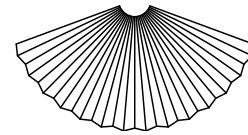




## SUNBURST PLEATING CHECKLIST



INTERNATIONAL PLEATING  
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Before sending us any cutwork, please review and initial each point on this checklist that covers common problem areas when cutting sunburst panels. All cutwork should also be discussed with us before cutting to ensure it is done properly for the best result.

**Length of Panel:** Because the center of a sunburst panel cannot be pleated, all panels must be cut at least 7in longer than your final skirt length. Some heavier fabrics may require a larger extension for the inner radius. Please review your waist measurement, skirt length, and fabric quality with us to determine the correct length to cut.

**Inner Radius:** The inner radius, or radius waist (RW), should not be cut out for lightweight fabrics like chiffon and georgette. This will make the pleating process more difficult and may result in additional charges to your order. Heavier fabrics should have the RW cut out to avoid damages to your fabric and to our pleating molds. Most molds require a minimum RW of 7in. The size of the RW should be reviewed with us before cutting to ensure it is the correct radius for your waist and for our pleating molds. RWs that are cut too small may result in additional labor charges.

**Condition of the Grain:** Fabric must be properly blocked when cutting. Panels cut on the wrong grain or poorly blocked will result in warped pleats or render your fabric useless.

**Condition of Selvedge:** Tight selvages can make fabric more difficult to properly block, so these can be cut off. Panels *must* be cut on grain if the selvedge will be cut off. Make sure to account for seam allowance when removing selvages. If you will be snipping the selvedge but not removing it, the center must be clearly notched.

**Center Notches:** The center of a sunburst panel must be clearly marked with a notch measuring from 1/2in to 3in in depth, especially if you've cut an asymmetrical shape. If the RW has been cut, the center must be marked with a small camel-back notch. To ensure proper placement of your panel within the mold, the center of the panel should also be clearly marked at the hem.

**Irregular Shapes:** If your panels will not be cut in a half or quarter circle, please discuss the shape with us before cutting. If possible, please include the pattern used with your fabric to assist our pleaters in properly placing your fabric in the pleating molds. The center must be clearly notched to ensure your panel is properly placed in the mold. If your panels are to be cut in a half or quarter circle but are asymmetrical either at the waist or hem, please make sure your centers are clearly notched.

**Handkerchief Panels:** The length of your handkerchief panel must be reviewed with us to make sure the longest point will fit within our sunburst molds. All of our molds are half circles, so your panel must fit within that shape.

**Pre-Hemmed Panels:** Hemming sunburst panels before pleating can cause an array of problems for our pleaters and for your final pleated panels. Poor hems may result in additional labor charges.

**Bias Stretch:** Sunburst pleating is an omnidirectional pleat, meaning the fabric is pleated along all three grain lines. Because of the natural stretch bias has your fabric will stretch at this grain, especially in lightweight fabrics like chiffon, creating an uneven hem. The bias may continue to stretch as the panel hangs during draping and garment construction.

**Stretching While Hemming:** When hemming sunburst panels, make sure to not pull on the fabric too much as your sewing. This will create a “lettuce edge” at the hem. A lettuce edge does not lay flat in the fold and will cause the fabric to fold over on itself and create damage.

**Pressing Hems:** Make sure to follow the grain or cross grain when pressing the hem and be careful not to stretch the fabric as you’re pressing. Stretching when pressing will ruin the grain of your fabric and can cause warped pleats. This may also lengthen your panels and they may no longer fit within the pre-determined mold.

**Tight Hems:** Tight hems can cause your fabric to stretch and warp the grain of your fabric. This can result in damaged pleats as the fabric will not lay flat.

**Heavy hems:** Large hems and thick hems may emboss onto the face of your fabric when pleated. Large hems can sometimes also effect the drape of the pleated panel.

**Seams Within Sunburst Panels:** As with tight hems, tight seams will not lay flat and will result in damaged pleats. Our pleaters may stop production on your order if tight seams are a problem. All seams must be pressed down. Panels that arrive with the seams not pressed down will result in additional labor charges to your order. Seams should be placed as far from the RW as possible, especially for heavy fabrics, to avoid damaging your fabric and our pleating molds. If a seam is necessary near the waist, please review this with us. Any seams placed on the bias may not match up with the pleat.

**Seam Allowance:** Panels that arrive with the selvedge attached are given a 1in seam allowance. If you will be cutting the selvedge off, please let us know your seam allowance.

**Wrinkled Fabric:** Panels must be packed in a way that reduced wrinkles. Placed on a roll or folded in a cone is ideal. Fabric that arrives excessively wrinkled will result in additional labor charges, especially for tulle, as your fabric will need to be pressed before being pleated.

If after reviewing the above points you are not comfortable with cutting your panels on your own but have already made a pattern, please contact us to review your next steps. We can review your pattern, either sent as a digital file (.DXF) or a paper copy. We can then discuss with you any necessary adjustments or simply cut your fabric for you with the pattern you provide. If your project requires an irregular shape, we do offer a pattern making service and can assist you in creating a custom pattern. Creating a custom pattern, digitizing your paper pattern, and/or making adjustments to your digital pattern fall under our the pattern making category. Please contact us with details about your project for an estimate.

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_

