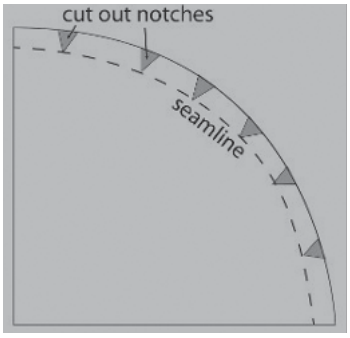
Notches + Marking

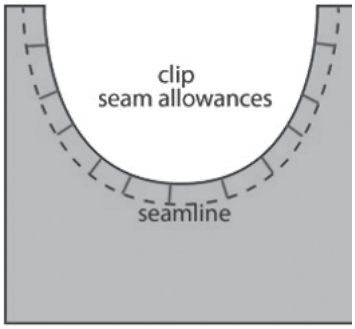
Notching + Clipping



Curved seams can be tricky to master, but knowing the right technique to use, and where, will help to achieve flat and smooth curves. Cutting notches or clipping curved seams redistributes the fabric in the seam allowance resulting in a finished seam that will lay flat and smooth.

Notching and clipping, what's the difference?

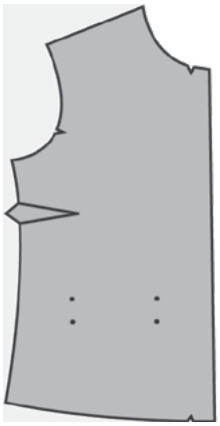
A notch is a small wedge or V shaped cut made in the seam allowance, approximately every 1.5cm or so, this allows excess fabric in the seam to be reduced and lay flat without bunching. Notching is generally used on CONVEX (outward) such as princess line bust seams.



Clipping is a vertical 'snip' or clip into the seam allowance. Get as close to the stitching as possible without clipping through it. Clipping allows the seam to splay out to create the desired shape. Clipping is used on CONCAVE (inward) curves such as necklines or armholes. Clipping also works well when attaching a curve to a straight, e.g., a curved waistline to the band.

Tip Use sharp scissors with a good tip to clip or notch your seam allowances, remember to trim as close as possible to the stitch line (without snipping through the stitches).

Marking

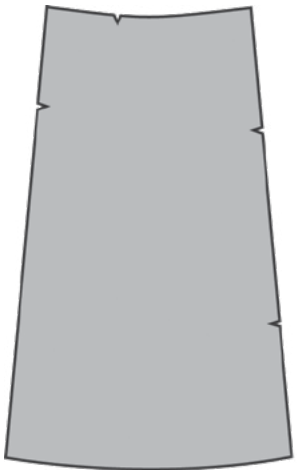


It is important to transfer all construction markings from your pattern to your fabric. This ensures all of your pattern pieces are assembled and aligned correctly during the construction of your garment. The markings found on patterns include:

- Darts
- Fold lines
- Centre Back
- Dot at the top of vents
- Plackets or pockets
- Notches (small cuts for alignment)
- Centre Front
- End or placement of zipper or openings
- Pleats
- Pocket flaps

There are a number of various marking tools and methods that can be used to transfer marks:

- Pins
- Chalk
- Tailor Tacks or thread marking
- Clipping at notches
- Dressmaking transfer paper using tracing wheel
- Water soluble fabric pens
- Water soluble or erasable pencils
- Pressing



Tip Test out a few different marking tools on your fabric(s) to see which you prefer, different fabrics may respond differently to the markers. Check that it shows up enough for you to see and that it will not stain.

Tip If using water soluble marking pens or pencils test them first on a piece of scrap fabric. Some colours can be difficult to remove and if pressed could be heat set and mark permanently!