

## Grandma's Sewing Cabinet Skirt Pattern Drafting Sew-Along Drafting Guide

Visit [GrandmasSewingCabinet.com](http://GrandmasSewingCabinet.com) for Video Tutorial

This handout will guide you step by step so that you will have a “first pattern” by the end of it. Don't skip any steps--you are simply drawing lines (most of them straight) in a sequence based upon the measurements that you took in the last lesson. Just follow the red lines!

For simplicity, transfer your measurements to the appropriate blanks in this worksheet (the measurement name is written in subscript below each space):

Enter your ***Center Front Hip Depth*** in Step 2.

Enter your ***Back Hip Arc*** in Steps 3, 4, and 5.

Enter your ***Center Back Hip Depth*** in Step 7.

Enter your ***Front Hip Arc*** in Steps 8, 9, and 10.

Enter your ***Back Waist Arc*** in Step 13.

Enter your ***Back Dart Intake*** in Steps 13, 15, 17.

Enter your ***Back Dart Placement*** in Step 14.

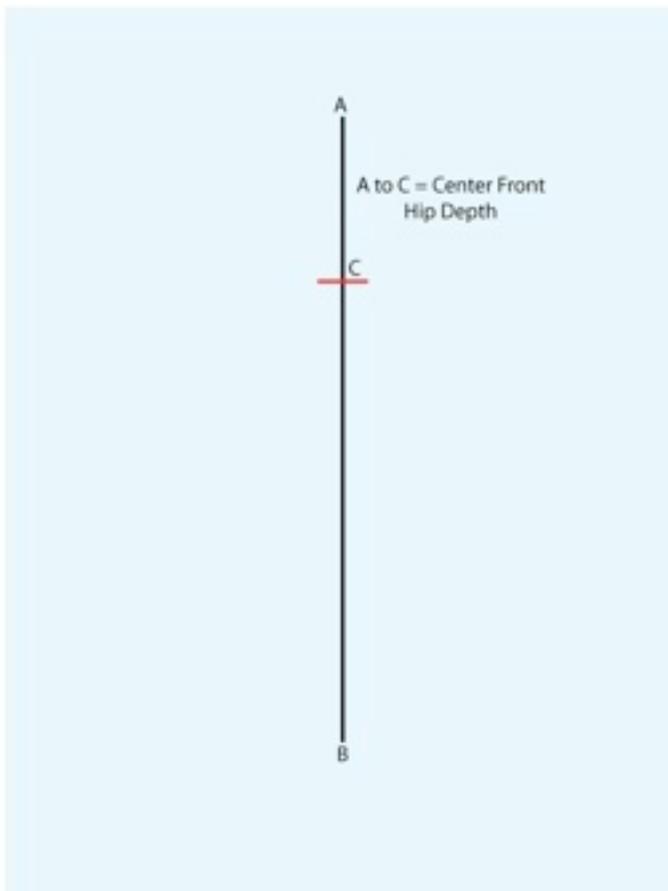
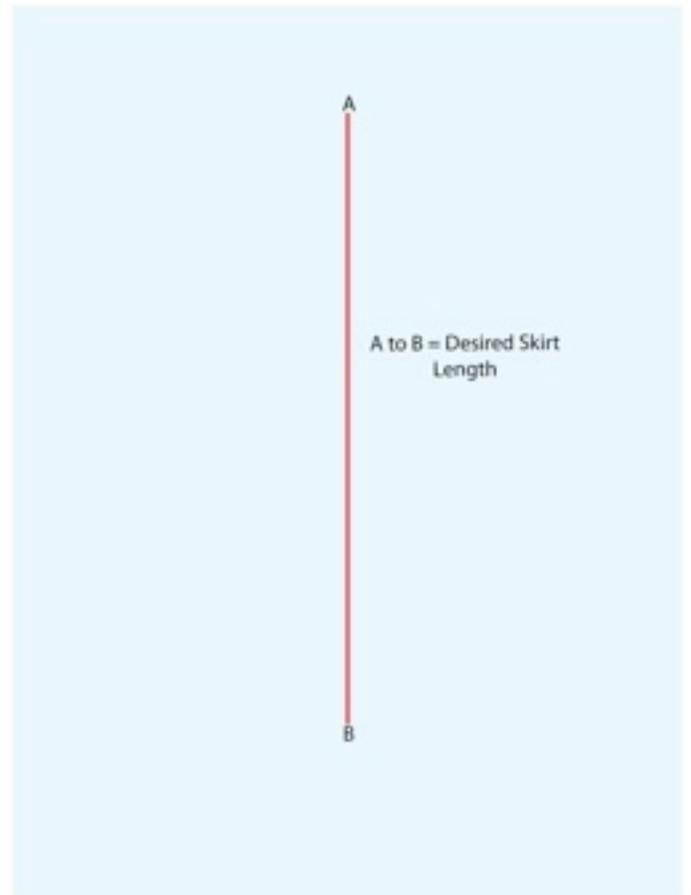
Enter your ***Front Waist Arc*** in Step 18.

Enter your ***Front Dart Intake*** in Steps 18, 20, 22.

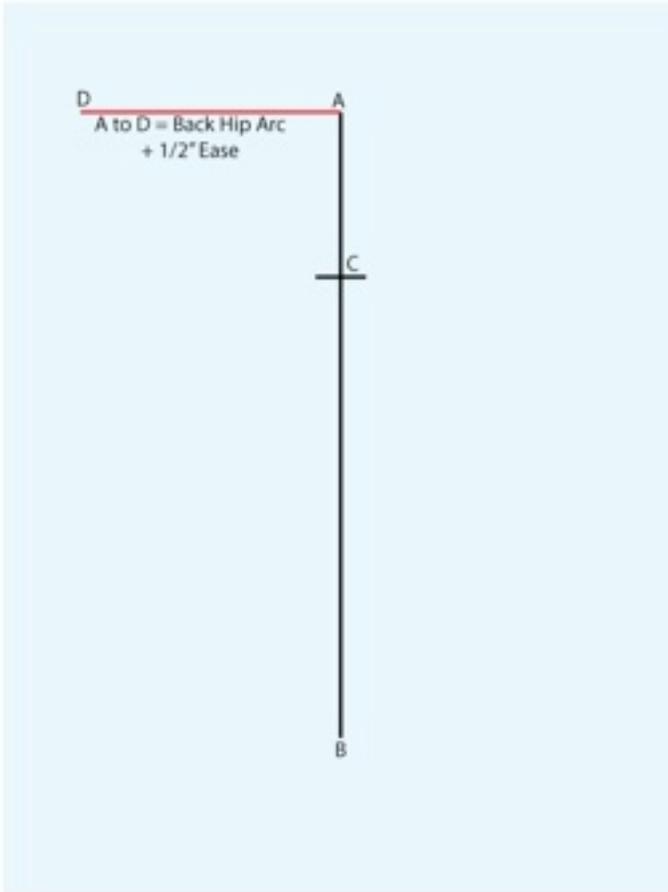
Enter your ***Front Dart Placement*** in Step 19.

