

WORKSHOP: "UNDERSTANDING COMMERCIAL PATTERNS"



Summary: We will learn to read premade commercially available patterns, including symbols, understanding fabric choices and sizing.

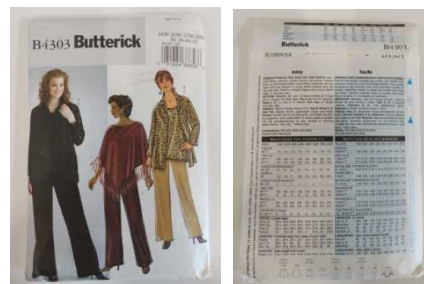
Materials and Equipment:

list of pattern terminology
paper scissors
instructions/ideas sheet

commercial premade pattern
list of fabric types and definitions

Class Plan: Reading Patterns

1. Your kit contains a few patterns from the store. They may not be your size or favourite style but we can use them to learn about sizing, fabric choices and reading pattern symbols. Patterns generally come in envelopes with garment pictures on the front with sizing and details for material needs etc. on the back.



2. Patterns are referenced by the company that made them and a pattern number at the top.



3. The pattern sizes included are on the front of the envelope in the top right corner or somewhere obvious.



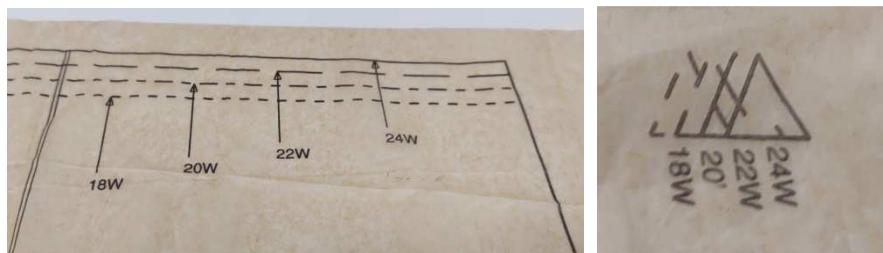
- a. Depending on the garment, sizing is generally determined from three measurements: chest/bust, waist and hips. If one or more matches a slightly larger size, go with the larger size and take in the garment for the smaller sized areas.

3025 MISSES' TOPS **13 PIECES**
 Close-fitting tops with scoop neckline have length and hemline variations, sleeve variations, topstitch trim, and optional patch pocket. Close-fitting halter top has neckline tie-in-casing and midriff band ties. Purchased pants.

| BODY MEASUREMENTS | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Size..... | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 |
| Bust..... | 31½ | 32½ | 34 | 36 |
| Waist..... | 24 | 25 | 26½ | 28 |
| Hip..... | 33½ | 34½ | 36 | 38 |
| Back Waist Length..... | 15¾ | 16 | 16¼ | 16½ |

| | | | | |
|------------|------|------|----|----|
| BUST..... | 31 ½ | 32 ½ | 34 | 36 |
| SIZES..... | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 |

- b. For patterns that include multiple sizes in the same envelope, and the lines followed for cutting and the pieces used are specified for each size. There will be different line styles (e.g. dashed, dotted) to cut along for each size and slightly different marking placements for each size.



- c. Sometimes there will be letters with the number sizes like W, which refers to a range of plus sizes. Use a chart (easily found online) to convert to a sizing system you are familiar with if the ones used on your pattern are unfamiliar.
4. When cutting out your pattern pieces, you can either cut along the lines marked for the size you have chosen, or use transfer paper to transfer the pattern pieces onto your fabric and then cut them out using a rotary cutter or scissors. This preserves all the sizes for future use but takes longer.
 5. To determine the amount of fabric you need:
 - a. Fabric comes in different widths, most commonly 45" and 60". On the back of the pattern envelope these fabric widths will be listed on the left, with sizes across the top. The table then shows how much fabric length you need based on the fabric width and garment size.

