



# Hip Line Media

## Essential Glossary of Sewing and Related Words

**ACRO** is the brand name (also called horsehair) of a dense interfacing used for stiffening in items such as handbags.

**BACK WIDTH** is the area on the back pattern piece between the center back and the center of the armhole

**BASIC WEAVE** of a fabric is the way the yarns are interlocked. The weave gives the fabric its characteristics and strength. The three basic weaves are plain, twill and satin.

**BASTE** refers to long, temporary stitches that hold layers of fabric together. You can machine or hand baste.

**BATTING** is made of polyester, or combinations of polyester/ cotton, wool or silk and is used in the middle layer of home décor projects such as pillows, placemats or bed coverings to give loft or fullness.

**BIAS** is the diagonal direction of fabric. True bias is at a 45° angle to grainlines.

**BODICE** is the portion of a garment above the waist.

**BOLT** is the typical unit of fabric that is packaged and sold by manufacturers. A bolt usually consists of 12-20 yards.

**BOX PLEAT** or corner, is a technique that folds fabric in opposite directions so they meet in the middle.

**BUCKRAM** is a coarse, heavily sized (or starched) fabric used for stiffening in such items as handbags.

**BUSTLINE** is the area on the pattern 2" below the underarm measurement. The position of the figure's bustline may differ from the pattern position.

**CENTER SEAMS** are the seams that lie at the center front and back of a pair of pants.

**CLIP** is to make small cuts in fabric to allow ease on curves or corners.

**COMFORT EASE** is the amount of ease that must be added for a figure to move without being constricted or uncomfortable.

**CONTROL LINES** are the two lines placed on a pattern by a pattern grader to aid in creating new sized patterns. The first line is parallel to the vertical grainline arrow or fold and the second is a horizontal line drawn perpendicular to the first one. These lines always stay constant.

**CROTCH POINT** is the point on the pattern along the inseam stitching line where the center front and the center back stitching lines intersect.

**CUT LENGTH** is the total length measurement that includes all seam allowances.

**DART DEPTH** is the width of the dart between the two dart legs (in the underlay). It is the amount of fabric that will be stitched up during the construction of the garment.

**DART LEGS** are the lines that make up the dart. They are also the stitching lines when the dart is sewn up.

**DART UNDERLAY** is the fabric that is stitched into the dart. Before the dart is stitched, it is the fabric that lies between the two dart legs and is folded at the pick-up line.

**DECORATIVE STITCHES** are available on some sewing machines and are used to embellish projects.

**DESIGN EASE** is the ease built into the pattern by the designer that reflects the particular style of the pattern. Exercise pants will have little design ease where palazzo pants will have a large amount of design ease.

**DIAGONAL WRINKLES** appear on a garment when there is a difference in the measurement between one side of the body and the other. To correct, measure each side and use the longer of the measurements for your fitting adjustments.

**DRESSMAKER HAM** is a shaped cushion with rounded curves used to press curved seams and darts. One side is cotton and the opposite side is wool.

**DRESSMAKER SHEARS** are scissors that are 8"-10" in length with bent handles. These shears are used only for cutting fabric.

**DROP** is the distance from a table edge to the finished edge.

**EASE** is the amount of fabric added to a pattern to give room for movement. Different amounts of ease are used to influence comfort and fashion. The amount of ease can also be based on the type of material that is suggested for use with the pattern.

**EDGESTITCHING** is topstitching placed very close to a finished edge.

**FABRIC EASE** is the amount of ease added when the designer takes into consideration the type of fabric that will be used. The amount of give in a fabric determines the amount of ease needed (for example, knits need less ease built in than woven materials).

**FABRIC GRAINLINES** are the lengthwise threads in a fabric.

**FABRIC STRETCH GAUGE** is a guide printed on the back of the pattern envelope that gauges the proper amount of stretch needed for the garment to fit correctly.

**FABRIC WIDTH** is the width of a specific bolt of fabric. There are basically three width categories for garment fabric – 36”, 45” and 54/60”.

**FABRICS WITH NAP** are fabrics that have a texture or a definite “one-way” pattern to them, like suede, corduroy, velvets and velours. When using these fabrics, the pattern should always be placed on the fabric using the “with nap” layout.

**FASHION EASE** is the amount of ease in addition to the comfort ease that is added to a pattern for style (pleats, gathers, fullness, etc.).

