

EXERCISES

The following exercises have been developed by the author and each one contains a series of line drawings to illustrate the various steps involved.

Exercise 1:

Pivoting a dart on the front basic bodice block

Exercise 2:

Altering the shoulder slant by raising the shoulder line

Exercise 3:

Creating curved darts by pivoting straight darts

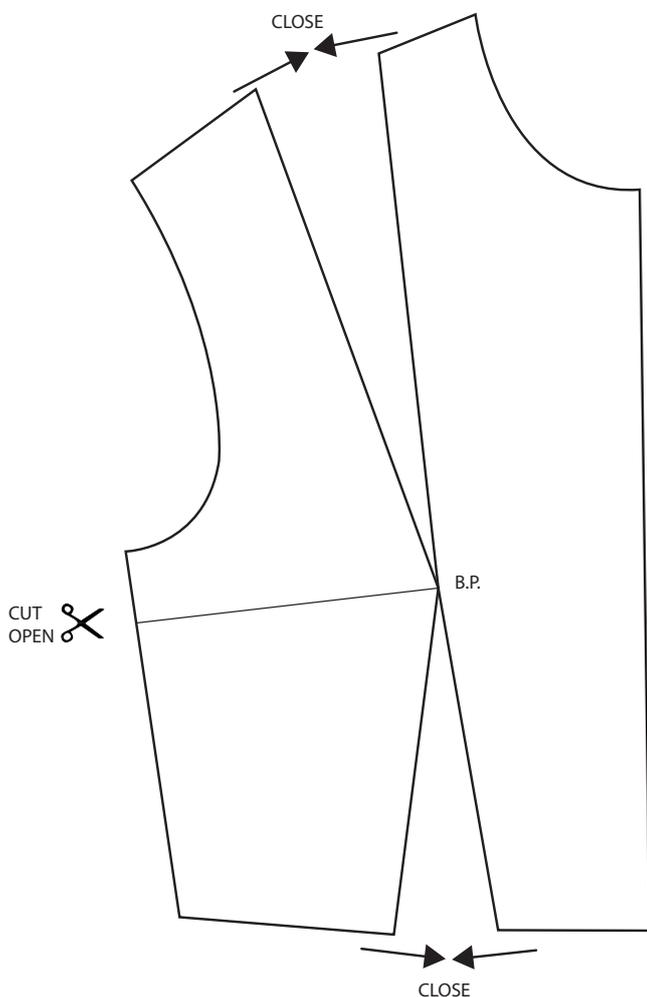
EXERCISE / 01

EXERCISE 1: PIVOTING A DART ON THE FRONT BASIC BODICE BLOCK

Darts can be used to alter the line or the fit of a garment. On the bodice, a dart extended from the side seam can be used to replace the line created by two vertical darts from the shoulder and the waist, which may suit your pattern aesthetically. Half of the length of this dart is also hidden beneath the underarm when the garment is worn. Before using this kind of dart, however, you need to consider that the grain line will be set slightly 'off-grain' from the underarm down the side seam to the hemline. You can create a side seam dart by removing the vertical darts and pivoting them into the side seam.

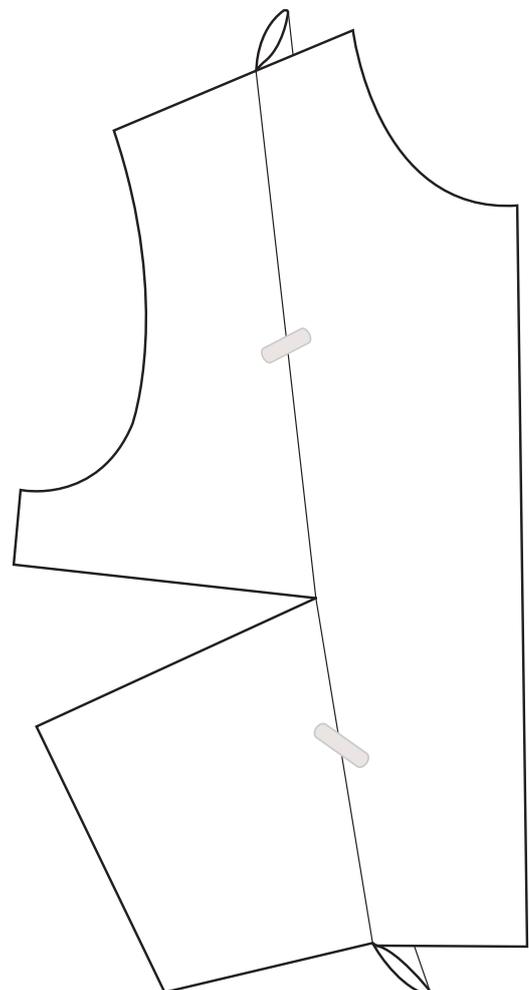
Step 1:

