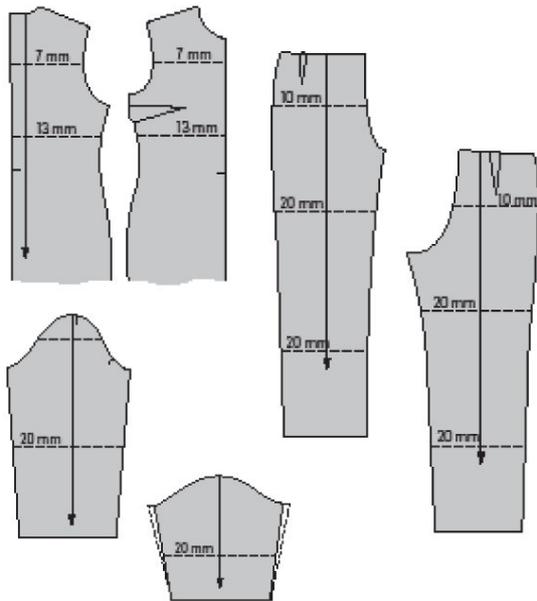


How to shorten or lengthen a pattern

By: burdastyle

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/how-to-shorten-or-lengthen>

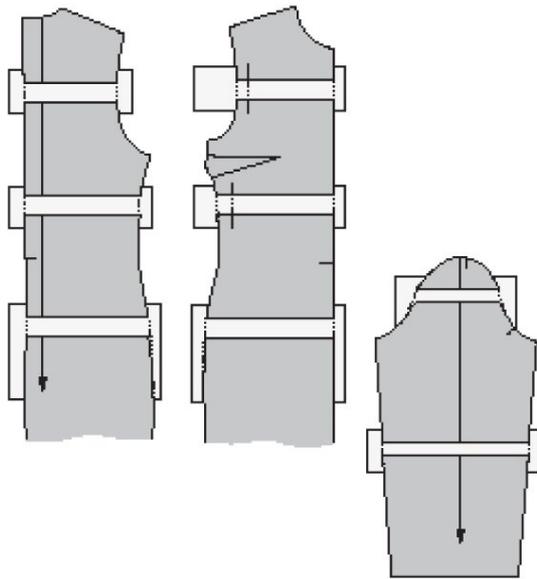


Although we calculate our patterns for several sizes, you may fall in love with a style, only to find the pattern does not include your size. No problem — follow the examples below to lengthen a half/petite size pattern to a standard size or a standard size to a tall size. You can also use this method to shorten a tall pattern to a standard size or a standard size to a half/petite size. But remember, your bust / hip measurement must correspond to the given size to ensure a perfect fit. Mark the lines for the alterations on the pattern pieces

Step 1 — What you should know...

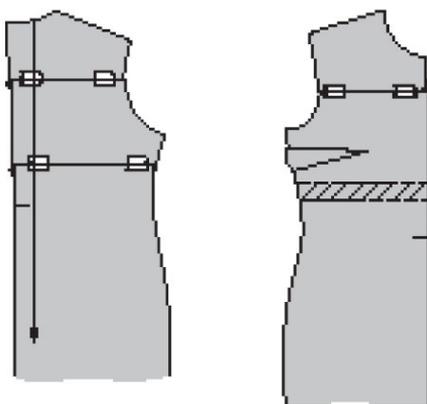
If your height is 160 cm, 168 cm or 176 cm (5 ft. 3 ins, 5 ft. 6 ins or 5 ft. 9 ins) and your individual length measurements correspond to those given in the respective Burda size chart on page 4 (for tall sizes, see page 11), you can adjust the pattern pieces at the adjustment lines by the number of millimetres given in the illustrations above. If you are shorter or taller than the given height or if your length measurements differ from those in the size charts, you will have to calculate the difference yourself. The general rule for bodices or tops is: Add or subtract 1/3 of the difference half way up the armhole and add or subtract 2/3 of the difference between lower armhole edge and waist. Lengthen or shorten trousers by 1 cm (3/8 in) at the upper horizontal line. The trouser leg length is lengthened or shortened by 1/2 the difference each above and below the knee. The illustrations above show where to mark the alteration lines (dashed lines). Important: The lines must always be marked at a right angle to the fabric grain, otherwise the pattern pieces will be off balance. To match the sleeve to the armhole, the sleeve cap must also be altered accordingly. Sleeves with shallow sleeve caps are taken in or widened at the seams and the difference is tapered toward the lower edge.

Step 2 — How to add the extra length ...



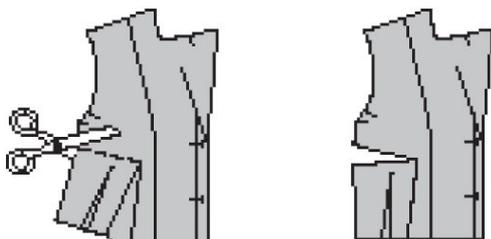
Cut pattern piece apart on the marked alteration line. Glue a strip of paper under one edge. Mark an abutting line on the paper strip, parallel to this edge and spaced the amount from this edge by which the piece must be lengthened at this line. Glue the remaining section of the pattern piece to the strip of paper, along the marked line. Add extra length at the other alteration lines in same manner. Important: To prevent pieces from shifting sideways, mark the grain line on the paper strip. The grain lines must align when gluing the pieces together (see picture).

Step 3 — ... and how to shorten exactly



Mark a second line above the alteration line, spaced the amount from the alteration line by which you need to shorten the pattern piece at this line. Then fold the pattern piece so that both lines meet (see picture).

Step 4 — A few more tips before you begin



Hold the paper pattern pieces to your body, in front of a mirror. You will see where the pieces need to be altered. Lay pattern pieces together as in the finished garment when marking the alteration lines. To prevent the pieces from shifting sideways when lengthening, mark a vertical line at each alteration line. If your style has vertical bust darts, lay these darts closed before marking the alteration lines. To do this, cut the paper pattern piece from side seam edge to point of dart (left image). Lay dart closed (right image). Glue the cut edges together again after the pattern piece has been lengthened or shortened.

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