**FIBER CONTENT** is the type of natural or man-made material that makes up the fabric. The fiber content gives you a key to how comfortable the garment will be and what kind of care it needs.

**FIBERFILL** is a loose material, usually polyester, used for stuffing home décor projects such as pillows.

**FINGER PRESS** is utilizing your thumb and forefinger to flatten or press small fabric sections without an iron.

**FINISH** refers to any means of completing the raw edge of the garment.

**FRAY CHECK™** is a colorless liquid plastic solution made by Dritz® that prevents fabric from fraying. Common uses include strengthening buttonholes and securing thread ends. It is washable and dry cleanable.

**GRADE** is to trim seam allowances by trimming them to graduated widths. The seam allowance toward the right side of the garment is wider than the seam allowance next to the wrong side of the garment, eliminating bulk.

**GRAIN** is the lengthwise and crosswise yarns in fabric, woven at right angles to each other (making up the grainlines of the fabric).

**GRAINLINE** is the lengthwise thread in the fabric parallel to the selvage and the lengthwise arrow on the pattern.

**HEMLINE** is the line used for the finished hem.

**HIGH HIPLINE** is a figure irregularity in which one hip is higher than the other. A high hip will cause bias stress wrinkles in the garment.

**HIPLINE** is the width of the pattern 9” from the waistline in misses’ patterns and 7” from the waistline in petite patterns. The hipline of the figure is the widest part of the seat and may differ from the pattern hipline.

**HORIZONTAL WRINKLES** appear when there is not enough fabric in the width of the garment.

**INSEAM** is the inside seam on slacks from the hem to the crotch point.

**INTERFACING** provides support and shape in key areas of your sewing projects. Choose from a variety of interfacings such as fusible or non fusible depending on your need.

**KNEELINE** is the line on the figure, measured from the waist to the center of the knee (normally half way between the thighline and the hemline).

**LAYOUT** is the cutting chart on the pattern instruction sheet that shows placement of the pattern pieces on the fabric.

**MARKING** is the transfer of various pattern symbols from the pattern to the fabric.

**MINIMUM EASE** is a type of fashion ease. This ease is actually subtracted from the comfort ease to give the garment a skin-tight look (for example, evening gowns and tight blue jeans).

**MITER** is a diagonal seaming at a corner. Common uses include napkins and placemats.

**NARROW SHOULDERS** (shoulders narrower than the pattern measurement) cause lengthwise fold wrinkles because the shoulder seam is too wide.

**NEEDLES** are used both for hand sewing and machine sewing. Needle size is determined by the weight of the fabric and the type of thread. Generally, thicker fabrics require a heavier, larger size needle. Always start a new project with a new needle.

**NOTIONS** are items other than fabric or a pattern that are used to complete sewing projects. Common items include pins, needles, thread and chalk.

**PATTERN GRADING** is the technique used to resize an original pattern into the various pattern sizes.

**PATTERN GRAINLINES** are marked by the arrows that are printed on the pattern piece. Pivoting is to make width adjustments by moving or angling the pattern from one position to another, while keeping one point stationary.

**POINT TURNER** is used to push out points on collars, pockets pillows etc. It is usually made of plastic or wood and one end is pointed and the other rounded to open seams as you get ready to press..

**PRESSING CLOTH** helps protect the fabric from the shine that can be associated with ironing. It is also used to fuse interfacing.

**PRINCIPLES OF FITTING** is a fitting rule that states all grainlines in the body, fabric, and pattern must be in alignment. If these grainlines do not line up, wrinkles appear in the garment.

**PUBLIC SIDE** also called the right side, is the finished edge of the fabric and the outside of the garment.

**RAW EDGE** is the unfinished edge of the fabric.

**REVERSE FIGURE** is a figure with a large stomach and flat seat.

**RIGHT SIDE** also called the public side, is the finished edge of the fabric and the outside of the garment.

**ROLL** is the desired curve and fold on a collar that is shaped by pressing.

**ROTARY CUTTER** is a round, very sharp blade attached to a handle and is used to cut out fabric. It should always be used with a rotary cutting mat.

**ROUNDED SHOULDERS** occur when the pelvic bone tips backward and the back becomes rounded, causing lengthwise stress wrinkles because the back length is too long. This figure will also have a slouched appearance.

