The same principles used in case making can be used to calculate dimensions and position of stitch lines for holsters. In short, to fit snugly and prevent weapon movement, the inside of the leather would be the same as the outside of the gun. This article uses the example of a simple pancake holster with stitch seams on the center line of the firearm.

Consider a rectangular item 4” high x 3” wide on the end. Place it on its side.

This is the size of the *inside* of the case.

The outside dimension equals the inside plus twice the case material. Assuming 1/8” thick material for the case makes the outside 1/4” larger than the inside (1/8” per side).

Since we’re making a two-piece case split in the center, then our drawing becomes this.

Folding the case material to the outside for the belt flanges reduces the vertical measurement of the outside by one leather thickness (1/8” here).
The resulting dimension (1 ½” here) is once again half the width of the item in the case, since the same amount (1/8”) is added to each surface.

The measurement of the material is the same from bottom to bottom, center to center, or inside to inside.

Since the horizontal case material equals the height of the item plus the thickness of the case on each side, then the measurement between the side fold lines (or stitch lines) is the height of the item, plus half the width of the item left side, plus half the width of the item right side, plus the thickness of the material per side *on the outside*. 

In other words, \((\text{Height}) + (\text{LEFT} / 2) + (\text{RIGHT} / 2) + (\text{Leather}) + (\text{Leather})\)

This ‘formula’ is true for items which are not rectangular.
Items with rounded corners generally reduce the interior size of the pocket. Contours, sights, and manufacturing tolerances in firearms may necessitate adjustment and fitting. Your case should be made to fit the smallest allowable size (perhaps .020” difference).

As a starting point, I reduce the size by one leather thickness (half per side). The formula then becomes:

\[(\text{Height}) + \left(\frac{\text{LEFT} + \text{Leather}}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{\text{RIGHT} + \text{Leather}}{2}\right)\]

So, to find the offset of each side, add the thickness of the leather to the side (width) you are measuring, and take half of that total.

Add stitch lines each side of the gun a distance equal to half the width of that side plus the leather thickness. This may or may not be equal on each side.

To illustrate: if your slide is 1” wide and your leather is 8 oz, then your front stitch line will be about 9/16” from the slide: (1”+ 1/8”, and then take half of that).

This is the starting point, which should be tested for fit and adjusted as needed.