

The first

Before beginning to sew...

milla milla

<http://www.millamilla.net/>

The Basics of Sewing and Preparation

01 | The Cloth

How to choose knit fabrics

How to identify the front, back, top, and bottom

02 | Measuring Your Dog's Size

03 | Deciding How Much Material You Will Need

04 | The Thread and Needle

Choosing a Needle that Matches Your Material

Choosing a Thread that Matches Your Material

05 | The Pattern

How to Adjust for Size

06 | Preparations Before Sewing

Water Flow and Refinishing

How to Position the Pattern

Judging Your Material

07 | Sewing

08 | The Iron

01 The Cloth

Which cloth is the best to use? How much should be set aside?

On the whole, Knitted fabric should be used for dogwear, so that your dog can stay comfortable when moving around. Bear in mind the amount you will need as well as the following points about choosing the most appropriate fabric so that you can buy in materials smoothly.

How to Choose Knitted Fabrics

There are lots of different varieties of knitted fabric, so we'll introduce here a few of the general types used for dogwear.



Jersey Stitch

Because this fabric uses a stockinette stitch, the front and back will have a different appearance, with the more attractive side of the fabric being used for the outer surface. It is often used for T-shirts, tank tops and camisoles. It has a tendency to roll up at the edges, but thanks to its low elasticity and stretch-resistant properties, it's easy to work with, and is recommended for beginners.



Smooth-Knit Fabric

Smooth-knit fabric is knitted in the same way as circular rib fabric, and fabric using a tight weave is termed 'smooth'.

Because the weave is tight, it is smooth to the touch and has a glossy finish. Like circular rib fabric, is highly elastic, but as it's more tightly woven, it has superb heat retention.



Denim Knit

This is a catch-all term for fabrics that have a denim-like surface, including jersey stitch, circular rib stitch and knitted fleece. Jersey is typically used for lighter items such as T-shirts, tank tops and camisoles, whereas knit fleece is more suited to heavier items like sweatshirts and parkas.



Circular Rib Stitch

This fabric is rib-stitched, so its surface has an identical appearance front and back. It feels pleasant on the skin and has good horizontal elasticity, so it's well suited to a fitted cut, and is often used for T-shirts, tank tops and camisoles. Because of its highly elastic properties, it can be used for ribbing on T-shirts and other garments. Since it's stretchy and has a coarser weave than smooth-knit, it's possible for this fabric to slip into the needle plate when worked on a sewing machine. It's easier to sew if you use thread slightly thinner than the material, and ease off on the pressure.



Knit Fleece

Used for sweatshirts, this fabric is generally called 'sweat fabric' or 'sweatshirt fabric'. Fabric with smaller loops at the back is called 'mini knit fleece'. Since it's lighter than regular knit fleece, it can be used for Spring and Summer items. The edges are prone to both rolling up and fraying, so it has the downside that cutting and working it tends to produce a lot of lint.



Double-Knit

This fabric has high heat retention properties thanks to its 2-ply structure, which resemble somewhat corrugated cardboard. Since it has low elasticity, high thickness, and doesn't roll up at the edges, it's recommended for beginners at sewing knitted fabrics. It's most suited to making sweatshirts and parkas.



Sports Knit

Used for sweater-type garments. It's thick, has a smooth feel and doesn't curl up at the edges, so it's easy to work with. Ideal for jerseys and parkas.



Dual-Layered Knit Fabric

This fabric takes two pieces of knit fabric and layers them together into a single sheet. As a double gauze knit type, dual-layered jersey gauze fabrics have a light fluffy feel.



Spandex Tereko

Tereko is method of knitting which produces an uneven surface. This fabric incorporates spandex to increase the elasticity of the cloth. There are thick and thin types, and this fabric is generally referred to as 'rib'. The thin type lends itself to T-shirts.



Spandex Circular Rib Stitch

This is circular rib stitch with spandex incorporated. 'Spandex' refers to high-elasticity rubber threads. Because these threads are woven into the fabric, it's very stretchy, so it can used for ribbing, as well as T-shirts. It's available in thick and thin grades.