Combinations: Y(XS-S-M), ZZ(L-XL-XXL)

| SIZES | XS | S | M | L | XL | XXL |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| | 4-6 | 8-10 | 12-14 | 16-18 | 20-22 | 24-26 |
| A 45**** | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 2 1/4 | 2 1/4 Yds. |
| 60**** | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 Yds. |
| B 45**** | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 Yds. |
| 60**** | 1 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 Yds. |
| CONTRAST 1B - 45", 60**** - 1/4 yd. | | | | | | |
| CONTRAST 2B | | | | | | |
| 45", 60**** | 5/8 | 5/8 | 5/8 | 5/8 | 5/8 | 5/8 Yds. |
| C 45**** | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 2 | 2 1/4 | 2 1/4 Yds. |
| 60**** | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 2 Yds. |
| D 60**** | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 1 1/4 | 2 | 2 1/4 | 2 1/4 Yds. |

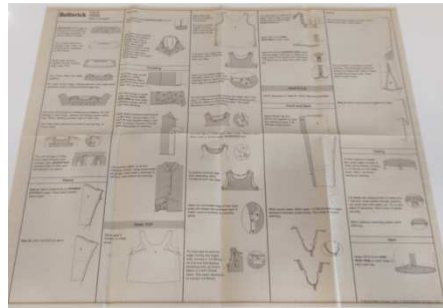
Designed for Soft Lightweight Woven and Stable Knit Fabrics.
SUGGESTED FABRICS: Satin, Voile, Jersey, Faille.

6. The pattern will list types of fabric that work well with it.

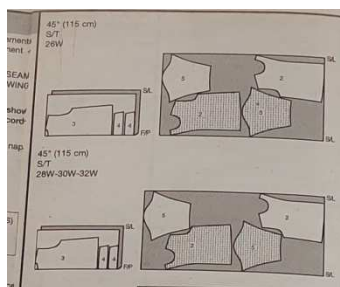
Fold Bias Tape.

FABRICS: Top A: Novelty Sheers Only. Top B, Pants C, D, De
Tank Top: Stretch Velvet, Lightweight Crepe and Faille. TI
Poncho: Stretch Velvet and Georgette. Unsuitable for obvi
 ous diagonals. Allow extra fabric to match plaids or stripes. ble
 Use nap yardages/layouts for pile, shaded or one-way Ge
 design fabrics. *with nap. **without nap. Co
 se

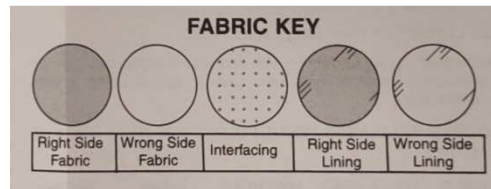
- a. The pattern will indicate whether woven or stretchy fabrics can be used with it.
- b. If it works with stretchy fabrics, there will sometimes be a gauge on the pattern indicating how stretchy the fabric can be or needs to be to suit the garment.
7. There will be a list of notions needed to create the pattern project. Notions are the extra items like buttons, zippers, interfacing and so on that are needed for the project.
8. Inside the pattern envelop there will be folded tissue pattern pieces and a paper instruction sheet to help.



9. The pattern instruction sheet will give a diagram showing how to layout your pattern pieces on your fabric (generally folded to cut two pieces at a time and one of those on folds) to ensure you have enough fabric. It is important to plan how you will cut out your pieces before starting to cut.



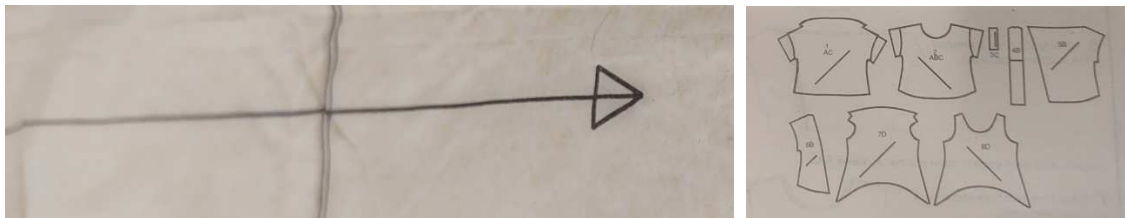
- a. The fabric key tells you which way up each pattern piece is placed in the above layout, based on how the piece is coloured in. This colouring method also helps when following the pattern instructions, for example knowing when to join two garment pieces with right sides together.



