

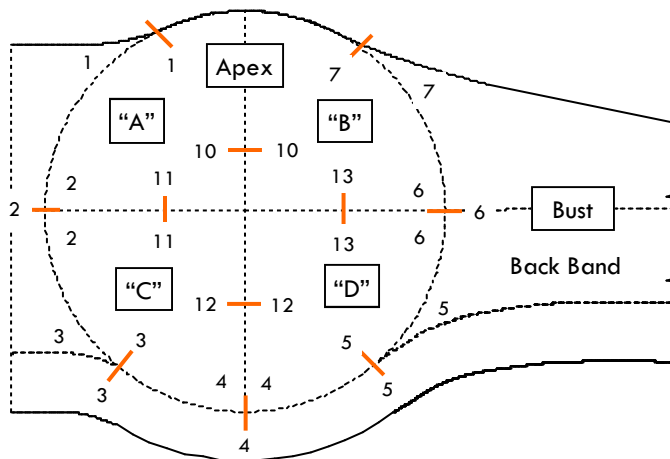
Watch Points for Creating Slopers and Bras

Creating slopers from molds and bras from slopers is different from other sewing processes. Some people in the class have compared it to working out a puzzle. The Watch Points listed here are designed to help you avoid the pit falls you might otherwise encounter. These Watch Points are not the full sequence you follow. Just points to watch along the way.

Converting the Mold to a Pattern

The mold created on the body is a three-dimensional shape that needs to be converted to a two-dimensional pattern.

- Use the Apex Center line and the Full Bust line to divide mold into quadrants. Establish a consistent labeling system for each quadrant. I use "A," "B," "C," and "D" as shown below.
- Before you cut any seam line on the mold, add a sewing notch and number it on both sides of the seam. I use a consistent system of numbering such as the one shown below following around from the top of the bra cup to the center front, to the bottom, then to the outside.



- If you use more than one pattern piece for any quadrant, verify that all pattern pieces are labeled.
- Trace the mold pieces onto a stiff paper such as poster board or a manila folder, then cut one pattern piece and match it to the sewing notch of an adjoining seam and verify that both seams are the same length adjusting the second pattern piece as necessary. Continue until all pieces are cut.
- Tape the poster board pieces together to verify you are getting the shape you want.

Watch Points for Creating Slopers and Bras, cont'd

The Paper Pattern

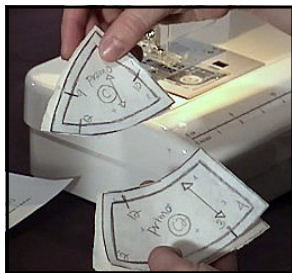
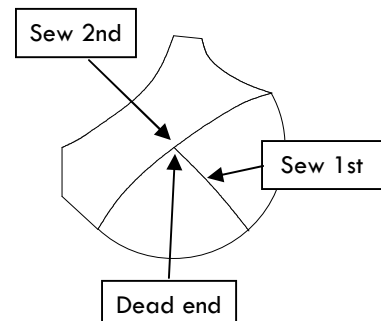
You need to stay perfectly clear about which is the top and which is the bottom of each pattern piece.

- Mark the grain line parallel to the Apex Center line.
- When you transfer the poster board to a paper pattern, copy the quadrant labels right side up. For the upper quadrants the Full Bust will be the bottom of the pattern. For the lower quadrants the Full Bust will be the top of the pattern.
- Copy all the sewing notches onto the pattern.
- I like to add an "a" to record the location of the Apex.

Sewing the Bra Cup

When you cut the fabric for the bra cup you will be cutting two of each pattern piece. Here are some things to watch for.

- Sew seams that dead end into another seam first.
- Record the sewing notches on the fabric.
- Mark the quadrant labels on each piece of fabric using either a marks be gone pen or a piece of masking tape. This records the good side of the fabric which is particularly important for muslin which is the same on both sides.
- Keep track of which is the left side and which is the right side. The steps below help to do this.



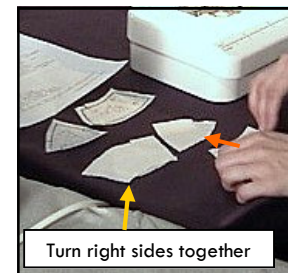
1. Keep the pattern on top of each section of the bra cup until you are ready to sew that specific section.



2. Just before you sew a seam, remove the paper pattern piece then flip one piece of fabric over.



3. Follow the procedure above for the second piece.



4. Immediately flip the second piece on top of the first piece, right sides together, matching and pinning the seam.