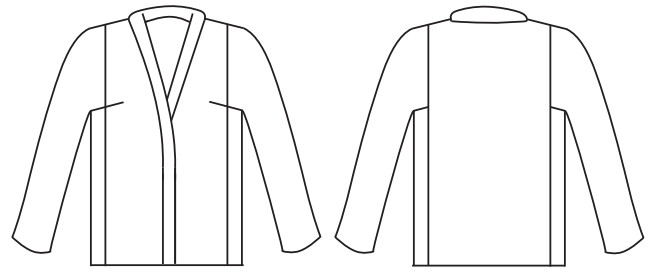


# Common Fitting Adjustments for the Tabula Rasa Jacket

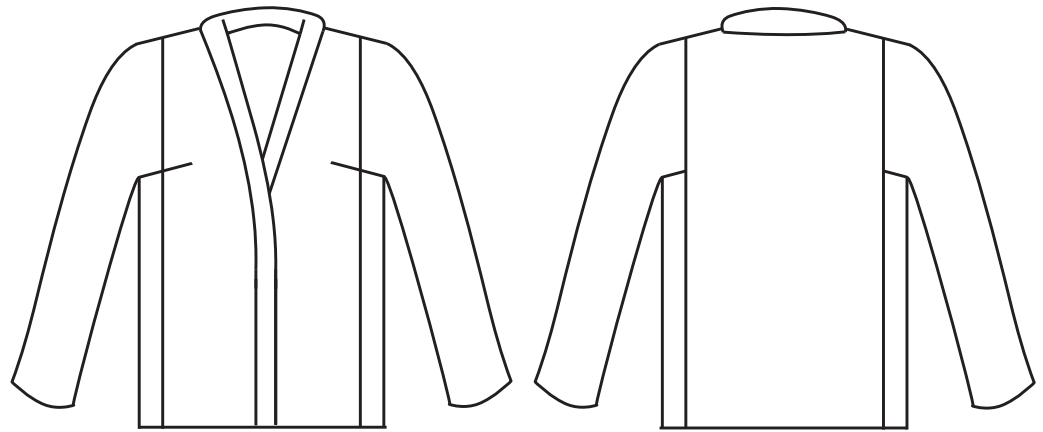


Here we provide instructions and illustrations for making the most commonly needed fitting adjustments on the Tabula Rasa Jacket. Entries are organized according to the “symptom” you will see on your mock-up using the balance and grainlines. For each entry, you will find a typical “diagnosis” for that symptom and a prescription for fixing it on your mock-up, followed by directions for transferring the adjustments to your paper pattern. It is very important to follow through with making the adjustments directly onto your paper pattern so that your next Tabula Rasa Jacket will fit just as you like! If you find that you need an adjustment not included here, please contact us with your question and we’ll do our best to help you.

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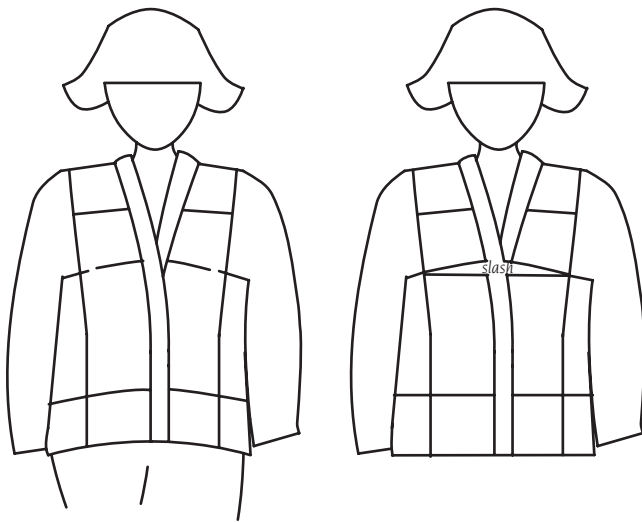
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*Plan your own  
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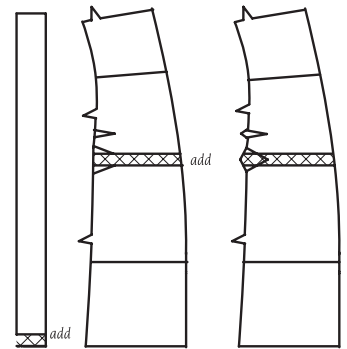
## Bust and Back Adjustments