Steps:

1. Cut a piece of dot paper or grid paper that is about 36" x 36" and draw a vertical line down the middle of it the length you want your skirt to be. Example: If you want your skirt to be 25 inches long, draw a 25 inch long line. Mark the top of the **A** and the bottom **B**. This is your **side seam**.

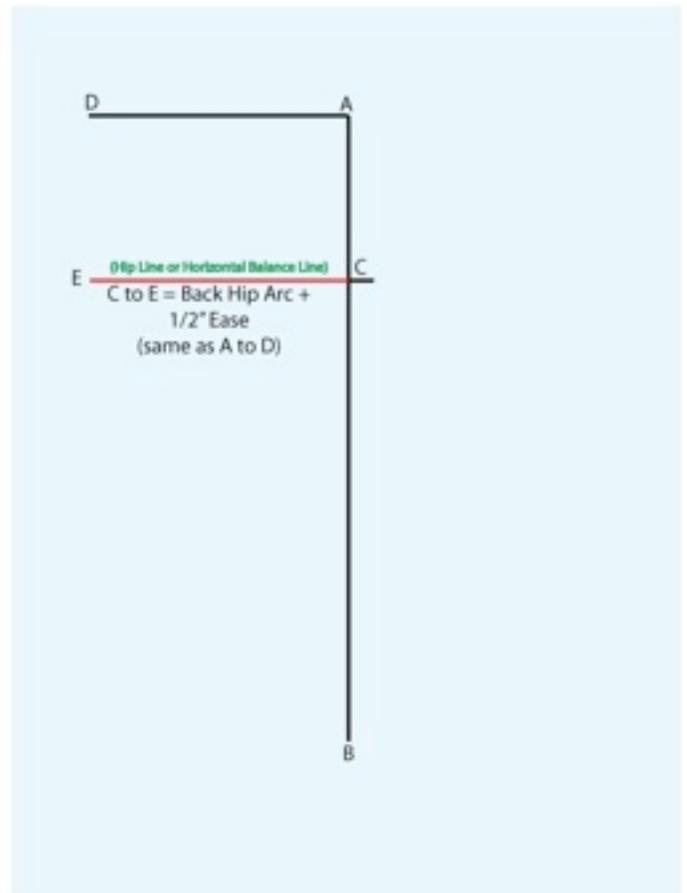


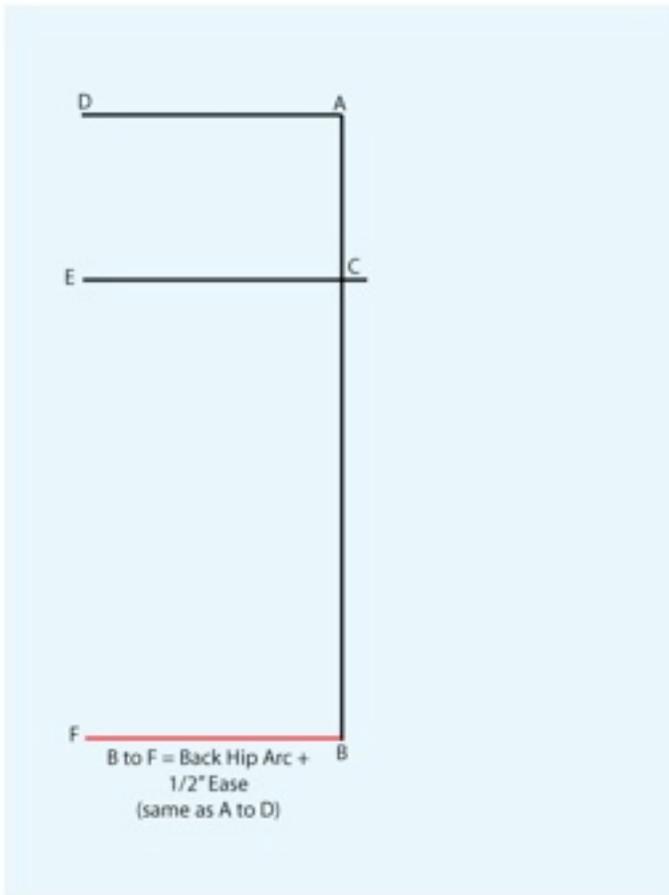
2. Measure down \_\_\_\_\_ (center front hip depth) \_\_\_\_\_, draw a short line, making sure that the angles are 90° (called “squaring the line”), and mark it **C**. This will eventually become your hip line, also known in pattern drafting as your **Horizontal Balance Line** ( or HBL).



3. Draw a line from A to the left that is equal to your Back Hip Arc + 1/2" of ease:  $\text{---Hip Arc---} + 1/2'' \text{ ease} = \text{---A to D---}$ . Make sure that the line is exactly perpendicular/square to your A-B line. Mark the end of the line **D**.

4. Draw a line from C to the left that is equal to your Back Hip Arc + 1/2" ease. This line is the same length as A-D. Make sure the line is square and mark it **E**.  $\text{---Hip Arc---} + 1/2'' \text{ ease} = \text{---C to E---}$ .

