

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.