

ASSEMBLY OF GARMENT

Before cutting into your fabric, pin paper patterns together and try on for size and fit. This will prevent mistakes in cutting and avoid waste of material.

1. Fold material with right side facing and pin pattern pieces into position on material. Mark all details (cutting, line, darts, pleats, pockets, etc.) with pins or tailor tacks or tracing wheel or chalk. There are some new marking pencils on the market now. Be sure to allow for seams and hems when cutting (approximately 5/8").
2. Pin and sew darts, style lines, pleats and yokes.
3. Pin back and front shoulder seams together. Have neck points matching. Now stitch. Shoulder dart should be pressed away from center; bust dart should press down. **PRESS AS YOU SEW.** This is important to do before sewing across an area that has previously been sewn. It is impossible to remove small tucks that have been sewn in which could have been eliminated by pressing first.
4. Sew in zipper, at front or back wherever needed.
5. Attach collar, cuffs, pockets, etc.
6. Pin side seams together. Have waistline, underarm, hip and hem points matching. Smooth out and press.
7. Pin or tack hem. Then slip-stitch or do a herringbone hem.
8. Sew underarm seam of sleeve. Using a basting stitch length, stitch a row from notch to notch leaving a length of thread at each end. Smooth out and press seam. Finish hem area.
9. Pin sleeve into bodice at key points - matching top of sleeve to shoulder line, front and back notches, and underarm seam. Ease sleeve into the bodice, pulling ease thread, not too snugly, to fit sleeve into armhole. Do not leave any pleats. Stitch with eased side up, starting at the underarm seam.
Try this special technique which will help to prevent the sleeve from being pulled too tight into the armhole - work with sleeve side up, as you pin, roll the cap of the sleeve over your hand pulling the sleeve slightly over the seam allowance area of the bodice armhole. This fold back the armhole seam allowance slightly. When this roll is released it aids in putting the fullness of the sleeve where it belongs without strain.
10. For easing, only one row of ease thread is required. For gathered sleeves, sew three rows of machine basting (the longest stitch length) 1/8" apart in the seam allowance area putting the center row on the seam stitching line. Pull all three threads at the same time to form equal gathers. When you are ready to stitch the final row of stitching with a "regular" stitch length, stitch on the center easing thread. When stitching is completed, pull out the easing threads, especially the one that will show on the right side. Hint: if ease thread is of a contrasting color, it is easy to see for removal.
11. Finish any other details on the garment.
Give final press and you are finished.

Smile and be pleased with your work!