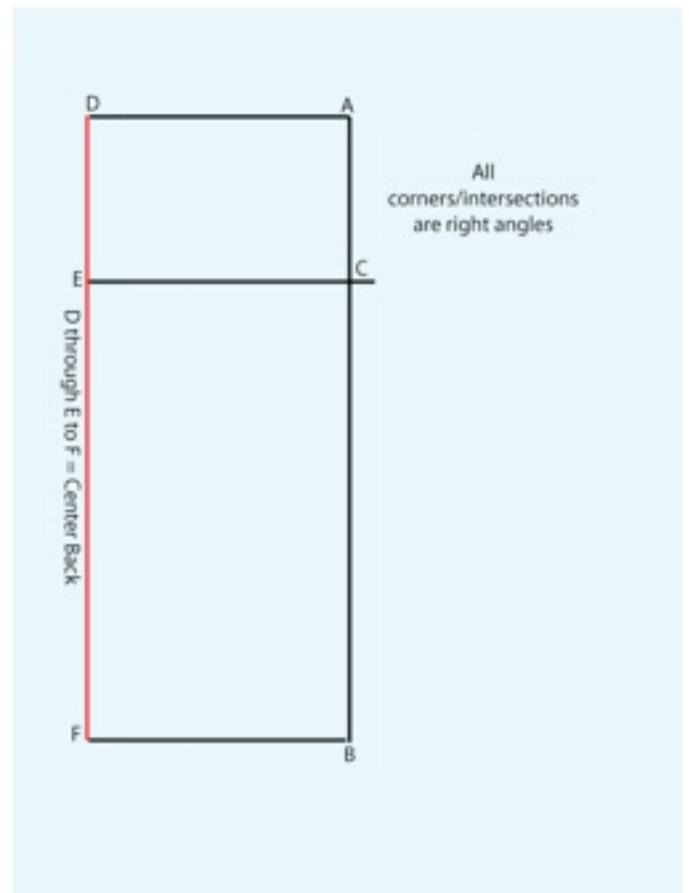


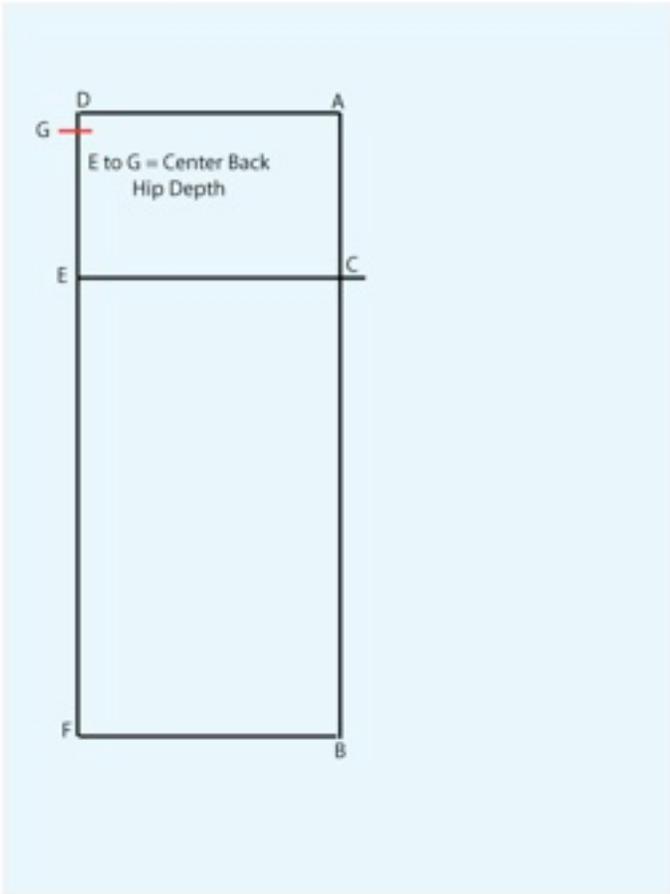


5. Draw a horizontal line from B to the left that is equal to your Back Hip Arc + 1/2" ease. This line is the same length as A-D. Make sure the line is square and mark the end of it **F**. — Hip Arc — + 1/2" ease =

— B to F —

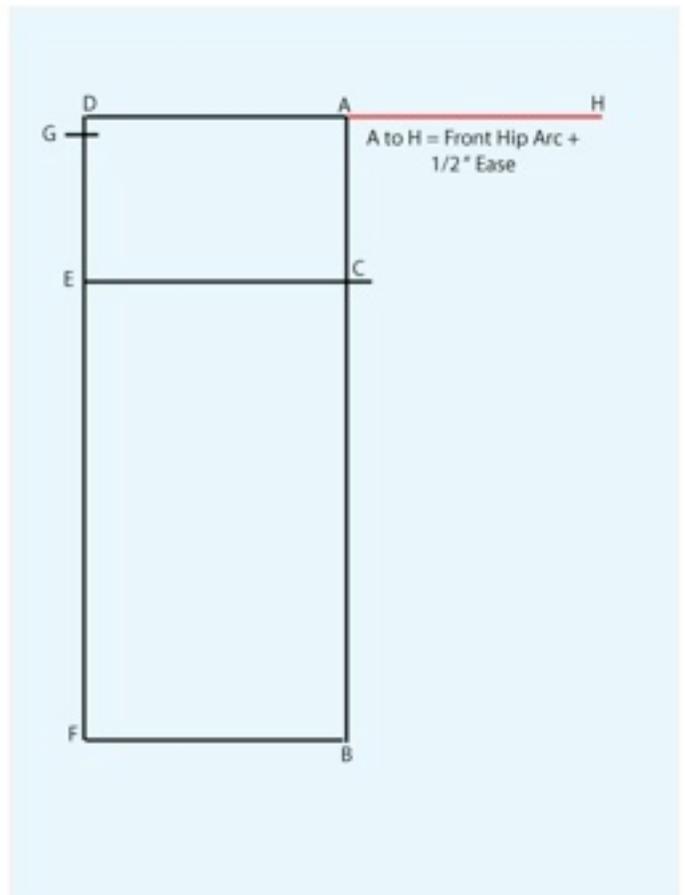
6. Draw a vertical line from D to F. This is your **center back** of the skirt. You should now have a big rectangle.

