

Modify darts on your patterns - Fiskars Unzipped

By: mixtlil

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/modify-darts-on-your-pattern>



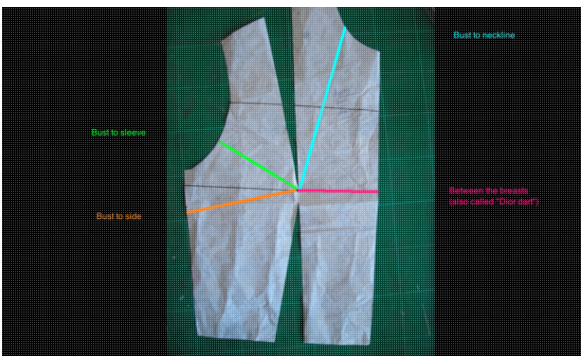
This technique will help you to modify the darts positions on your bust patterns, for different style effects. I will also show you how to draft the tucks and darts of the bodice of this dress : Marlaine in the 50s

Step 1 — Mark your sloper



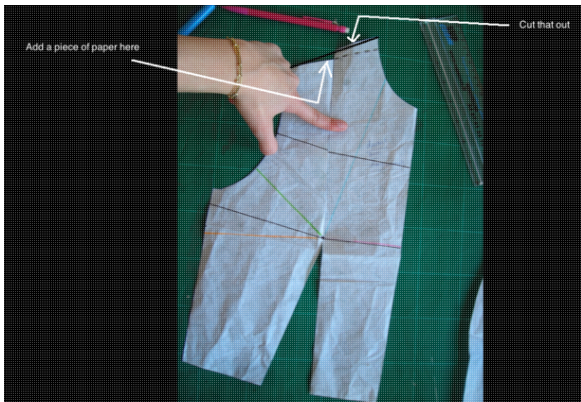
You can use this method with any pattern, but I am going to show you here with a basic bodice block. You can make it (here:<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/constructing-the-basic-bodice-block> or here:http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/basic-bodice-block/technique_steps/1) or print it (here:<http://www.burdastyle.com/patterns/basic-bodice-size-uk-10-us-8-eu-38>). I am showing variations with the shoulder dart, but you can do the same thing with the waist dart, or both at the same time. But remember that a dart that is too big may distort the shape of your top. On this sloper, you need to mark the bust line - line that connects the highest point of your bust, should be a little lower than the sleeve. And the breadth line - from underarm to underarm, above the breasts.

Step 2 — Mark the new dart



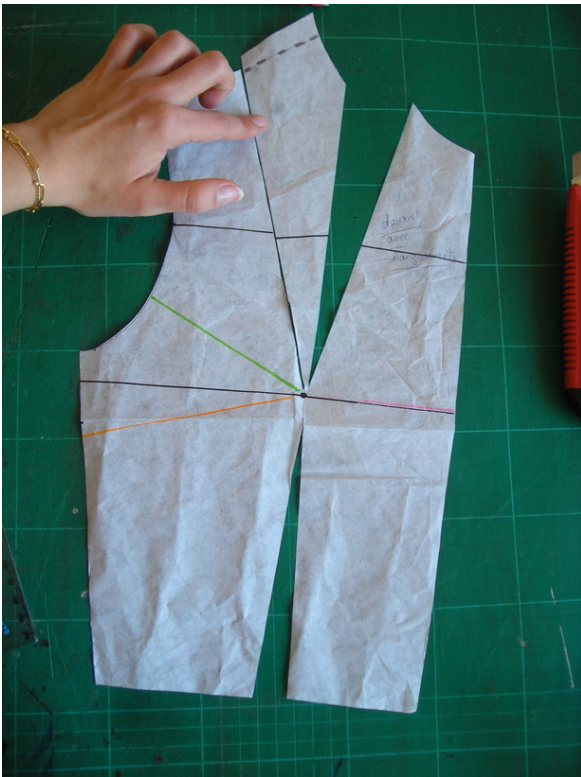
The new dart you are making will have its point on the bust point, and can end up in the neckline, in the sleeve, in the side seam, or between the breasts. The next steps will show each of those specifically.

Step 3 — Only one waist dart



If you want to eliminate the shoulder dart, you can do so by extending the waist dart. Just bring the two sides of the shoulder dart closer, and it will extend the waist dart. Tape it. To equalize the shoulder seam, join the highest point to the lowest point as shown on this picture.

Step 4 — Bust to neckline dart



Trace a line going from bust point to neckline. It is better if it goes to the middle of the neckline. If it is too close to the front, it may not look good. Cut along this line, and drag the triangle you cut to the left (on the picture): it will close the shoulder dart and open a new one. Tape along.

