



**UNDERSTANDING
A SEWING
PATTERN**

THE PATTERN ENVELOPE (FRONT)

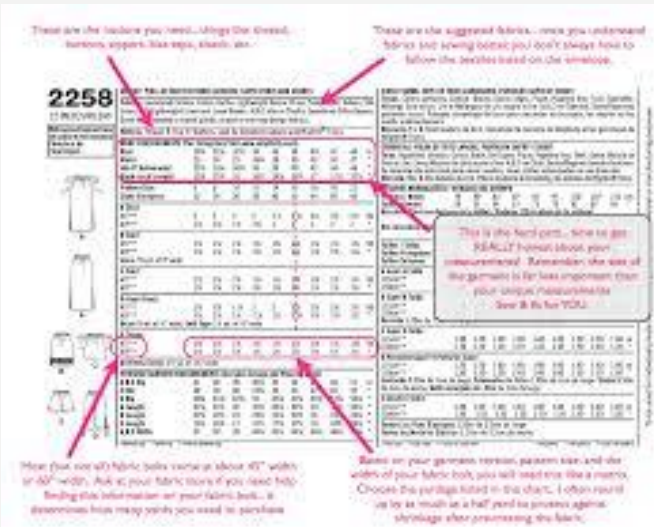
- On the front of the pattern envelope, there are several style variations of the same project. These style variations are called views.
 - One view may have a collar, long sleeves, and cuffs. Another view may have a V-neck and short sleeves.
- These give you style options for this particular pattern.



THE PATTERN ENVELOPE (BACK)

Contains information on:

- Project in detail.
- Description of the project by view.
- How much fabric to buy, what fabric to buy.
- One way designs- words, pictures, elephants
- Notions- buttons (size), zippers (length), elastic, snaps, hook and eyes, etc.



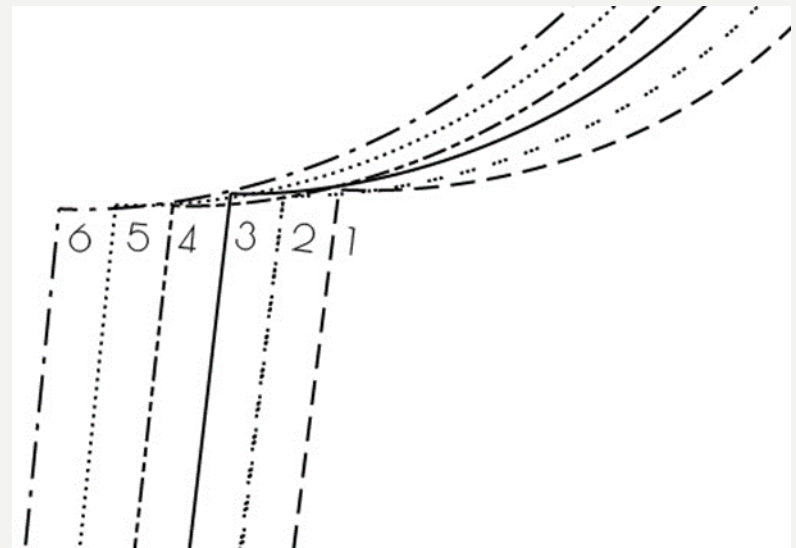
INSIDE THE PATTERN ENVELOPE

- Pattern pieces
- Key and glossary
- Pattern layout
- Step By Step instructions or guide sheet



CUTTING LINES FOR DIFFERENT SIZES

- A multi-sized sewing patterns will have the cutting lines for different sized pattern pieces nested within each other.
- The different sizes are usually differentiated by different styles of dashed lines.
- Pick out the lines that match your size – you may find it helpful to draw over them in a colored pen.
- These are the lines you should be cutting to get your pattern pieces.



