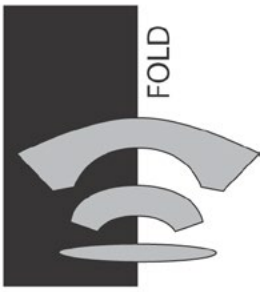
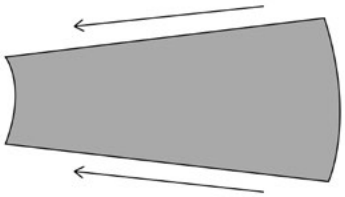
Cutting + Pinning

Tips for cutting

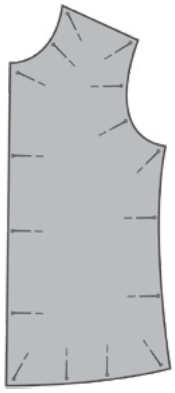


- Read through the pattern instructions before cutting out to ensure there are no surprises along the way.
- Press your pattern pieces to remove wrinkles and creases.
- Precut pattern pieces to avoid dulling and/or damaging cutting blades.
- Position all pattern pieces before cutting. This will help ensure that you have sufficient fabric for the entire garment.
- Check each pattern piece for the number of layers to cut of fabric and interfacing.
- When cutting left and right sides in a single layer of fabric, make sure that each piece is cut right side up, they will be a mirror image of each other.
- Symmetrical pattern pieces, such as collars, facings, collar stands, backs etc, may be cut on the fold. To do so, align the centre front or centre back of the pattern piece with the folded edge of the fabric, half of the piece will be on the fabric and the other half will be off the edge.

Scissors + Rotary Cutters

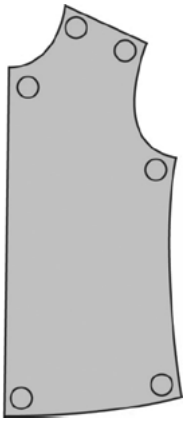


- Use good quality scissors or rotary cutters with sharp blades.
- When using scissors use long, even strokes to ensure smooth cutting lines.
- Cut fabric with the grain, not against it, this prevents distortion of the fabric and reduces fraying.
- Hold the fabric in place with one hand and cut with the other hand.
- Apply firm, even pressure when using a rotary cutter to achieve a clean and accurate cut.
- When using a rotary cutter use a self healing cutting mat.
- A 45mm rotary cutter is a good size for general cutting, however, a 28mm rotary cutter can come in handy for cutting tighter curves and shapes.



Tips for pinning

- Anchor fabric grain lines by pinning along the fold line or grain line arrow then smooth the paper pattern onto the fabric.
- Pin inside the cutting lines, at right angles to edges of the pattern and diagonally into corners, spacing the pins 3 - 4 inches (7 - 10cm) apart.
- Do not pin over the cutting line.



Alternatives to pinning

- Pattern weights are a great alternative to pins, as the name suggests, these hold down the pattern on your fabric, they are quick and easy to move and adjust with no pin holes. There are numerous types available to purchase or you can make your own.

Tip Pick up some heavy large washers from the hardware store and cover or wrap with fabric, you may need one or two depending on the weight. Alternatively, there are lots of free patterns available online or if you have an embroidery machine, download this free Pattern Weight In-the-Hoop project and have a go!