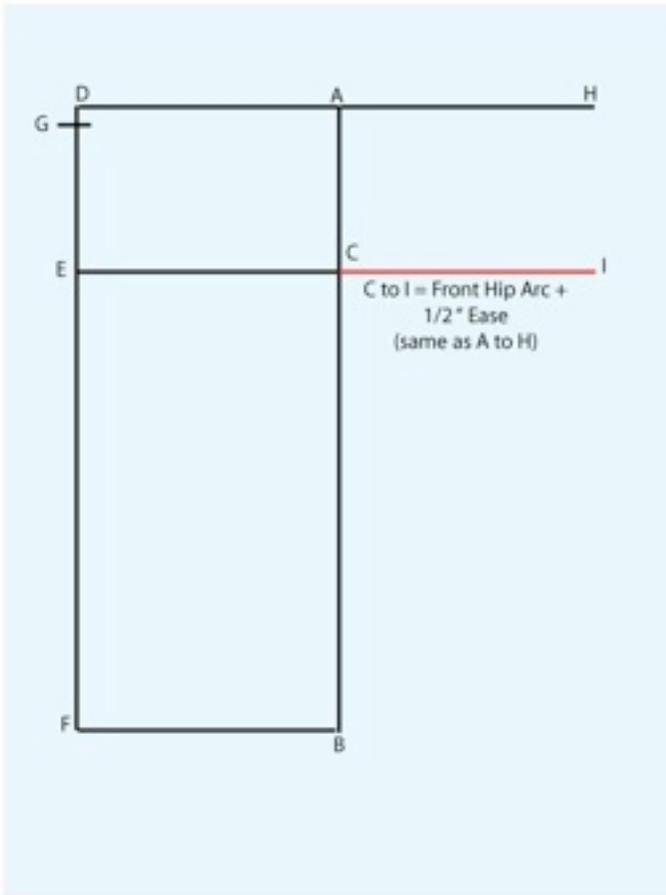




7. Measure **up** from **E** —Center Back Hip Depth—, draw a short line, making sure it is square, and mark it **G**.

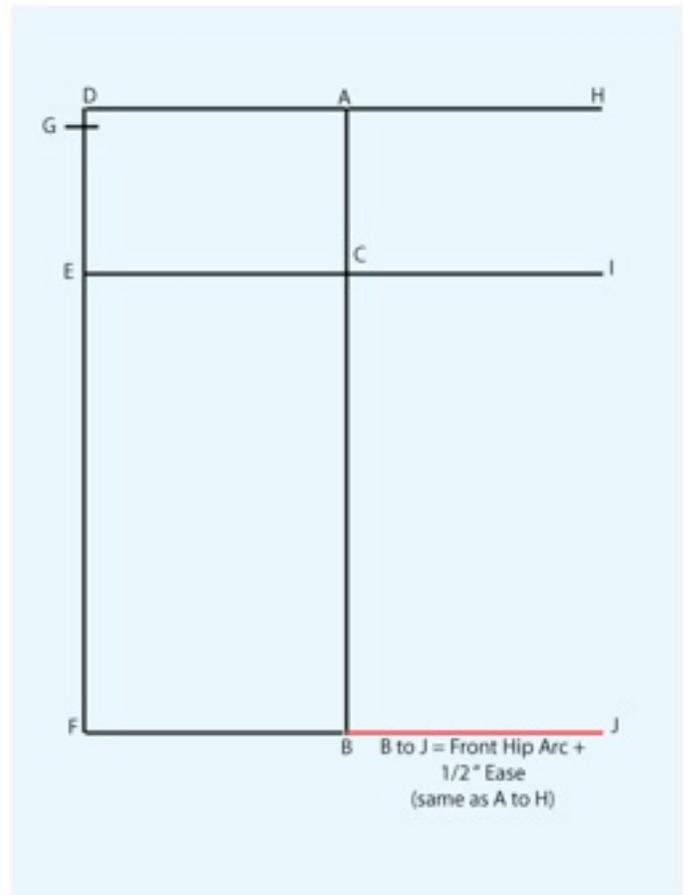
8. We will now repeat this process with the skirt front. Draw a line from A to the right that is equal to your Front Hip Arc + 1/2" of ease:  
 —Hip Arc— + 1/2" ease = —A to H—  
 Make sure that the line is exactly perpendicular/square to your A-B line. Mark the end of the line **H**.

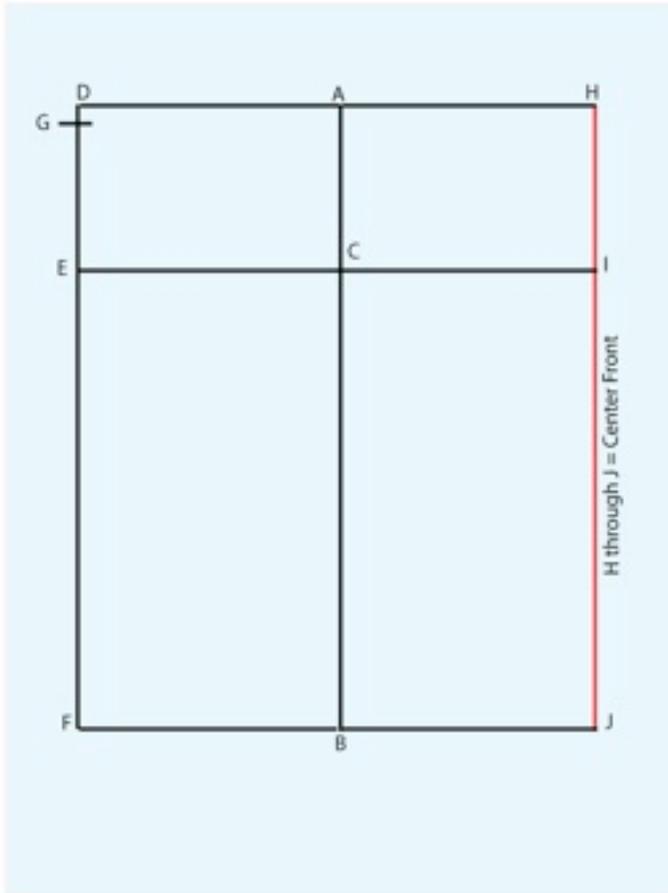




9. Draw a line from C to the right that is equal to your Front Hip Arc + 1/2" ease. This line is the same length as A-H. Make sure the line is square and mark it **I**.  $\text{Front Hip Arc} + 1/2''$  ease =  $\text{C to I}$ .

10. Draw a horizontal line from B to the right that is equal to your Front Hip Arc + 1/2" ease. This line is the same length as A-H. Make sure the line is square and mark the end of it **J**.  $\text{Front Hip Arc} + 1/2''$  ease =  $\text{B to J}$ .

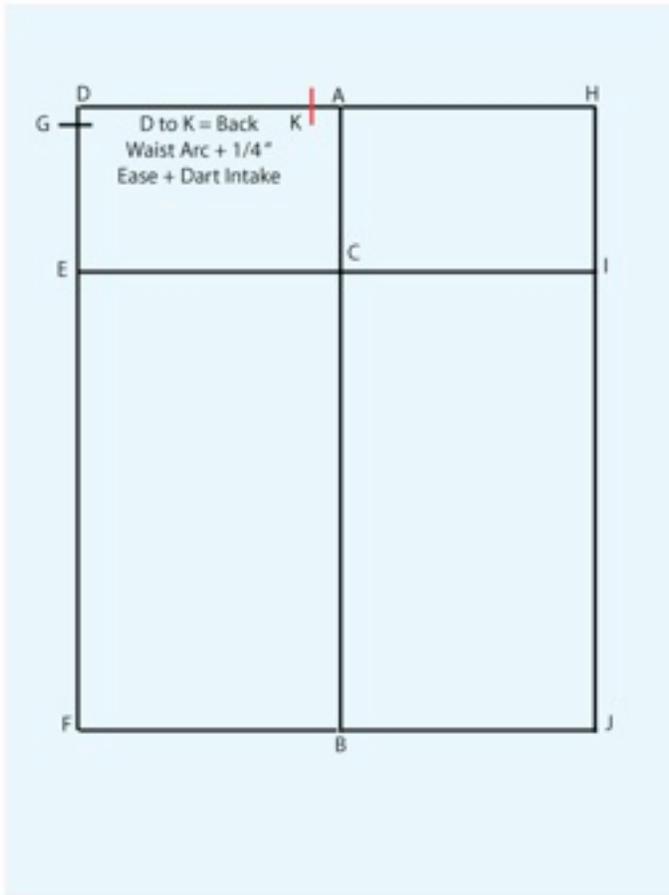




11. Draw a vertical line from H to J. This is your ***center front*** of the skirt. You have now drawn in the rough outline of your skirt pattern.