Knitted Pile

This is a knitted type of terry towelling. It has a pleasant feel to the touch, so use it for sweatshirts and parkas for a sporty finish. Short pile fabric, which uses, as the name suggests, shorter fibres, can be used for Summer and Spring garments, whereas regular pile is recommended for Autumn and Winter items.



Velour

This soft, limp fabric is nap-raised, so it's hard to recommend for beginners at working with knit fabrics. It can be considered to have a direction, since the fibres are brushed in a specific way. It's well suited to parkas, dresses, and bottoms.

01 The Cloth

How to distinguish front/back/direction

To distinguish between front and back, it's convenient to think of the most attractive side as the 'front'. There's no rule that says that you have to use a specific side as the front, so you can just make whichever side you prefer into the outer surface.

However, those of you who would like to distinguish the front and back sides should take note of the following points:

- ☆ Look at the clarity of the pattern. (The pattern and colors will come through more richly on the front)
- ☆ Look at the gloss and lustre of the fabric. (The glossy, lustrous and smooth side is the front)
- ☆ Look at the stitch of the fabric.
(The front of a fabric with an uneven surface, such as tereko, is the side with the neater looking pile.)
- ☆ Look at the way that the edges roll up.
(With jersey stitch and circular rib fabric, usually the front is the side that the edge rolls up towards.)

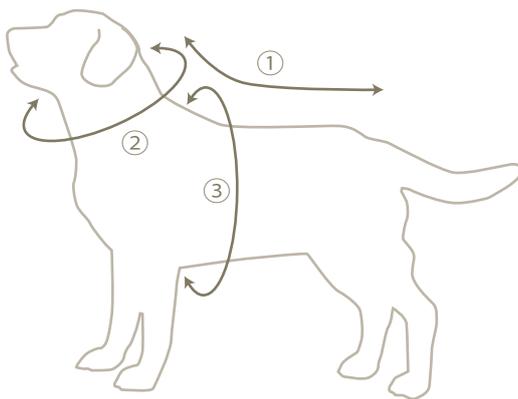
With regards to determining the direction of the fabric, plain materials can be used any way around. However, it's necessary to determine the direction when using glossy, patterned, or brushed fabric.

Patterned fabric : Have a look at the pattern, then decide which direction you prefer as a matter of personal choice.

Brushed or glossy fabric : Drape the fabric over something, such as a hanger, and examine it from short distance. You should be able to distinguish some differences in the way the colours appear. One direction will appear paler and reflect more light, whereas the other direction will be darker in colour. The direction is aligned correctly when it reflects more light.

02 Measuring Your Dog's Size

Please measure your dog before choosing a sewing pattern.



POINT

- ① It is best to measure your dog when he or she is in an amiable mood.
- ② It is easiest to have your dog stand up while you measure him or her.

- ① Back length : Beginning at the base of the neck (where the collar sits) measure the length of your choice (measure any length between neck and tail that suits your needs).
- ② Neck : Measure the circumference of the neck at the base, where the collar sits.
- ③ Chest : Measure the circumference of the largest section of the animal's torso, passing over the area where the front legs meet the torso.

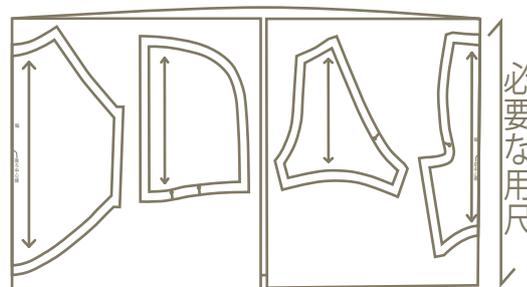
When measuring the neck and the waist, it is important that you do not take exact measurements—you should leave a little extra space (for small dogs, you should leave room for two fingers to fit in, whereas for larger dogs you need to make sure there is extra space about the size of your wrist). If you measure too closely, the clothing will be the same size as the dog and it will be difficult for you to dress him or her in the outfit and they will have difficulty moving in it.