To create a new side seam dart, measure approximately 4 cm down from the underarm point and from this point draw a line to the bust point. Cut along this line.



Step 2:

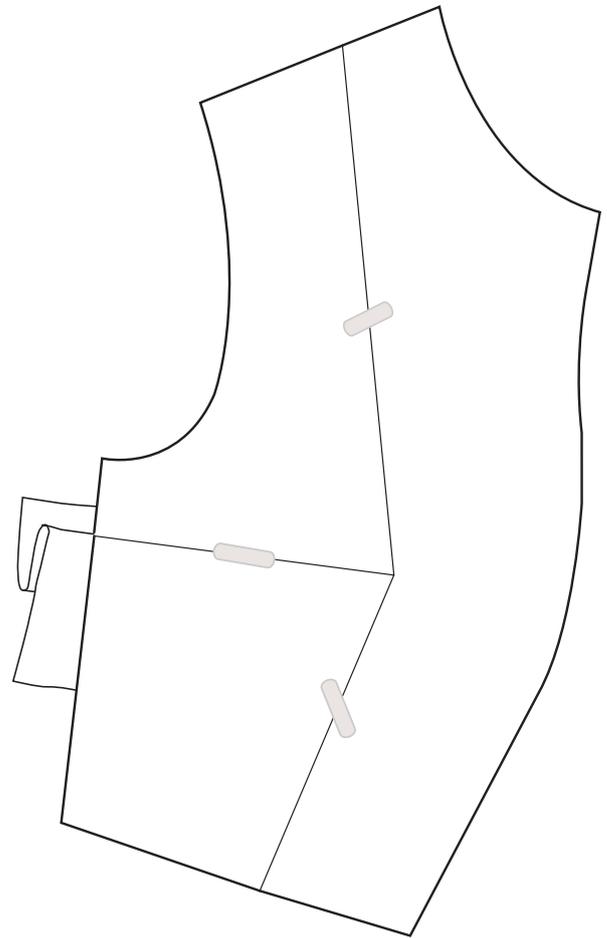
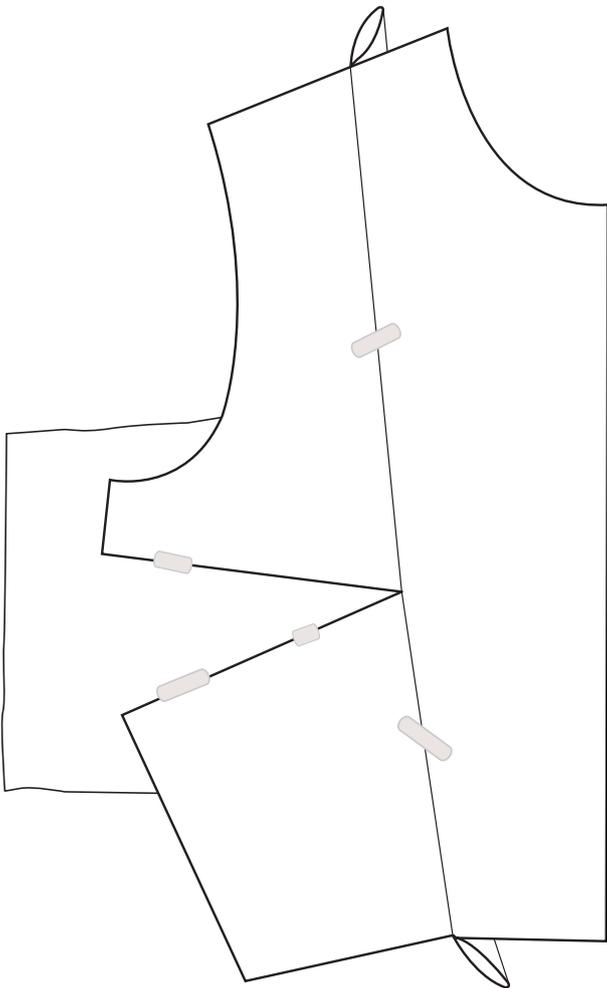
Close both the shoulder dart and waist dart with sticky tape. This will then open up the new dart.



