

# Clothing and TEXTILES

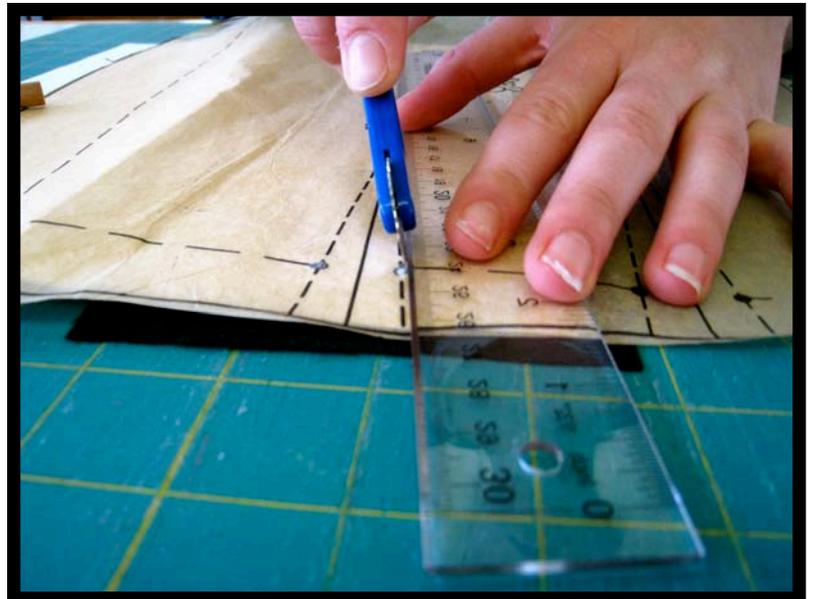
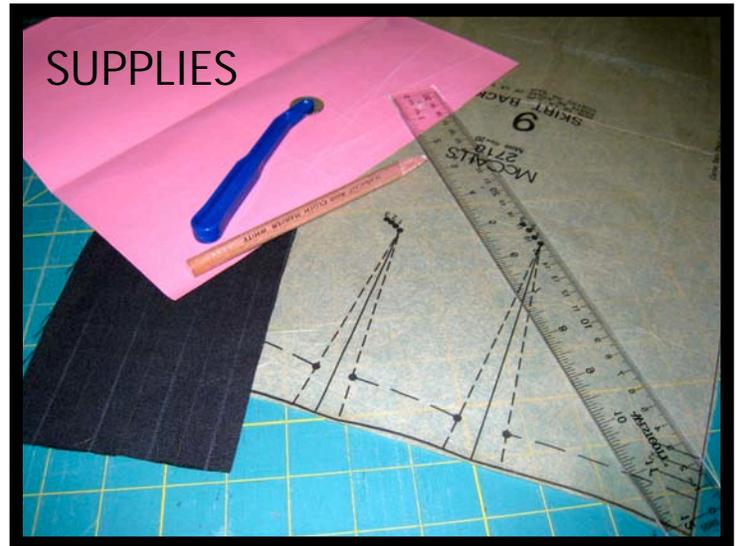
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

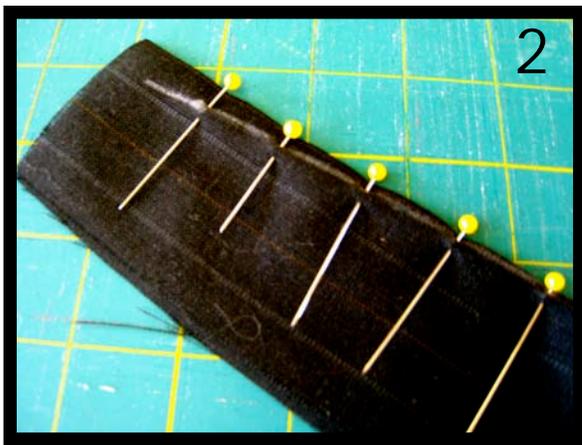
## Sewing Technique: Darts

Darts are a feature used in clothing construction to create form in a garment. They are wedge shaped tucks that have the ability to shape a flat piece of fabric to fit nicely over body contours. Depending on desired effect, a variety of lengths or positions of darts can be used. Darts can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal all creating different results in overall appearance. Accuracy in constructing a dart is key to ensure the dart will represent intended size, shape, and fit of the pattern.