Patterns provided by milla milla are the same size of the clothing they are used to create, so after you have measured your dog and are choosing your pattern, use the circumference of the torso as the standard for choosing the size of your dog. You should choose the larger of the options closest to the torso measurement of your dog.

03 Deciding How Much Material You Will Need

There are probably many people who have found cloth that they want to use in their store, but don't know how much of it they should buy. Although estimating the necessary amounts of cloth becomes easy once you are accustomed to making clothes, until then, please use the points below to try calculating the amounts of cloth you will need.

- ☆ In general, the width of the cloth is uniform. Most cloth widths consist of the single width (90~92 cm), the normal width (110~120 cm), the semi-double width (135~140 cm), and the double width (150 cm).
- ☆ You can more accurately estimate the necessary amount of cloth you need by laying out and positioning the pattern on your desk.
- ☆ For dog clothes, as the back part of the body will usually be the longest, you should probably estimate the length of the back part of the body + extra (seam margins, etc).
- ☆ You should prepare even more extra cloth if you plan on making the patterns match up.



04 The Thread and Needle

Knit fabric stretches easily, and when the thread of the fabric is cut that area can fray and make a hole, so you will need to have a needle for knit fabric.

Choosing a Needle that Matches Your Material

Needles for knit fabric have a rounded tip, so you can sew without cutting the thread of the fabric. Machine needles have many sizes, and are used for different thicknesses of fabric.

Use the guidelines below as a basic guide. Please use a needle for knit fabric with your home sewing machine or lockstitch machine.

Thin fabric: #9 (thin fabric for things like leggings or underwear (lace))

Normal: #11 (fabric for things like T-shirts or sports knits)

Medium-thick fabric: #14 (fabric with fleece or fleece lining)

Choosing a Thread that Matches Your Material

Because knit fabric is flexible, you will typically use thread for knit fabric (nylon) to prevent the threads tearing when it is stretched. (Even if it is knit fabric, you can use normal spun thread for fabric that doesn't stretch very much or if you are using a lockstitch machine.) Also, there are different sizes of thread to match the thickness of the fabric.

☆If sewing with a home sewing machine

Top thread: Nylon thread (#50)

Bottom thread: Wooly thread

(only one size available on the market)

*Because computerized machines can automatically balance stitches, it seems that when you use nylon and wooly thread, it cannot do stitch balancing very well. We recommend that you try it out for real on your home sewing machine.

☆If you are sewing with a lockstitch machine

Spun thread : Thin fabric #90

Normal fabric #60

Thick fabric #30

There is usually no problem with using 4 (3) spun threads.

With fitted clothes, when you are also using fabric with high flexibility, it might be good to switch the thread that passes through the needle to nylon thread, and the two threads to the right to wooly thread.

We recommend that you do a test sew before sewing to check how the thread fits with the fabric.

! POINT

☆If you aren't sure about the color, you should choose a darker one.

☆Threads also have sizes (numbers) that match each fabric thickness from thin to thick.

☆If using a lockstitch machine, it is bothersome to purchase and have four threads (or three threads) to match each thickness of fabric ready every time, so it is fine to just use #90.

05 The Pattern

Sewing patterns by millamilla contain a variety of different symbols. These are all standard symbols used in dressmaking. We recommend that customers who often use our patterns memorize these symbols for more convenient use.

	Grain line	The direction of the fabric. The grain line directs the correct placement of the pattern on the fabric.
	Finished line	The finished line illustrates the outline of a garment once it is finished. When you want to sew directly along the seam line, you should copy it onto the fabric.
	Stitching line	This represents the place where you should put your stitches.
	Fold line	This symbol indicates that when cutting the fabric, the fabric should be made into a circle and cut.
	Notch (identifying where to stop sewing)	Notches are used as mark to help align fabric when sewing different pieces together. They illustrate where to stop sewing, where to begin sewing, and where to attach clips.

millamilla patterns include a seam allowance already (generally 1 cm). When the seam allowance is not set at 1 cm, "0 cm" will be written on the pattern, so cut the pattern out as is.