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Step 3:

Tape a piece of paper beneath the newly opened dart. Close the new dart with sticky tape. Using a tracing wheel, mark along the side seam (see Chapter 3, page 50 of *Pattern Cutting*).



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Step 4:

Open up the dart and draw in the new side seam along the marks left by the tracing wheel. Then add a seam allowance to finish the new pattern with the dart pivoted to the side seam.



EXERCISE / 02

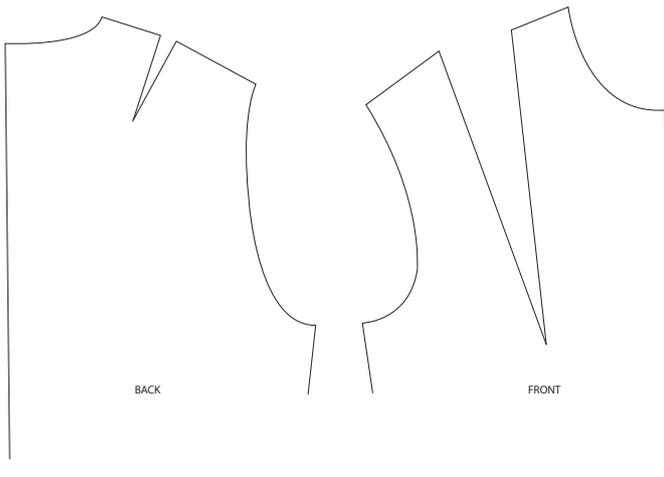
EXERCISE 2:

ALTERING THE SHOULDER SLANT BY RAISING THE SHOULDER LINE

The average shoulder slant for Size 12 for womenswear is 4.5 cm at the front and 4 cm at the back. If, after fitting the toile, adjustments need to be made the shoulder line on the block can be raised. Here we will adjust the shoulder slant to 3.5 cm at the front and 3 cm at the back, raising the shoulder slant by 1 cm.

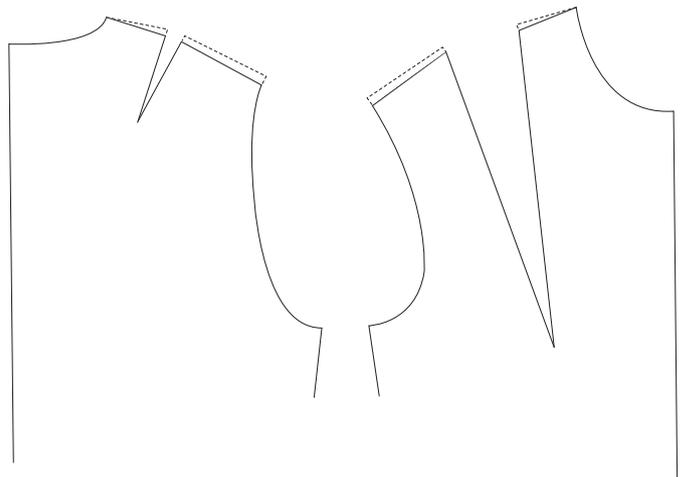
Step 1:

Trace the bodice block onto a new piece of paper.



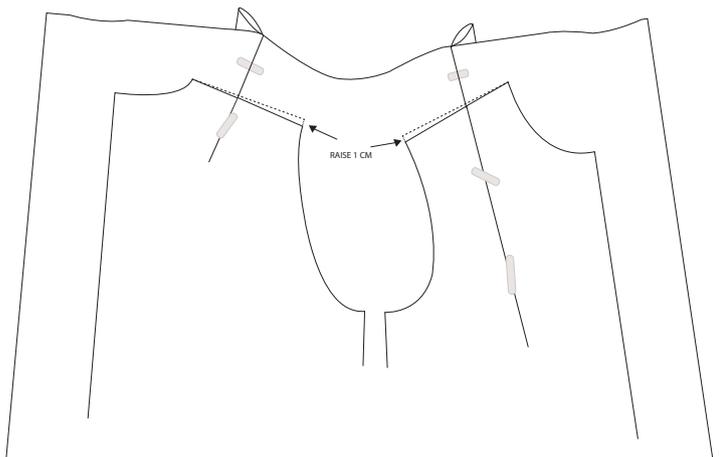
Step 3:

Open up the darts and redraw the new shoulder lines.



