

How to Use a 24" Hip Curve Ruler

Rulers are essential for sewing and garment design. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes, many with specific purposes. The 24" Hip Curve Ruler is crucial in creating a well-fitting skirt or pair of pants. Designed with a long, gently curved edge, it's great for smoothing the transition between the waist and the thigh when drafting patterns or making alterations. The shape also lends itself to adjusting lapels, bodices, and sleeves.

The Dritz® 24" Hip Curve Ruler is laser-cut for accuracy, consistency, and smooth handling.

You will need:

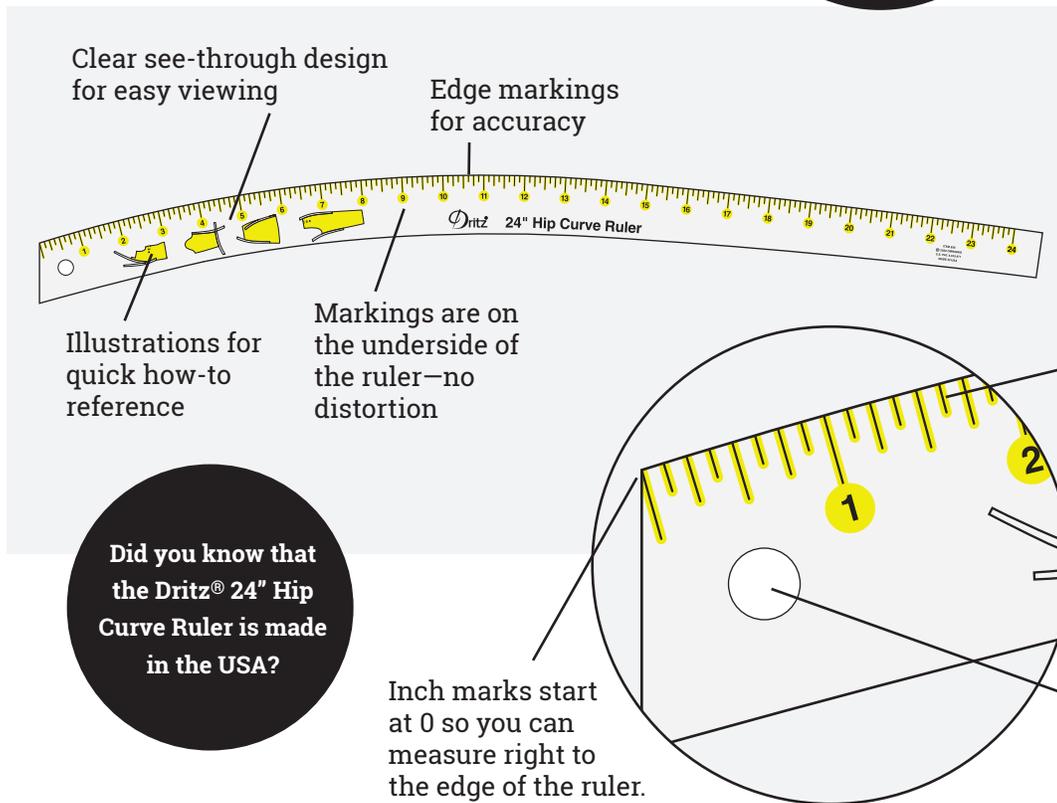
- 24" Hip Curve Ruler
- Marking pencils
- Flexible See-Through Ruler
- Your garment or pattern
- Tissue or tracing paper

Optional for pattern making:

- Grid-marked pattern paper or craft paper

Optional for modifying a garment:

- Dress form



Clear see-through design for easy viewing

Edge markings for accuracy

Illustrations for quick how-to reference

Markings are on the underside of the ruler—no distortion

Did you know that the Dritz® 24" Hip Curve Ruler is made in the USA?

Inch marks start at 0 so you can measure right to the edge of the ruler.

Patented double sight-lines create enhanced visibility on both dark and light fabrics. The contrast is great for easy measuring.

A 3/8" hole allows you to hang the ruler for easy accessibility or storage.



TECHNIQUE TUTORIAL

You've purchased a pattern that will fit one part of your body but not another. Or perhaps you've lost some weight and want to adjust your favorite pair of pants so they don't look baggy. Let measurements be your guide to both types of projects! Adjustments must be blended into workable seam lines, and specialized rulers are the best tools to do the job. The 24" Hip Curve Ruler will help you to draw clean lines, accurately measured and placed—a process essential for altering and fitting both garments and sewing patterns.

Well-fitting clothes start with the correct size, but sizing can be inconsistent and confusing. In particular, pattern sizing can be very different from the ready-made size you are used to buying at a retail store. With the 24" Hip Curve Ruler, you can change the shape or placement of pattern lines to obtain a great fit.

Thankfully, most of today's commercial patterns are printed with a range of nested sizes, allowing you to choose the bust area from one size, the waist from another, and the hip from yet another to create a customized garment.

This tutorial explains an assortment of techniques that can be used to adjust pattern lines. The 24" Hip Curve Ruler has features that allow you to simply align an edge to a seam line and slide or pivot to a new point for quick and accurate changes. Enjoy! This is the beginning of a fantastic, well-fitting wardrobe!

ILLUSTRATED INSTRUCTIONS

Pages 1–2	Adjusting for a tilted waistline
Pages 3–5	Increasing or decreasing the width of a sleeve
Pages 6–8	Shortening or lengthening a sleeve from the bottom edge
Pages 9–10	Adjusting the length of a lapel
Pages 11–13	Adjusting the width and curve of a lapel
Pages 14–15	Increasing or decreasing the waist of a skirt
Pages 16–19	Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a skirt
Pages 20–23	Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a one-piece dress
Pages 24–25	Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a pair of pants
Pages 26–27	Increasing or decreasing both the hip area and waist of a pair of pants
Pages 28–31	Creating long curved design lines
Page 32	Useful tips and ideas



Adjusting for a tilted waistline

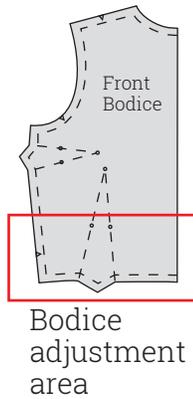
Not everyone has a body shape that matches commercial patterns. If your waistline tilts up or down, the bottom edge of bodices must be adjusted to match that angle.

Determine the amount that you plan to change your pattern. Mark the measured amount up or down at the center front and at the side seam with dots (1). If lengthening, you may need to tape tissue paper to the pattern to extend the edges (not shown).

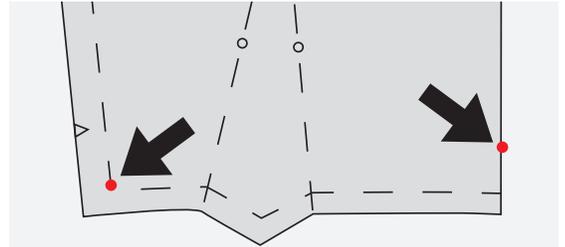
Fold the legs of the bodice waistline dart together so the center fold is turned toward the center of the bodice (2). Use the flexible See-Thru Ruler to draw a short line (about 3/8") perpendicular to the center front (2). Line up the Hip Curve Ruler so it touches both the perpendicular line and the side seam dot, and draw a new seam line (3).

Once your new seam line is marked, you must adjust the seam allowance accordingly. To do this, use the ruler to measure the required amount out from the seam line (5/8", for example), placing dots along the way (4).

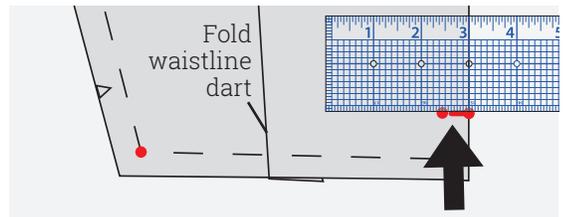
(Instructions for adjusting for a tilted waistline continue on the next page.)



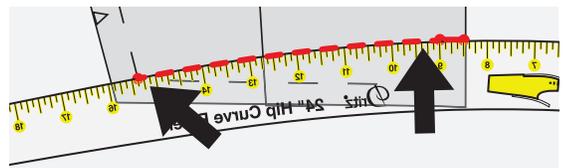
Illustrations show shortening a bodice to correct for a tilted waistline.



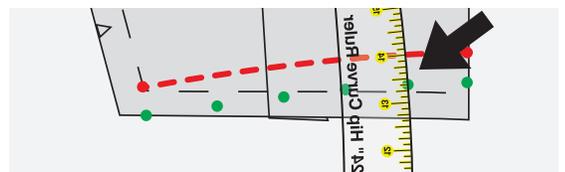
1. Place dots at the center front and side seam in the measured amount.



2. Fold waistline dart toward the center. Draw a short line perpendicular to center front.



3. Use the ruler as a guide to draw a new seam line from side seam to the short, perpendicular line.



4. Measure the amount of required seam allowance down from the new seam line and place dots.

TIP:
If the original seam allowance lines become confusing on a purchased pattern, use tracing paper to copy the pattern without the seam allowance. Make adjustments to the tracing.



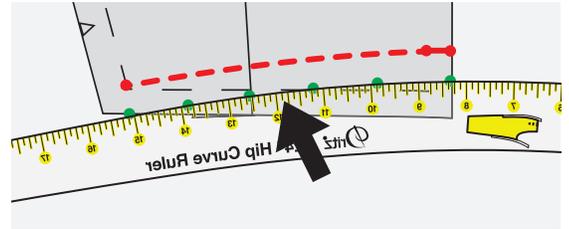
Adjusting for a tilted waistline (continued)

Position ruler along marked seam allowance (5).

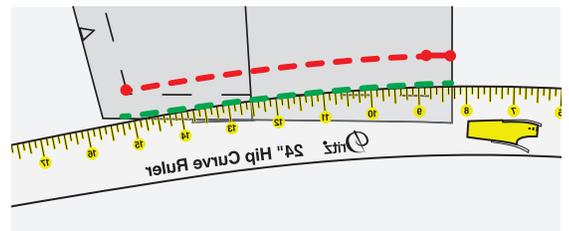
Use the ruler as a guide to draw in the new seam allowance (6). Cut along the new seam allowance edge. Unfold the pattern. Because you folded the dart before adjusting, the dart angle is maintained (7).

Repeat the process for both the front and back pattern pieces. They must match at the side seam. Also be sure to adjust any skirt or panel that will be attached to the waist.

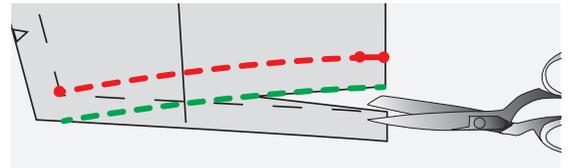
TIP: Always use dots when making marks. They are much more exact and offer better fitting results.



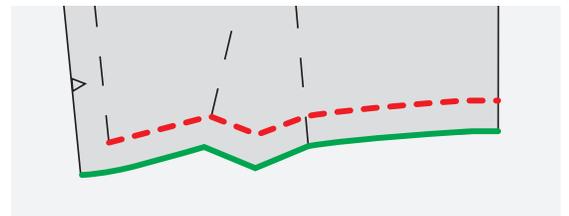
5. Position ruler along marked seam allowance as a guide for new line.



6. Use the ruler to draw in the new seam allowance.



7. Cut along the new seam allowance line. Unfold the dart.

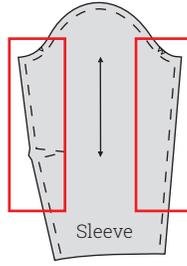


Finished new bodice waistline with seam allowance. Dart has been unfolded.



Increasing or decreasing the width of a sleeve

Determine the amount that you plan to change your pattern. If increasing, tape tissue paper to the pattern along both long pattern edges (not shown). If the pattern includes an elbow dart, adjustment can be made to either the upper portion of the sleeve from the dart to the armhole, or can be extended to below the dart. In either case, mark the measured amount on the armhole inside or outside the sleeve seam line with dots (1).



Sleeve adjustment area

Next, determine which portion of the ruler most closely matches the curve of the pattern's seam line (2).

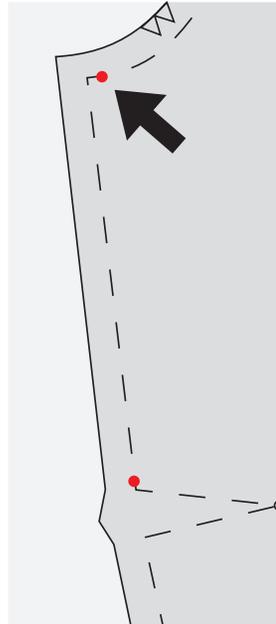
If adjusting to below the elbow dart, place a second dot a few inches below the dart. Fold the dart on the leg lines so the center fold points downward. Then align the ruler between top and bottom dots on the seam line of the sleeve (3).

If you are adjusting the width of the sleeve only as far as an elbow dart, hold the ruler in place at the side seam/elbow dart seam line intersection and pivot the ruler to the dot at the armhole (4).

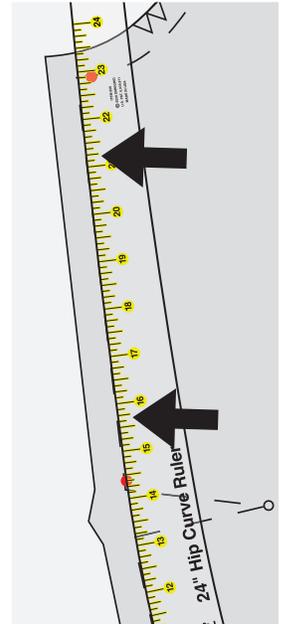
(Instructions for increasing or decreasing the width of a sleeve continue on the next page.)

Did you know that the seam lines of a dart are called the "legs" of the dart?

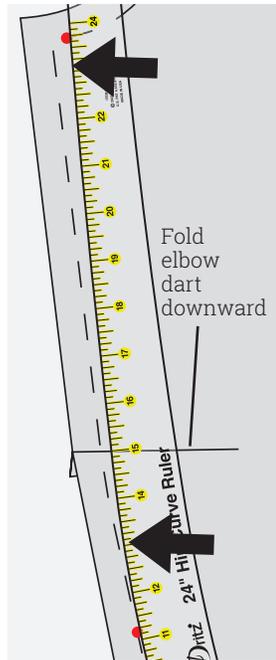
Illustrations show decreasing the width of sleeve.