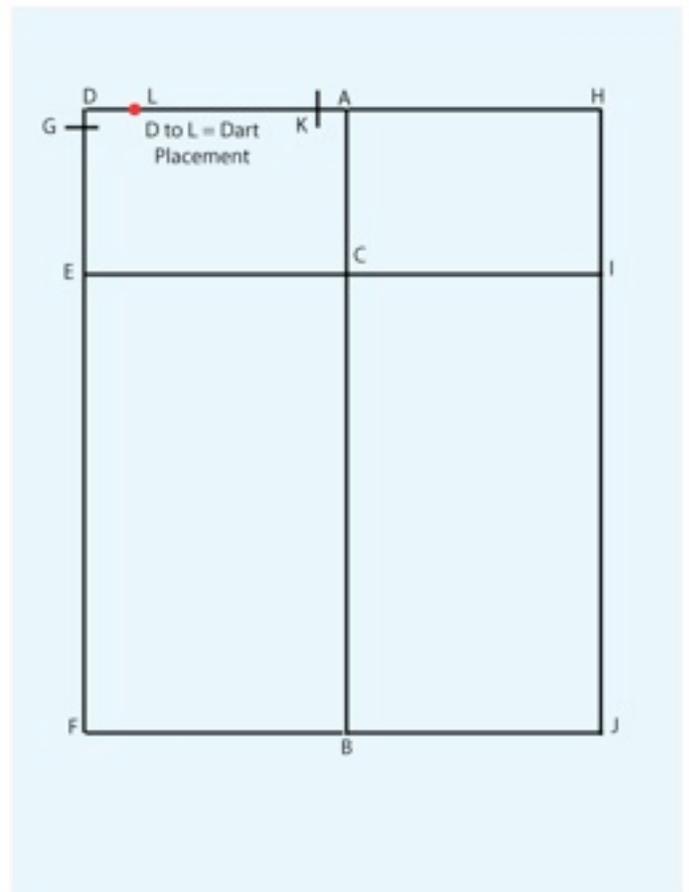
12. We will now work on the waist and figuring out how much to add for your dart intakes. The dart intake is the flappy part of the dart after the legs (the two lines) have been folded/sewn together. For this lesson, I will be using the Ready to Wear ratio. You can use that ratio and then futz with the intake after you make your sample skirt or you can figure out what it is right now. Subtract your waist measurement from your hip measurement to determine the difference (round it to the nearest whole number) and then look down the chart to find the ratio that is closest to your number. Enter the back dart intake in Step 13.

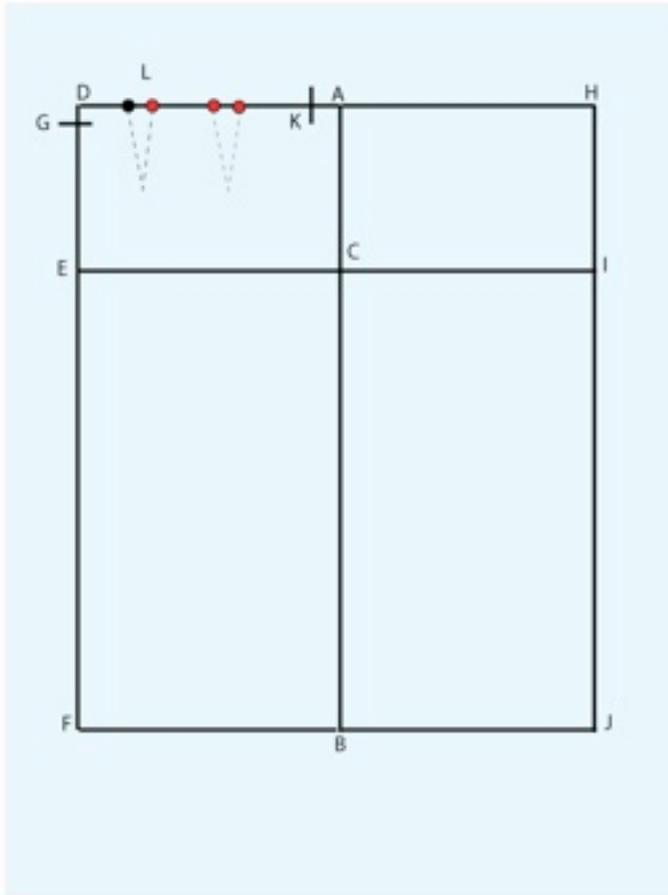
Hip - Waist Difference	Front Darts	Back Darts
Ready to Wear Ratio	2 darts @ 5/8" intake each	2 darts @ 1" intake each
4" difference	1 dart @ 1/2" intake	1 dart @ 3/4" intake
5" difference	1 dart @ 1/2" intake	1 dart @ 1" intake
6" difference	1 dart @ 1/2" intake	2 darts @ 5/8" intake each
7" difference	1 dart @ 1/2" intake	2 darts @ 3/4" intake each
8" or 9" difference	2 darts @ 3/8" intake each	2 darts @ 7/8" intake each
10" difference	2 darts @ 1/2" intake each	2 darts @ 1" intake each
11" difference	2 darts @ 5/8" intake each	2 darts @ 1 1/8" intake each
12" difference	2 darts @ 5/8" intake each	2 darts @ 1 1/4" intake each
13" or 14" difference	2 darts @ 5/8" intake each	2 darts @ 1 3/8" intake each



13. For the back: Starting at **D**, measure the amount equal to your Back Waist Arc + Dart intake + Dart intake + 1/4" ease.  $D \text{ to } K = \text{---Back Waist Arc---} + \text{---Back Dart Intake---} + \text{---Back Dart Intake---} + 1/4" \text{ ease} = \text{---D to K Measurement---}$ . This is your back waist. Make sure your line for **K** is square. Make this line nice and long.

14. For the dart placement, starting at **D**, measure the amount of your back dart placement and mark it with a dot and an **L**.  $D \text{ to } L = \text{---Back Dart Placement---}$ .



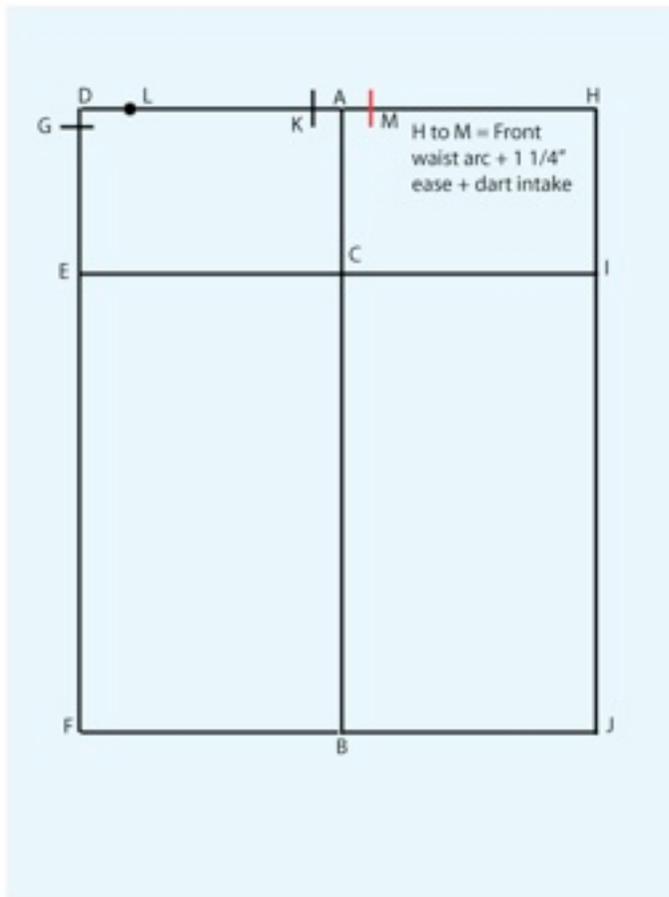


15. Mark the dart by measuring to the right the amount of your Back Dart Intake and marking it at the waistline with a dot. Dart =  $\frac{\text{Back Dart Intake}}{2}$ . Skip steps 16 and 17 if you only need to make one dart.