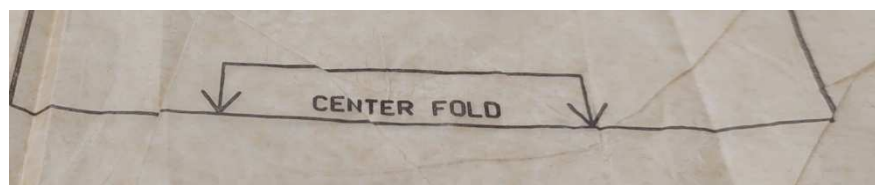
- b. The pattern pieces will be numbered and named. Each will indicate how many to cut out of your fabric.



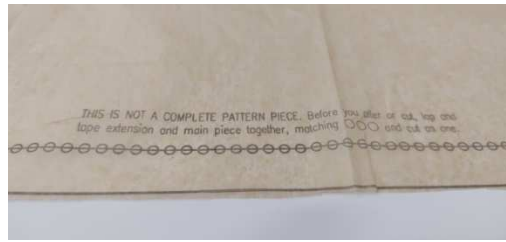
- c. The pattern pieces will also have a grain line on them, which is a line with an arrow head on one end (left). This line must run straight along the length of the fabric, perpendicular to the width. The grain lines are not always straight up and down on pattern pieces. Cutting them on the diagonal for example makes the fabric drape with more stretch (right).



- d. Some pattern pieces need to be placed on the fold for cutting. This is marked with two arrows pointing to the fold edge, joined by a line.

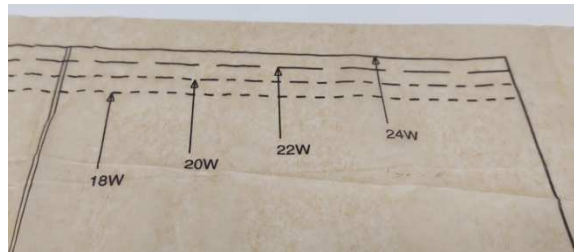


- e. Sometimes garment sections are so large that the pattern piece can't be printed as all one piece. In this case pattern edges are marked with rows of symbols indicating that they need to be joined to another pattern piece before cutting.

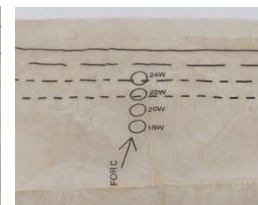
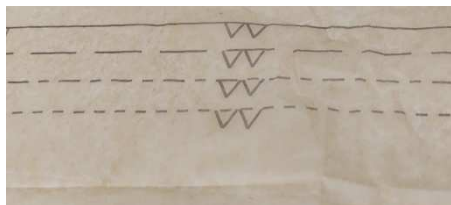
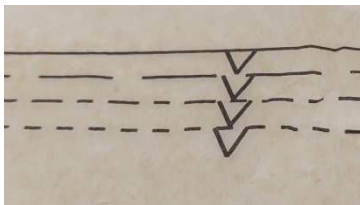


10. Patterns have a variety of symbols and marks to help guide you in your project. Following are a selection of commonly used symbols and their meanings:

- a. To cut out your pattern pieces based on size, follow the line style that matches the size you chose.



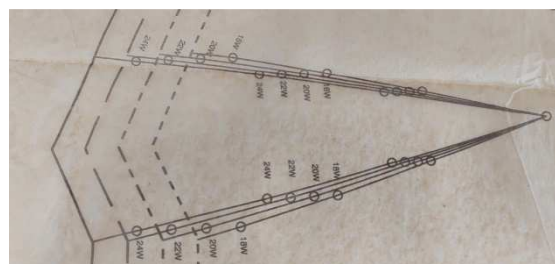
- b. To match sections of the garment up when assembling your pieces, match the same symbols of different garment pieces (e.g. single triangles, double triangles, circles etc.).



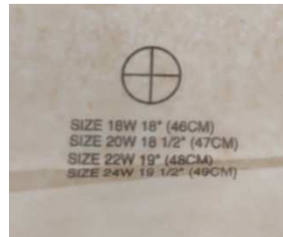
- c. Location markers or lines indicate positions on garment pieces for reference and alignment.



- d. Darts indicate wedge shaped sections to be sewn together to accommodate body curves.