We recommend that knit sewing beginners use a larger seam allowance.

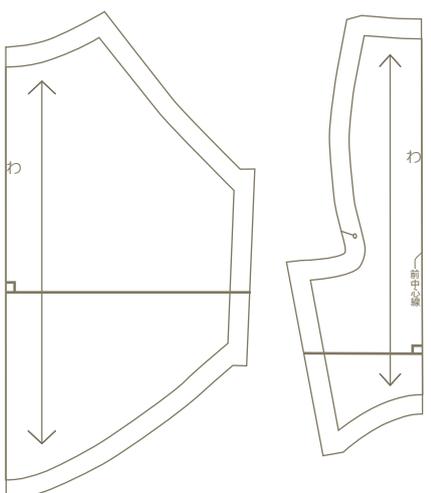
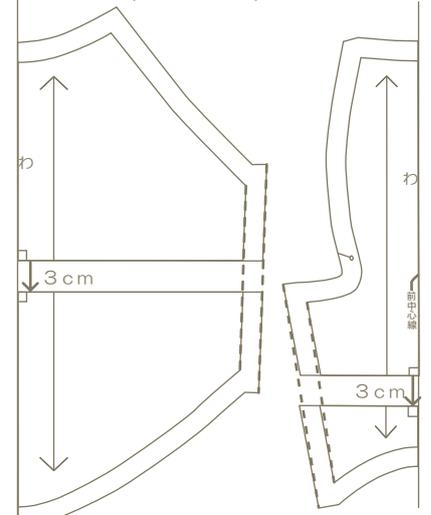
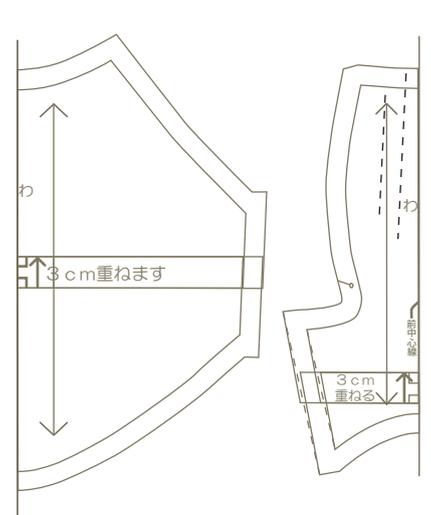
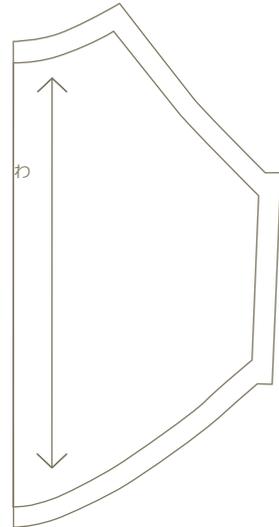
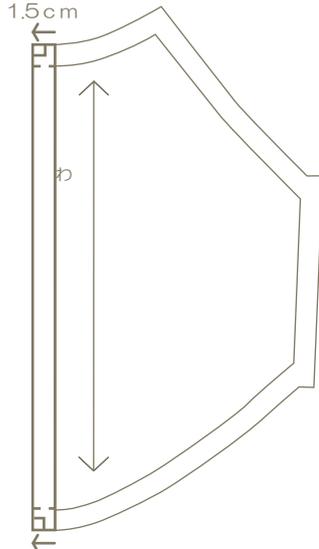
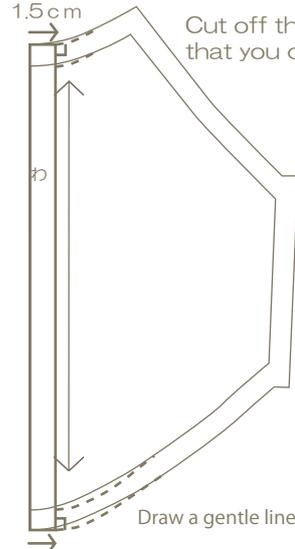
In that case, before cutting the pattern, you can directly add a seam allowance of 1.5-2 cm to the pattern before cutting it out so you can accurately cut the fabric.