16. To place the second dart, make another mark  $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " from the Dart Intake dot you just made.

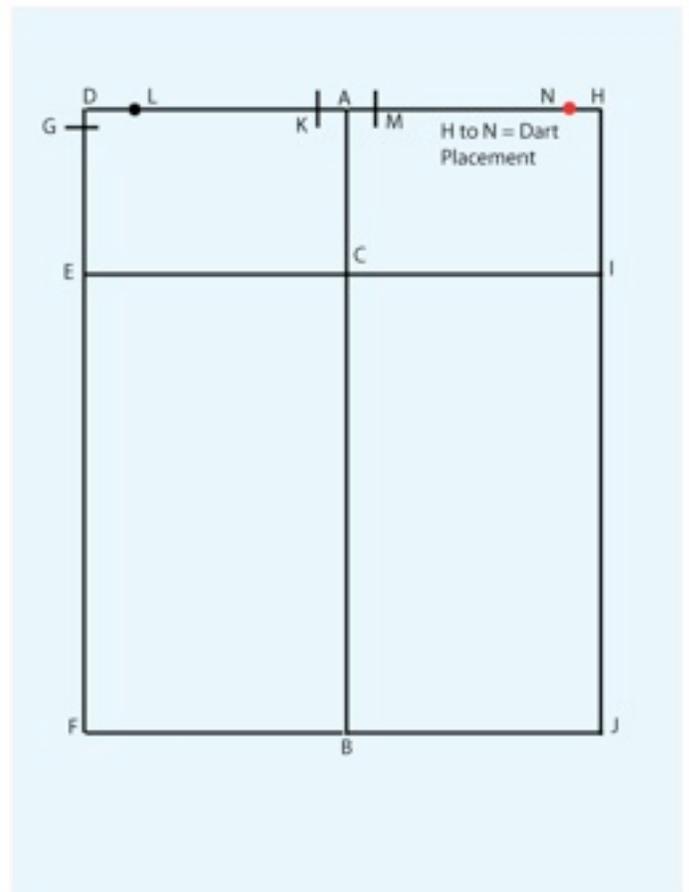
17. Mark your second dart by measuring to the right of the dot you just made the amount of your Back Dart Intake and marking it with a dot along the

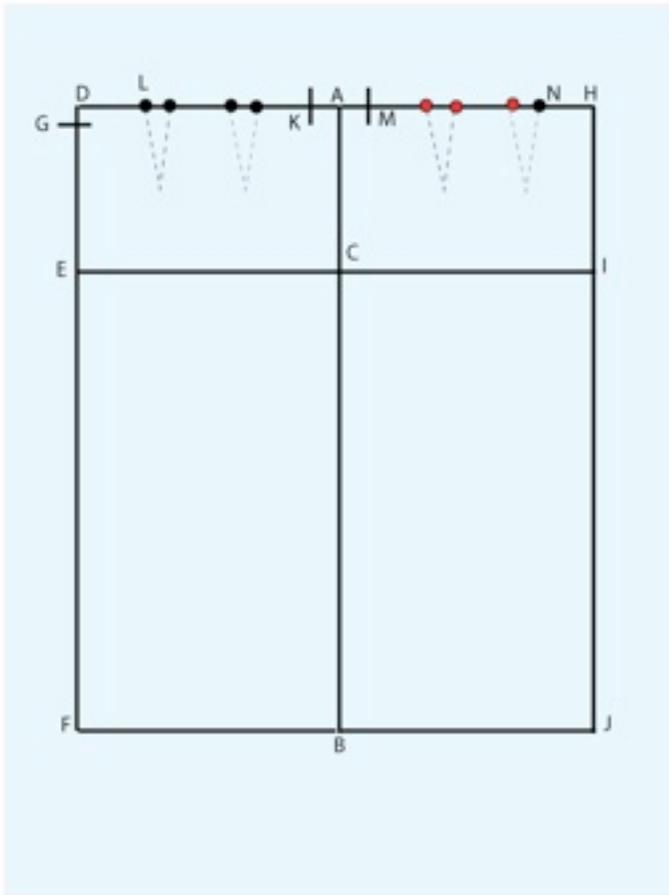
waistline. Dart =  $\frac{\text{Back Dart Intake}}{2}$ . You should now have four dots.



18. We will now repeat this same process for the front. Starting at **H**, measure the amount equal to your Front Waist Arc + Dart intake + Dart intake + 1/4" ease.  $H$  to  $M =$   $\frac{\text{Front Waist Arc}}{\text{Front Dart Intake}} + \frac{\text{Front Dart Intake}}{\text{Front Dart Intake}} + 1/4'' \text{ ease} = \frac{H}{\text{to M Measurement}}$ . This is your front waist. Make sure your line for **M** is square and nice and long.

19. For the dart placement, starting at **H**, measure the amount of your front dart placement and mark it with a dot and an **N**.  $H$  to  $N =$   $\frac{\text{Front Dart Placement}}$ .





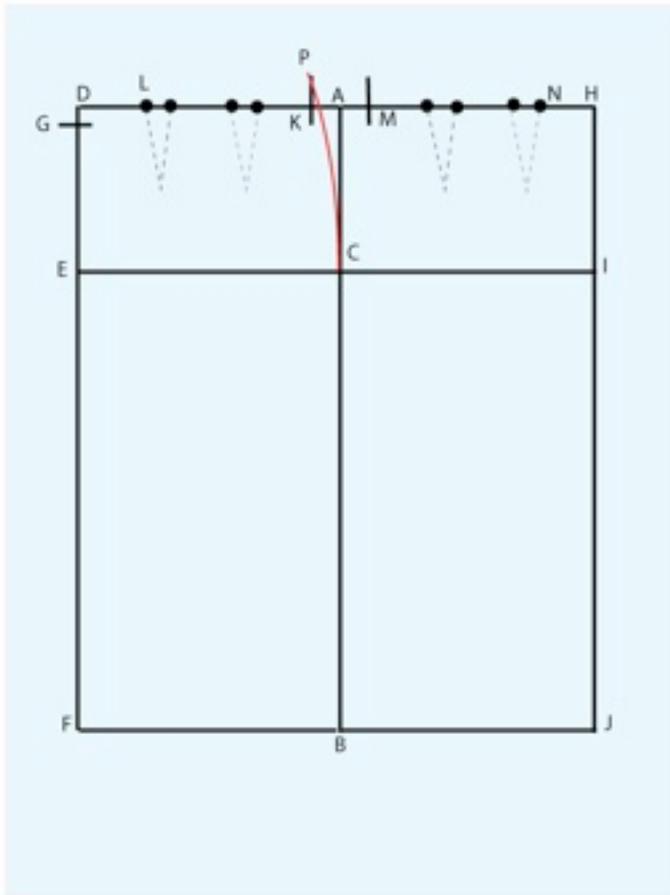
20. Mark the dart by measuring to the left the amount of your Front Dart Intake and marking it at the waistline with a dot. Dart =  $\frac{\text{Front}}{\text{Dart Intake}}$

• Skip steps 21 and 22 if you only need to make one dart.

