

Great Darts

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/great-darts>



Three things make for a great dart. One, the closer you get to the edge of the fabric at the tip of the dart, the smoother the point will be. Second, the less bulk at the point the better. And third, steam the heck out of it.

Step 1 — Sewing close to the point



To get your stitches right up to the very point of the dart, where the line of stitches meets the edge of the fabric, I like to sew my darts backwards: from the tip to the wide part. This way, you can set your needle right at the edge and get to work. Otherwise, sew right on up to the edge, and decrease the stitch length to 0.5 mm with about 1/2" to go so that you can be as precise as possible.

Step 2 — Eliminate bulk



Eliminating the bulk in the tip of the dart is important to getting it lie flat. This is why many instructions (and your high school home ec teacher) tell you to tie off the end instead of back stitching. But I don't like having threads hanging off, and I also trust my machine more than a hand-done knot. So to secure the stitches, decrease the stitch length to 0.5mm when you are about 1/2" away from the tip (or for the first 1/2" of the tip, if you are sewing from the tip down like me). This will hold that sucker in place, and also allow you to get really close to the edge of the garment if you are sewing from the end to the tip, or if you are doing a double dart.

Step 3 — Steam it



Lastly, steam the hell out of it. Nice and hot. And because a dart is meant to add some curve to your garment, press it over a curved edge. If you don't have a pressing ham (I don't, but I'm thinking about getting one), you can press it over a bunched up towel.

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