### FRONT BALANCE LINES TILT UPWARD



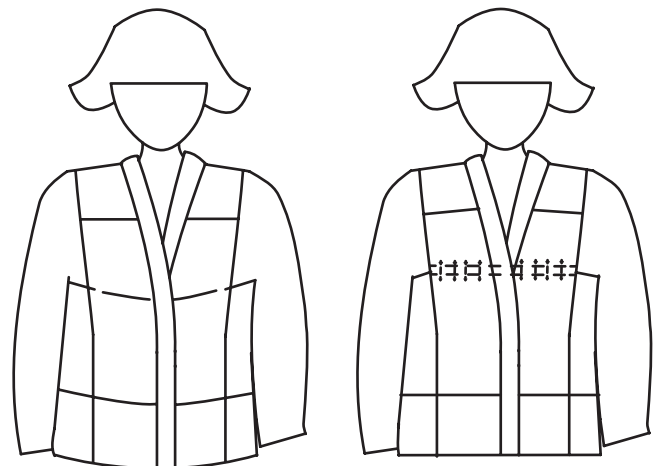
If the front middle and lower balance lines are tilting upward, you probably need more room in the bust area. If you are using the AB front, switch to the CD front. If you are already using the CD front, slash the mock-up along the balance line that is at the bust dart. Allow the front to fall so the balance lines are parallel to the floor. Pin in a piece of fabric or paper to fill in the gap formed by the slash and recheck the balance lines. Continue to adjust until the balance lines are straight.

On the front paper pattern, slash the pattern at the same horizontal balance line completely separating the pattern paper. Tape in a piece of pattern paper the width of your adjustment. Redraw the dart to accommodate the additional paper. On the band paper pattern, add the same width paper to the hem end of the pattern piece.

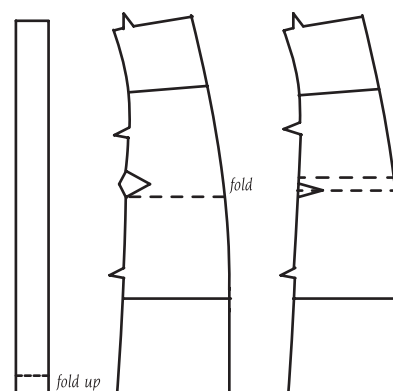


### FRONT BALANCE LINES TILT DOWNWARD

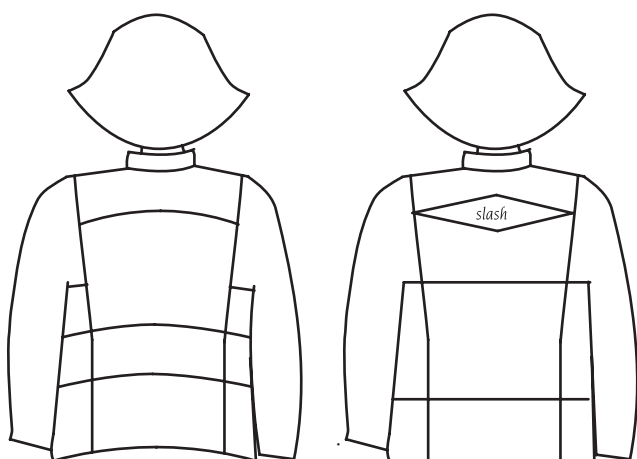
If the front middle and lower balance lines are tilting downward, you have too much space in the bust area. If you are using the CD front, shift to the AB front. If you are already using the AB front, pin out fabric along the middle balance line until your balance lines are parallel to the floor.



On the front paper pattern, fold along the middle balance line and pinch out the amount you pinned out of your mock-up. Fold the pinned section up. If it is less than the size of the dart, redraw the dart to its new smaller size. If it is equal to the size of the dart, you are simply removing the dart and the need for a dart. On the band paper pattern, fold out the same amount of paper at the hem end.



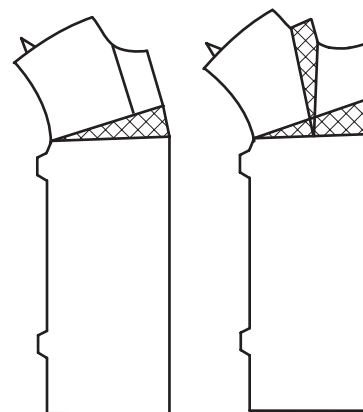
### BACK BALANCE LINES TILT UPWARDS



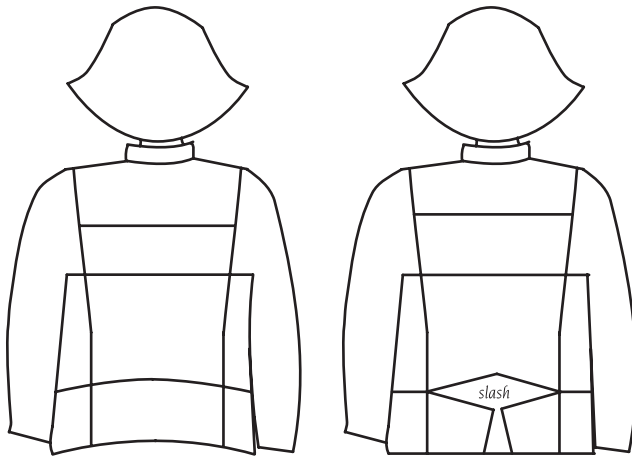
If the back balance lines tilt upward when the shoulder is correctly placed, you need to make a rounded back adjustment. Slash the mock-up along the high balance line, or above it depending on where the stress seems to be occurring. Allow the back of the jacket to spread until the balance lines become parallel to the floor. Pin in a scrap of fabric or a piece of paper to fill in the gap formed by the slash. Check the lines and adjust if needed.

