

# ESTIMATING YARDAGE

In order to estimate the yardage required for a pattern, it is necessary to lay out all of the pattern pieces, fitted together as closely as possible, on a piece of paper the same width as the material selected. Remember that the fabric is generally purchased folded except some specialty fabrics such as velvet or drapery fabric. This process can be done by laying the full sized pattern on a marked space on the floor or large table top. End rolls of newsprint is good for this purpose. Just be sure you trim the paper to width to match the width of the purchased fabric.

If it is awkward to use a full-sized pattern in your work area, it would be easier to copy your pattern in quarter size for the purpose of estimating yardage. All pattern pieces should have a directional arrow marked on them to show in which direction the piece should be cut.

To determine exactly how much yardage you will need in cutting your garment, lay out all of the quarter-sized pattern pieces on a piece of paper the width (also in 1/4" scale) of the material which you have in mind. If your material is folded on purchase, and to cut your garment on the fold, lay the pieces out on a piece of paper half the width of the material (a 44" wide fabric folded is 22" when purchased), being sure to mark FOLD on one side, and SELVAGE on the opposite side to indicate the fabric is folded in two layers.

When all pieces have been fitted in as closely as possible, with due regard for their proper direction, measure the paper that it required. This amount will constitute your yardage requirements. However, don't forget that you have been working in 1/4 size and that ever 1/4 inch is actually 1 inch.

Laying out a pattern on the full width of a goods generally takes a little less material than laying out the pattern on a folded piece of goods, but in cutting a garment one piece at a time, the amount of material saved is seldom worth the extra time and trouble. It is important to remember that when the pattern is cut singly, the second cut must have the pattern piece turned over, otherwise you will be cutting two pieces for the same side of the body. The exception to this is if the pattern, such as a full flared skirt, has been designed so the entire front or back is one piece and would therefore be cut as a single cut.

Use 1/4" scale patterns. Place on graph paper to figure yardage.

