

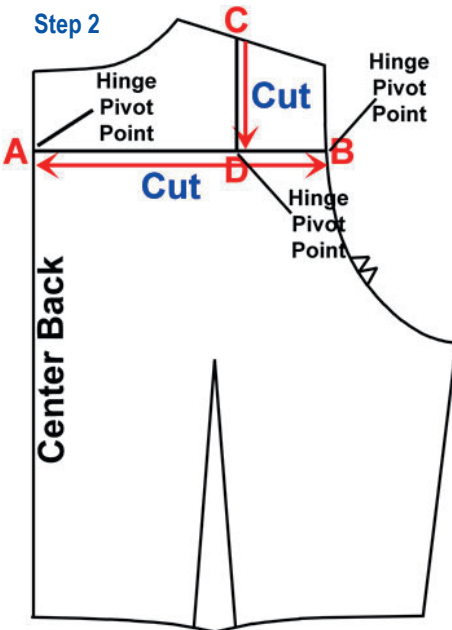
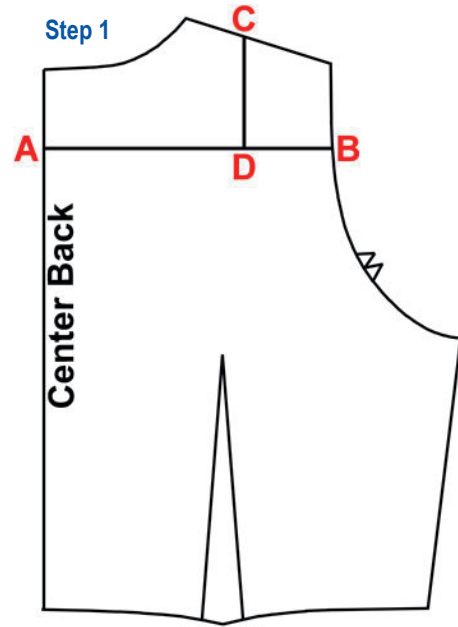
## Adding a Shoulder Dart - Option 2

Some of you may have protruding shoulder blades or some rounding or fullness at the back shoulder, but not have a particularly rounded center back. Your bodice and shirt patterns would fit better if they had a shoulder dart. Method 2 shows how to add a shoulder dart without substantially changing the length of CB or without curving CB. For some of you, your upper back and shoulder may not appear substantially rounded, but adding this shoulder dart may benefit the fit of the back bodice.

Here is an alternative technique for adding a shoulder dart to either the Dress Kit Bodice Back or to the Shirt Back pattern.

### Step 1:

Draw line A to B as illustrated. This line should be at a level where the most rounding or protruding fullness is on your back. Then draw line C to D as shown. This line does not have to be at a right angle to A-B, but the angle that you choose will affect the final position of the dart, therefore, it should be at a pleasing angle for your specific body shape. And, if you were to design a shoulder princess line, you'd want the shoulder dart to connect in a pleasing line toward the top of the waist fitting dart. You may need to sew a couple of tests to make sure you're pleased with the results.

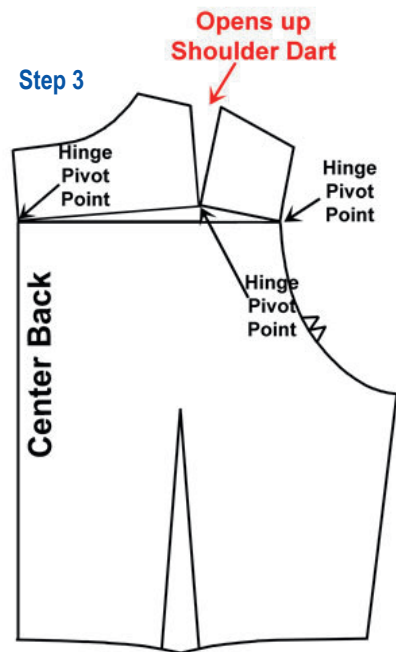


### Step 2:

Put a piece of tape at hinge points A, B & D to help stabilize. Then cut from A to B and from C to D, leaving a paper hinge at the Center Back point A, at the armhole point B and at point D on line A-B.

### Step 3:

Spread the shoulder area of the pattern open as shown always maintaining the paper hinge points. This will open up a small dart shape in the shoulder seam line. Usually a dart about 5/8" (1.6cm) wide is sufficient, but can be smaller/larger depending on your shoulder shape.

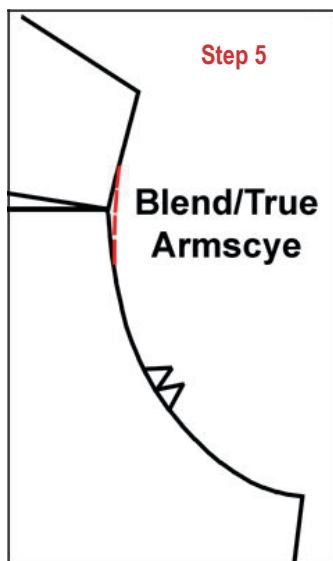
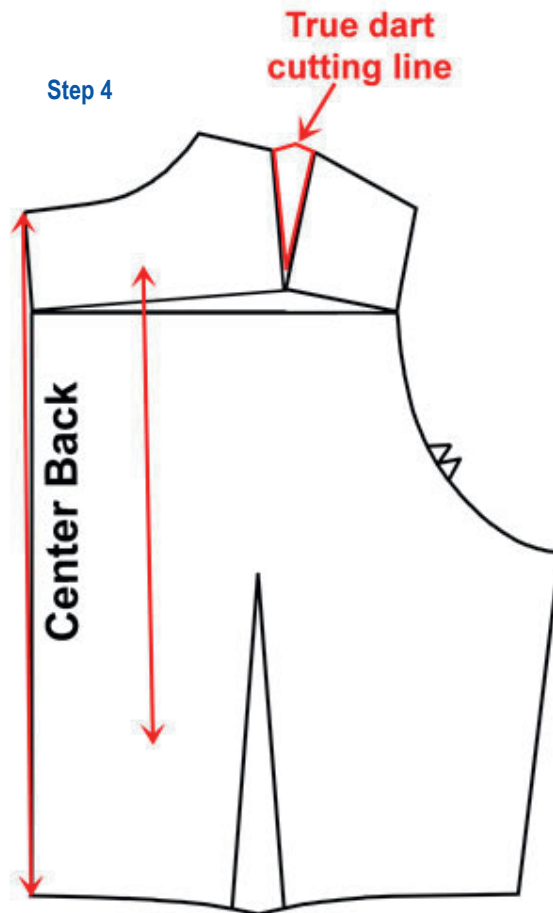


**Step 4:**

You'll notice that the wider you make the shoulder dart, the more it distorts Center Back. To maintain CB on the fold of the fabric, simply draw/true a new CB from the back neck point to the waist point. Also re-establish a parallel straight of grain marking. This adds a marginal amount of width across the shoulder blades, but it is negligible - and might well be required for your back reach room.

Also, true the dart cutting line (shoulder line) by backing the opening with tracing vellum, fold the dart into stitching position (with the folded edge of the dart toward the neck), then cut along the shoulder line. When the dart is opened up, it will automatically give you the correct cutting line for the shoulder seam line.

Of course, add seam allowances if not already on the pattern.



**Step 5:**

This technique for adding a shoulder dart shouldn't distort the armscye significantly. However, if the armscye appears too angled at the armscye hinge pivot point, make sure to blend/true to create a smooth curve.