Step 5 — Bust to armhole dart



Trace a line going from bust point to armhole. It should end around the breadth line, or upper , because in the middle the fabric is cut on the biais : it may stretch and distort the shape of your armhole. But if you have a strong fabric, what I made on the picture is ok. Cut along the line, drag the triangle to the front to close the shoulder dart and open the new dart. Tape.

Step 6 — Bust to side seam dart



Trace a line from the bust point to the side seam. It ends usually about 4cm (1"1/2") under the armhole. Cut along. Drag the triangle to the center to close the shoulder dart and open the new dart. Tape.

Step 7 — Dior dart



This dart is a little delicate : cut along the bust line from the bust point to center front. Draw the two parts aside to open a little dart : your shoulder dart and waist dart will close a little bit. The problem is that with this new dart, your center front is not straight anymore, so it is difficult to cut it on a fold. This can work with a small dart and with a slightly stretch fabric. Ignore the fact that your center front isn't straight and cut it on the fold anyway. On the next picture, it is how it looks like with some scraps I had.

Step 8 — Dior dart



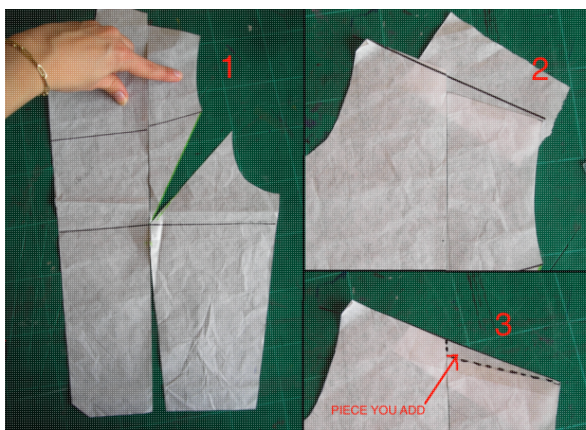
Note 1 : I made princess seams instead of the two other darts. To do so, just trace a smooth line between the points of the two other darts you have, waist dart and the other one you chose to make (shoulder, neckline or armhole may work). (Actually, I advise you to make a princess seam from armhole to waist, it looks nicer with the dior dart) Cut along this line. Note 2 : I actually didn't make a dart in between the breasts, but a tuck. To do so, do not stitch the points of your dart, but only the center part of it.

Step 9 — Dior dart



Here I just added another tuck on top of the first one, directly stitching it. It is possible with a stretchy fabric. Please note that this is not how the dress "Marlene in the 50s":<http://www.burdastyle.com/projects/marlene-in-the-50s-bernina-3-series> is made.

Step 10 — MariÃƒne in the 50s bodice construction



Playing around with this technique, I finally discovered how the bodice is made in my grandma's dress. Start with your basic block. Use step 5 to make a dart from bust point to armhole, at the breadth level. Adjust the shoulder.

Step 11 — MariÃƒne in the 50s bodice construction



Here, you have to add paper in the dart, because we are going to play around with it, and you don't want it to open up or close more than planned.

Step 12 — Marlène in the 50s bodice construction



Now, when you look at the dress's bodice, you can see the darts in the middle actually go through the princess seam. We are going to make tucks in the center front, and then transform them into darts at the side seam - so it does not get too long. For the tucks: trace 2 lines parallel to the bust line. In this design, the space between them is 1 cm (0,5cm up and down the bust line). Cut along those line, and space the three parts you are getting of 1,5cm (for this design) Put paper in between, and tape it.

Step 13 — Marlène in the 50s bodice construction



Starting from the bust point, mark the new darts lines (same starting points). Mark notches. Cut along those lines to make princess seams, and try to make a smooth line at the angle.

Step 14 — Marlène in the 50s bodice construction



You are done with the front piece. Once you've cut it on the fold, you will stitch the tucks on only 4 cm. (2 cm from the center on each side.) Leave the rest open. Now, the side piece: you don't want the side seam to be longer than it was supposed to be, so you are going to change the tucks into darts. To do so, mark the line in the center of each tuck. Cut along it from the side to almost the center - leave 1 or 2 mm uncut.

Step 15 — MariÃˆne in the 50s bodice construction



Overlap the pieces so the side seam goes back the its initial lenght. (Here, the orange lines are meeting at the side seam). Tape it, you're done!

Step 16 — The End

I hope it's clear enough, if you need precisions, please tell me! If you want to get the exact same design as the dress, you have to lengthen the shoulder line to make cap sleeves on the side and a cowl at the center. This is just about drawing it, it's not linked to this technique, that's why I am not explaining it here. But if you need it, I can explain it too.

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