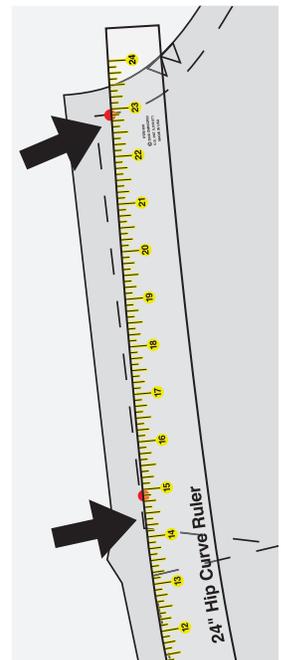
1. Place dots at the new position on the armhole seam line.



2. Match the curve of the ruler to the curve of the seam line.



3. Adjustment with folded dart: Fold down dart. Align ruler between dots.



4. Adjustment above the dart: Hold ruler at elbow, and pivot ruler to dot.



Increasing or decreasing the width of a sleeve (continued)

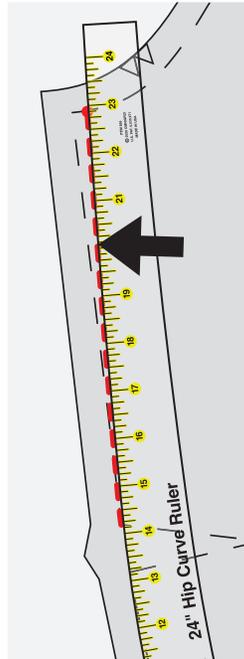
Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw the new seam line (5).

Once your new seam line is marked, you must adjust the seam allowance accordingly. To do this, use the ruler to measure the required amount out from the seam line (5/8", for example), marking with multiple dots (6).

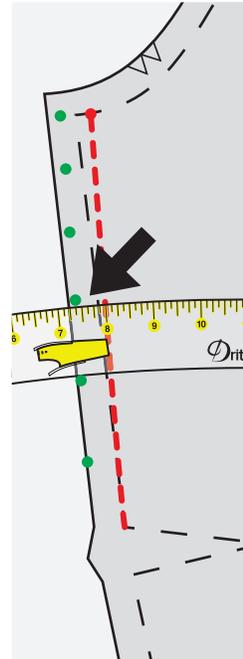
Align the ruler to the new seam allowance dots (7). Use the ruler edge as a guide to draw the new seam allowance line (8).

If your new seam extends below the dart, cut on the new seam allowance line and unfold the dart (9). Because you folded the dart before marking and cutting, the original dart shape is maintained.

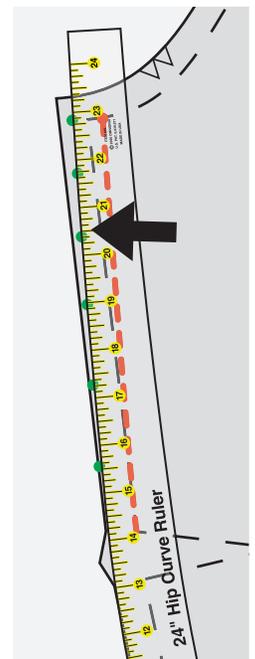
(Instructions for increasing or decreasing the width of a sleeve continue on the next page.)



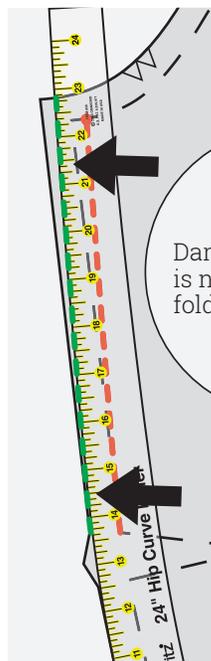
5. Use ruler as a guide to draw new seam line.



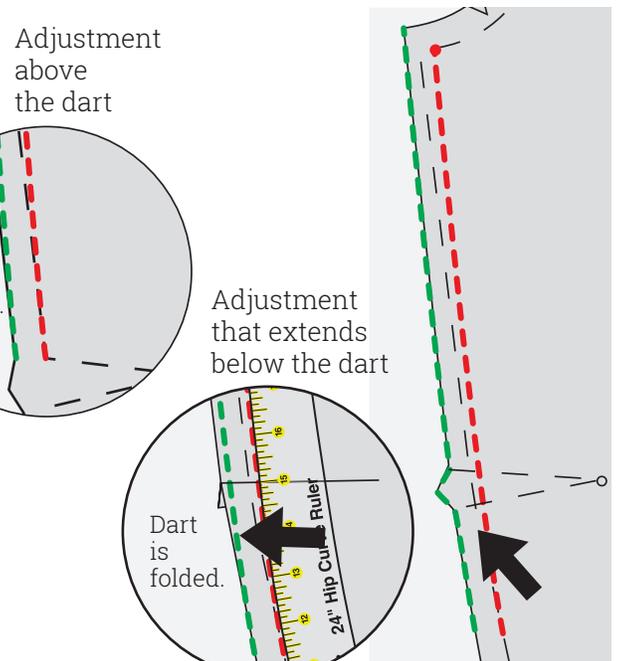
6. Place dots to mark the new seam allowance.



7. Align the ruler to dots and seam line.



8. Use ruler as a guide to draw new seam line.



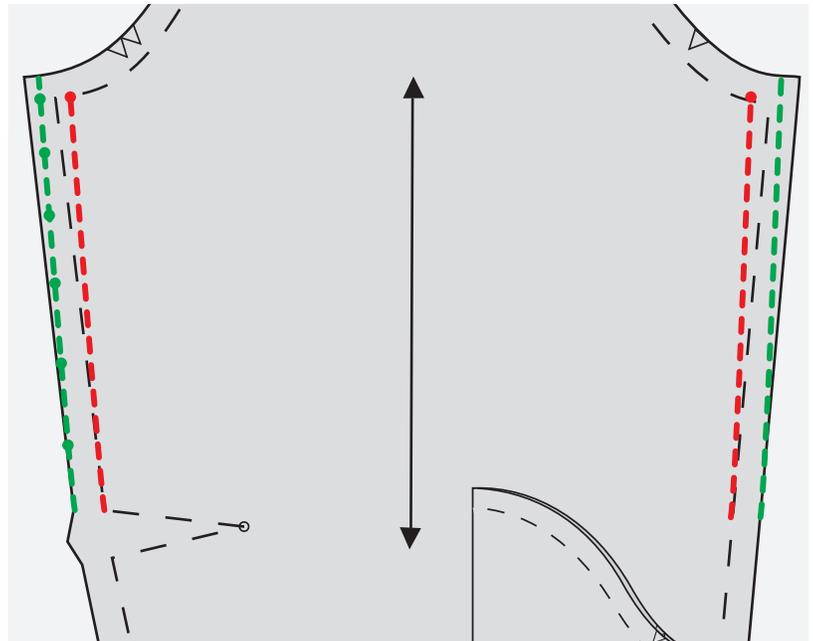
9. Cut along new seam allowance line. Unfold dart.



Increasing or decreasing the width of a sleeve (continued)

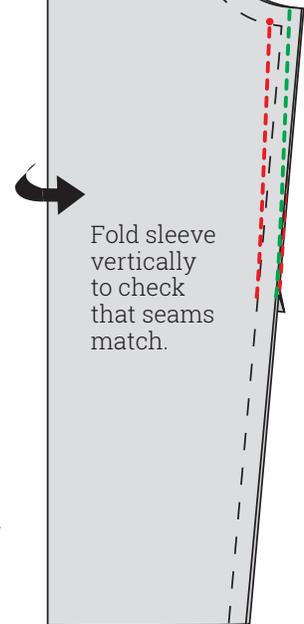
Repeat the process for both sides of the sleeve (10). Sleeve seams must match. To check, you can fold the sleeve vertically along the center, aligning the armhole curves and hem edges (with dart folded). Seam allowance edges should match (11).

Be sure to adjust the bodice armholes in or out to match the sleeve adjustments.



10. Adjust the opposite sleeve seam to match.

TIP:
Do not trim the second seam edge until adjustments are compared and you know that they match.



Fold sleeve vertically to check that seams match.

11. Fold the sleeve to check the adjustment.



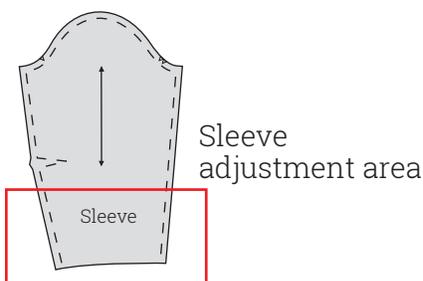
Shortening or lengthening a sleeve from the bottom edge

Many long sleeves taper at the wrist; slight shortening may not affect the fit. However, the more a sleeve is shortened, the larger the wrist becomes. Conversely, the more a sleeve is lengthened, the smaller the wrist becomes. For tightly fitted sleeves, or when making adjustments of more than an inch, use the lengthen/shorten line on the pattern for best results. If you are unsure, always test-fit the adjusted pattern with muslin or scrap fabric after making adjustments to avoid any unexpected results.

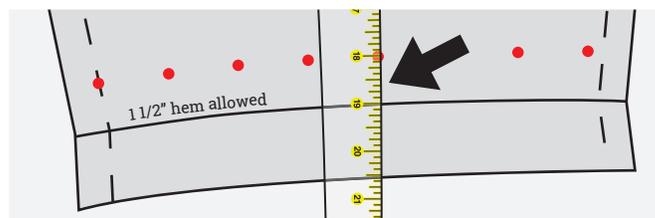
Determine the amount by which you plan to change your pattern. If increasing, tape tissue paper to the pattern along the hem edge (not shown). Mark the measured amount on the sleeve up or down from the bottom hem edge with a dot on each side seam line or multiple dots if the bottom edge is curved (1).

Match the curve of the ruler as closely as possible to the curve of the pattern's sleeve hemline (2). Slide the ruler up or down to the new dots (3). Some adjustment of the ruler position may be required to align with dots. Use the ruler edge as a guide to draw in the new hem line (4).

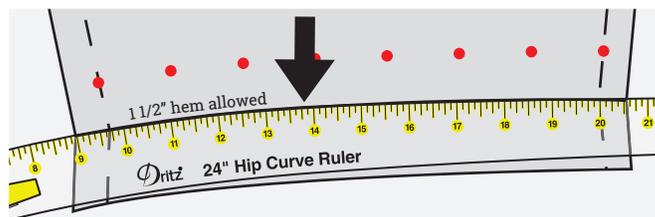
(Instructions for shortening or lengthening a sleeve from the bottom edge continue on the next page.)



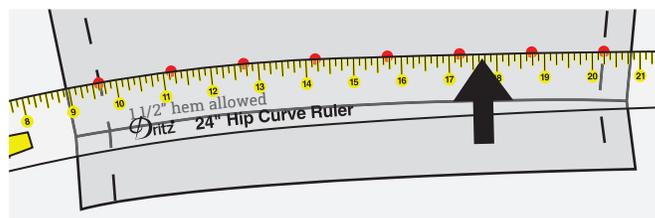
Illustrations show shortening a sleeve.



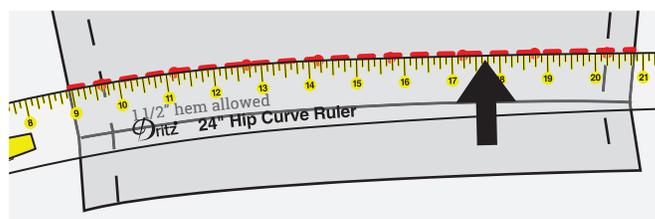
1. Place dots in the measured amount above or below the hem line.



2. Match the curve of the ruler with the original hem line.



3. Slide the ruler to the new dots.



4. Use the ruler as a guide to draw the new hem line.

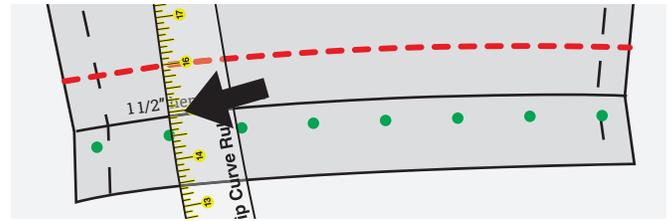


Shortening or lengthening a sleeve from the bottom edge (continued)

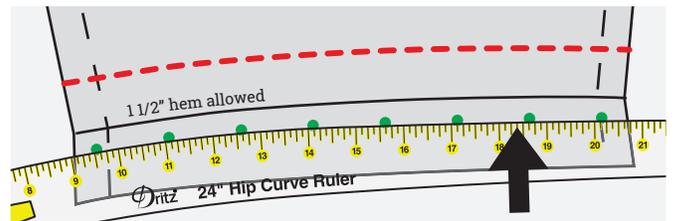
Once your new hem line is marked, you must adjust the hem allowance accordingly. To do this, use the ruler to measure the required amount down from the hem line (1½", for example), placing dots as closely together as needed to form a clear line (5).

Align the ruler to the new hem allowance dots (6). Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw the new hem allowance line (7).

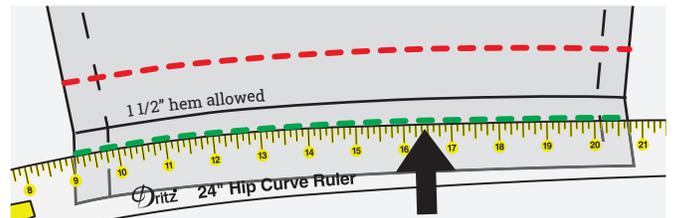
(Instructions for shortening or lengthening a sleeve from the bottom edge continue on the next page.)



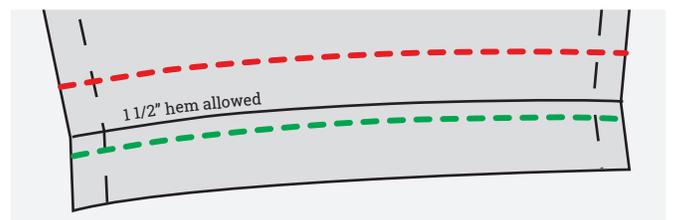
5. Place dots in the measured amount above or below the hem line.



