UT Extension

Clothing and Textiles

Developed by Karen Nelms, Extension Agent, Grainger County
and Nancy Marshall Extension Agent Hamblen County
Reviewed by Sue Byrd, UTM Professor FCS

Goals
Gain understanding of pattern terms
Learn to correctly measure yourself
Develop skills in selecting a pattern based on your body measurements
Understand basic pattern symbols
Understand how to read a pattern envelope

Lifeskills:
Problem Solving
Decision Making

Pattern Terminology

Pattern envelope—Patterns contain a lot of information besides showing you what your finished garment will look like. It also has information to help you make your sewing project a success.
Look for the following information:

- Back view of the garment
- Size and body measurement chart
- Yardage chart
- Notions needed
- Suggested fabrics

Guide sheet—The pattern guide sheet is very important! It explains exactly what to do to make your garment. The following information is included on the guide sheet:

- Front and back views
- Pattern pieces
- Pattern symbol guide
- General information
- Cutting layouts
- Step by step instructions

Pattern Lingo—There are symbols on pattern pieces that you will need to know in order to use the pattern. The symbols are similar to road signs and give directions.

Cutting line is a solid dark line.

Stitching line is a dotted line on the pattern showing where to stitch. Note: Many patterns do not have a stitching line marked on the pattern.

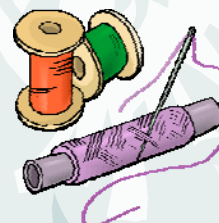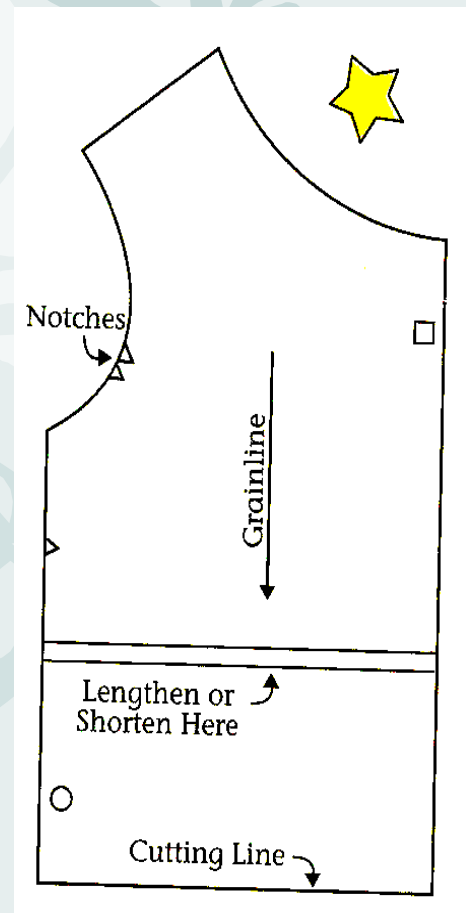**Grain line arrow** is a straight line with arrows on each end.

Place on the Fold Line is a straight line with an arrow that turns. Place this pattern piece on the fold of the fabric.

Notches—Diamond shapes which can appear as one, two or three placed together.

Circles or squares shapes are used to help you match fabric pieces, where to clip, and where to start or stop stitching.

Lengthen or Shorten line—a solid line that is used as a guide

Fabric Selection

Selecting a fabric that is easy to sew will help make your first sewing experience successful. Easy to sew fabrics are generally a plain weave.

Use cotton or cotton and polyester blend fabrics.

Select a solid color or an overall print that does not require matching.

Prints can sometimes hide stitching mistakes.

Right and Wrong Side—The right side of the fabric is the "front". It is used for the *outside* of the garment. The wrong side is the "back" of the fabric and is used for the *inside* of the garment.

Grain line—The thread or yarn direction in a woven fabric.

Lengthwise Grain—Threads that are parallel to the selvage.

Crosswise Grain—Threads that are perpendicular to the selvage.

Bias—Diagonal to the crosswise and lengthwise grain line.

Nap—The fuzzy surface of a fabric like velveteen or corduroy. The nap lies in one direction along the lengthwise grain. A * means to place all pattern pieces with grain line arrows pointed the same way.

Selvage—The tightly woven border on each of the lengthwise edges of the fabric. Use the selvages to help in placing pattern pieces on lengthwise grain before cutting.

When do needles get along with each other?

When they see eye to eye.

Pattern Selection

Patterns are selected by size and body type. Learners need to be able to take body measurements and determine pattern size based on the information they collected. The first step is to learn to read markings on the tape measure. Pattern sizes are based on body measurements. The following measurements are needed.

Chest— measure over the fullest part.

Waist—measure your natural waist, that is one inch above your belly button.

Hips– measure your hips at the fullest part.

Select your correct pattern size by matching your measurements on the back of the pattern envelope. For best results have someone else take your measurements.

My name is _____

My Measurements:

My Height is _____

My Chest is _____

My Waist is _____

Using the pattern envelope you selected for constructing a garment,

complete the information using the front and back of the pattern envelope.

1. Brand name of the pattern_____

2. Pattern Number_____

3. Pattern size _____

4. Number of different views_____

5. The number of pattern pieces included in the pattern envelope_____