05 The Pattern

How to Adjust for Size

For each millamilla design, we have created patterns in 10 different sizes. For those who want to create the perfect fit, we recommend that you adjust the pattern sized based on "back length," "torso circumference," and "neck circumference" measurements.

We have included a simple description of how to make adjustments. Please use it as a reference.

<p>Back length adjustments</p> <p>Starting from the center of the side seam, draw lines at right angles to the center line of the back and front. Cut out the pattern following those lines.</p> 	<p>☆ When lengthening the back length</p> <p>When lengthening the back length by 3 cm, move the bottom section of the pattern down 3 cm and connect the side seam (dotted line).</p>  <p>Ensure that the two side seams are the same length.</p>	<p>☆ When shortening the back length</p> <p>When shortening the back length by 3 cm, move the bottom section of the pattern up 3 cm and connect the side seam (dotted line).</p>  <p>Ensure that the two side seams are the same length.</p>
<p>Adjusting the torso and neck size</p> <p>The back main section is used to adjust the torso and neck size.</p> 	<p>☆ To increase the size</p> <p>To increase the torso size by a total of 3 cm, add 1.5 cm to the back center line.</p> 	<p>☆ To decrease the size</p> <p>To decrease the torso size by a total of 3 cm, move the back center line forward 1.5 cm. Cut off the section that you do not need.</p>  <p>Draw a gentle line.</p>

06 Preparations Before Sewing

When you have gathered the pattern, fabric, and sewing tools, let's start to make it. If you follow the preparation steps below, it will be easy to sew and will turn out beautifully.

Water Flow and Refinishing

- Most Japanese fabric has already been treated to prevent wrinkling and shrinking, so you may not have to soak it or stretch it out. Different fabrics have their own characteristics, and besides shrinking and wrinkling, you will need to be careful about color loss, ironing, or other issues. We recommend that you first ask about the soaking, stretching, and laundering of the fabric at the store where you bought it.
- Cotton and hemp shrink easily in the wash, and washing an outfit made with them just one time will make it shrink so you can't put it on anymore! So that this doesn't happen, you should "soak" cotton and hemp fabric first when you buy it.
It's easy to do. Neatly fold the fabric and let it soak in a laundry net for 30 minutes to 1 hour. Afterward, push lightly from above to get out the water, spread it out and let it dry in a flat place where the light won't hit it.
- For cotton and knit fabric, soaking it in water will somewhat get out the distortions, but when you dry it, try to pull it in a direction that will correct distortion in the vertical and horizontal weaves of the fabric. If the distortion isn't corrected even with that, push an iron down on the back of the fabric when it is in a half-dried state.
- It is easy for the ends of knit fabric to get balled up, so when you are only using a small amount of fabric such as to make dog wear, when you soak it the ends may get too balled up, and it may be difficult to use. After you buy the fabric spread it out in a flat place for one to two days (relaxing) and this alone will bring the stretched out and distorted fabric back to its original shape, so if you are not confident in soaking and stretching out, we recommend this method.
- For wool knits, turn on the steam of the iron and move in a direction to correct the distortion. Afterward, let it relax until the heat becomes cool.

06 Preparations Before Sewing

How to Position the Pattern

If it is knit fabric, consider the direction that the fabric stretches when laying down the pattern. As you will understand if you look at a T-shirt or other clothing you have, knit clothing is made to stretch around the chest. Dog wear is no exception, and also stretches around the chest.