Step 2:

Close and tape both the front shoulder dart and the back shoulder dart (see Chapter 3, page 50 of Pattern Cutting). From both front and back shoulder points, measure up 1 cm and mark new points. From these points, draw straight lines back to the original shoulder neck points. Run a tracing wheel over these new lines.



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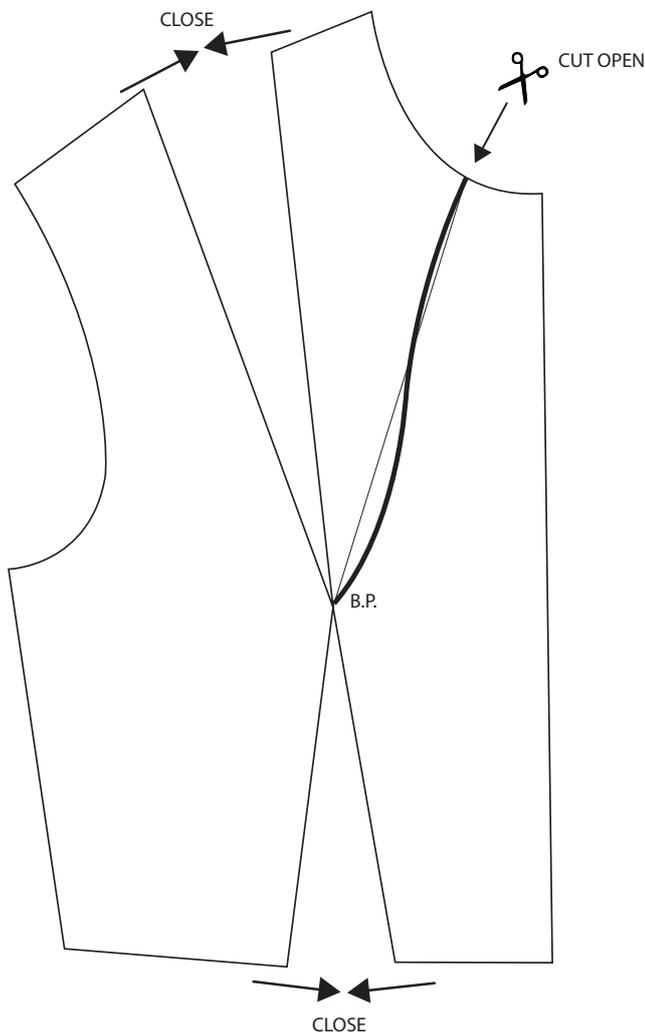
EXERCISE 3:

CREATING CURVED DARTS BY PIVOTING STRAIGHT DARTS

Darts need not be straight. They can be pivoted and transferred into a new dart with a curved line. You can do this to create a design feature and, indeed, curved lines are more complimentary to the female form. The key to this kind of dart is that it must be sewn with a narrow seam allowance (0.3 cm to 0.5 cm) because, when sewing, it is virtually impossible to manipulate two curved lines together if there is excess fabric.

