

AT THE HEART OF A DART

Dart Type	Pattern Symbol	Where Used	How to Make	How to Press
Straight		Front Underarm Shoulder Bodice Back Skirt Back Elbow	 1. Fold on center line. Pin. 2. Stitch on slanted lines.	 1. Horizontal Darts -- DOWN 2. Vertical Darts -- TOWARD CENTER
Curved - Outward		Dress Bodice Front Underarm of Blouse	 1. Fold on center line. Pin. 2. Stitch on curved lines.	 1. Slash through center of fold. 2. Press open.
Curved - Inward		Skirt Front Slacks Front	 1. Fold on center line. Pin. 2. Start stitching from fold of neck seam. 3. Taper to nothing at the bottom.	 Toward center of garment Toward center of garment
Neckline		Back Neckline (where there is no shoulder dart)	 1. Fold on center line. Pin. 2. Stitch from narrow end to wide end. 3. Stitch across wide end to fold.	 1. Clip to stitching line through center of fold and each side of center. 2. Press toward garment center.
Double- Pointed		Dresses without waistlines or with dropped waistlines Snugly fitted blouses	 1. Fold on center line. Pin. 2. Stitch on slanted lines.	 Toward center of garment Toward center of garment
Dart-Tuck		Blouse Front Blouse Back	 1. Fold on center line. Pin. 2. Stitch from narrow end to wide end. 3. Stitch across wide end to fold.	 Toward center of garment Toward center of garment

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

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- Darts are used to help shape the garment fabric to fit the body.
- Most darts may be stitched either from the point to the wide end, or from the wide end to the point. However, there tends to be less chance for machine jams when they are stitched from the wide end to the point.
- The point should be tapered to nothing, or to the very edge; i.e., there should not be a "bubble" at the end. Backstitching at the point frequently causes a pucker, so it is best to tie those threads.
- Darts should be shaped by pressing over a rounded surface, such as a tailor's ham. This simulates the curvature of the body.
- Darts should end 1 inch before they reach the fullest part of the body.
- Darts are made by folding the fabric together on the center line (solid) and stitching along the shaped lines (dotted).
- The wider the dart, the more shaping occurs; the thinner the darts, the less shaping occurs.

Directions:

Transfer the darts shown onto a piece of fabric and practice making them according to the directions on the attached page and the guidelines given above. When you have finished, attach your samples to this page and turn them in.