On the back paper pattern, slash the pattern piece in the same place as you slashed the mock-up. Begin at the fold line and stop at the sleeve seam line. Do not cut all the way to the edge. Spread the back the amount needed and tape in a piece of paper to fill the gap.

Now you will also need to add a small neck dart to re-establish the fold line along the straight of grain. On the paper pattern, draw a line from the neckline through the new pattern adjustment parallel to the old fold line. Slash along that line and tilt the cut section toward the center back to re-establish a straight fold line. Tape a piece of paper in to fill in the gap. This gap establishes the intake of the dart. The dart creates the necessary curve for the jacket to hang properly in the front and the back and sit snugly at the neck.

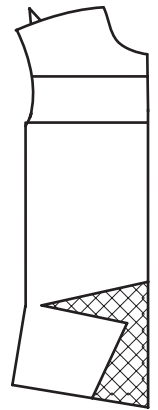


## LOWEST BACK HORIZONTAL BALANCE LINE SHIFTS UP

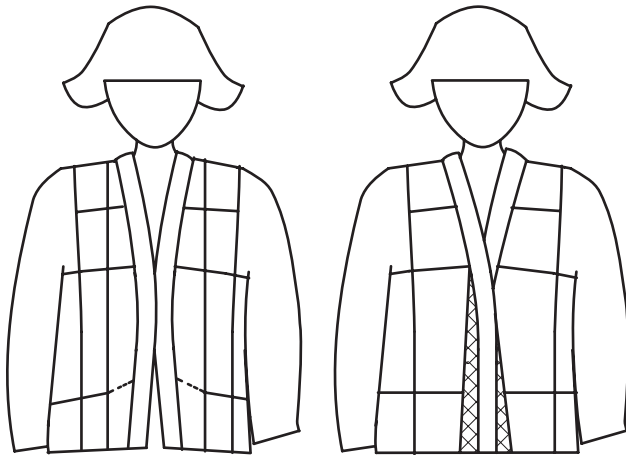


If only the lower horizontal balance line shifts up in the back and the back is snug, you need to accommodate broad buttocks. If you used the straight side in your mock-up, substitute the flared side. If you are already using the flared side, slash the jacket along the lower balance line, or higher if necessary, to accommodate the stress. Spread to achieve a balanced hemline in the back. You might need to slash along the center fold line as well. Pin an extra piece of fabric or paper in place to fill in the gap.

On the paper pattern, slash the pattern in the same place as you slashed the mock-up beginning at the fold and stopping at the seam line. Spread as pinned and tape in the necessary paper to accommodate the adjustment. Tape in paper to re-establish the fold line if you also made an adjustment to the center fold line.

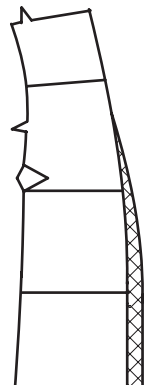


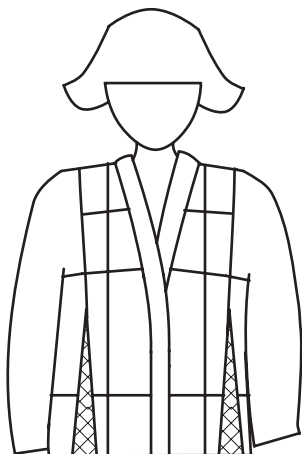
## FRONT BANDS DO NOT OVERLAP



If the fronts do not overlap at the bottom, check the grainline. If the grainline is straight, you need to accommodate a full tummy. On the mock-up, release the band from the hem up to the middle HBL; place the band where it should fall resting on the center front. Pin a piece of fabric or paper onto the jacket front to fill in the gap.

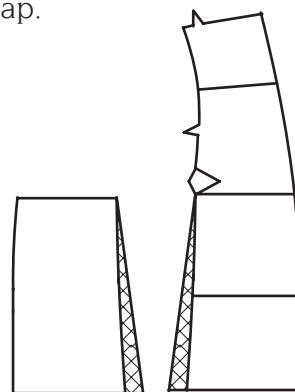
On the front pattern piece, extend the jacket front to match the adjusted mock-up by taping paper where needed.





If the grainline skews toward the side and you have used the straight side, switch to the flared side. If you were already using the flared side, release the side seam from the hem up until the grainline hangs perpendicular to the floor. If the gap is greater than the seam allowance, pin a piece of fabric or paper in the gap.