### STEP 1: MARKING THE DART

There are a variety of methods to use when marking a dart onto fabric. Before constructing the dart, make sure the dart is marked directly from the pattern onto the fabric. The first method of marking the dart is using the dots from the pattern piece to connect and form the dart. After marking the dots, choose to either connect the dots with a marking pencil or use a tracing wheel and transfer paper to form the dart. For even faster results, place transfer paper between fabric and pattern and trace entire dart with tracing wheel and ruler.

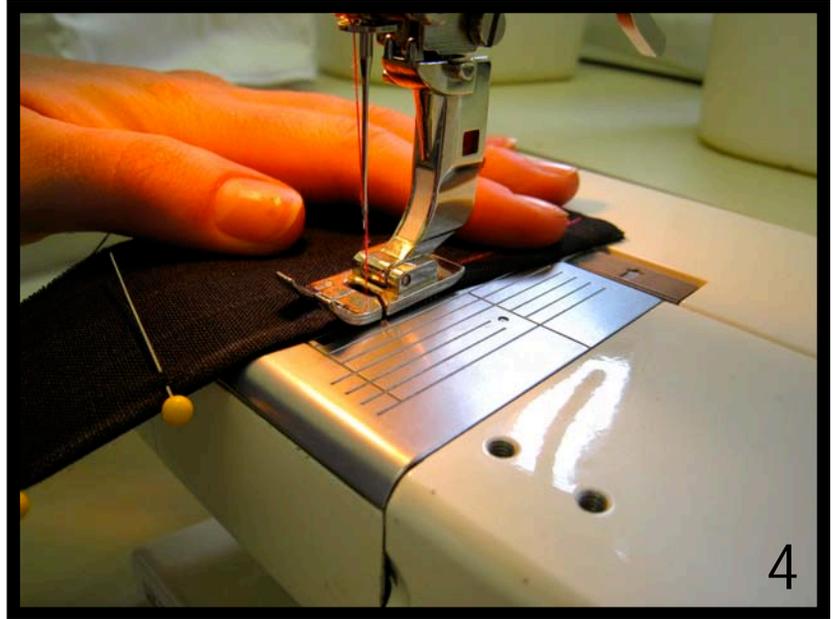
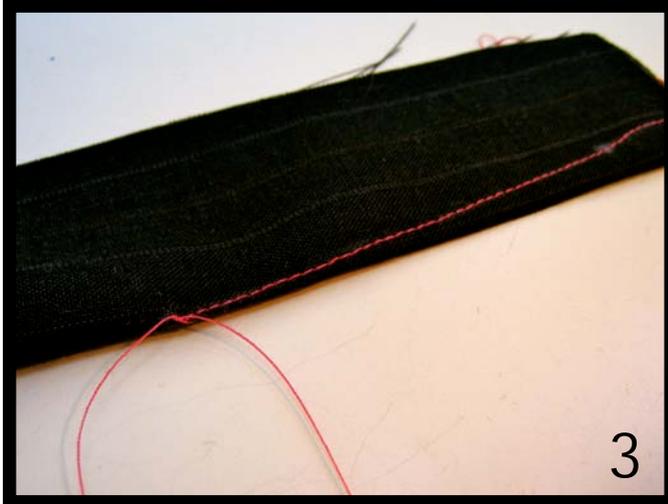




STEP 2: After marking dart, fold the dart on the centerline and press. Use pins to secure the placement of the dart. The corresponding dots and lines should be matched to achieve accuracy in constructing a dart.

STEP 3: Stitch dart following the marked line. Begin at the wide end of the dart.

STEP 4: The dart should gradually taper to a point. The point of the dart should be on the very edge of the fabric. When coming to the end of the dart, do not backstitch. Leave threads long before cutting in order to tie a square knot to secure dart.



STEP 5: Always press dart so it lays flat facing center front or center back.

**Industry Standards for a Well-Constructed Dart:**

- Dart fits the contour of the body
- Dart is stitched evenly
- No puckering or bulk at dart point
- Dart is pressed towards center front or center back
- Coordinating darts are even in width, length and placement
- Threads are secure and trimmed
- Darts are correctly placed and functional

**References:**

Readers Digest. (2010). *New complete guide to sewing*. Pleasantville, NY: Readers Digest Association Inc.  
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 Cole, J., & Czachor, S. (2009). *Professional sewing techniques for designers*. New York: Fairchild Publications, Inc.

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