HOW A DART STARTS

FABRIC
When fabric is wrapped around a model form at bust level, it forms a cylinder...

SHOULDER DARTS
which will conform to the body above the bust when cones of fabric, called darts, are folded in from the bust to the shoulder...

BASIC TWO-DART FRONT PATTERN
and which will conform to the body contour. Waist darts are folded from the bustline to the waist. Side darts later become the lines for the side seams.

The same principle is applied in the back to form shoulder darts and waist darts. When fabric is wrapped around the lower part of the body, waist darts are formed from the hips to the waist, and side darts later become the lines for the side seams.