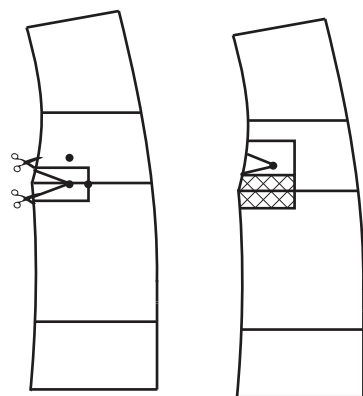
On the paper pattern, add the same amount of paper to the front or side pattern piece, or both if needed.



## RAISING THE DART POINT

If the balance lines are straight and the arms and shoulders fit well, but the dart point falls below the bustline, place a pin or mark on the mock up at the desired bust point and measure the difference. (If the garment is roomy in the bust, sleeves, and shoulders consider making the PETITE ADJUSTMENT). For a difference of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or less, raise the dart point. For a difference of more than  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", move the dart.

To raise the dart point(s) on the paper pattern, mark the new dart point(s) and connect the new point to the dart legs at the side seams. Fold the new dart out and pin it into the paper pattern. Trim the cutting line to true the dart legs to the side seam. Unfold dart before using pattern to cut fabric.

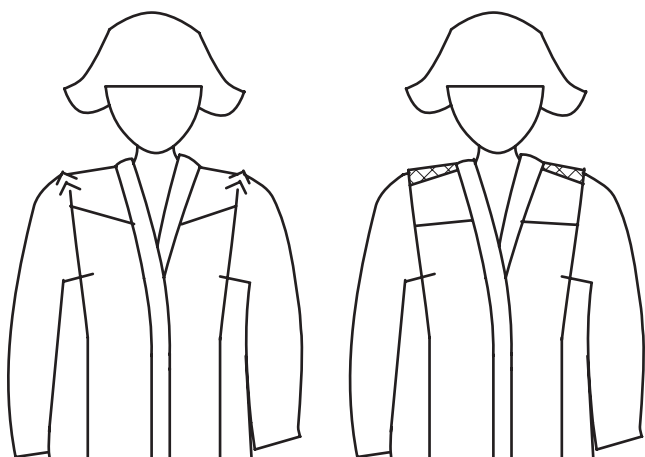


To move the dart on the paper pattern, mark the new dart point(s). Draw a box around the darts and cut the box out of the pattern. Move it up so the old dart point(s) matches up to the new dart point(s). Secure the dart box in place. Tape in additional paper to fill in the pattern below the dart box and redraw the HBL so it extends into the side seam. When constructing the new mock up, this will be the spot where the sleeve/side seam connects into the front.



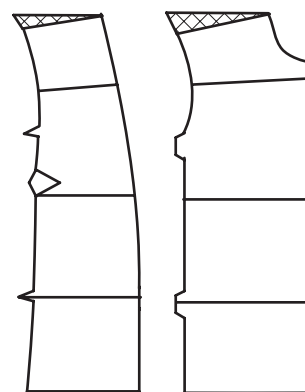
## Neck and Shoulder Adjustments

Many neck and shoulder issues can be resolved with the bust adjustments or rounded back adjustments mentioned earlier. If your shoulder still does not sit properly on your body after making those adjustments, consider the following options.



### HIGH BALANCE LINES TILT UPWARD

Square or broad shoulders will cause stress lines at the shoulder and will cause the high balance line to tilt up toward the sleeves. Release the shoulder seam and sleeve area of the side seam until the high balance line falls into place. Pin along the new seam line. If the gap is greater than the seam allowance, pin a piece of fabric or paper to fill in the gap. Pay attention to balance lines in both front and back and adjust as needed.



On the paper pattern, add paper to move the seam line and still maintain a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam. If you have adjusted the front and back, change both pattern pieces. If you have added more than  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on each side of the shoulder, you will have to go up a size in the sleeve. Alternatively, add to the sleeve at

the underarm by taping on additional pattern paper to match the adjustment in the shoulder and moving the notches down on the sleeve.

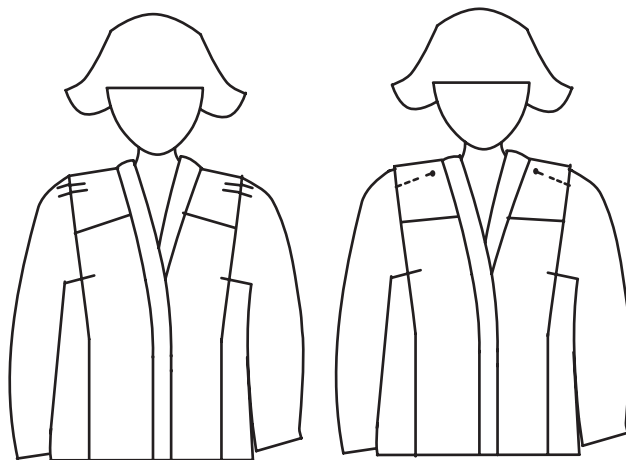


below.

