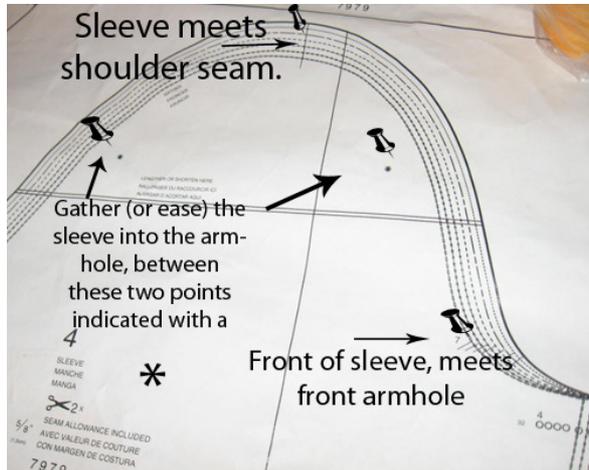


Read a Pattern

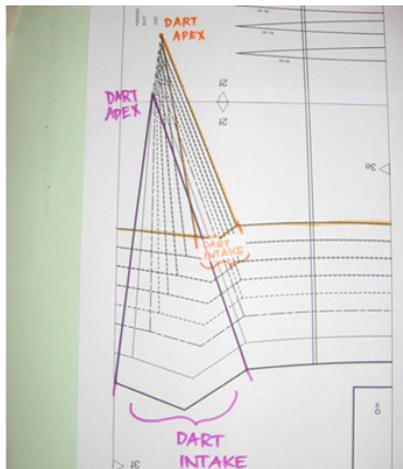
By: BurdaStyle

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/read-a-pattern>



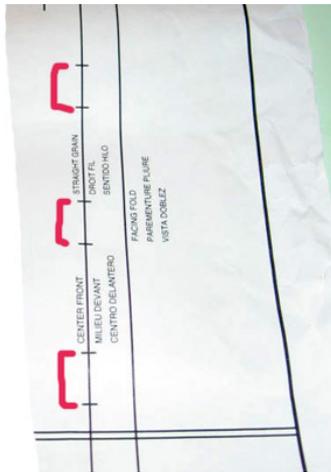
Just starting to use patterns? We know some people are hesitant to use patterns, but it's really quite easy! Everything you need to know is right on the pattern, and once you start, you'll never stop! So now that you've got your pattern laid out, learn what all those marks on the pattern mean. The Key to Symbols that comes in every pattern tries its best to explain, but this How To might make it even easier to understand.

Step 1



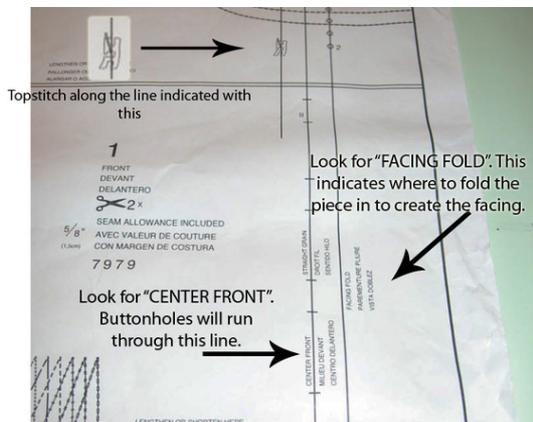
Before getting to ahead of ourselves, be sure to first measure yourself and choose the right size since some pattern markings are specific for sizes, especially darts! A dart is used to shape a flat piece of fabric to fit bust, waist, hip or elbow curves. Single-point darts are wide at one end and pointed at the other, and shaped darts have a point at both ends and are wide in the middle. The single-point dart is illustrated above. Note that for a bigger size, the dart apex is moved, and the dart intake is greater.

Indicates
buttonhole
width and
direction



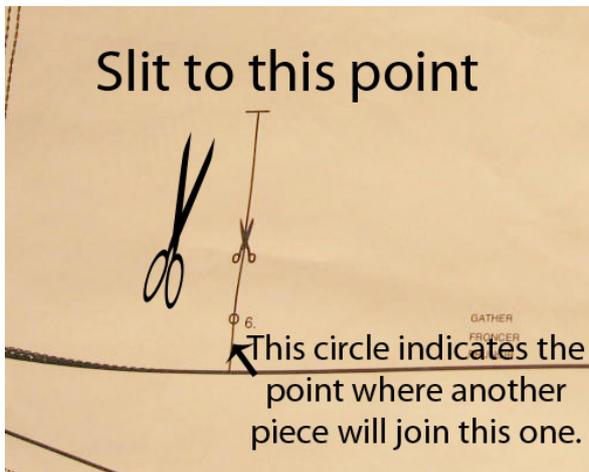
Buttonholes are indicated as shown above. The two lines indicate the side of the buttonhole, and the space between will be the width of it. It also indicates if the buttonholes should go vertically or horizontally.

Step 5



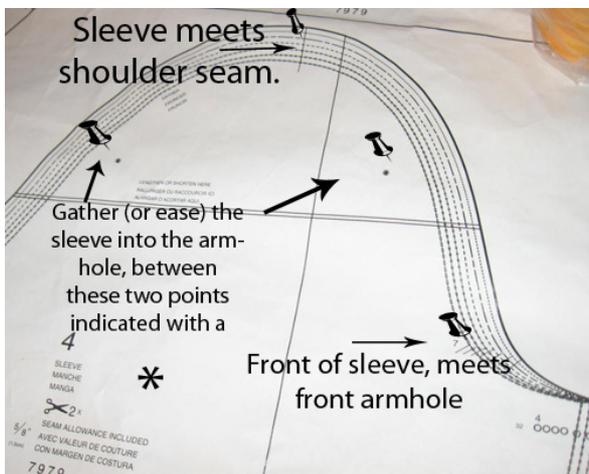
The front facing of a shirt or jacket can be a totally separate pattern piece or an extension of the center front. If it is an extension of the center front, it is important to know which is the true Center Front line and which is the Facing Fold line. There is also usually a topstitching line that will be indicated, used to keep the facing down. Also be careful to look for FOLD lines on any other pieces. They can be indicated on cuffs, armhole facings, bindings, etc.

Step 6



A line like shown above on a pattern indicates a slit where a placket or vent will be inserted. In this case, you cut along the line to the end. It is usually finished with a strip of bias or a placket, like on sleeves and blouses.

Step 7



A sleeve pattern also has a lot of important information. There should be at least two notches on the cap of the sleeve. The one at the very top indicates where the sleeve meets the shoulder seam. There will also be a notch in the bottom front of the sleeve cap, which should match up with the front armhole notch when sewing. Occasionally, there are two notches directly next to each other in the back sleeve to indicate that it is the back of the sleeve cap, not the front. These notches are key if you want to make sure you insert the sleeve in the right direction! Once you have learned to read the marks on a pattern, youâre ready to start cutting out your pieces!