21. To place the second dart, make another mark  $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " from the Dart Intake dot you just made.

22. Mark your second dart by measuring to the left of the dot you just made the amount of your Front Dart Intake and marking it with a dot along the waistline. Dart =  $\frac{\text{Front}}{\text{Dart Intake}}$ . You should now

have four dots on your front waistline.

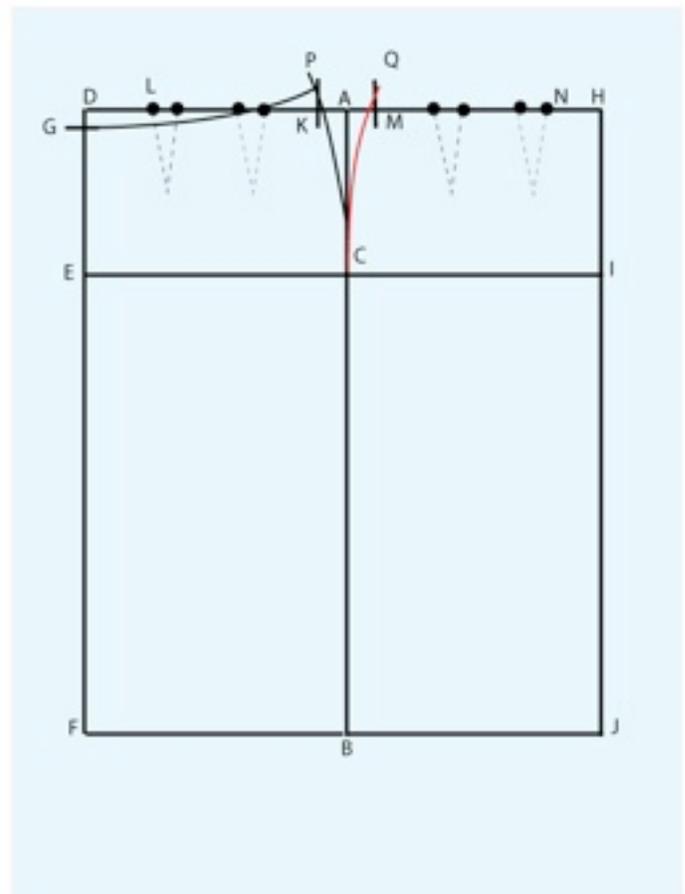


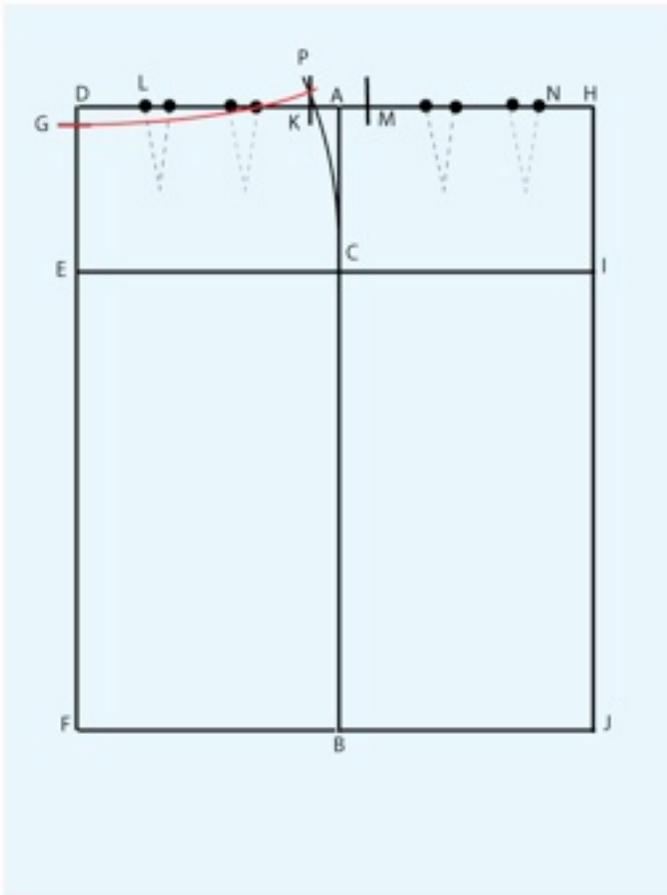
23. You will be using your hip curve to draw the side seams. For the back of the skirt: Align the straight side of the hip curve with the **A-B** line. Slide the ruler up and down until it touches both **C** and **K**. From **C** measure your Side Hip Depth, make a dot, and mark it **P** along the line made by K. **C to P** -

—Side Hip Depth—

24. We will repeat this process for the skirt front. Align the straight side of the hip curve with the **A-B** line. Slide the ruler up and down until it touches both **C** and **M**. From **C** measure your Side Hip Depth, make a dot, and mark it **Q** along the line made by M. **C to Q** -

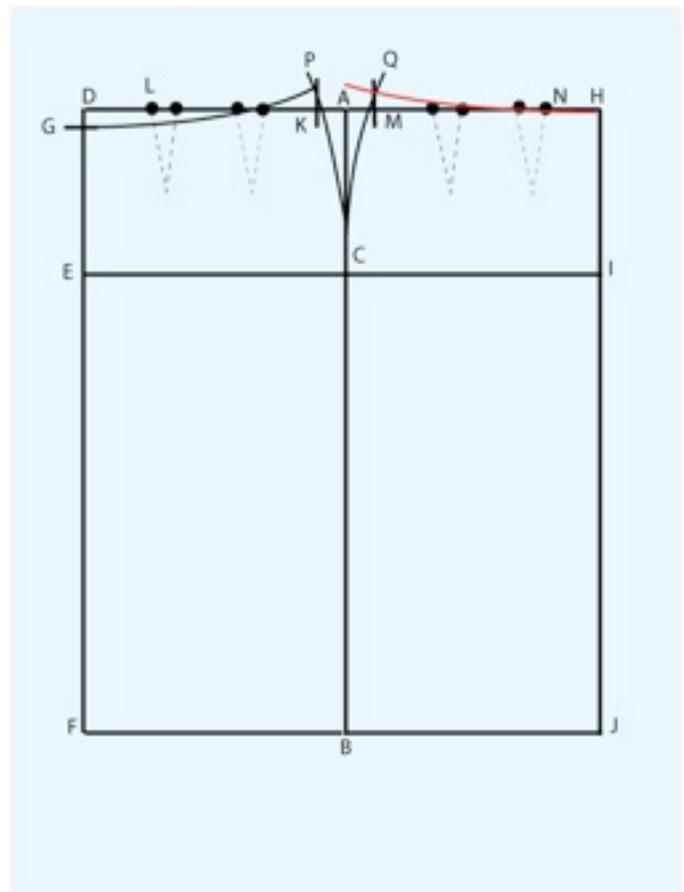
—Side Hip Depth—





25. We will now draw the preliminary waist lines. Using the shallow/straighter end of either your hip curve or your French Curve, draw a line from **G to P (back waist)** and then another line from **H to Q (front waist)**.

