Thanks and enjoy your bikini!!

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## Step 27 — BRA CUP - photo



this photo is for better understanding of step 21.

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**BurdaStyle**

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