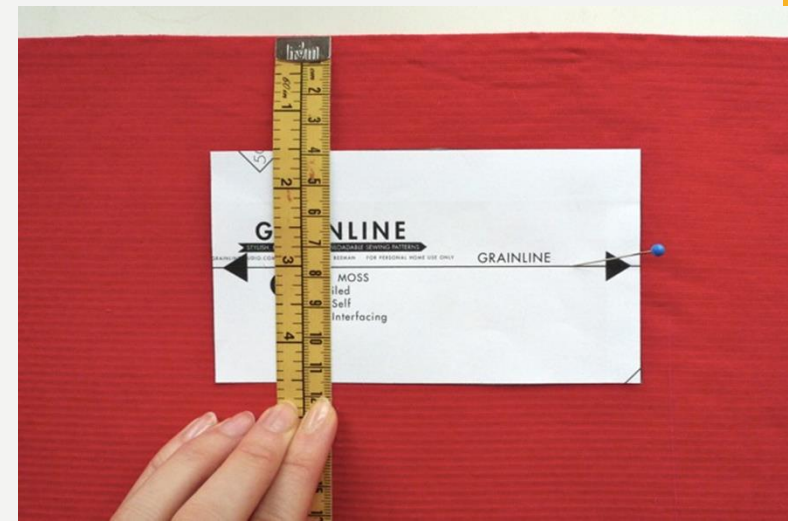
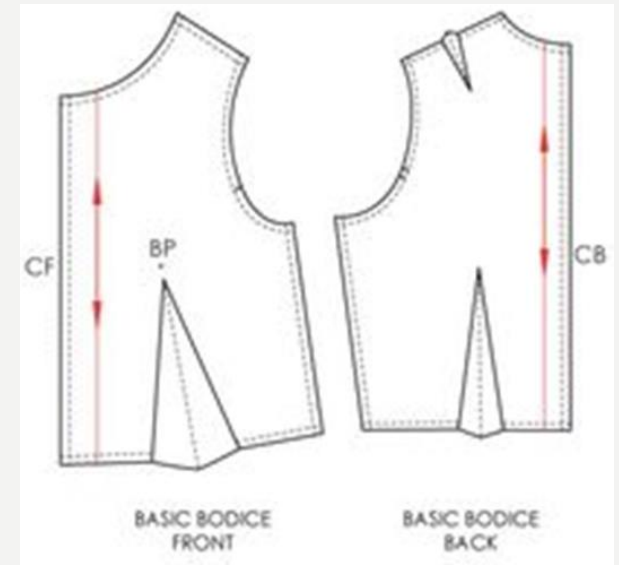
CUTTING YOUR PATTERN PIECES

- Accurately laying out a sewing pattern is an essential part of constructing any project.
- Check the guide sheet to see which pattern pieces you need for the view you have chosen.
 - Make sure you cut the piece correctly and not cut off the marker points.
- Press the paper or tissue pattern pieces with a warm, **dry** iron.



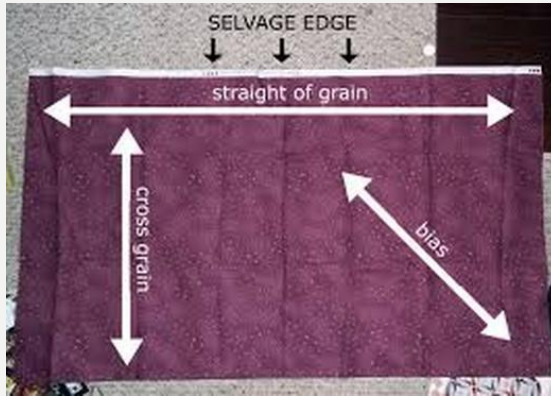
GRAINLINE

- a long, double-pointed arrow across your pattern pieces that indicated the grainline (lengthwise thread direction) of the fabric. Grainline is there to help. Line up grainline parallel to the selvedge (lengthwise).
- Indicates the placement of pattern piece on the fabric grain. Grain line must be placed exactly parallel to the selvage.
- Selvage is the fabric edge that will not ravel or fray.
- May be indicated by a straight line labeled grain line.



GRAIN AND BIAS

- **Lengthwise Grain- "Straight of Grain"**
 - The yarns on the fabric that are **PARALLEL** to the **SELVAGE EDGE**