If the shoulder seam adjustment extends into the band where it meets the shoulder seam, see section on neck band adjustments

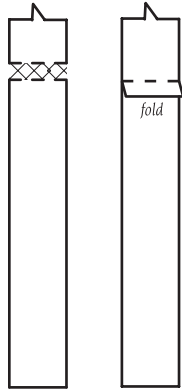
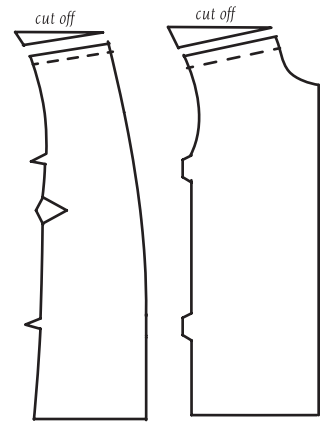
### HIGH BALANCE LINES DROOP DOWNWARD

If you have a high balance line drooping toward the sleeves and excess fabric at the shoulder, you need to adjust for a sloping shoulder. Pinch out the extra fabric looking at both front and back balance lines because you may need to adjust both front and back or only one or the other. If you have pinched out more



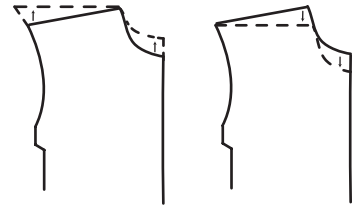
than 1/2", consider dropping a size in the shoulder and sleeve. Another option is to insert a shoulder pad to correct the slope.

On the paper pattern, redraw the shoulder area to match the corrected seam line and trim away the excess paper. If you have pinned out of the front and back, adjust both pieces. If the shoulder seam adjustment extends into the band where it meets the shoulder seam, see section on neck band adjustments below.



#### NECK BAND ADJUSTMENTS

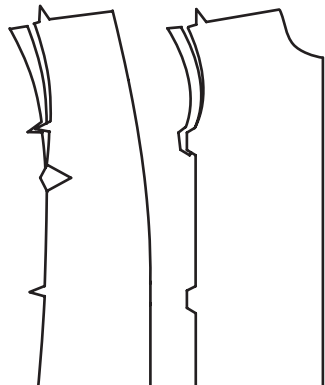
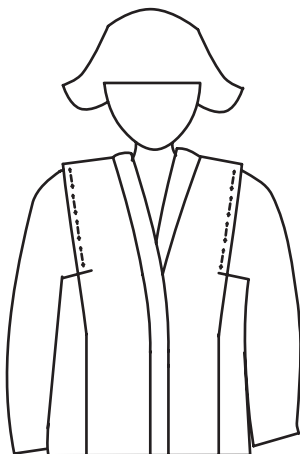
If your shoulder seam adjustments extend into the neck band, you need to adjust the band at the dot where it joins the shoulder seam. For a broad shoulder, add paper into the band at the dot. For a sloping shoulder, fold out pattern paper on the band at the dot. In either case, the amount of the adjustment should equal the shoulder adjustment at the neck edge.



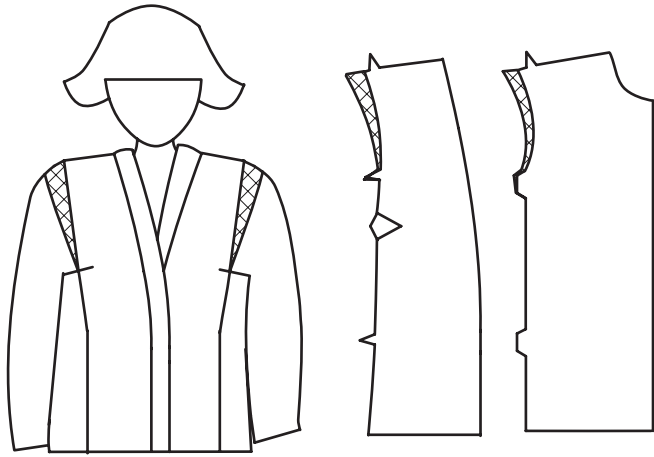
If you have increased or reduced the shoulder seams significantly, take a look at the back neck where the band connects to the jacket. You might need to lower the neck curve if you have reduced the shoulder, or raise the neck curve where the height of the shoulder has been increased. Use the next larger or smaller pattern size as your guide.

#### SHOULDER WIDTH ADJUSTMENTS

At the shoulder, the side seam of the Tabula Rasa Jacket should sit right where the top of the arm connects with the shoulder or just inside the shoulder line. The shoulders are narrow by art jacket standards; the cut of the sleeves allow for a comfortable fit even though the shoulder falls at or inside the shoulder line.