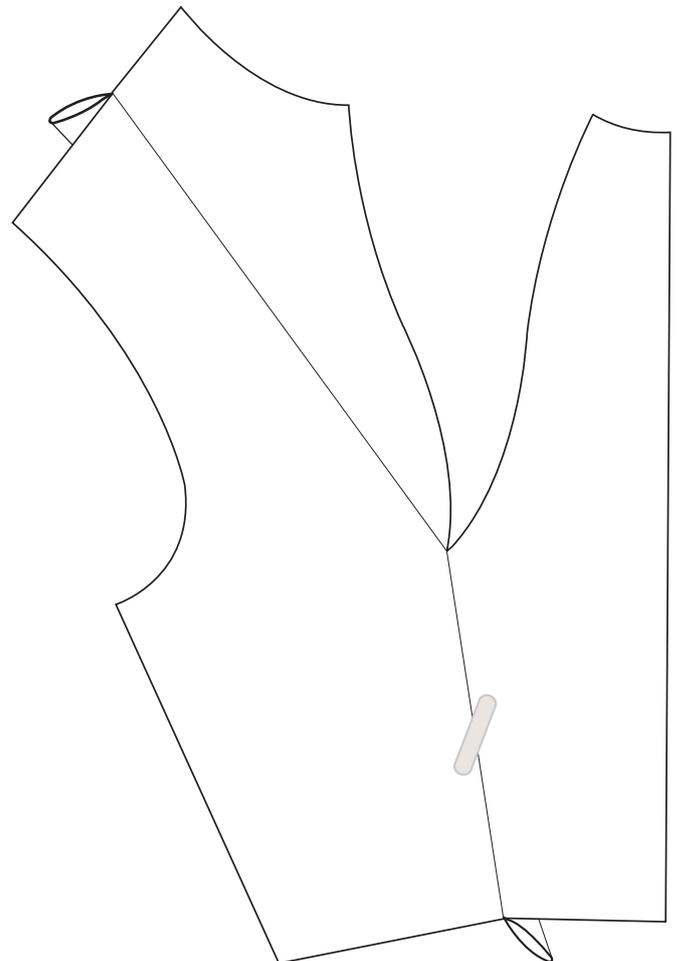
Step 1:

On the front of the basic bodice block, draw a curved line from the centre front neck point to the bust point. Cut this line open.



Step 2:

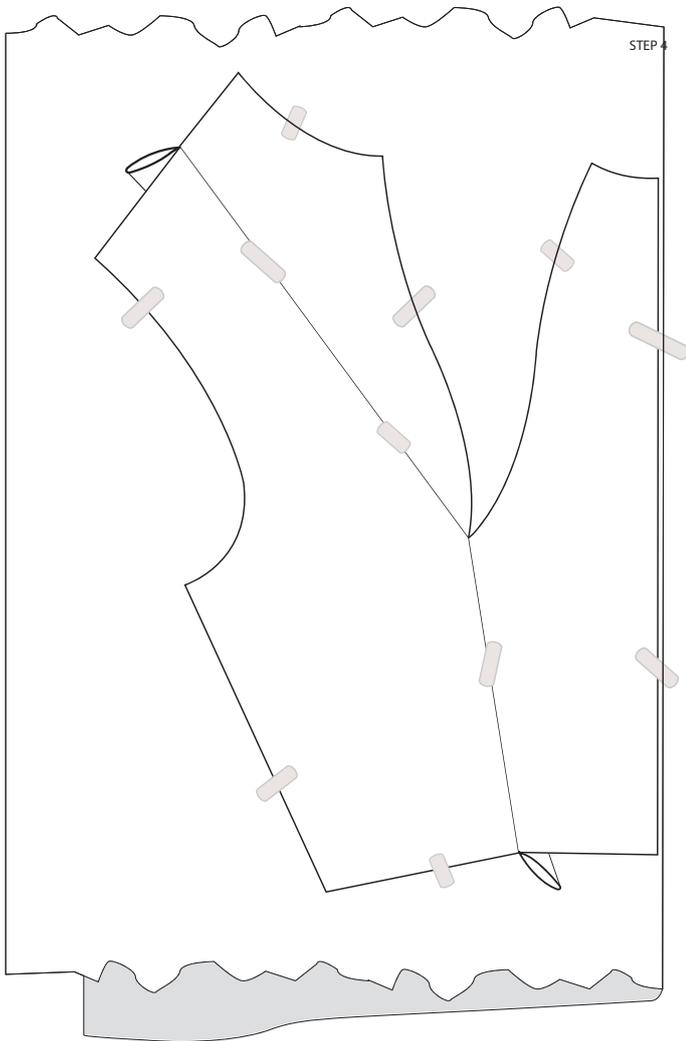
Fold and tape both bust darts closed in order to open out the newly drawn 'S'-shaped dart. This will create a new curved dart.



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Step 3:

Fold a piece of paper in half vertically and tape the paper pattern to it with the centre front aligned along the fold of the paper. Trace around the pattern before opening up the paper to reveal the new symmetrical shape of the bodice front.



Step 4:

Draw in a seam allowance of 0.5 cm, which will be easier to sew along the in- and outcurves than a 1 cm allowance. Add balance marks (or notches) to align the new darts. Finally, add a drill hole at the bust point using a pattern drill.