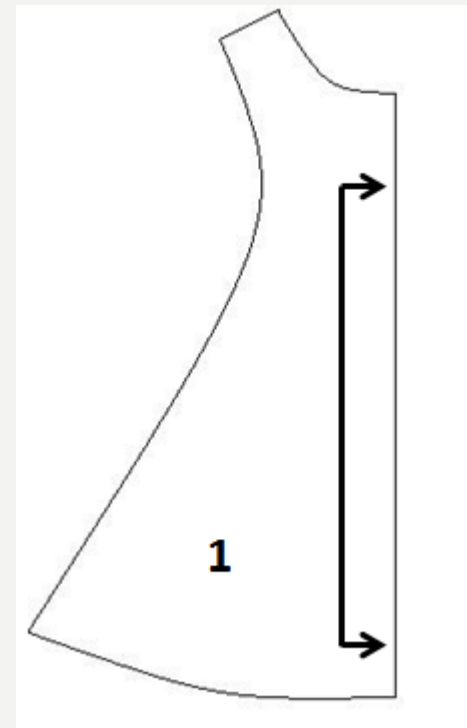
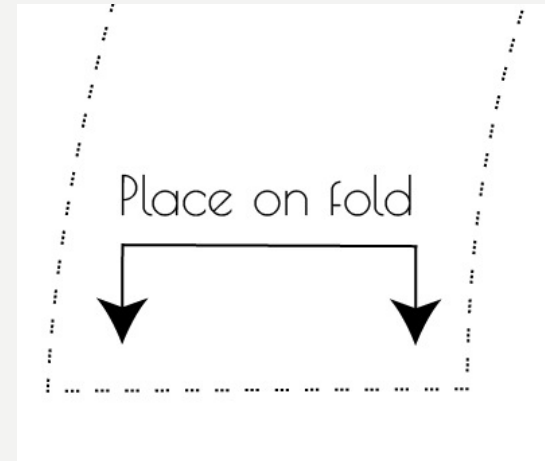


- **Crosswise Grain**
 - The yarns of the fabric that are **PERPENDICULAR** to the **SELVAGE EDGE**



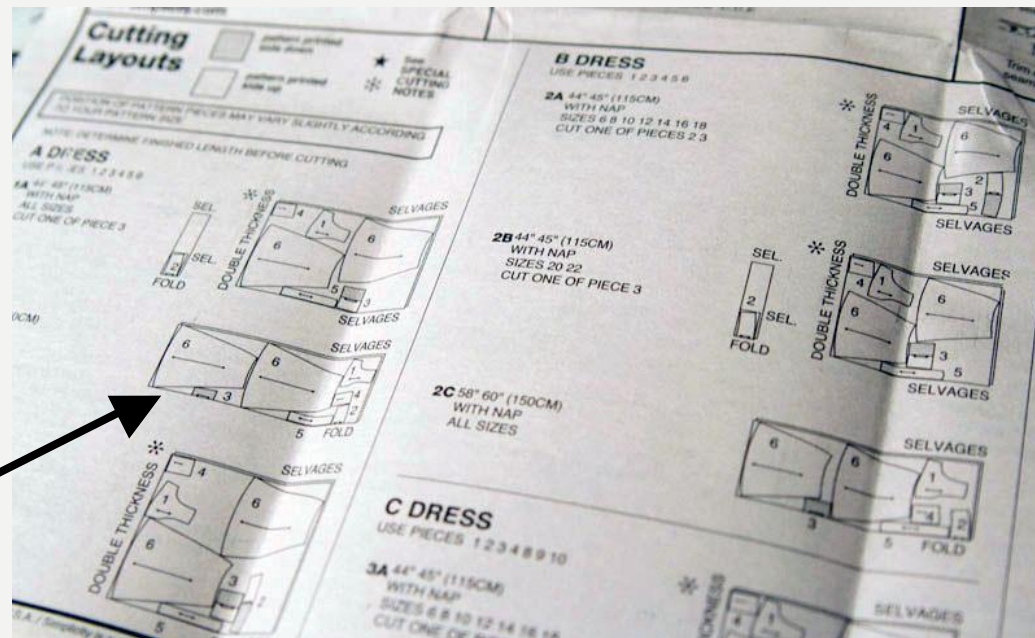
ON THE FOLD...

- This indicates that you need to line up the cutting line to the arrow that is pointing to the folded edge of your fabric before cutting it out.
- The pattern piece only represents half the fabric piece, so placing it on the fold means you'll end up with one symmetrical whole piece.



LAYING OUT FABRIC

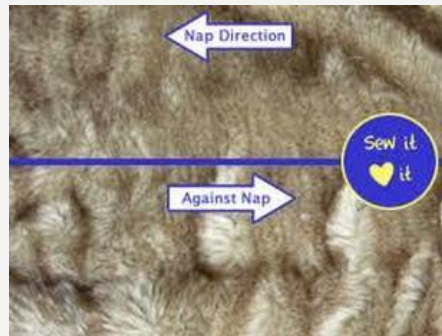
- The pattern will advise how to lay out your pattern on your fabric.