6. Align the ruler with the new dots.



7. Use the ruler as a guide to draw the new hem line.



Completed new seam line and seam allowance line



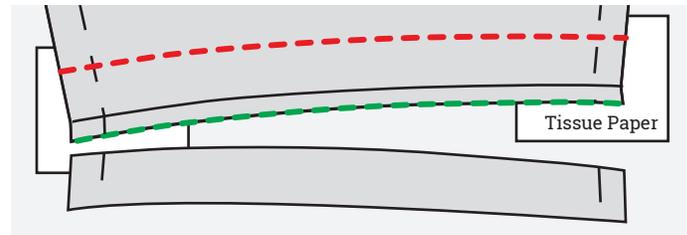
Shortening or lengthening a sleeve from the bottom edge (continued)

Most sleeves narrow at the hem. If this is the case, you must adjust the side edges of the hem area so that when the hem folds up, it is as wide as the sleeve and will not pucker when stitched. To do this, cut along the new hem allowance line to trim away the remaining portion of the old hem. Tape a piece of tissue paper at each side of the new hem area (8).

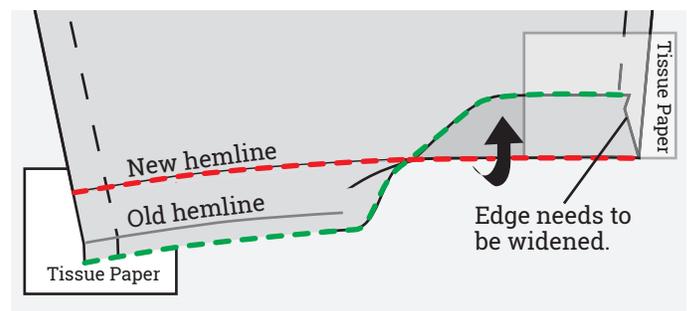
Fold the hem and the tissue paper up on the new hem line. (NOTE: If you plan to create a double hem, fold both layers in place before adjusting the side edges.) You will notice that the hem area side edge is narrower than the sleeve (9). It must be widened to fit the sleeve.

Trace the side seam line and seam allowance line onto the tissue paper taped to the hem (10). Repeat for the opposite side of the sleeve.

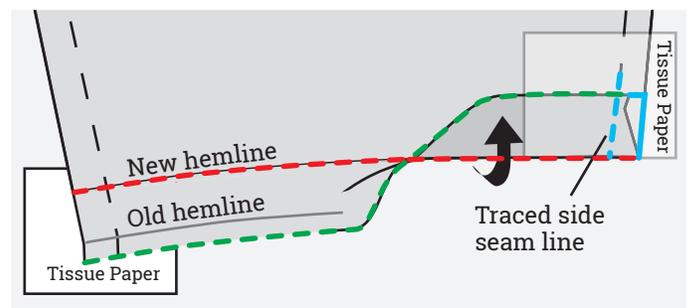
Trim the excess tissue paper on both seam allowance edges to obtain the final sleeve shape. Unfold the hem (11).



8. Cut along the new seam allowance line to trim off the remaining edge of the old hem. Tape tissue paper to side edges.



9. Fold up hem and tissue paper at new hem line.



10. Trace the sleeve seam line and seam allowance line onto the tissue paper.

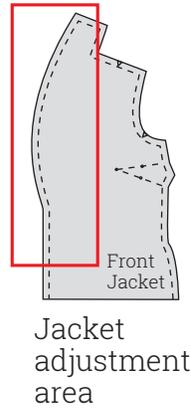


11. Trim off excess tissue paper at each side. Unfold the hem.



Adjusting the length of a lapel

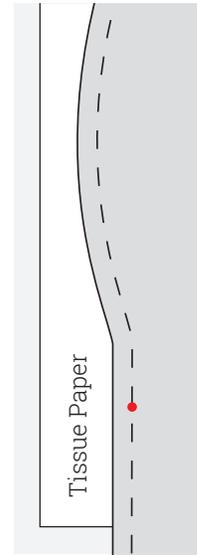
Lapels are the star feature of most jackets. The position of the notches, or lack thereof, along with the length and width of the lapel give the jacket strength and style. But perhaps that lapel is too short or too long for current fashion. Adjusting the length is easy with the 24" Hip Curve Ruler.



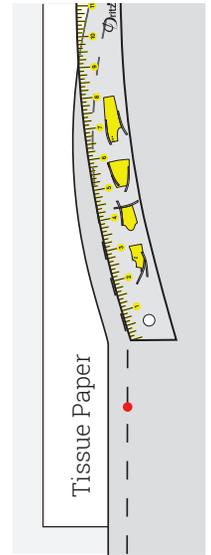
Tape a piece of tissue paper to the front edge of the lapel. It should extend from mid-lapel to almost the hem depending on your desired lapel length (1). Determine the new length of the lapel. Place a mark on the front seam line at this point (1). All adjustments are made from the seam line; the seam allowance will then be added. Place the ruler along the seam line, matching the shape of the lapel as closely as possible (2). Slide the ruler down to the marked dot (3). Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw the new seam line (4).

(Instructions for adjusting the length of a lapel continue on next page.)

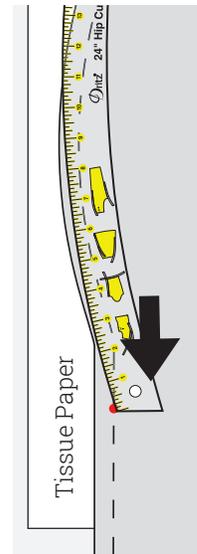
Note: Your lapel may have a different shape than the one shown. All patterns differ, but the technique is the same.



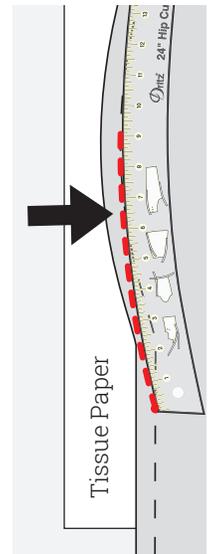
1. Mark new lapel length on pattern.



2. Align ruler to curve of lapel.



3. Slide ruler down to dot.



4. Use ruler as a guide to draw the new shape.

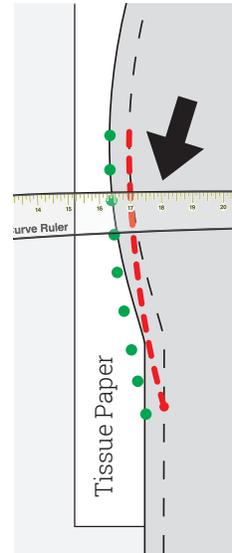


Adjusting the length of a lapel (continued)

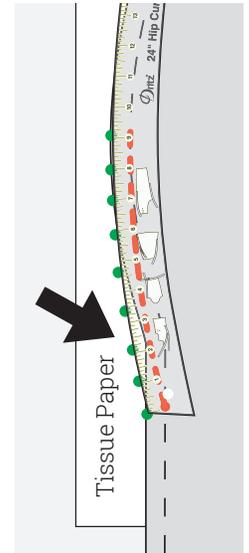
Once the new seam line is marked, you must adjust the seam allowance accordingly. To do this, use the ruler to measure the required amount out from the seam line (5/8", for example), marking with multiple dots (5).

Align the ruler to the new seam allowance dots (6). Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw the new seam allowance line (7).

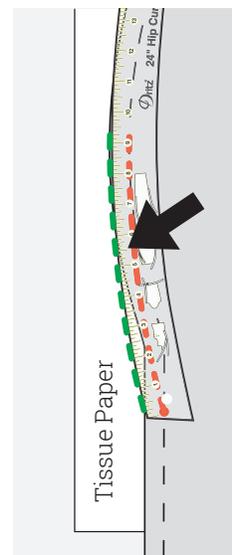
Be sure to adjust the facing to align with the new curve of the lapel. They must match.



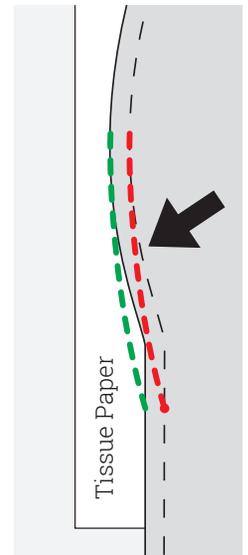
5. Mark the new seam allowance.



6. Align ruler to dots.



7. Use ruler as guide to draw new seam allowance.



Completed new seam line and seam allowance line

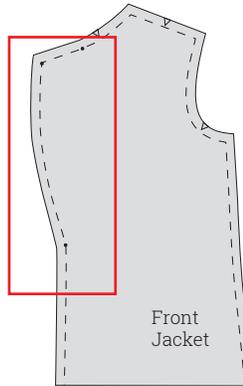


Adjusting the width and curve of a lapel

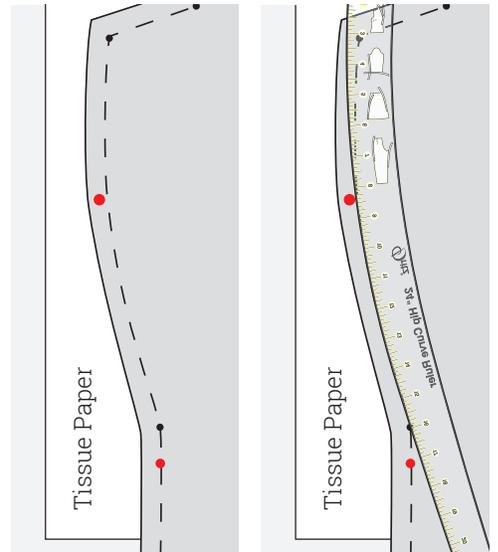
The trends for the width of jacket lapels vary from year to year. To adjust the width or curve of a lapel, first determine the amount that you plan to change your pattern. If increasing, tape a piece of tissue paper to the pattern along the length of the lapel (1). Place a dot on the front seam line at new desired width (1).

If the new width involves lowering the lapel curve, place a dot at the point where you want the curve to end (1). Place the ruler along the original seam line, matching the shape of the lapel as closely as possible (2). Slide the ruler in or out to the marked dots (3). If the ruler does not align to both dots, hold ruler at the lower dot and pivot the ruler until it touches the higher dot (4).

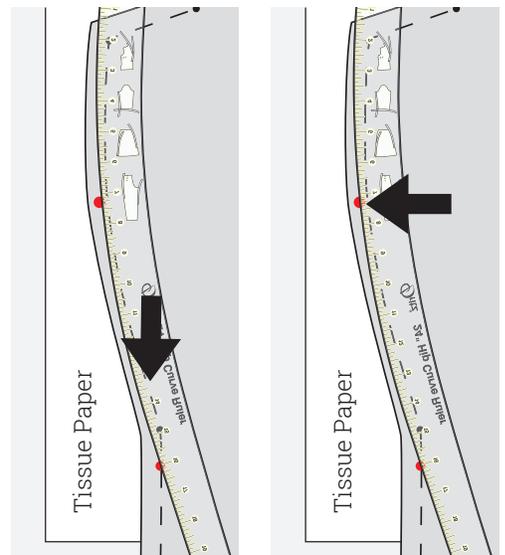
(Instructions for adjusting the width and curve of a lapel continue on next page.)



Illustrations show widening the lapel.



1. Tape tissue paper to lapel. Mark new width.
2. Align ruler to original seam line.



3. Slide ruler to new dots.
4. If necessary, hold ruler at lower dot and pivot to meet new width dot.

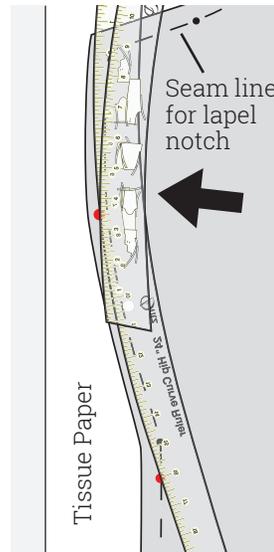


Adjusting the width and curve of a lapel (continued)

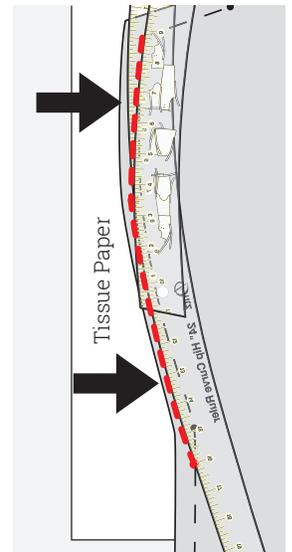
Slide and turn the ruler to continue the new seam line from its widest point up to the seam line of the lapel notch (5). Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw in the complete new lapel seam line (6). The lapel should make a smooth transition to the straight lower front edge of the pattern. Use the ruler again to blend the line so it has a graceful curve (7).

Once your new seam line is marked, you must adjust the seam allowance accordingly. To do this, use the ruler to measure the required amount out from the seam line (5/8", for example), marking with multiple dots (8).

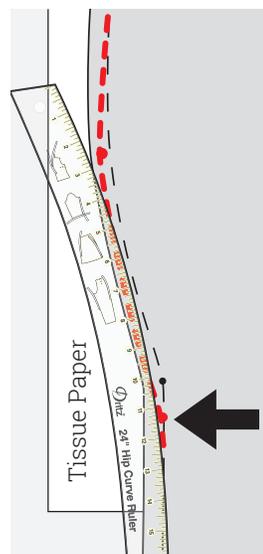
(Instructions for adjusting the width and curve of a lapel continue on the next page.)



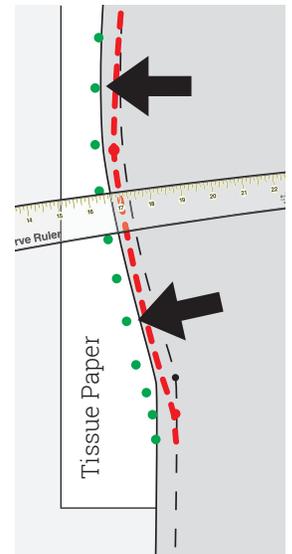
5. Slide the ruler to continue the lapel seam line to the point of the lapel notch.