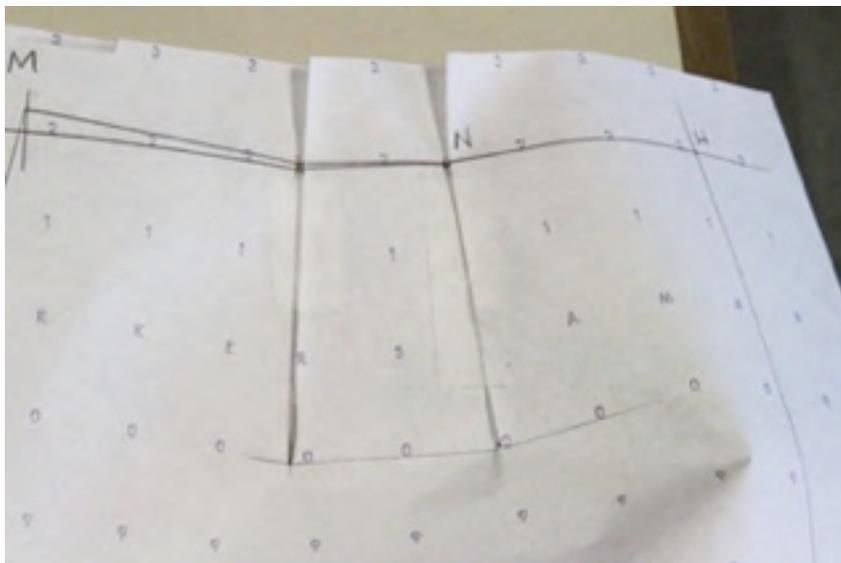
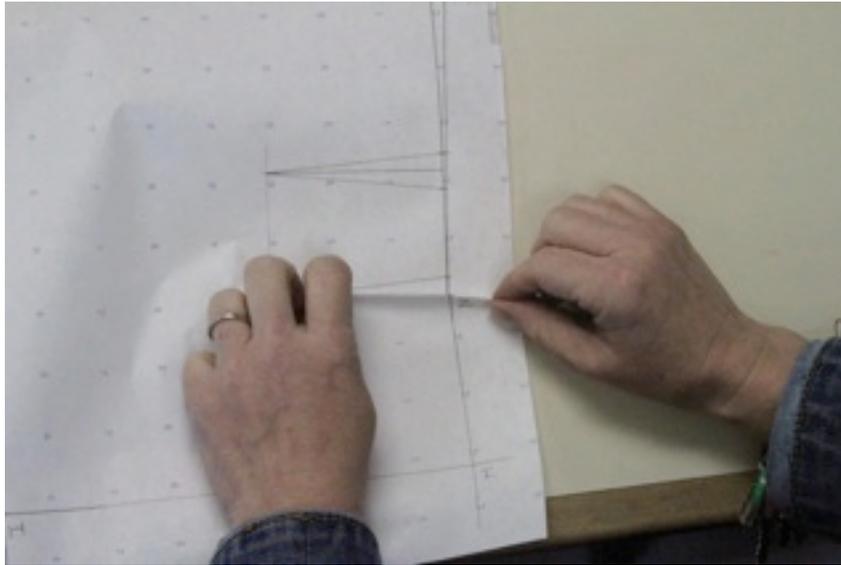
26. We're getting close to the finish line...I promise!



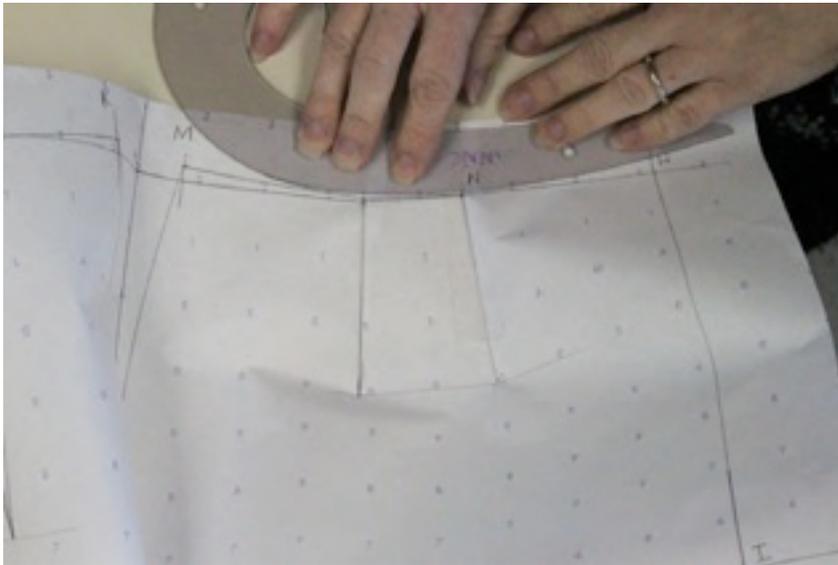


30. Fold your darts closed, with the flappy part facing toward center back or center front, and tape them shut just enough to hold them in place but not too much because you will have to open them up again in a later step. The pattern will not lay flat anymore.

(The following three images are courtesy of Pasadena City College Fashion Design Program)



31. Using the French curve or the hip curve, redraw your waist seams (this is called trueing) using the preliminary line as a rough guide. To help the line stand out, use a red pencil or Sharpie.



32. Cut along the line you just drew.

33. Open the darts up again by carefully removing the tape. You may see little “tents” above your darts. Don’t cut them off.

34. Mark your pattern by drawing a **grainline** two inches in from the Center Back and writing “**place on fold**” along the Center Front.

35. *You have finished making your test pattern but there aren’t any seam allowances on it!*



Pattern with 1" seam allowance drawn onto pattern along back seam. Note the barely visible grainline drawn on the pattern because I used pencil to draw it in.

36. Pin your pattern to your muslin (don't forget that the Center Front is placed on the fold). Trace around the pattern using chalk or a pencil (this is your sewing line). Then, using your ruler, draw a 1/2" cutting line along the side front, side back, and waist, directly onto the fabric. Draw a 1" cutting line along the center back.

37. Cut out your fabric and baste the skirt together to see how will the skirt fits!