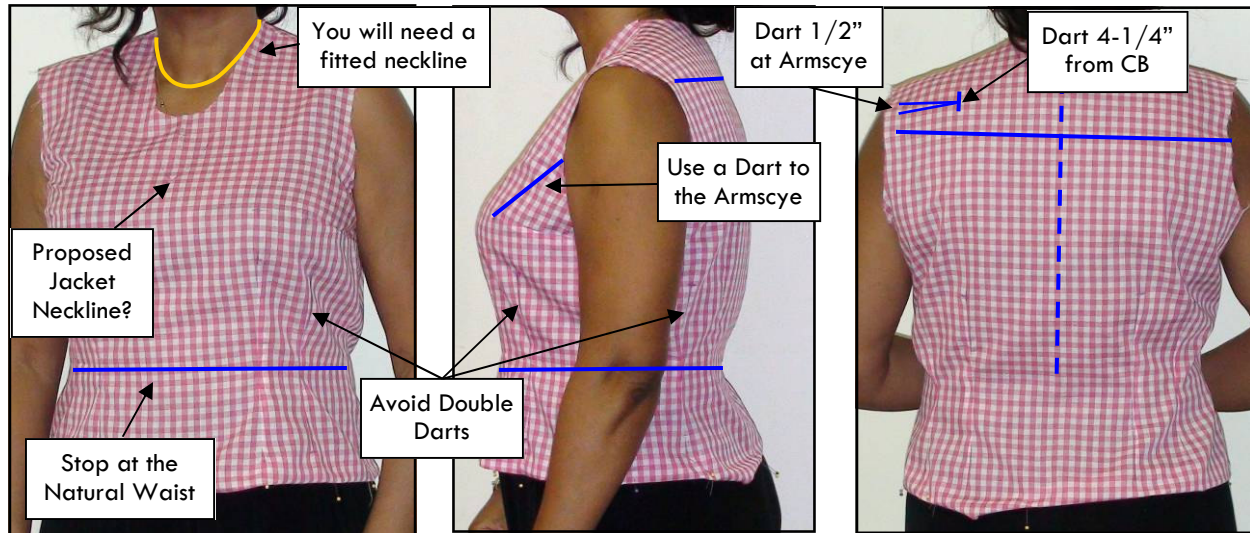


Upper Torso Critique for Sparkles (rev: 4/19/2010)



Sparkles Comment:

“So what did you think of the original bodice. I want to get the pattern correct because this is what I will be using to make my jacket.

I original had 1 dart on both side of the bodice but it seem too wide; so I split it up in 2 on both side.

So, if my 2nd dart location is incorrect, I have it wrong on my pants too.

My Response:

I respect your eye as a designer. But don't be too quick to jump into the design before you have the sloper completely ready. You are close. You only need a little tweaking.

The Neckline

You are interested in doing a jacket. You need the reference of a fitted neckline for the lapel. Particularly if you are doing a notched lapel. It looks like you are working out the neckline of the jacket. But that needs to come later. The neckline of a jacket actually comes from a fold in the fabric, not a cut seam. The two are quite different.

The Natural Waistline

The upper torso and lower torso are quite different shapes. I really have no confidence in the concept of a Moulage which combines both the upper and lower body in a single sloper. It looks like that is what you are trying to achieve here.

Even for jackets I would recommend starting with Upper and Lower Torso Slopers. I believe the shape of your lower torso with your low hem line is making it difficult for you to determine the exact shaping you need for the Upper Torso. Stop at the natural waistline for the Upper Torso.

I think your feeling you need a second dart is coming partly because the longer hemline has made it difficult to fit the upper torso. But also because you might be trying to over fit the sloper.

The dart shaping for the below the bust can be achieved with a single dart as can the lower back dart. What you need to be doing is keeping an eye on the grain of the gingham not how tight the fit is. This is easy to get wrong because gingham drapes differently than other fabrics. So if you try to fit the gingham too closely, it will result in patterns that won't work that well in other fabrics, particularly jacket and coat weight fabrics.

Above Bust Dart

You are using a traditional side dart. For the sloper I recommend a dart to the armhole. This dart to the armhole follows the contour of the bust to keep the grain of the fabric on the side parallel to the floor. Notice on your sloper the grain between your side dart and the dart I am suggesting. It is at an angle. It is also throwing off how the fabric hangs on the side of the body--the fit.

Upper Back Dart

The fit of the back would be better if you added an upper back dart. Notice how the grain slopes down on the side of your back. The Upper Back Dart would correct that. Don't be afraid to make the lower back dart larger if that is what you need. But until you put in the upper dart, you won't be able to get a clean reading. Also raise the waistline so your hips don't throw off the fit!!

Pants Darts

You mention a concern about the pants dart. You should not draw any correlation between the pants darts and the upper torso darts. They are two entirely different contours of the body.