6. Draw in the new seam line.



7. Use the ruler as a guide to blend the new seam line into the original one.



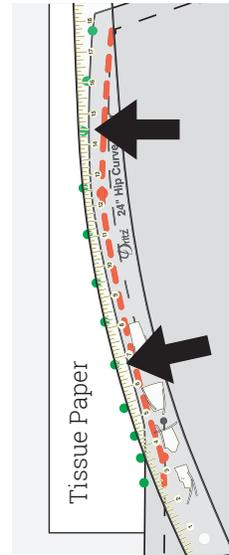
8. Use ruler to measure the required amount for seam allowance.



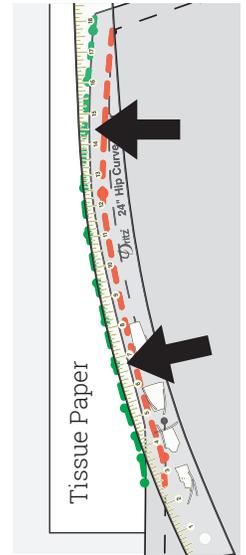
Adjusting the width and curve of a lapel (continued)

Align the ruler to the new seam allowance dots (9). Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw the new seam allowance line (10). Slide and turn the ruler as necessary to match the line of dots.

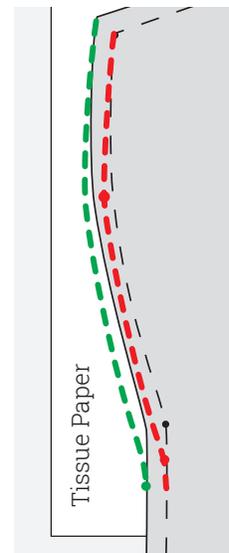
Be sure to adjust the facing so that it matches the new curve of the lapel. They must be identical.



9. Align ruler to seam allowance dots.



10. Use ruler as a guide to draw in the new seam allowance.



Completed seam and seam allowance



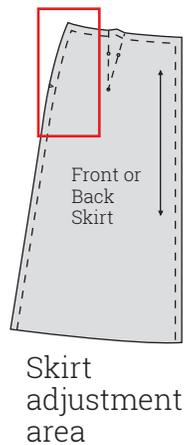
Increasing or decreasing the waist of a skirt

Determine the amount by which you plan to change your pattern. If increasing, tape tissue paper to the pattern from waist to hip (not shown). Mark the measured amount inside or outside the side seam/waistline intersection with a dot (1).

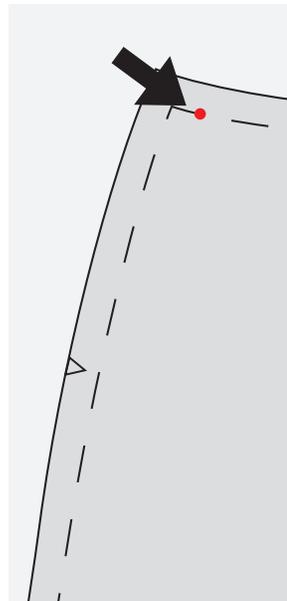
Match the curve of the ruler as closely as possible to the pattern's side seam line (2). Hold the ruler in place on the side seam line 7"–9" below the side seam/waistline intersection and pivot the ruler to the waistline dot (3). Because this ruler has a curve designed to simulate the hip curve, you may not need to pivot very much to achieve a nicely blended line.

Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw in the new seam line (4).

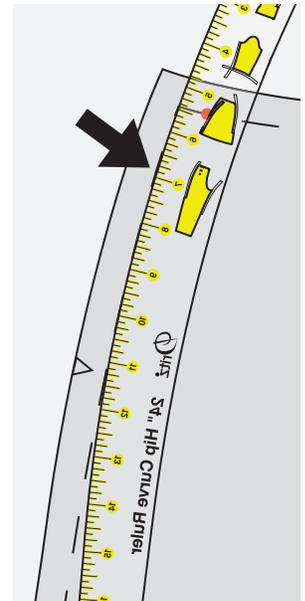
(Instructions for increasing or decreasing the waist of a skirt continue on the next page.)



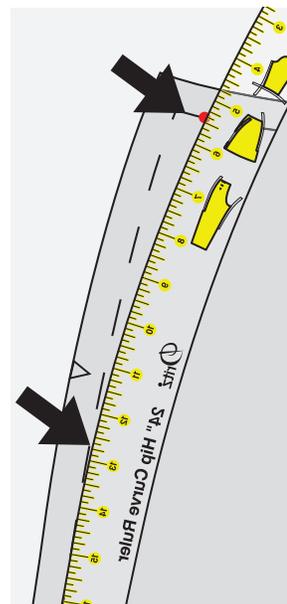
Illustrations show decreasing the waist.



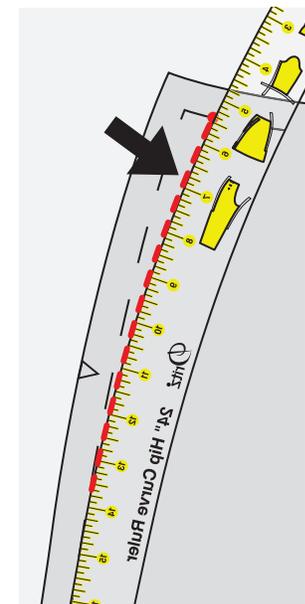
1. Place a dot at in the measured amount on the waist seam line.



2. Match curve of ruler with hip seam line.



3. Align ruler with hip and pivot until it touches waist dot.



4. Use ruler as a guide to draw new seam line.

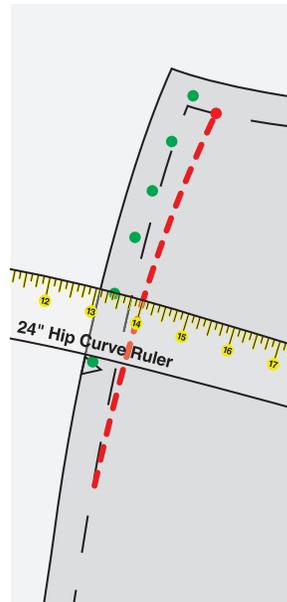


Increasing or decreasing the waist of a skirt (continued)

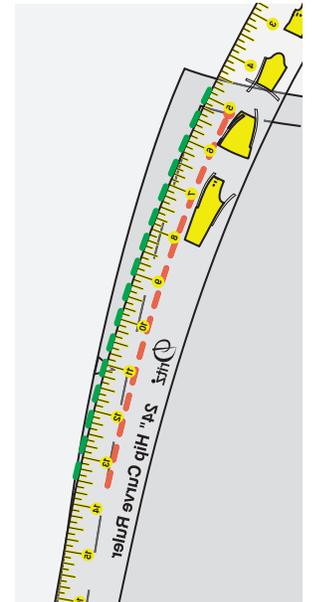
Once the new seam line is marked, you must adjust the seam allowance accordingly. To do this, use the ruler to measure the required amount out from the seam line (5/8", for example), placing dots along the hip area, starting at the waist (5).

Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw the new seam allowance line (6).

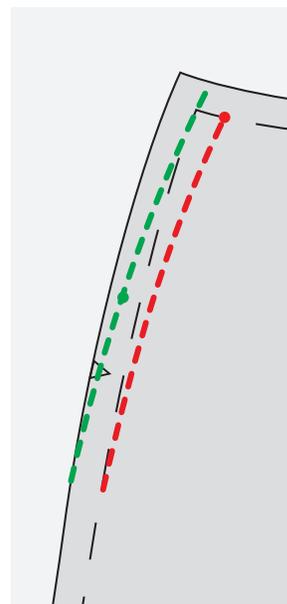
Repeat the process for both the front and back pattern pieces. They must match at the side seam. Also be sure to adjust the side seams of the bodice if it will be attached to the waist of the skirt.



5. Measure the required seam allowance out from the seam line and place dots.



6. Use ruler as a guide to draw new seam allowance line.



Completed new seam line and seam allowance line



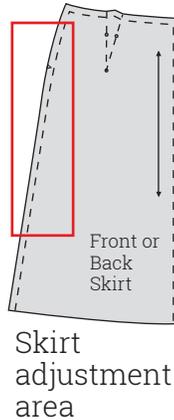
Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a skirt

Determine the amount that you plan to change your pattern. If increasing, tape tissue paper to the pattern hip area from waist to the hem edge. Mark the measured amount inside or outside of the seam line, 7"–9" down from the waist, with a dot (1).

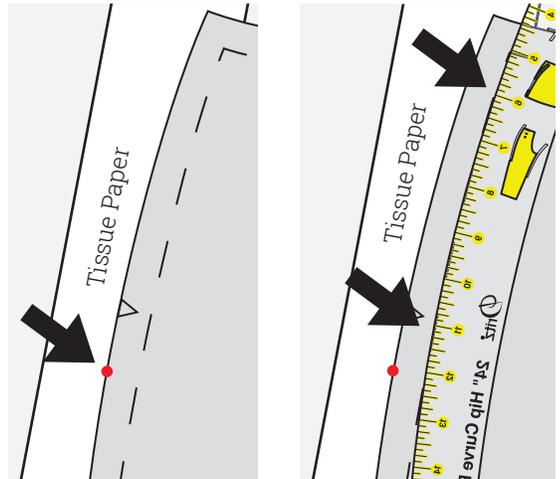
Match the curve of the ruler as closely as possible to the pattern's seam line in the hip area (2). Hold the ruler in place at the side seam/waistline seam line intersection and pivot the ruler to the hip dot (3).

Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw in the new seam line for the hip area (4).

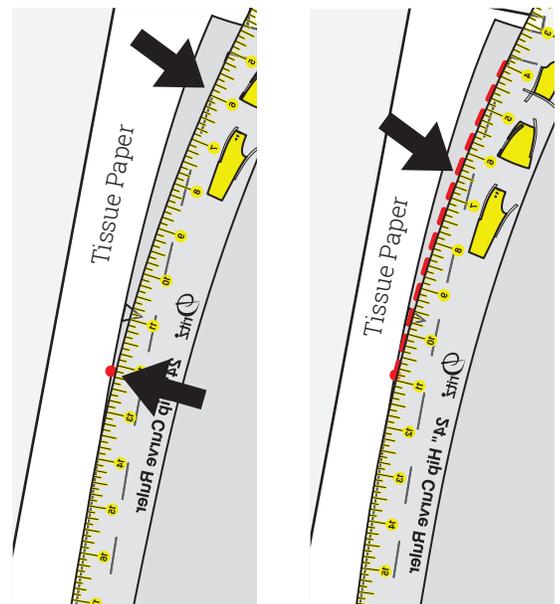
(Instructions for increasing or decreasing the hip area of a skirt continue on the next page.)



Illustrations show increasing the hip area.



1. Place a dot at at the measured amount on the hip seam line.
2. Match curve of ruler with side seam line.



3. Align ruler at waist; pivot until it touches with hip dot.
4. Use ruler as a guide to draw the new seam line.

Note: The 7"–9" reference is the average distance from the waist to the widest part of the hip. Check your measurements. If yours differ, substitute a different length for these numbers.



Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a skirt (continued)

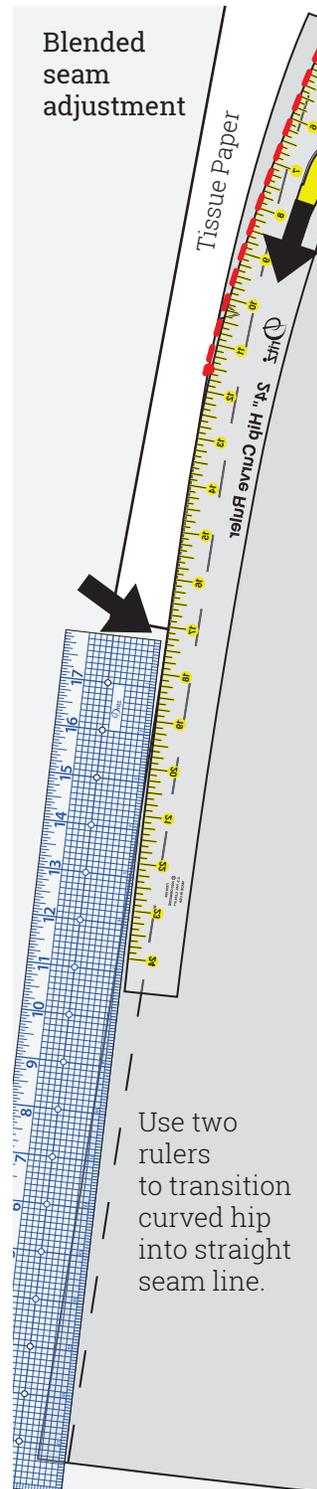
Slide the ruler to blend the line into the original side seam below the hip dot—all the way to the hem edge, if necessary, for a smooth line.

The lower portion of a skirt is usually a straight line. To draw the seam line for the lower part of the skirt, use a different ruler, such as the Styling Design Ruler or the 18" See-Thru Ruler. Simply align the new ruler to the edge of the 24" Hip Curve Ruler below the hip dot and pivot it to your desired point (5).

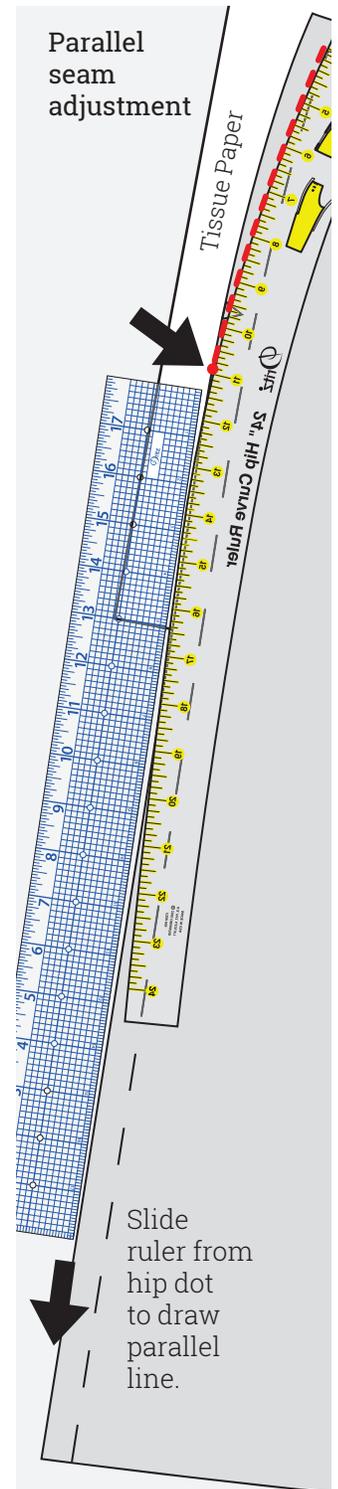
(Instructions for increasing or decreasing the hip area of a skirt continue on the next page.)

