The Four Principle Elements to Pattern Making and Pattern Design

**3 DARTS**

**REASONS why Darts are Placed in Patterns.**

This dress has waist darts in the seam lines. If there were no darts in the pattern, this dress would be unable to fit like it does. The fabric would droop under the bust and above the waist line.

Without darts there is no shaping in the finished garment.

- Darts do not make the entire pattern fit tighter.
- Darts prevent the fabric from drooping, or being “baggy”.
- This means that we can put darts only in the places where we want the fabric to fit closer and against the body.
- Darts placed in the pattern, in selected areas, cause the pattern and subsequently the fabric, to fit closer to the body.

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**Consider:**

- A pattern is a flat piece of paper.
- The fabric is flat.
- The body/figure is a three dimensional moving form.

To make the flat fabric curve around and over the three dimensional curved figure, a dart is placed in the pattern where a curve is required.

Learning pattern making teaches how, where, and why these darts must be the correct size, and in the right place, for each individual figure shape.

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**4 Design.**

Designing by dart transfer is the way most designers create their different styles. Darts that are placed in the pattern are then manipulated and/or transferred to panels lines to create different styles. Many different styles are created from the ONE basic pattern.

The darts can be sewn into the final garment, often as a feature.

The darts are usually moved around (transferred) into seams, to create different styles.

Darts and designing go together and form the very basis of pattern design.

Transferring darts is called dart manipulation.

Learning pattern making teaches **how** darts can be transferred, plus **where and why** darts may be manipulated to create different styles to suit each individual figure shape.

This is how pattern design is created by transferring darts.

The bust dart is moved to the shoulder. The widened dart is split to create 3 pleats. The bust dart is transferred to the style line. The basic bodice pattern with a bust dart. A style line is drawn to the shoulder line.

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Darts are placed in the pattern. Darts are transferred to style lines. Style lines are sewn together to curve the fabric where required.
How to Make the Buttonstand and Facing for **Open Neck** Shirts and Blouses.

This kind of facing and buttonstand is generally used with a collar with NO stand. **Cut and sew as an all-in-one.**

Suitable for **open neck**ed shirts for gents and ladies.

1. Start drafting the front bodice from 10 to 12 cm away from the left edge of the paper. Complete the front bodice to hem line.

2. Add a 2 cm button stand to centre front line.

3. Draw the facing onto the bodice pattern. Facing width is 5 cm from centre front line.

4. Fold the paper along the edge of the button stand. Using a tracing wheel (or place carbon paper underneath) trace along the outside line of the facing.

5. With the paper folded, add the seam allowances onto the neck curve, the shoulder line and the hem line.

6. Cut the pattern free from the paper keeping the paper folded. Cut along the edge of the seam allowances.

7. Unfold the paper. Cut the facing free along the traced off line of the facing.

8. Place notches on the centre front line and the edge of the button stand, at the neck curve, and notch these same lines at the hem. **These notches show:**
   1. Where the collar is attached (On the centre front line)
   2. Where, in the cut fabric, to fold under the facing.

**This Method is preferable:**
1. It ensures the neck curve of the facing and the bodice are exactly the same.
2. The curve of the seam allowance on both will be exactly the same.

Trace the grainline onto the facing when tracing the facing from the shirt pattern.

This style of facing is folded under and held in place by the collar, buttons and at the hemline. It can sewn as one piece with the bodice, or cut away and attached later. Much quicker and easier to make and sew all in one piece.
This pattern size (when finished) should be the bust measurement plus 6 cm ease.

Draw the basic bodice to this stage. Position the hem line 24 cm below the waist line. Do not neglect to add 2 cm ease onto the hip line and hem line per 1/4 pattern piece. Place 3 cm darts at the waist, compensate on the side seam once the waist darts have been inserted. If preferred, the front waist darts may be left out, however waist darts must be inserted in the back.

Add 2 cm beyond the centre front line for the buttonstand.

To Create the V Neckline.
Draw in the style line for the front neckline, as illustrated, 3 cm away from neck point on the shoulder, and approx. 18 cm below neck base on the centre front. The new neckline must extend over the buttonstand. Adjust the back neckline to line up with the front as illustrated.

To prevent the neck line from standing away from the body, a dart is placed at the neck line. This dart at the neck line is then closed and transferred to the bust dart. Refer to page 48 for more details.

Cut the bodice free from the paper. Cut into the middle line of the bust dart, up to, but not through, the bust point. Cut open and then close the dart made at the neckline. The bust dart opens a little wider. Re shape the neckline by removing the jagged edge where the neckline dart was closed.

The front pattern must now be divided along the style/panel line. Before cutting through to separate the pattern into two, position notches at the bust point, waist line and hip line. Position the grain line onto the front and side section. The grainline is parallel to the centre front line. The create the style line to the armhole, draw a straight line from bust point to the middle of the armhole. Then curve this line approx. 1 cm up and in the middle of the diagonal line.

On the Front
The bust dart and the waist are now transferred and incorporated into the panel line which runs from the armhole through to the hem line.

To do this:
Cut down the panel line from armhole up to, but not into, the bust point. Next, cut along the lower leg of the bust dart, up to, but not through, the bust point. Close the bust dart. The panel line at the armhole opens. Tape bust dart closed. Cut up the panel line from the hem through the bust point, thus separating the pattern into two sections.

Front
A dress pattern is made using the bust circumference as well as the hip width. A dress pattern is simply an extension of the bodice pattern. Therefore, the bust size number will be used. The skirt of a dress is an extension of the bodice pattern.

The FRONT side of the pattern ruler draws all the front pattern pieces, whether it is for bodice, trousers, or a sleeve.

The BACK side of the pattern ruler draws all the back pattern sections, whether it is for a blouse, dress, trousers, or a sleeve.

Two Different Colours of Size Numbers for TWO different types of Bodice

To create this kind of pattern that has the bodice and sleeve all-in-one use the RED bust size numbers. This is a "dropped" shoulder pattern.

To draw a bodice with set in sleeve (separate) use the BLACK bust size numbers.

The Sleeve Pattern

The sleeve pattern is part of the bodice. Whatever bust size number is used to create the bodice, will the same bust size number used to draw the corresponding sized sleeve pattern.
Points to Note
Use the BLACK numbers marked BODICE.
The bust size number referred to in these notes is the bust size pattern required by the user.

Write the number of each step when drawing the pattern. This helpful in the first attempts at using the pattern ruler.

On a piece of paper at least 85 cm square, and with the pattern ruler in this position Outline the pattern ruler along the top and down the left side.

Step 1. Mark the black bust size number at bodice step 1.

You have marked this point on the pattern.

Step 2. Mark the black bust size number at bodice step 2.

You have marked this point on the pattern.

Step 3. Mark the black bust size number at bodice step 3.

You are going to mark this point on the pattern.

You have drawn these outlines.

You have drawn this at steps 1 and 2.

You have now drawn these 3 points on the pattern.
How to Make this very Popular Casual Shirt for Gent’s

Add the 2 cm onto both front and back patterns.

Example using chest size 104 cm

By adding 2 cm onto both front and back increases the size to 18 cm ease.

If 14 cm ease is preferred add only 1 cm to the side seams. 14 cm ease is adequate for a track suit top.