

# 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 toile 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.