ALTERNATE METHOD

To maintain the original shape of the skirt once the hip has been adjusted, do not blend the seam line. Instead, draw the line parallel to the original seam line from the hip dot to the hem edge (6).



5. Slide ruler to blend. Use a straight-edged ruler to continue line to the hem.



6. Use a grid-marked straight-edged ruler to continue a parallel line.



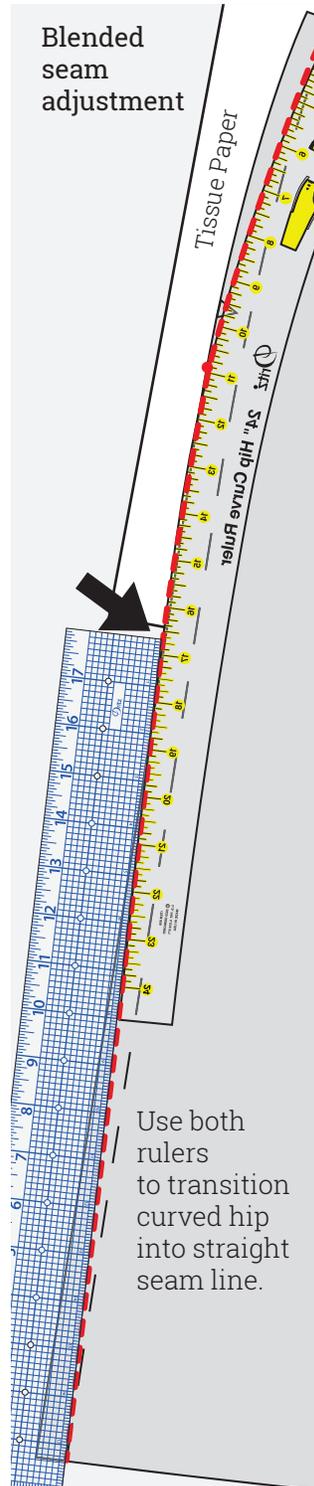
Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a skirt (continued)

With either method, use both rulers as guide to draw the new seam line. Blend the new line into the existing line (7).

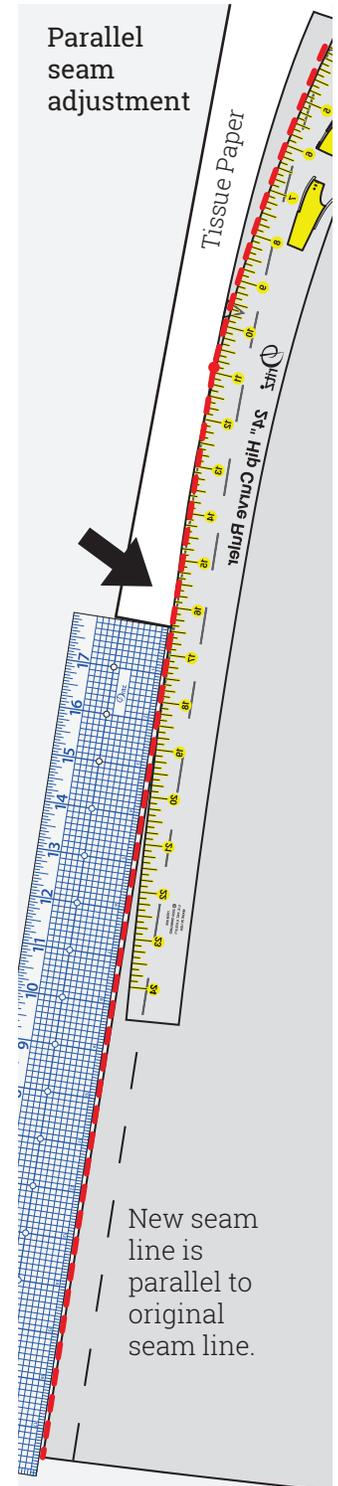
(Instructions for increasing or decreasing the hip area of a skirt continue on the next page.)

ALTERNATE METHOD

If using this method for a parallel seam line, continue the seam line to the hem edge as an unblended line, parallel to the original seam line. (8).



7. Use both rulers as guides to draw the new seam line.



8. Use both rulers as guides to draw the parallel seam line.

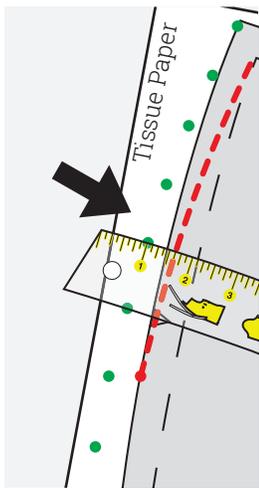


Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a skirt (continued)

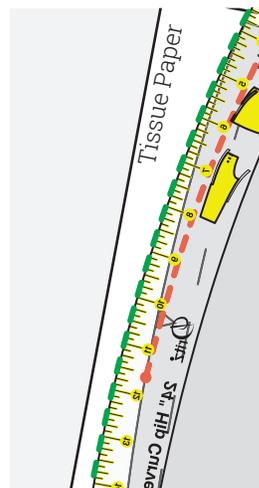
Once the new seam line is marked, you must adjust the seam allowance accordingly. To do this, use the ruler to measure the required amount out from the seam line (5/8", for example), placing dots along the hip area (9).

Align the ruler with the dots to draw the new seam allowance line (10). For either a blended seam or the parallel seam alternate method, if the hip adjustment extends all the way to the hem, the seam allowance must be extended as well. Use the rulers as guides to draw the new seam allowance line (11).

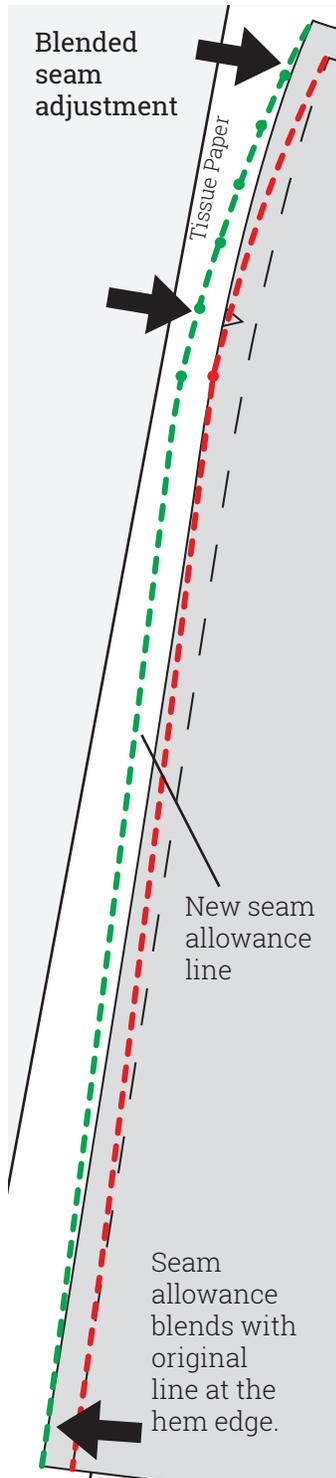
Repeat the process for both the front and back pattern pieces. They must match at the side seams.



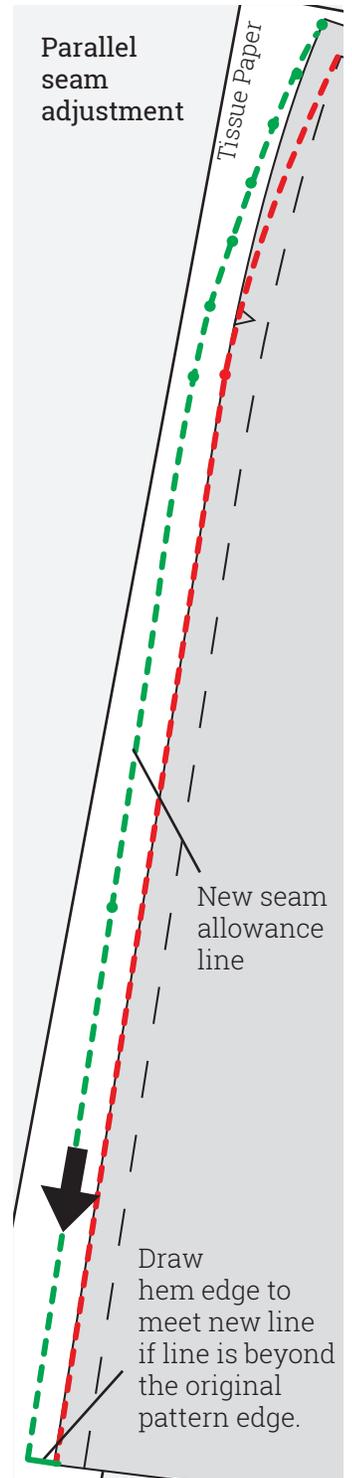
9. Use the ruler to measure and mark dots for seam allowance.



10. Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw the new seam allowance line.



11. The rulers have been used as guides to draw the new seam allowance line for either method.



ALTERNATE METHOD
Parallel seam line and seam allowance lines

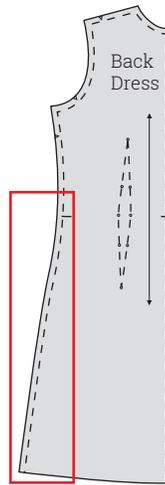


Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a one-piece dress

Determine the amount that you plan to change your pattern. If increasing, tape tissue paper to the pattern from just above the waist to the hem edge. Mark the desired amount inside or outside of the seam line, 7"–9" down from the waist, with a dot (1).

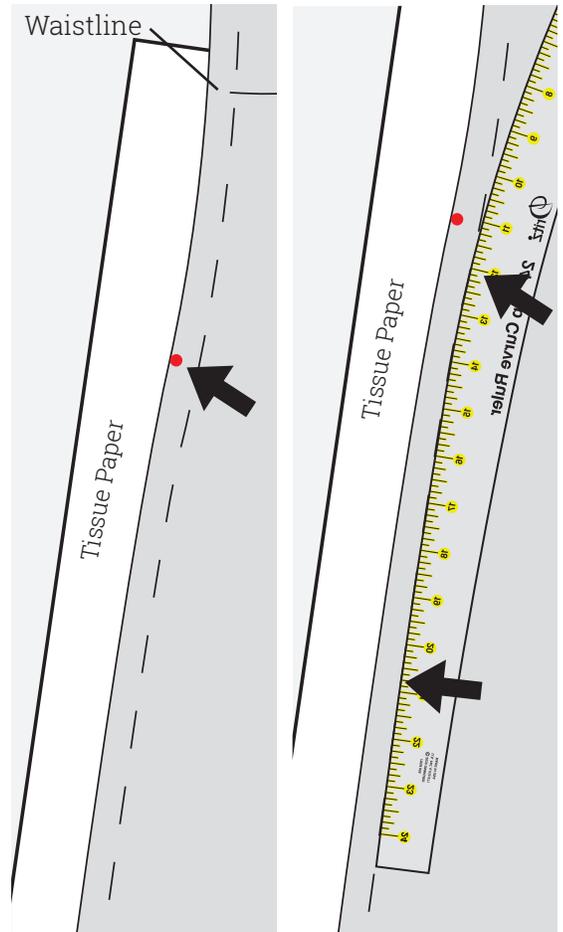
Match the curve of the ruler as closely as possible to the pattern's original hip seam line from the new dot to a point as far down on the side seam line as possible (2).

(Instructions for increasing or decreasing the hip area of a one-piece dress continue on the next page.)



Dress hip adjustment area

Illustrations show increasing the hip area.



1. Place a dot inside or outside of the seam line of the hip area in the desired amount.

2. Match curve of ruler to original hip seam line.

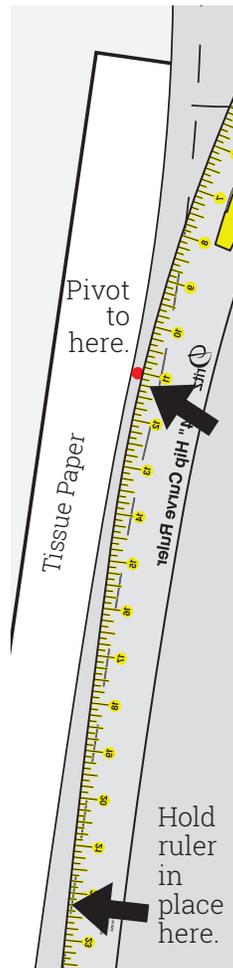


Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a one-piece dress (continued)

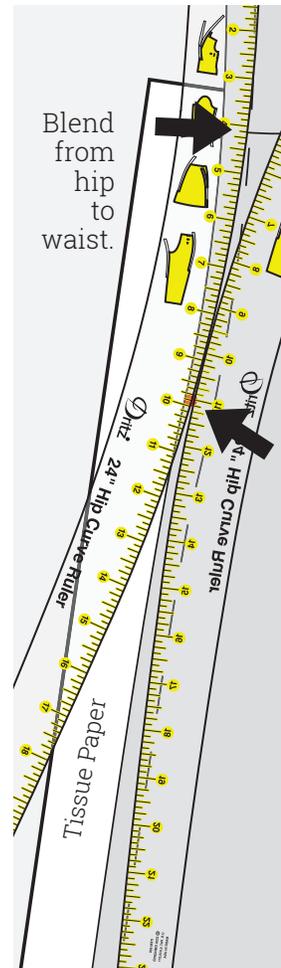
Hold the ruler in place below the hip as shown in step 2 and pivot it to touch the hip dot (3). The area above the hip dot will need to be blended from the new line to the existing line at the waist. Flip the ruler over and slide it as needed to blend the new seam line with the existing line (4).

Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw the new seam line (5).

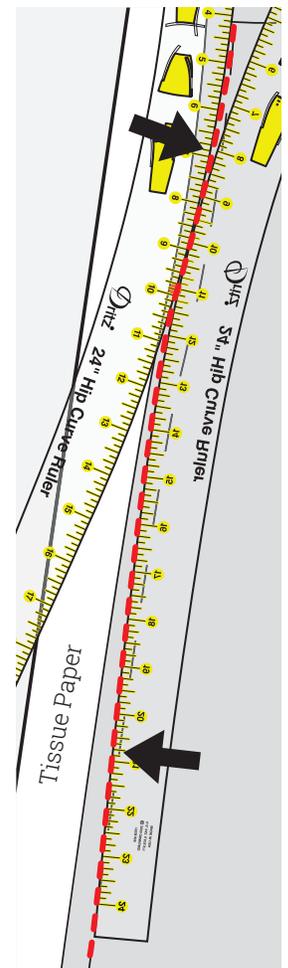
(Instructions for increasing or decreasing the hip area of a one-piece dress continue on the next page.)



3. Pivot the ruler from a point below the hip to the new dot.



4. Flip over the ruler. Align the edge to the new dot and the original seam line at the waist.



5. Use ruler as a guide to draw new seam line.



Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a one-piece dress (continued)

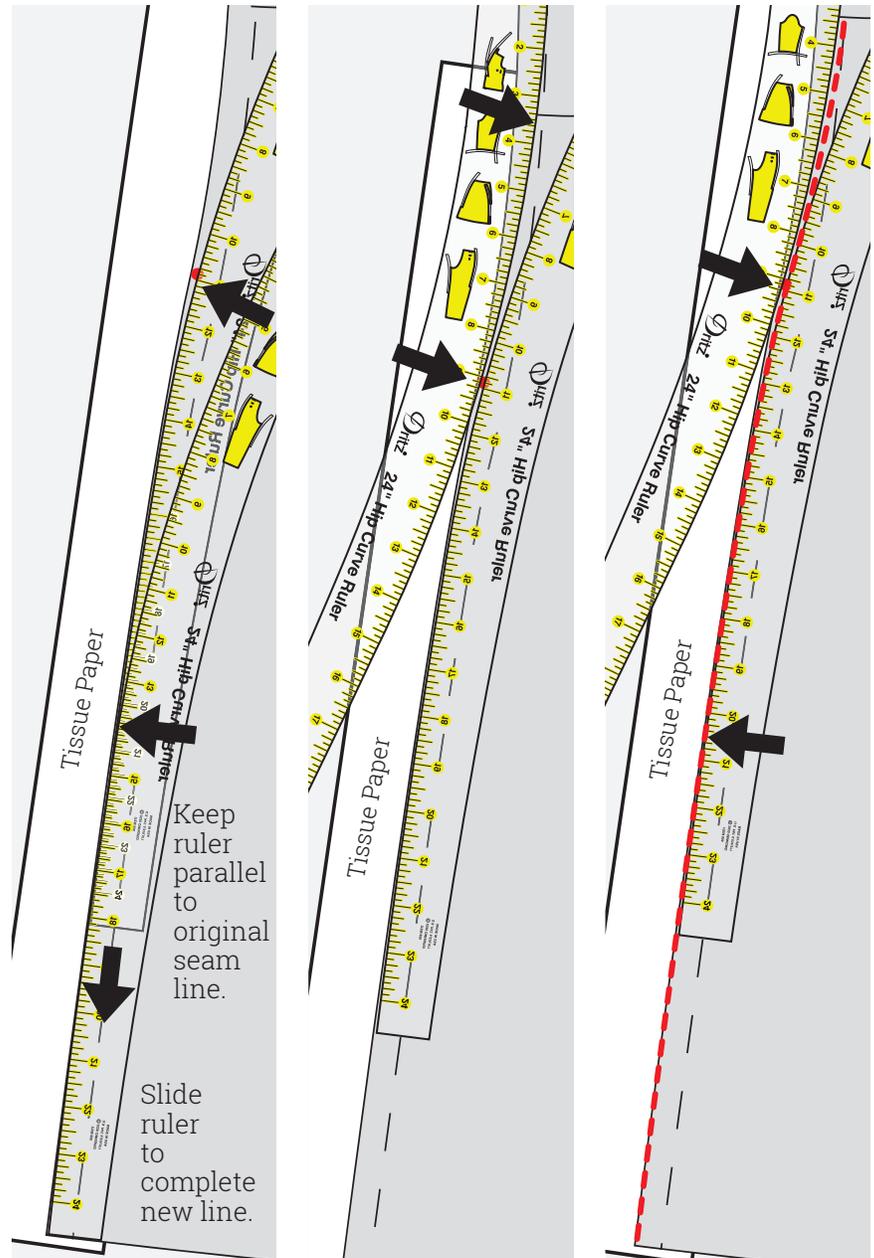
Alternate method:

If you would like to maintain the original angle of the side seam, continue the increased or decreased width all the way to the hem edge. To do this, align the ruler with the original seam line and simply slide it over until it touches the new dot at the hip, keeping it parallel to the original seam line (6). Slide the ruler down to the hem edge to continue the line. To blend the line from the hip dot to the waist, flip the ruler at the hip and slide it upward so it touches the waistline (7).

Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw the completed seam line from the waist to the hem edge (8).

(Instructions for increasing or decreasing the hip area of a one-piece dress continue on the next page.)

In these diagrams, a single ruler is shown being placed in multiple positions.



6. Slide the ruler from the original seam line to the new hip dot, maintaining a parallel line.

7. Flip over the ruler. Align the edge to the new dot and the original seam line at the waist.

8. Use the ruler as a guide to draw in the seam from the waist to the hem edge.

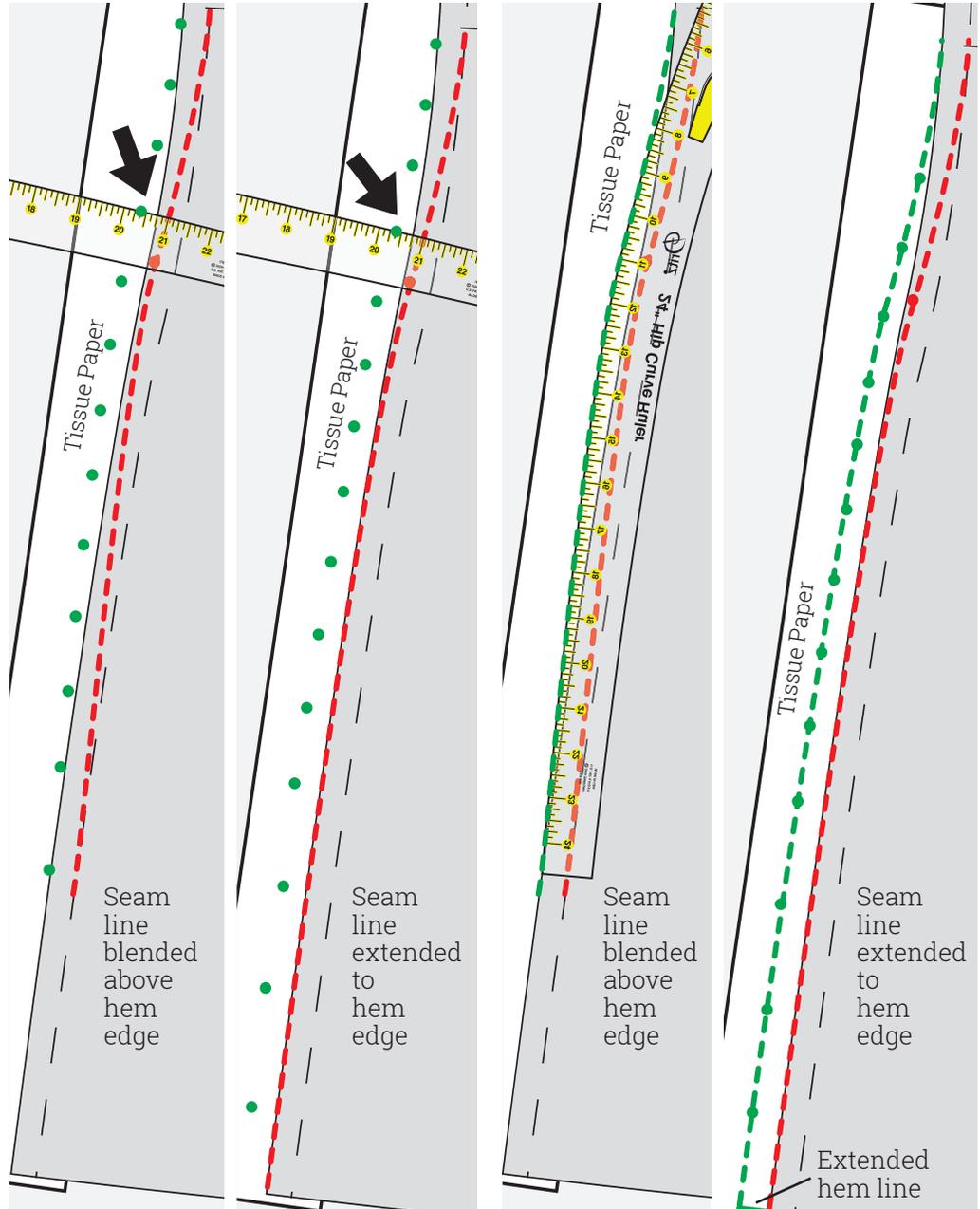


Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a one-piece dress (continued)

Whether your new seam line goes all the way to the hem, or is blended somewhere in between, you must add a seam allowance that is parallel to the new seam line. To do this, use the ruler to measure the required amount out from the seam line (5/8", for example), placing dots along the hip and skirt to the hem edge (9). Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw the new line for the seam allowance (10).

If the line continues to the hem edge, use the ruler to extend the hem edge to the new seam allowance line (10).

Be sure to repeat the process for both the front and back pattern pieces. They must match at the side seams.



9. Use ruler to measure required seam allowance out from seam line.

10. The ruler has been used as a guide to draw the new seam allowance line for either method.



Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a pair of pants

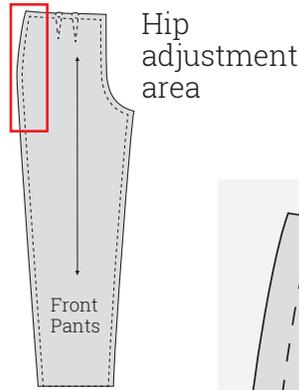
There are many pant types—cropped, culottes, palazzo—as well as different styles such as pleated or flat front and full or narrow legs, just to name a few. The one thing they have in common is that they must accommodate the hips. The fit at the hip varies by type or style, but a correct fit is essential in realizing the intended design of the pants.

Determine the amount that you plan to change your pattern. The hip measurement is usually taken at a point 7"–9" down from the waist, where the hip is widest. Mark the measured amount inside or outside of this point on the side seam with a dot (1). If increasing, you might need to tape additional tissue paper to the pattern to extend the edges (not shown).

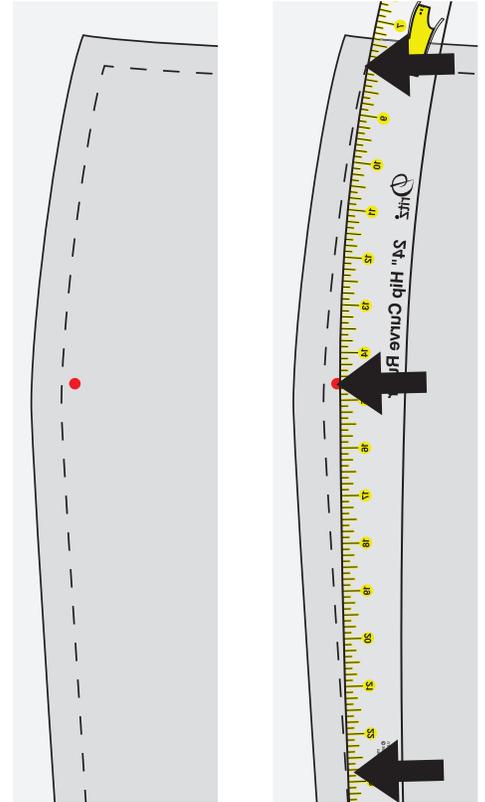
Place the ruler along the seam line, matching the shape of the hip as closely as possible (2).

Because the ruler was designed with this seam curve in mind, it should nicely align with both the waist/side seam intersection and the seam line below the marked hip dot. If not, slide the ruler to blend the existing side seam line and the new section.

(Instructions for increasing or decreasing the hip area of a pair of pants continue on the next page.)



Illustrations show decreasing the hip area.



1. Place a dot at new point.
2. Align ruler to hip dot and waist/side seam intersection.

Note: Be sure to check your measurements to make sure that 7"–9" is the correct distance from the waist for your hip. If yours differs, substitute a different length for these numbers.



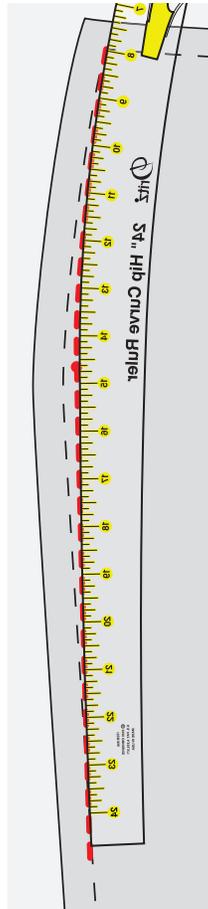
Increasing or decreasing the hip area of a pair of pants (continued)

Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw a new seam line from the waist past the dot at the hip, blending the new line into the original seam line (3).

