

Draping Terminologies

Apex

Highest point of a bust on a dress form or live model. Reference point for establishing the cross grain position on the front bodice

Balance

The matching of grains and adjacent pattern sections

Bias

A line diagonally across the grain of the fabric that offers the greatest stretchability. True bias is at a 45 degree angle

Blend

A technique that helps form a smooth, continuous line or smoothly shapes discrepancies of arcs or dots made on the muslin drape

Blocking

1. A technique to shape fabric by pulling and dealing it on grain while pressing it with steam
2. A block is a master pattern or sloper

Break Point

The point of a controlled turn, roll, or flare, usually relating to lapels, shawl collars, reverse collars, and notched collars

Center Back

A defined place that indicates the exact center of the pattern or garment in relation to the true center front of the figure

Center Front

A defined place that indicates the exact center of the pattern or garment in relation to the true center front of the figure

Clip

A small cut into the seam allowance that extends almost to the stitch line. Releases strain and helps the seam lay flat

Concave Curve

An inside curved seam forming an inward arc, as in armholes or necklines

Convex Curve

An outward curved seam forming a rounded curve, as on the outer edge of scallops, caplets, Peter Pan collars, and shawl collars

Crease

Folding and finger pressing the fabric along the grain or structural line

Crossmark

A mark or set of marks placed on a drape or pattern to indicate the point at which corresponding pieces or garment sections are to be matched, Shirred, or joined

Crosswise Grain "Crossgrain"

The section of fabric weave that runs perpendicular to the lengthwise grain of the fabric from selvage to selvage.

Crotch Seam

The curved seam that is formed at the point where pant legs meet

Cut in one

Two or more pattern sections that are cut as one piece, such as an attached front facing with the bodice or blouse front, or a sleeve with a bodice

Dart

A design and fitting feature used to take up excess fabric of a specified width and taper it to nothing at one or both ends. Aids in fitting the garment over the body curves

Dart Legs

The stitch line on both sides of the dart.

Dot

A pencil mark placed on a draped muslin or fabric to record the seam lines or style lines. Used as the guide mark for trueing

Ease

The even distribution of slight fullness when one section of a seam is joined to a slightly shorter section without forming gathers or tucks. Used to shape set-in sleeves, princess seams, and other areas

Ease Allowance

The amount of excess fabric added to the draped pattern to make garments more comfortable and allow for easier movement.

Fabric Excess

The amount of extra fabric manipulated into designated areas to help create body shape and garment stylelines

Fold

A fabric ply that doubles back on itself

Gather

To draw up fabric fullness on a line of stitching

Grain

The direction of the yarns in a fabric

Guidelines on Muslin

Directional lines and markings that indicate the grain, cross grain, center front, center back, shoulder blade, bust level, apex, hip level, and side seam. These lines are drawn on the prepared muslin to facilitate correct draping

Lengthwise Grain

Threads that run parallel to the selvage of the fabric. Also known as the "wrap" or "straight of grain"

Master Pattern

Basic pattern, made from specific measurements to be used as a template for tracing rather than cutting

Match

To bring together notches or other construction markings on two pieces

Muslin Shell

A basic sample garment made from muslin fabric as an aid during the styling and fitting process

Notch

Mark placed on drape or pattern to indicate the position where corresponding garment sections are to be matched and sewn and to identify various parts of the drape or pattern

Panel

A remeasured piece of muslin used to drape a specific design. Usually 4-10 inches larger than the finished length and width of the pattern piece

Pivot

The shifting or moving of a pattern from a marked position toward a designated guideline

Ply

One layer of fabric when laying out fabric to be cut

Princess Panel

The area of the dress form that extends from the princess seams to the armholes and side seams

Seam

Two or more edges of fabric held together and sewn using a variety of stitches

Seam Allowance

The amount of fabric allowed for seams in joining together sections of the garment

Selvage

The narrow, firmly woven finished edge along both lengthwise and edges of the fabric; does not unravel

Shirr

Gather up fabric on the stitch line where the fullness in the garment is desired. Sometimes thought of as multiple rows of gathers

Side Seam

A defined place on a pattern or garment that indicates the point at which the front and back of a garment is sewn together

Slash

A straight cut from the outer edge of the fabric into the styleline of the garment. Made to relieve tension, allowing drape to fit around curve of the body

Squared Line

A straight line drawn perpendicular from another line. Use an L-squared ruler

Stitch Line

The line designated for stitching the seam, generally $\frac{5}{8}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, or $\frac{1}{4}$ in from the cut edge of patterns

Styleline

Any seam line other than the shoulder seam, armhole seam, or side seam. Usually runs from one point of the garment to another point

Transferring

The process of pinning and tracing all the fabric markings onto the pattern paper

Trim

To cut away excess fabric and make the seam narrower after it has been stitched. Removes unwanted bulk and excess fabric

Trueing

The process of blending the markings, dots, and cross marks made during the draping process. Trueing establishes continuous seams, style lines, and darts or dart variations

Underlay

The underside of a draped design that is made when establishing darts, pleats, and extensions

Vanishing Point

The tapered finished point of a dart