

Cloning knitwear I: Copying a pair of ready-to-wear (men's) underwear

By: buddingnaturalist

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/cloning-knitwear-i-copying->



This technique will allow you to reproduce your favourite underwear. I've used a pair of men's hipster trunks (boy-shorts) with a two piece pattern: the (front+back) leg and and front inset. The same technique can be used for all sorts of knitwear garments (including multi-piece pattern men's underwear with a front gusset/button front. I will try to post tutorials here for different knitwear garments on a weekly basis. The entire tutorial is also on my website and can be downloaded as a printable pdf (<http://theperfectnose.wordpress.com/2012/02/06/a-tutorial-for-cloning-ready-to-wear-boy-shorts/>). Any suggestions for improvement are most welcome!

Step 1 — Lay the garment flat along a natural fold.



Lay your garment flat along a natural fold (indicated in Figure 1 by an orange bracket + arrow) and gently straighten any creases.

Step 2 — Figure 2: Pin the front and back of the garment together.



Using the sharpest pins you have (Iâ€™ve used Cloverâ€™s extra long glass-headed silk pins indicated in Figure 2 by two orange arrows) pin the front and back together to immobilise the garment while you trace. You want to use as few pins as possible and try to avoid skewering the â€™knitâ€™ fibres of the fabric i.e. Your pins should go through with no resistance- if there is resistance move the pin a little ways further from your original point and try again. This protects the integrity of your fabric.

Step 3 — Align the edges of the pattern paper and the garment along their fold lines.



Fold a large (=larger than the shorts) piece of paper in half and pin it (using push pins) onto your cork-board with the fold along one edge of the board. Lay the natural fold of your boy-shorts along the top. Be meticulous and precise. Use fine pins to gently pin the shorts onto the paper (indicated in Figure 3 by two orange arrows).

Step 4 — Transferring the front pattern

Use a sharp fabric pin to gently poke holes through every seam and garment edge of the shorts (donâ€™t forget to poke a â€™seamâ€™ at the lower edge of the elastic where it connects to the fabric of the shorts). You want to make sure the pin goes through the fabric and into the paper below. These will become your garment outlines (seam and hem allowances to be added later). You can poke through hemlines at this point

if you want.

Step 5 — Connecting the pin-holes i.e. 'drawing' the pattern



Un-pin the fine pins holding the shorts to the paper and use your french curve and pencil to join the pinholes to make a pattern for the front half. Keep in mind that this is only half the pattern for one leg. DO NOT skip this step, once you've traced the back you'll have two rows of pinholes and it's good to know which is which

Step 6 — Transferring the back pattern



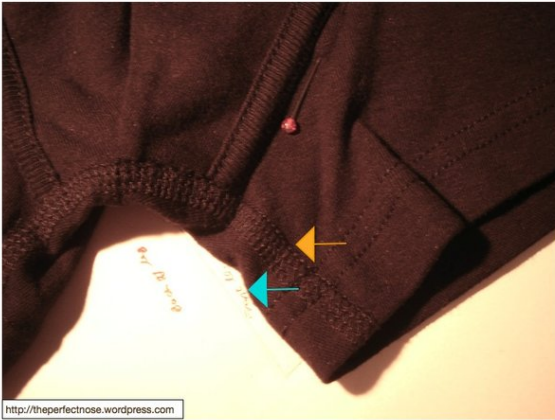
Flip the paper over and pin it back to the board with push-pins. Turn the shorts over and use the previously made pinholes to place its folded edge exactly over the fold in the paper. Use two fine pins (indicated in Figure 4 by two orange arrows) to pin the shorts in place. Use a fine pin to mark all seams and garment edges as before.

Step 7 — Marking the grainline

Have a sharp fabric pin ready and lean in close to the garment focusing on one line in the weave of the fabric. Rest one hand near this line and use your pin to mark at least 5 pinholes along this line. Repeat at least 3 times with three different weave lines at 3 different parts of the garment. The reason for this is that not all of the holes will have lined up in each line and, statistically speaking, you need at least 3 points aligned to get a

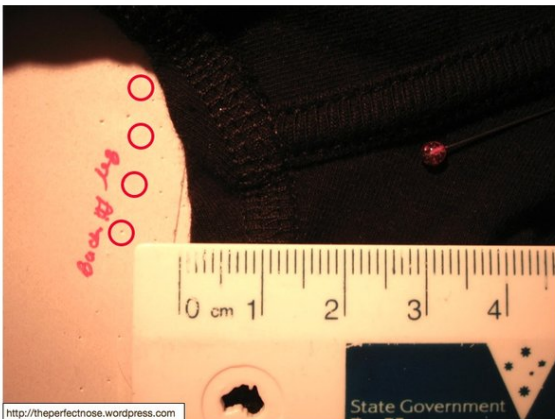
line you can trust. This will be the grainline for your pattern.

Step 8 — For folded edges that do not correspond to seams



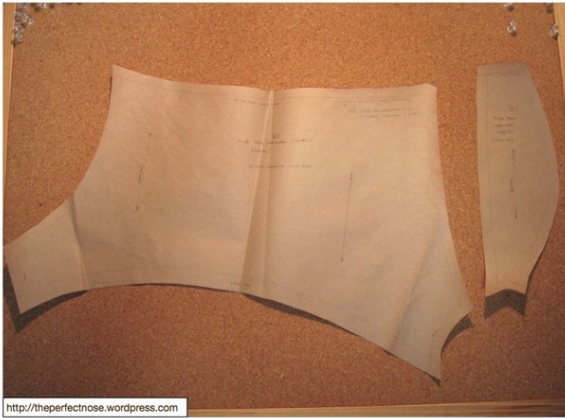
While marking out (pin-holing) you may come across edges on the garment where the seam line (indicated in Figure 5 by an orange arrow) does not correspond with the fold line (indicated in Figure 5 by a blue arrow).

Step 9 — Add the distance between the seamline and foldline to marked points



In this case first pin-mark the folded edge of the garment, then using a ruler (Figure 5) measure the difference between the folded edge and the seam-line and add this amount to the folded edge indicated by pinholes highlighted in Figure 6 with red circles).

Step 10 — Finishing the final cloned pattern



Repeat the pin-marking for any other pieces that remain. Repeat the grainline marking process as well. Transfer the pattern with seam and hem allowances to a new piece of paper. I use a Clover adjustable double tracing wheel (with bumpy edges not sharp ones) and black Carbon paper. Donâ€™t forget to transfer the grainline onto your final pattern pieces. NB: When sewing up the actual boy-shorts remember to use fabric with the SAME amount of stretch as that of the original. And you're done!

Step 11 — Make a muslin!



Do what the title says!

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