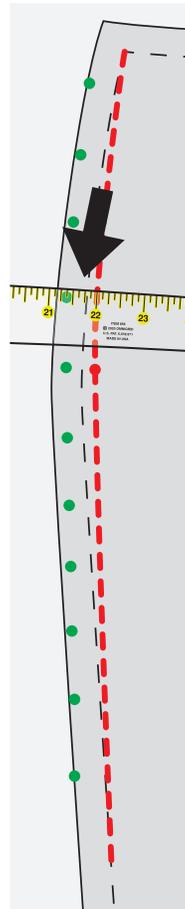
Once the new seam line has been marked, you must adjust the seam allowance accordingly. To do this, use the ruler to measure the required amount out from the seam line (5/8", for example), placing dots along the hip area (4).

Place the ruler along the dots (5). Using the edge of the ruler as a guide, draw the new seam allowance (6).

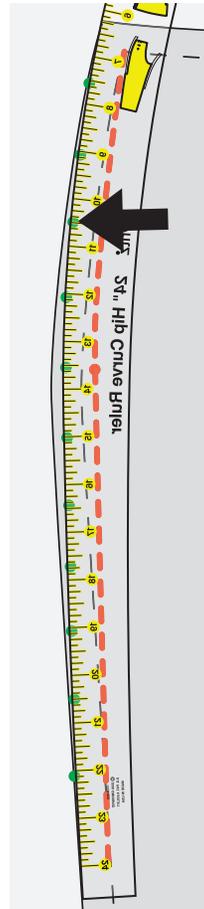
Repeat the process for both the front and back pattern pieces. They must match.



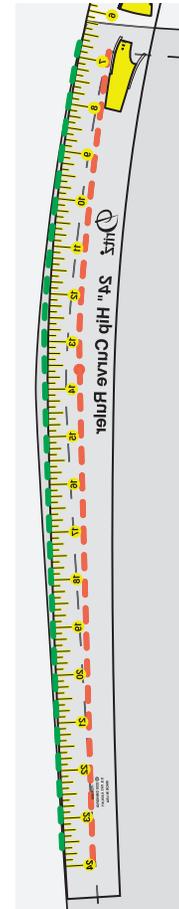
3. Use ruler as a guide to draw new the seam line.



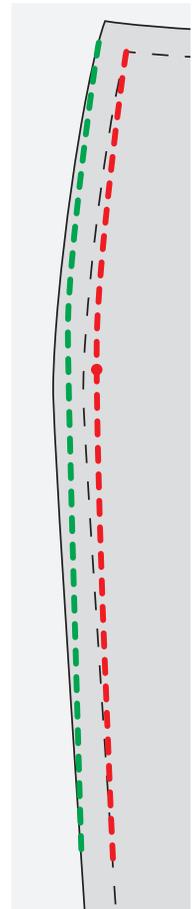
4. Use ruler to measure seam allowance.



5. Match the edge of the ruler to the line of dots.



6. Draw the new seam allowance.



Completed new seam line and seam allowance.

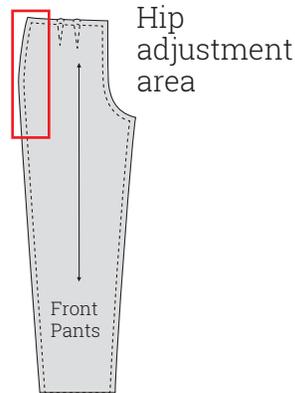


Increasing or decreasing both the hip area and waist of a pair of pants

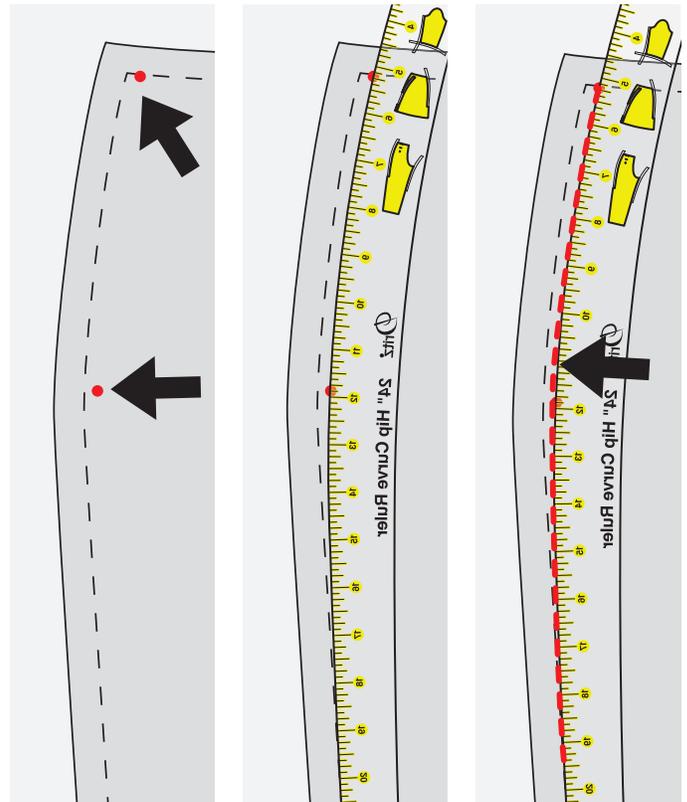
Often, when the hip area is increased or decreased, the waist needs adjustment at the same time. If this is the case, place a dot in the determined amount at the waist/side seam intersection as well as at the hip (1). Matching the curve of the ruler as closely as possible to the curve of the hip area seam line, position the ruler so it touches both the new waist dot and the hip dot, as well as touching the seam line as far down the leg as possible. Slide it as needed to blend the line (2). If you are adjusting only the waist, align the ruler to the waist dot and the original hip seam line (not shown).

Use the ruler as a guide to mark the new seam line, blending the new line into the lower leg seam line (3).

(Instructions for increasing or decreasing both the hip area and the waist of a pair of pants continue on the next page.)



Illustrations show decreasing the hip area and waist.



1. Place dots at the waist and at the hip.
2. Place ruler so it touches new dots and side seam below the hip dot.
3. Use ruler as a guide to draw new the seam line.

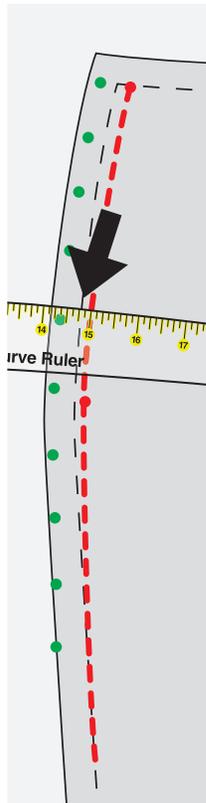


Increasing or decreasing both the hip area and waist of a pair of pants (continued)

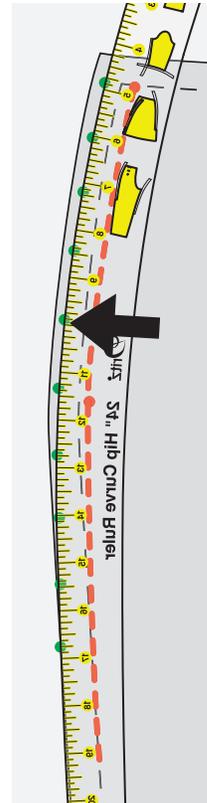
Once your new seam line is marked, you must adjust the seam allowance accordingly. To do this, use the ruler to measure the required amount out from the seam line (5/8", for example), placing dots along the hip area (4).

Match the edge of the ruler to the row of dots (5). Use the ruler as a guide to draw in the new line for the seam allowance (6).

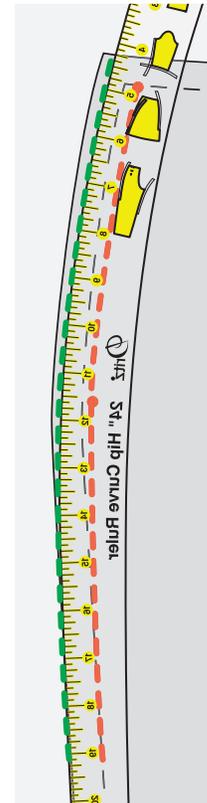
Repeat the process for both the front and back pattern pieces. They must match. Also be sure to adjust any facing or waistband that will be attached to the pants.



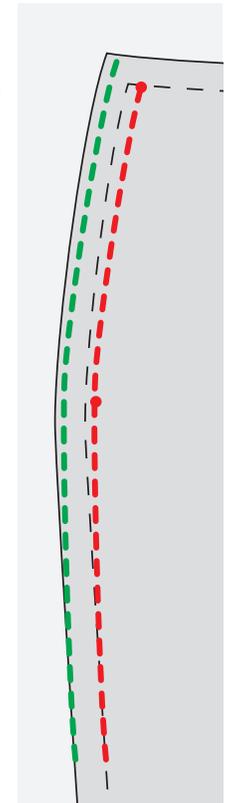
4. Use ruler to measure seam allowance.



5. Align ruler to new dots for seam allowance.



6. Use ruler as a guide to draw new seam allowance.



Completed new seam line and seam allowance line



Creating long curved design lines

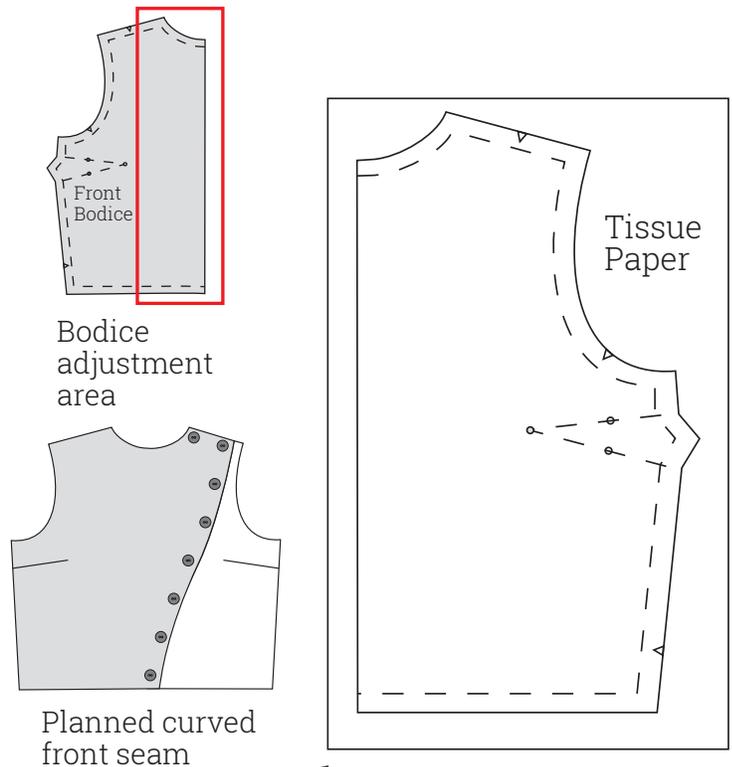
Many garments have long curved edges: dresses, pants, wrap bodices, shawl collars on jackets, or any garment with a decorative design line. They all have shaped edges or seams that must remain graceful. Use the 24" Hip Curve Ruler to modify these lines. You can also add a curved line to any pattern by simply drawing the line, dividing the pattern, and adding a seam allowance. The 24" Hip Curve Ruler is essential for these tasks and is one of the keys to using your creativity for fashion design and pattern making.

The illustrations show an example of adding a design line to a bodice. But any pattern piece will work. Keep in mind that when you are talking about "design lines," the sky is the limit. Once you understand the basics, the creative possibilities are endless.

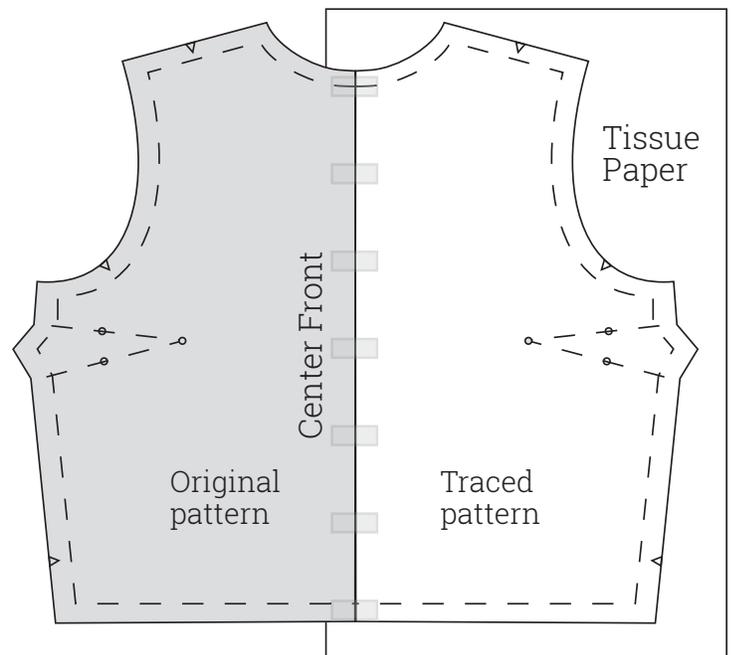
How to add a curved seam to create an asymmetrical bodice:

Trace the front bodice pattern piece onto a piece of tissue paper. Turn the tracing wrong side up so it is a mirror image of the original pattern piece (1). Place the tracing and the original pattern piece on your work surface, aligning the center front and top and bottom edges. Tape together at the center front (2). You now have a full front bodice.

(Instructions for creating long curved design lines continue on the next page.)