**SEAM ALLOWANCE** is the width of fabric beyond the seamline, not including the garment area. For garment sewing, the typical seam allowance is  $\frac{5}{8}$ ". For home decorating, the typical seam allowance is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and for quilting, the typical seam allowance is  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

**SEAM RIPPER** has a curved blade with a sharp point on one end and a small plastic ball on the other end that prevents it from slipping. It is used to remove stitches and to open up machine stitched buttonholes.

**SEAM ROLL** is a cylindrical shaped cushion used to press sleeves, pant legs and long seams. One side is cotton and the opposite side is wool.

**SEAT DEPTH** is the measured depth of the figure, sitting on a flat surface, from the side of the waist to the thigh bulge (about 2" in front of the side).

**SEMI-FITTED** describes a style that is fitted to conform, but not too closely, to the shape of a figure.

**SELVAGE** is the bound edge in a length of material. It secures the threads and keeps them from raveling. The selvage is always on the straight of the grain.

**SERGER** is a machine that trims, stitches and overcasts simultaneously using several threads.

**SEW/FIT METHOD OF FITTING DRESSES** is a technique for selecting a dress or blouse pattern size using the front armhole measurement for a fit that is much better than a pattern purchased by the bustline measurement.

**SEW/FIT METHOD OF FITTING PANTS** is a technique for selecting a slacks pattern two to three times smaller than your normal size for a fit that is much better than a pattern purchased by the hip measurement.

**SEWING GAUGE** is a small metal or plastic ruler with a sliding marker used for marking and measuring hems and buttonholes.

**SIDE SEAM** is the seam from the hem to the waist at the side of the figure.

**SLIDING** is to make length adjustments by moving the pattern pieces up or down on the grainline.

**SLIT** is to cut lengthwise with a narrow opening.

**SLOPING SHOULDERS** refers to shoulders that angle down more than the pattern allows for causing bias fold wrinkles because the shoulder seam is too long and too wide.

**SQUARE SHOULDERS** refers to shoulders that do not angle down at all causing stress fold wrinkles because the shoulder seam is too short and too narrow.

**STANDARD PATTERN SIZING** is the method, developed by the US government, to standardize size classifications, body measurements, and size designations to aid women in selecting patterns. It is also used to help the consumer identify her body type and size.

**STAYSTITCHING** is a long stitch sewn on a single layer of fabric  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the cut edge. It is used to keep the fabric from stretching out of shape. Always staystitch from the widest part to the narrowest part of the garment.

**STRAIGHT STITCH** is a utility stitch on a sewing machine which creates a nonstretch seam.

**SWAY BACK** occurs when the pelvic bone tips forward causing lengthwise fold wrinkles because the back length is too long. This figure also has shoulders that are set back further than normal.

**TAILOR TACKS** are small stitches used to mark inside construction details: darts, pocket placements, dots and squares.

**TAPER** refers to cutting or stitching at a slight diagonal, for example a seam, to make gradually smaller.

**TENSION** refers to the amount of pull on the thread or fabric during the sewing and construction.

**THICK SHOULDERS** occur when the shoulders are extra wide from front to back. This causes the armholes to be too tight.

**THIGHLINE** is the line measured around the fullest part of the upper leg. It is also called the crotchline. These terms can be used interchangeable when making pants adjustments.

**TRACING WHEEL** is a sewing notion that is commonly used for making construction details.

**TRIM** is to cut away excess fabric.

**UTILITY STITCHES** are the basic stitches found on a sewing machine that are used to sew seams, hem, insert zippers and elastic. Examples of utility stitches are the straight stitch and zig zag stitch.

**VERTICAL WRINKLES** appear when there is excess fabric in the width of the garment.

**WAIST-TO-WAIST** is the length from the back waist, between the legs, to the front waist.

**WAISTLINE** is the smallest width on the pattern or figure between the bustline and the hipline.

**WARP YARNS** are the lengthwise threads in a fabric.

**WONDER TAPE** is a double faced transparent tape that eliminates pinning and thread basting. It is especially helpful for positioning zippers, pockets and trims. Wonder Tape disappears after washing and won't gum up your needle when you sew.

**WRONG SIDE** is the side of the fabric that is on the inside of the garment.

**ZIG ZAG STITCH** is a utility stitch on a sewing machine which allows seams to stretch. It may also be used on the raw edge of fabric to prevent fraying.