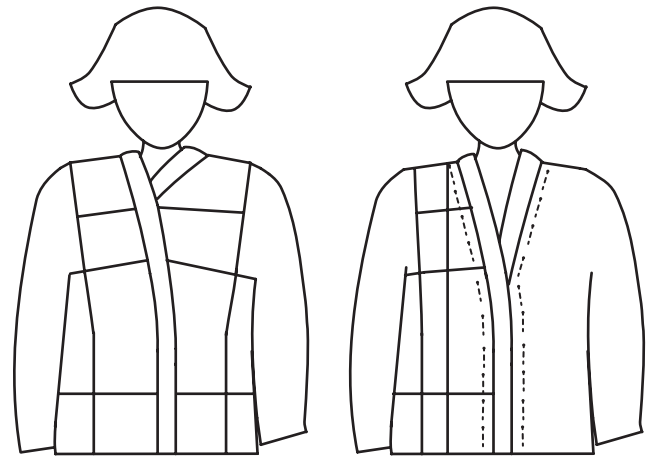
*Narrow shoulders:* If the side seam extends off the shoulder, pin out the excess in the side seam where the front or back meets the sleeve cap. On the paper pattern, redraw the side seam to match the correction and remove the excess paper.



*Wide shoulders:* If the side seam sits too far into your shoulders, release the shoulder-to-sleeve seam where you need more room and move the sleeve so it sits on top of your shoulder. Pin a piece of fabric or paper onto the front and back to fill in the gap. On the paper pattern, add paper to the front and back side seams as needed to match the correction.

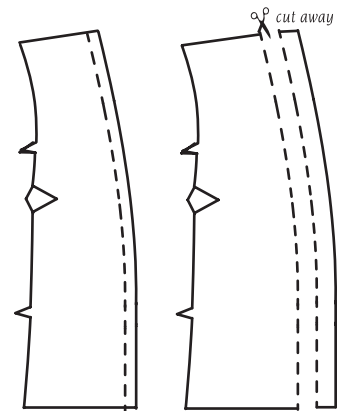
## FRONT WIDTH ADJUSTMENTS

If the front bands cross over too much at the chest and down the front, there is too much fabric in the chest and front of the jacket. Pinch the extra fabric out of the jacket along the front band. This will allow the grain-line to hang straight in the shoulder area and down the front when the center fronts are matched up along the band.



On the paper pattern, redraw the line down the jacket front to match the corrected front line. Trim away the excess paper.

If the band is too wide for your body or your personal taste, create a new fold line to find the width that is comfortable and visually pleasing to you. The front band can be as narrow as  $\frac{5}{8}$ " inches; you may find that you prefer different band widths in different types of jackets. If you reduce the front band width, make sure it is still wide enough to support your chosen closure. If you wish to adjust the paper pattern, reduce the band width equal amounts on each side of the fold line to achieve the desired band width.



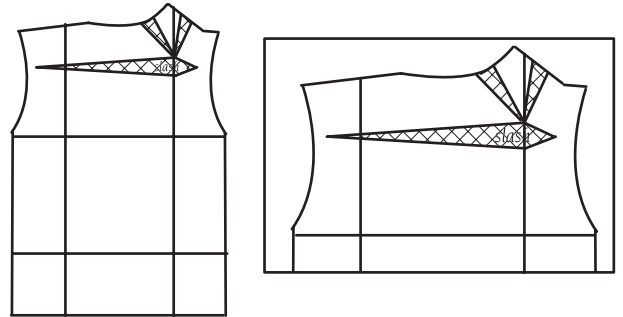
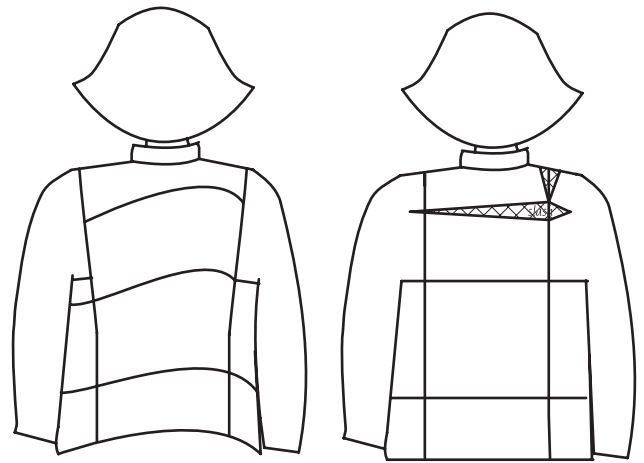
## BACK BALANCE LINES ARE SKEWED DUE TO ASYMMETRICAL BACK

If one side of your upper back protrudes, causing one shoulder to be higher and the balance lines to skew over a hump, release the shoulder seam on your mock-up on the full side and slice through the grainline from the shoulder to the upper balance line. Then slice across the upper horizontal balance line in each direction to the seam, but not through the seam allowance. Pin in paper or fabric to straighten the balance lines. The extra wedge above the upper HBL will become a dart.