1. Trace the front bodice of your pattern.



2. Tape the tracing to the original pattern along the center front.

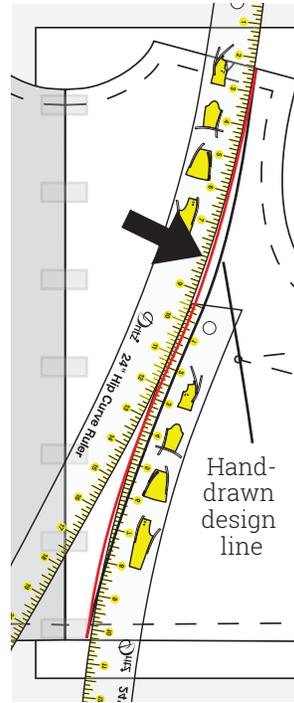


Creating long curved design lines (continued)

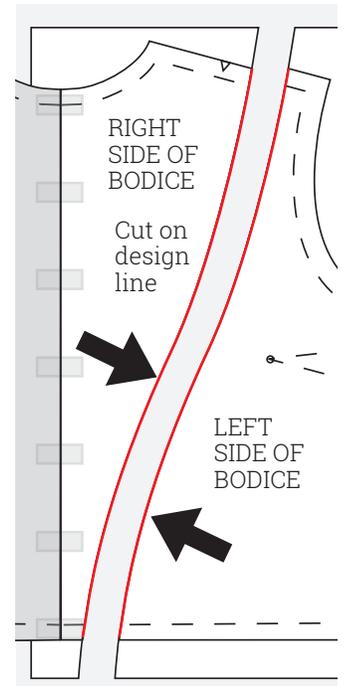
Sketch the curve that you want for the asymmetrical bodice. Of course, a hand-drawn line is not always graceful or accurate. Compare the ruler to your hand-drawn design line, matching the curves as closely as possible. Use the ruler as a guide to adjust the line, sliding the ruler and flipping it over as needed to adjust and shape. Draw the new line as you move the ruler (3). The red line is the adjusted design line. Cut on this line (4).

The cut line is also your seam line and requires a seam allowance. To add this you must first attach tissue paper to the new cut edge. Then use the ruler to measure the required amount out from the seam line on both pieces (5/8", for example), using multiple dots on each to form a smooth curve (5).

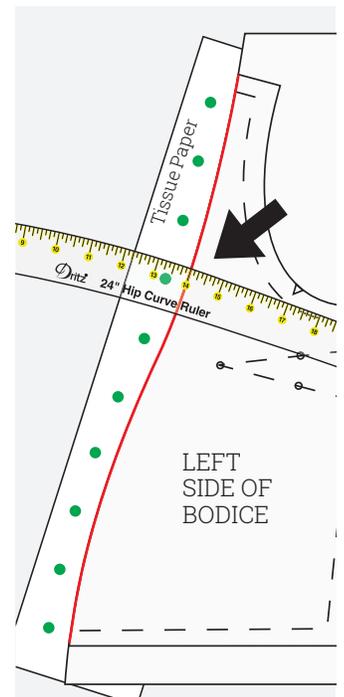
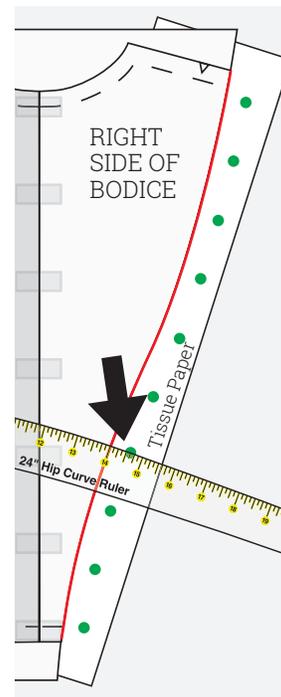
(Instructions for creating long curved design lines continue on the next page.)



3. Use ruler as a guide to smooth the design line.



4. Cut on adjusted design line.



5. Use the ruler to measure out and mark the seam allowance on tissue paper for both the left and right sections.

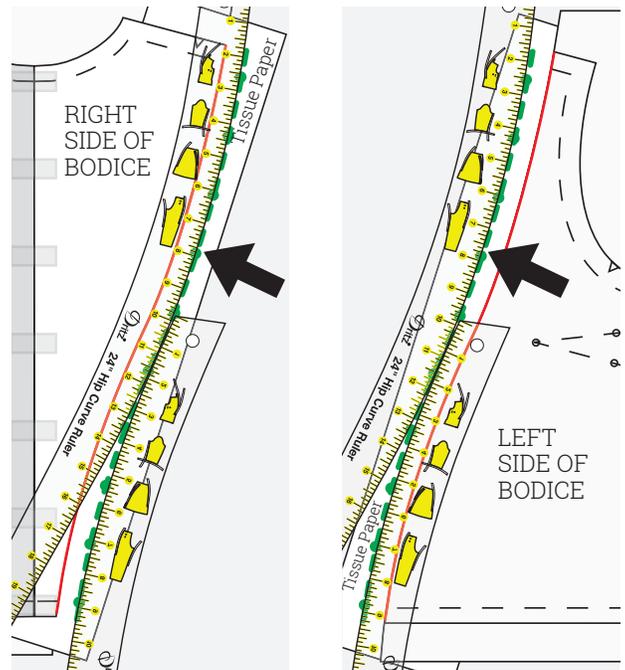


**Creating long curved design lines
(continued)**

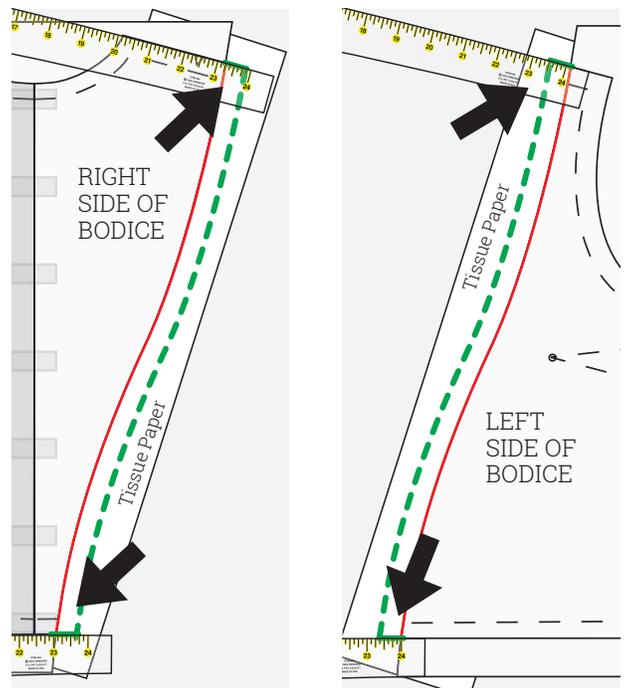
Place the ruler along the seam allowance dots. Use the edge of the ruler as a guide to draw in the new seam allowances for both front bodice sections (6).

Use the straight end of the ruler to extend the straight seam allowance edge at the top and bottom of each section (7).

(Instructions for creating long curved design lines continue on the next page.)



6. Use the ruler as a guide to draw the new seam allowance for each section.



7. Use the straight end of the ruler to draw a continued seam allowance edge at top and bottom of each section.

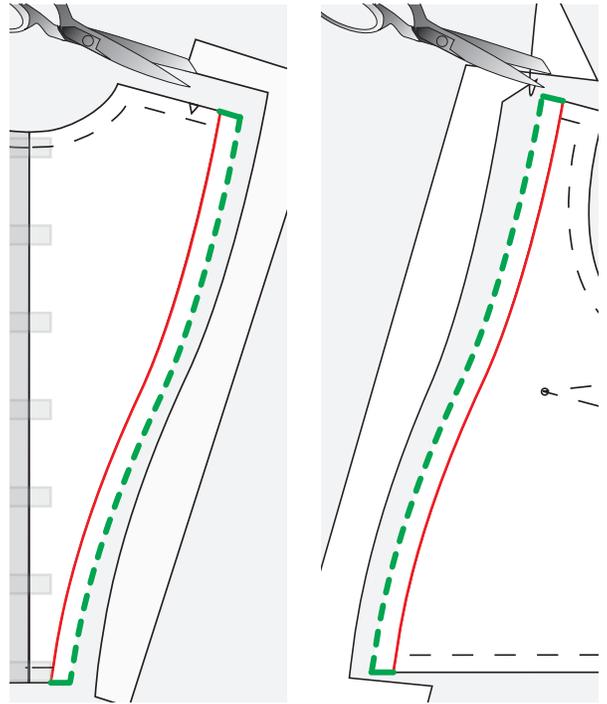


**Creating long curved design lines
(continued)**

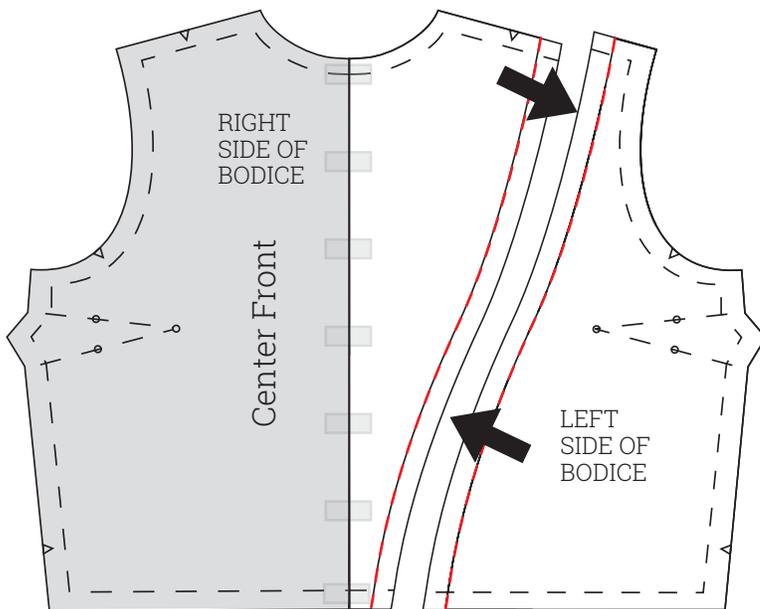
Cut along the seam allowance line of both the left and right bodice sections. Also cut off excess tissue paper where it extends from the pattern pieces (8).

Your pattern is now ready to be used to cut out your fabric and create your garment (9).

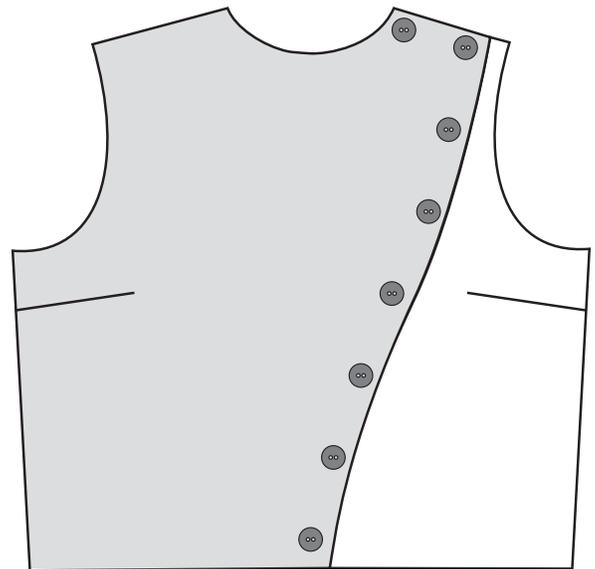
Congratulations on your new design!



8. Cut off excess tissue paper at seam allowance lines.



9. Finished right and left bodice sections with seam allowances added.



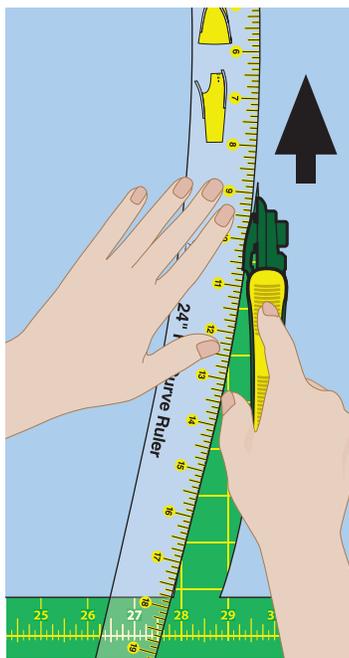
Your completed "design-line garment"



Useful tips and ideas

Cutting:

The 24" Hip Curve Ruler is made of 1/8" thick, laser-cut acrylic. As such, it offers an edge that is perfect for rotary cutting. While the fabric for most garments is cut with scissors, there are always projects that include longer edges that suggest the option of rotary cutting. It saves time! To use the ruler with a rotary cutter, always push down firmly on the ruler with your non-cutting hand. Hold the cutter so the blade is perpendicular to the cutting surface and push the cutter away from you. A cutting mat is a must (1).



1. Press down firmly on ruler; hold cutter perpendicular to mat with blade against ruler edge. Push cutter away from you to cut.

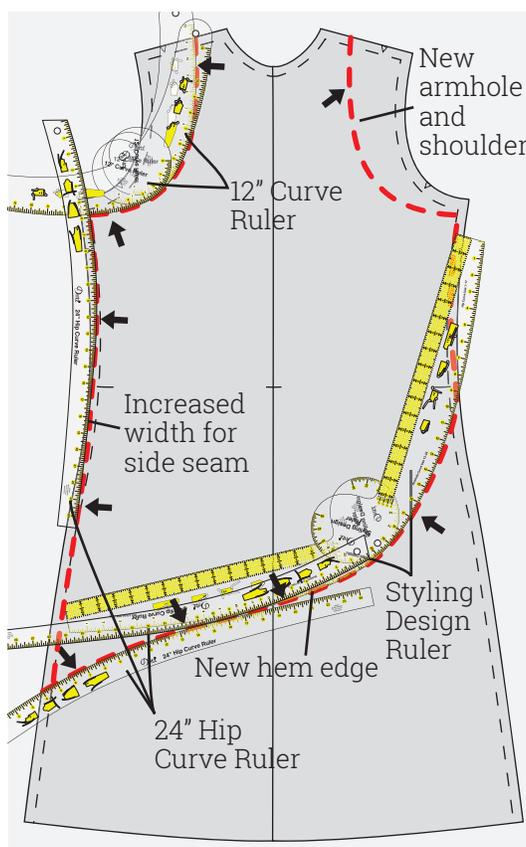
Combine rulers:

There are three Dritz® fashion rulers—the Styling Design Ruler, the 24" Hip Curve Ruler, and the 12" Curve Ruler. Each has a distinctly different shape and unique features. While each works independently for special techniques, using more than one when completing a project makes perfect sense. Not all lines are created equal. Having all three rulers increases your options for drawing smooth, creative lines. Start by drawing one section with one ruler and complete the line with another, sliding to create a smoothly transitioned line (2).

So easy and convenient!

See our other ruler tutorials:

"How to Use a Styling Design Ruler" and "How to Use a 12" Curve Ruler"



2. Use multiple rulers to draw creative style lines. This sample uses all three to convert a dress into an asymmetric halter tunic.