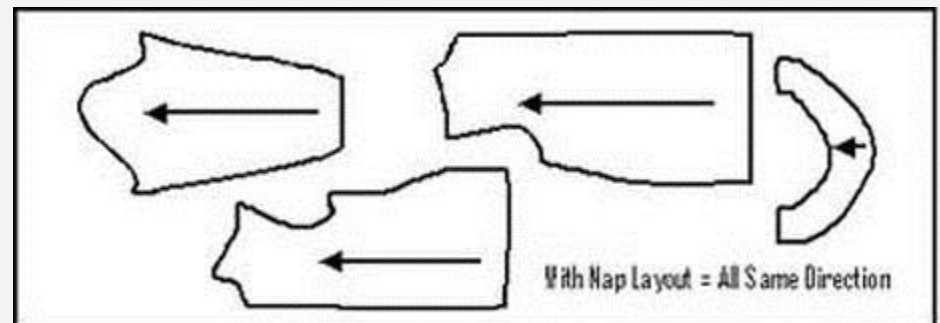
NAP FABRIC

- A fabric that has a raised surface.
- If you rub your hand on it one direction, it will look different than if you rub your hand the other direction.
- A fabric that has a print that all the symbols or characters going the same direction. If they are flipped, they will be upside down. Pattern pieces must all be placed going the same direction.
- All pattern pieces must be laid out and cut out going the same direction.

Directional Design



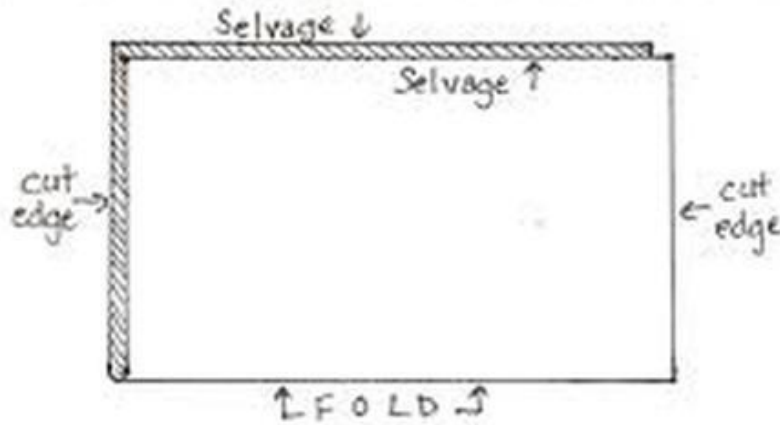
One-Direction Layout for Nap Fabric Or Directional Print fabric.



SELVAGE OR SELVEDGE EDGE

- The un-cut edge of the fabric, that does not fray. It usually has a symbol, or unique marking, but not always.