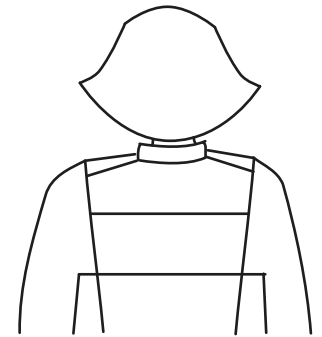
On the paper pattern, begin by tracing a full back pattern which includes the grainlines and horizontal balance lines for both sides of the back. On the side of the pattern that corresponds to the hump, cut along the grainline from the shoulder to the upper horizontal balance line. Then slash across the upper HBL in each direction to within  $\frac{5}{8}$ " of the pattern edge. Spread the shoulder pieces up and out the amount needed to accommodate the hump.

Tape paper into the space created by the spread. The area along the grainline will form a dart. If the dart seems too big (more than  $\frac{3}{4}$ " across the top) slash through the neckline on the same side cutting down to meet the other slash. Spread the back section between the two slashes so there will be a dart in the shoulder and one in the neckline. Draw in the darts along the lines of the paper additions.

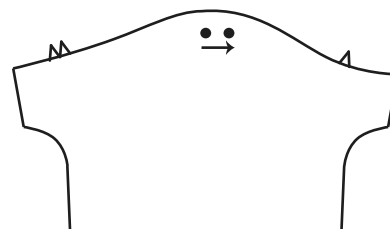
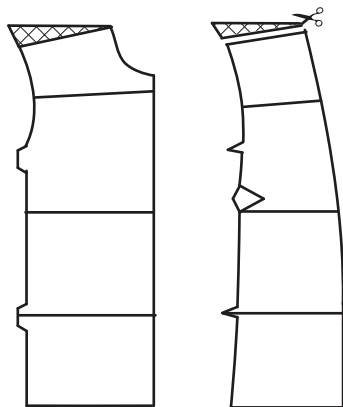


#### FORWARD SHOULDER ADJUSTMENT

If the HBLs are straight but the shoulder seam falls to the back, make a forward shoulder adjustment. With the mock-up on, mark the spot where the shoulder seam should fall and measure the difference.



On the paper pattern, add the difference to the back shoulder at the armhole by taping extra paper to the back pattern at the shoulder. Measure and mark the new location for the shoulder at the armhole. Redraw the shoulder line from the neck and new location at the armhole. On the front, take away the same amount you added to the back and redraw the shoulder line to tip below the original shoulder line. Trim away the additional pattern paper. On the sleeve pattern, move the shoulder dot toward the front by the adjusted amount.



## Arm and Sleeve Adjustments

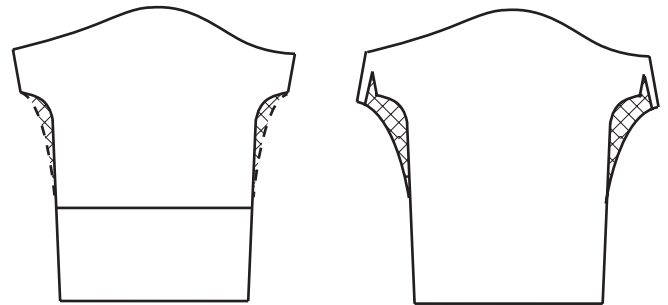
### TIGHT SLEEVE IN UPPER ARM

If the sleeves are too tight in the upper arm, release the underarm seam of the mock up and measure the additional spread of the fabric. If the spread is less than  $\frac{3}{4}$ " the adjustment can be made by decreasing the curve of the underarm by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on each side.

On the paper pattern, tape a piece of paper from the lower edge of the underarm curve to the sleeve's balance line. Beginning at the underarm edge, draw a new line that increases by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and then decreases back to zero at the balance line.

If the spread is more than  $\frac{3}{4}$ ," determine how much needs to be added to each side.

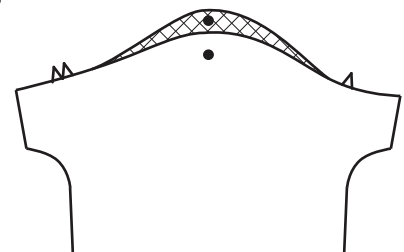
On the paper pattern, slash the pattern along the seam line ( $\frac{5}{8}$ " from cutting line) inside each sleeve edge leaving a hinge at the top. Spread the paper apart by the amount needed. Tape a piece of paper from the lower edge of the underarm curve to the sleeve's balance line. Draw a new cutting line, filling in the shifted seam and adding to the underarm as well; ease the cutting line back into the original sleeve near the balance line or at whatever point is best for your comfort.



