

A Garment Construction Plan

25 Steps to Successful Sewing

Preparation

1. Study the pattern.
2. Compare your body measurements to the pattern and make any necessary pattern adjustments.
3. Prepare the fabric by straightening the grainline.
4. Layout the fabric and pattern pieces. Pin (or use weights) fabric to pattern when you are pleased with the layout.
5. Once you have determined that you have all of the necessary pieces laid out correctly on the grain, double check again to confirm before cutting.
6. Mark all of the construction details.
7. Staystitch each garment section.
8. Interface each area as suggested in your pattern.
9. Stitch and press all darts, tucks, pleats or gathers.

Shaping

1. Prepare all lining or underlining.
2. If there are any style lines such as a yoke or princess seams, pin and stitch.
3. Stitch the center front and center back seams.
4. Prepare and apply style details such as tabs and pockets.
5. Baste the shoulder seams.
6. Baste the side seams and inseam.
7. Try on for fit. If you are pleased with the fit, go ahead and stitch the shoulder, side seams and inseam. Remove basting.
8. When the design calls for a waistband, prepare and attach it to the seam.
9. When the style features a collar, make it.
10. When the design calls for sleeves, set and stitch the sleeves
11. If a neckline or armhole needs a facing, prepare and attach the facing.

Finishing

1. If a zipper is needed, insert it.
2. Finish the inside seams.
3. Set and sew the hems
4. Add the closures-buttons, buttonhole and snaps.
5. Complete any other hand finishing.

*Throughout each step, have your iron and pressing cloth ready.