The selvage edge is the woven edge that does not fray

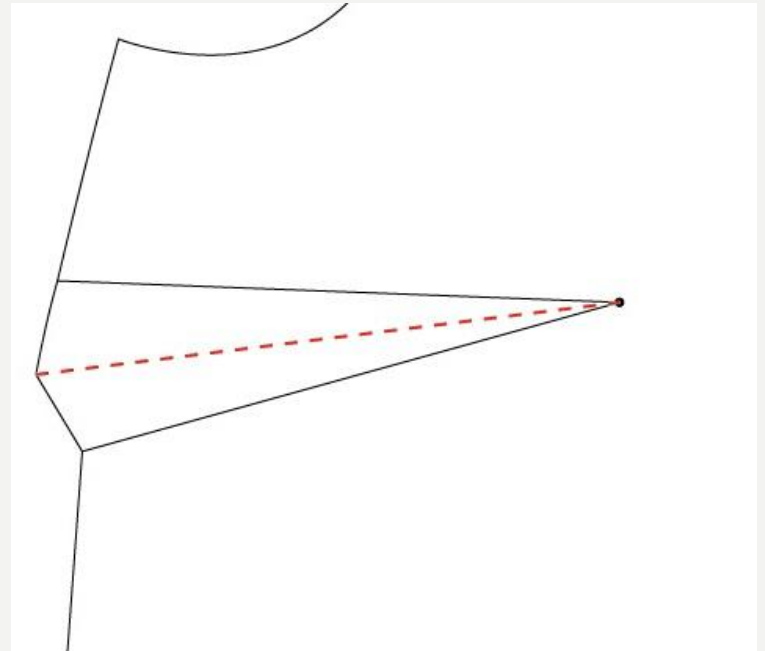


Fabric has two selvage edges and two cut edges



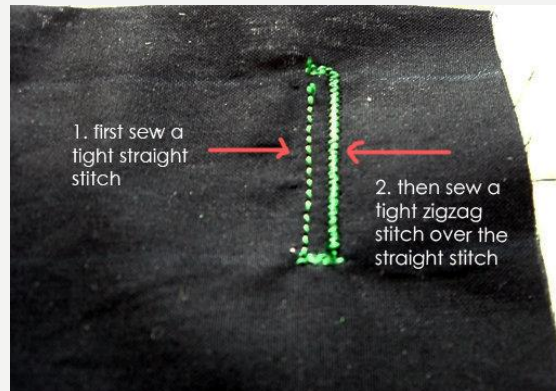
DARTS

- Darts are triangular – or curved – shapes stitched into the garment to help mold the fabric around the body's curves.
- On a pattern, the lines of the dart are usually marked by a triangle (or a curved “triangle”).



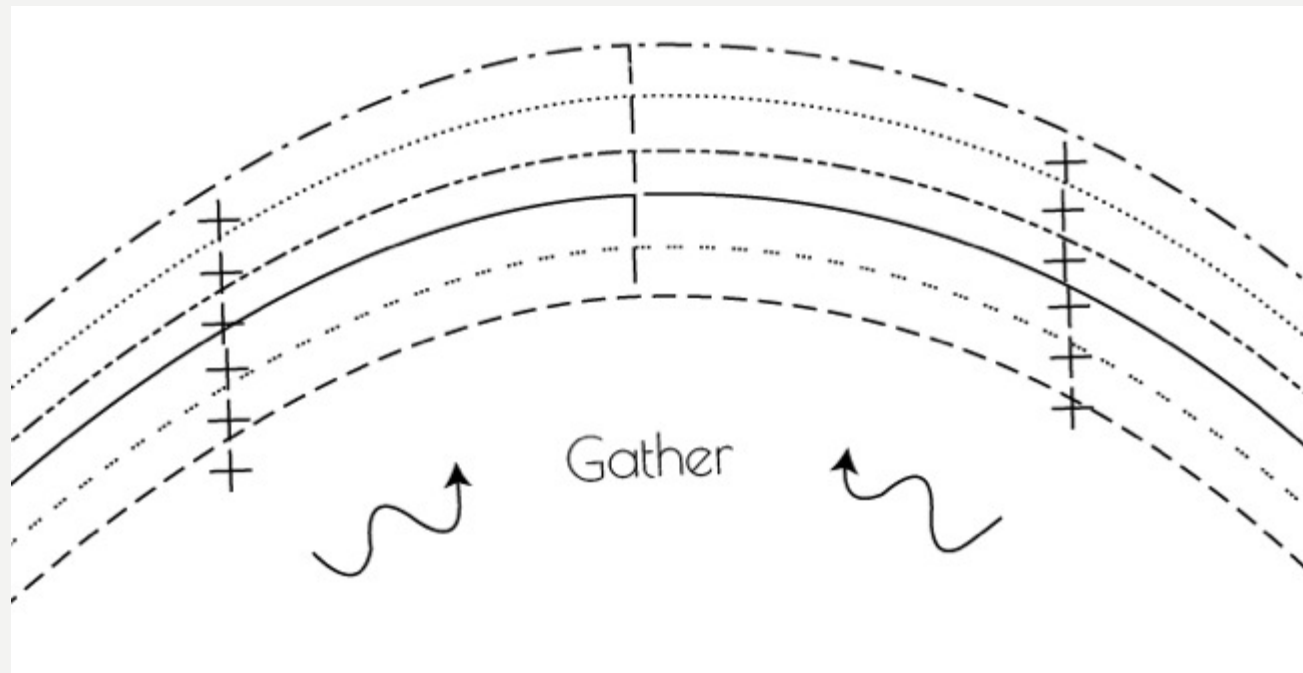
BUTTONHOLES

- Buttonholes are marked by short lines that look like, well, buttonholes.
- Mark on one side of a bodice (torso) piece
- Buttons will be sewed on the opposite side



