

Terminology

Cut: Cut on the inside of pencil line.

Dart: A triangular section of fabric folded out of the larger piece to achieve a better fit.

Notches: Notches are cross-marks on the seamline or within the seam allowance that are used to denote specific points. They are used in the process of truing.

Block pattern, sloper, master pattern: All names for the basic patterns on which all designs are based. These are usually net patterns, i.e. they have no seam allowance, no turnings, and no facings.

Tracing: Tracing is the process of transferring pattern lines onto another sheet of paper or onto fabric using a tracing wheel.

Truing: The process of connecting all points on a pattern and checking for accuracy of measurements, dart-lines, seamlines, cross-marks, notches, etc.

Tools for pattern drafting

Awl: *Optional.* A pointed tool used to pierce small holes to indicate points of darts.

Calculator: Very useful in drafting, but try to become proficient at dividing and multiplying without a calculator, to speed up the drafting process.

Dressmaker pins: Long and sharp pins are best for fitting.

French curves: A variety of plastic and metal curves is used to mark armholes and necklines.

Instructor note: encourage students to draw curves with and without the use of manufactured curves.

Factory cotton/muslin: Unbleached cotton is used for toiles or mock-ups.

Half-scale metric square: Extremely useful for half-scale drafts, as they eliminate the process of dividing measurements in half with a calculator or in your head.

Hip curves: A plastic or metal curved ruler, used to shape longer, more gentle curves.

Graph paper (metric or imperial): *Optional.*

Ruler: Use clear plastic rulers 5 cm (2") wide.

Metric/imperial tape measure

Oaktag/card tag: A heavyweight card used to make slopers.

Paper: Use 60-pound weigh brown paper. It is thick enough cut a clean edge, and can withstand heavy handling and many corrections.

Notcher: *Optional.* A hand-punching tool used to mark notches on patterns.

Pencils, pens, chalk: Use hard (2H) pencils for a fine, hard line. Use a soft pencil (2B-4B) for a soft and easy line on paper or fabric. Coloured pencils are also useful.

Pushpins: Pushpins with a long shank are useful for holding down patterns on a cork tabletop.

Rotary cutter: *Optional.*

Tape: 3M Magic Tape© is a good choice.

Shears/scissors: Use both fabric and paper scissors. Both must be sharp and in good repair.

Tracing wheel: Use a sharp tracing wheel.

Weights: Used to stop pieces of pattern from moving around as you trace them.