On the place in the pattern where "Fold line" is written, fold the fabric in two, and keeping the folded line along the "Fold line" area, cut while folded. By doing this, you will have made right and left symmetry. Make very sure that the fabric below has not moved before cutting. When matching up the designs of the fabric, decide a points where you will make the seam, and lay down the pattern so that the points will have the same design.

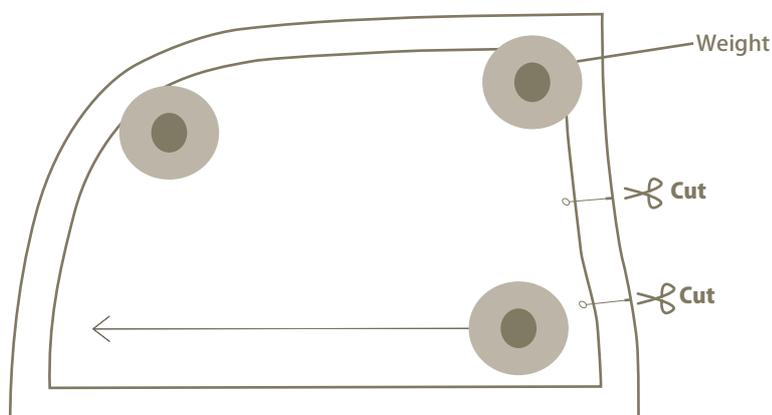
Even on patterns with "Fold line" on them, if the fabric slips easily, you can reverse the pattern and make it one sheet and cut in order to prevent the design from being misaligned.

Knit fabric is easy to stretch, and even when you are transferring the pattern onto the fabric, the fabric moves even with just a little touch. When you are making marks, be very careful not to pull the fabric and make marks gently. Thin fabric will slip if you use marking pins, so use weights (two or more; it will slip with one) instead when securing the pattern.

Judging Your Material

When cutting knit fabric, even if the pattern is small, do not move the fabric, and move your own body in a direction that is easy to cut in. Do not let the scissors move about, and holding down the fabric and pattern with one hand, cut slowly. When cutting knit fabric, if you use a rotary cutter, you can cut with no stress.

○ When there is a "notch/set-in seam" on the pattern, you will add a "notch" after cutting. Adding a "notch" means to cut an about 2-3mm hole into the marked area, and when you are sewing, you will use this hole as a guide.



● Points to watch out for when cutting

- ① Use scissors that cut well. Dull scissors can put runs in thin fabric.
- ② Do not push into the fabric with the scissors when cutting.

07 Sewing

Points to be careful about when sewing with knit fabric

- ① Do a test sewing before starting to sew, and make sure that the thickness of the needle and thread match up and that the thread tension matches.
- ② Use a needle for knit fabric along with a home sewing machine or a lockstitch machine. (With thin fabric, holes might form in the fabric.)
- ③ When sewing, do not push or pull the fabric. Always follow the flow of the machine and just follow along with your hands.
- ④ Try to avoid using marking pins. Sewing at a set speed will make it not stretch out and it will turn out pretty.
- ⑤ If you are making it with a home sewing machine, with a zigzag machine, put it next to the straight stitch, and when you are finished sewing cut off the extra seam allowance.
- ⑥ After sewing, press down the seams with an iron and put it on.
- ⑦ Because dog outfits have a lot of small parts, we recommend that with curves and such you start by basting the fabric and then sewing with the machine.
- ⑧ When sewing with a home machine, if the fabric looks like it is going to stretch out, you can somewhat prevent stretching by weakening the pressure that the sewing machine presses down with.
- ⑨ Use pressing feet with Teflon that do not slip; this will make the pressing pressure weaker.
- ⑩ Thread tension will become looser on both the top and bottom.

08 The Iron

Things to be careful of when ironing knitted material

- ① The cloth will stay better if you apply steam.
- ② Make sure to hold down the top, so the cloth doesn't stretch.
- ③ Make sure the iron does not slip and topple over sideways.