### SLEEVE TWISTS

If the sleeve on the mock-up twists toward the front in a way that bothers you, the sleeve cap needs a little more height. Release one of the sleeves on your mock-up along the cap and allow the sleeve to drop until the twist is relaxed. Pin in extra paper or fabric to test the adjustment.

On the paper pattern, tape extra pattern paper between the notches on the sleeve. Mark the extra sleeve height at the shoulder point and then use a fashion ruler to create the new sleeve head that blends into the sleeve at the notches.

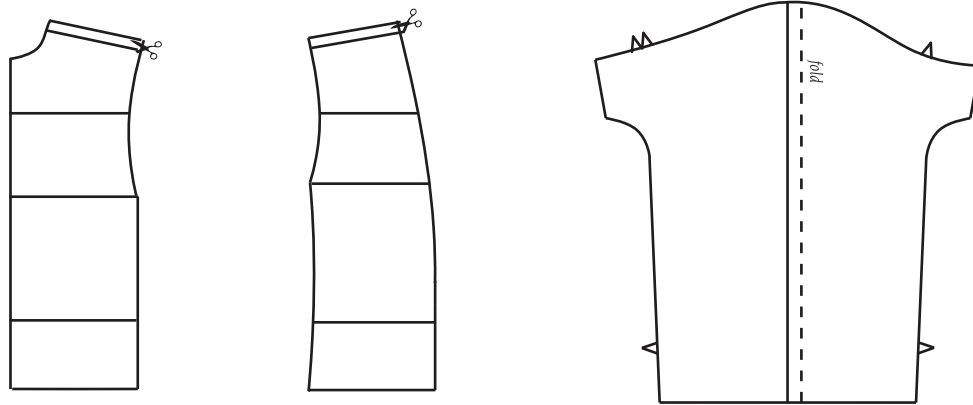


## Overall Jacket Adjustments

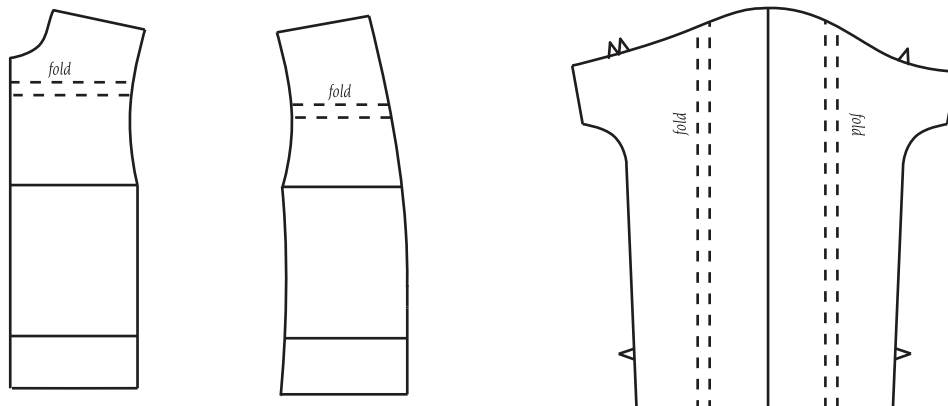
### PETITE ADJUSTMENT

If the darts are too low and the upper body and sleeves feel too full, pin the excesses out of both shoulders; continue pinning out the same amount all the way down each sleeve. Test whether you can still move your arms easily before continuing. Measure the amount of the adjustment you will make on both the front and back pattern pieces and the sleeve. If the amount is  $\frac{5}{8}$ " or less, use the Petite 1 method of pattern adjustment. If the amount is  $\frac{3}{4}$ " or more, use the Petite 2 method of pattern adjustment.

Petite 1 - On the paper pattern mark the amount that needs to be taken away at the neck and shoulder and draw a new shoulder line. Do this for both front and back patterns. Trim off the extra paper. On the sleeve pattern, fold along the grainline, folding out the same amount you have taken off the shoulder (e.g. If you reduced each shoulder by  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", reduce the sleeve with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " fold.) Tape the fold into place.



Petite 2 - On the paper pattern fold along the upper HBL of both the front and back pattern pieces. Fold out half of the amount of the adjustment (e.g. If your reduction is 1", fold out  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on both the front and the back). Use a fashion ruler to redraw the pattern smoothly at the armholes and front along center edge.



On the sleeve pattern, draw new lines 2" away from but parallel to the grainline on each side of the sleeve. Fold along each of these lines, folding out the amount you folded out of the HBLs.

For both Petite changes, adjust the neck band at the shoulder so the band is the right length for your resized jacket. See NECK BAND ADJUSTMENTS

Test your changes with a new mock-up. If the front seems too wide, follow the directions in FRONT WIDTH ADJUSTMENT.