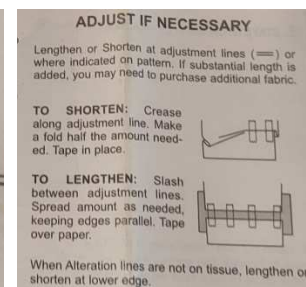
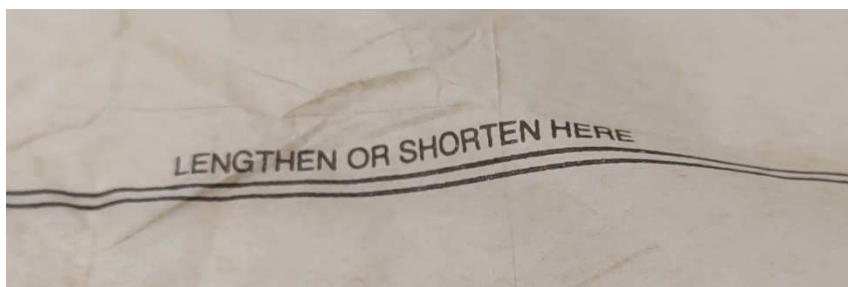
- e. A circle with a cross through it indicates the bust, waist or biceps location. Measurements here refer to the circumference of the finished garment plus design ease and wearing ease.



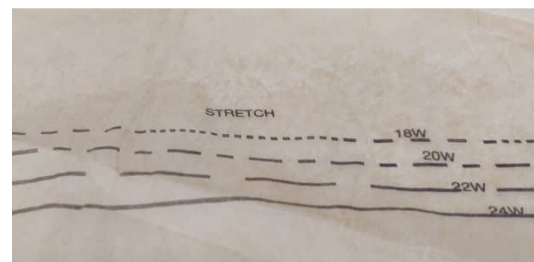
- f. Button placement is usually marked with an X and buttonholes with double ended lines indicating the buttonhole length needed. Sometimes these symbols are overlapped, indicating where the button shank should sit in the buttonhole.



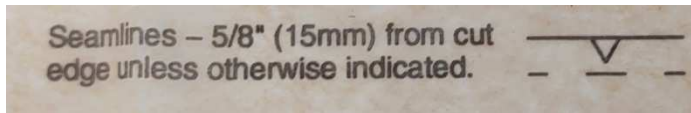
- g. A double line marked indicates where a garment can be lengthened or shortened. To lengthen, cut between the lines, spread the pieces apart the amount needed keeping the edges parallel and tape a piece of paper behind the pattern to fill the gap. To shorten, fold the pattern along this line half the amount to be shortened. If there is no line, lengthen or shorten at the bottom of the garment.



- h. Sometimes two pattern pieces are to be joined where one is larger than the other along the seam to be joined. In this case the extra is eased to match the pieces together by stretching the shorter piece. This is marked on the pattern below.



11. Seam allowances (left) and hem amounts (right) will be indicated in the pattern instructions and sometimes also on the pattern pieces.



12. The pattern instructions and pieces will also indicate placement of other items in the garment construction such as interfacing. Interfacing is used to support the structure of the garment in areas that need support and/or shaping.



13. Patterns have lots of terms describing construction, materials and sizing. A few common and really useful terms are:
- "Nap": refers to the raised threads or hairs on the surface of a fabric and the direction in which they lie. When cutting out a garment, make sure the threads or fuzz on the surface of the fabric all head in the same direction. Smoothing the fabric one direction will lower the threads and the opposite will raise them, changing the texture and colour of the fabric.
 - "Ease": is the amount of room in a garment beyond the wearer's body measurements. This is necessary for movement, comfort, sitting down, etc. It will vary based on how snug the garment is to fit.
14. Happy creating, and please share pictures of your creations if you feel comfortable.

Useful Information/Adaptations/Variations:

- Some patterns have a gauge on the side of the envelope to help you determine if the fabric you are selecting has the right amount of stretch.
- The pattern envelop will suggest a variety of fabrics suitable for the pattern. There is an index of fabric types provided online or in our Google drive.

Troubleshooting:

- Commercial patterns can be bought in stores and ordered online.
- There are also pdf patterns available online. These can be downloaded and printed. There are scales on these patterns for printing them at the correct size.