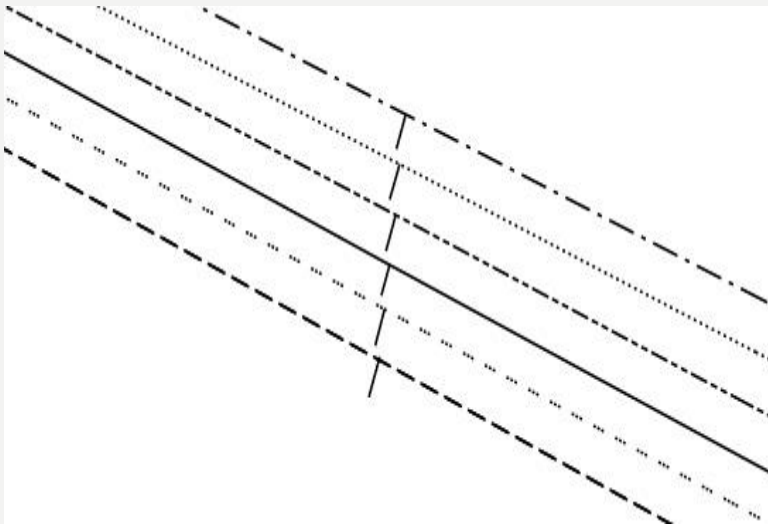
GATHER POINTS

- Are usually marked either by little circles or crosses.
- They show you where to start and stop a line of gather stitching, such as when creating a puffed sleeve.
- To gather, stitch two loose running stitches $\frac{1}{4}$ inch apart. Keep the threads long on each side. Tie two threads (on same side) together and pull threads to create gather.



NOTCHES

- Will be indicated on your pattern by either a little triangle or a small perpendicular line along the cutting lines.
- If there are two next to each other, that indicates the back side of a sleeve or armhole.
- Marking the notches on your fabric will help you match up the pieces accurately when it comes to sewing them together.



Notch

Double Notch

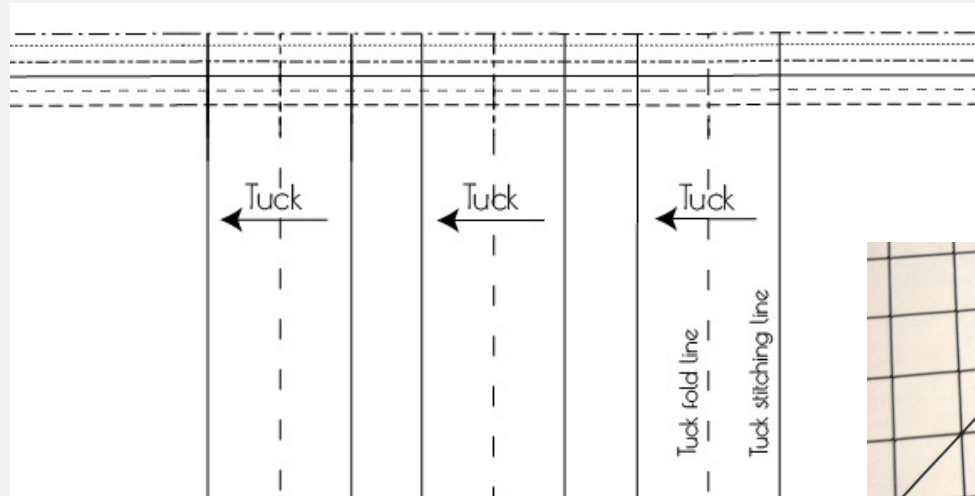
Notches

- These are triangle shapes marks that you cut into, or around your fabric to show you how to line up pattern pieces.



FOLD LINES AND TUCK LINES- PLEATS

- Your pattern may have other markings on it too.
- While other markings are usually made on the wrong side of the fabric, it's a lot easier to fold these lines into place if you mark them on the right side of the fabric (just double check your marking tool rubs or washes off!).
- For long lines, I like to mark the ends with either pen or scissors, then use a long ruler to draw the lines between these markings directly onto the fabric.



DOTS, TRIANGLES, AND SQUARES

- Symbols used to help match and join garment sections, especially areas that are gathered or eased.



This is a
pictures of a
pocket
placement.

The placement
uses **dots** to show
where the
pocket should be placed
on the pattern.

The markings
should be marked
before removing
the pattern pieces.