the Basic Conic Block

abridged for printing

Original URL: http://www.sempstress.org/2010/the-basic-conical-torso-block-part-1/

Supplies and Tools:	Measurements:
•a Yardstick	•A: Nape to Waist (A:)
•a Pencil (or Pen, if you're confident!)	•B: Nape to Bust (B:)
•Paper Scissors	•C/D: Front/Back Bust (C: D:)
•Large Sheets of Paper (old wrapping paper and brown paper bags cut and spread flat work well)	•E: Armscye to Waist (E:)
	•F/G: Front/Back Waist (F: G:)
•optional: a Calculator	•H/I: Front/Back Shoulder->Shoulder (H: I:)
•optional: a French Curve (if you don't like drawing curves	
•optional: Poster Board (for a quick and dirty mockup)	Measurements taken from http://www.sempstress.org/tag/measurements/ .
•optional: Tape (I hate it, but I hear others can't do without)	Please refer to online instructions for proper measuring techniques. Your draft depends on accurate measurements!

Note: Measurements will be referenced by letter. (ie, "Measure E up the Side Line" translates to "Measure the Armscye to Waist measurement up the Side Line".)   Front/Back pairs are given two letters. Measurement C is the Front Bust measurement, and D is the Back Bust measurement, for example. IF YOUR WAIST IS LARGER THAN YOUR BUST: Use your Front Waist measurement as C and your Back Waist as D. Use your Front Bust as ? and your Back Bust as ??.
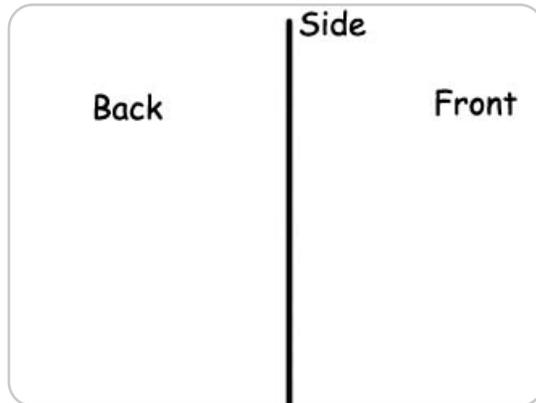
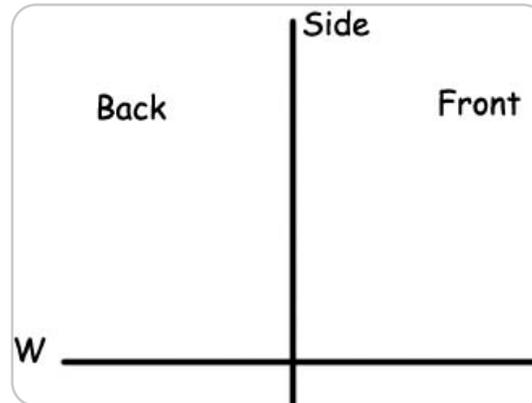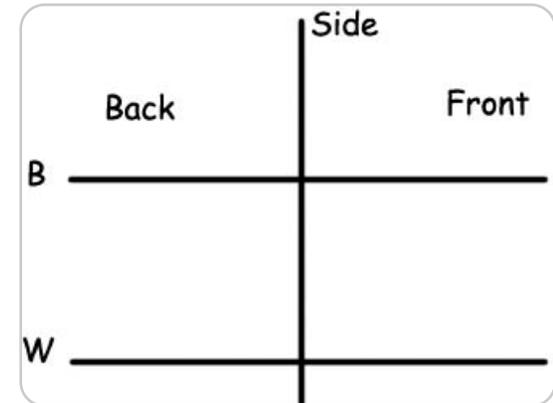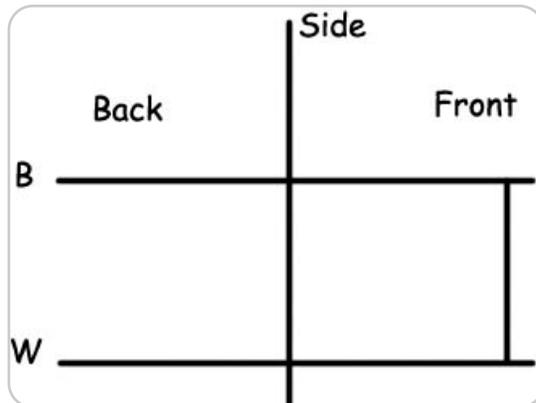| the Basic Conic Block	URL	http://www.sempstress.org/2010/the-basic-conical-torso-block-part-1/
abridged for printing	date	Oct 29, 2010

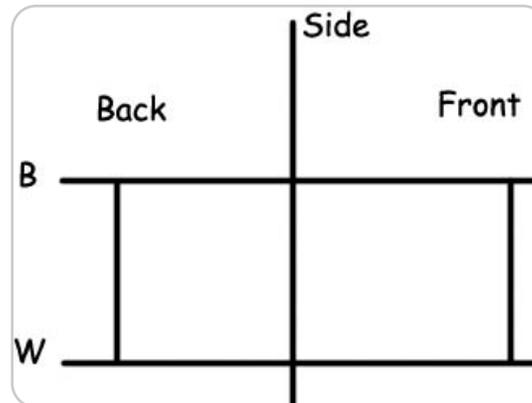**Step 1:** Draw a vertical line. Label Front, Side and Back of draft.

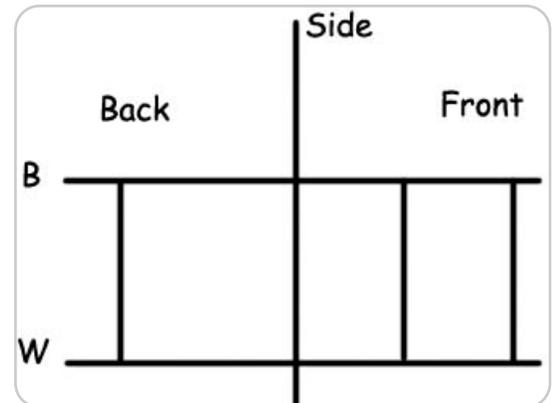**Step 2:** Draw a long horizontal line. Label as line W.

Step 3: Measure (A - B) up the Side line from the Waist line. Draw a long horizontal line. Label as line B.

Step 4: Measure (1/2 C) from Side along B and W lines to the Front. Connect with a horizontal line.

Step 5: Measure (1/2 D) from Side along B and W lines to the Back. Connect with a horizontal line.

Step 6: Divide Front rectangle in half horizontally with a line (front midline).
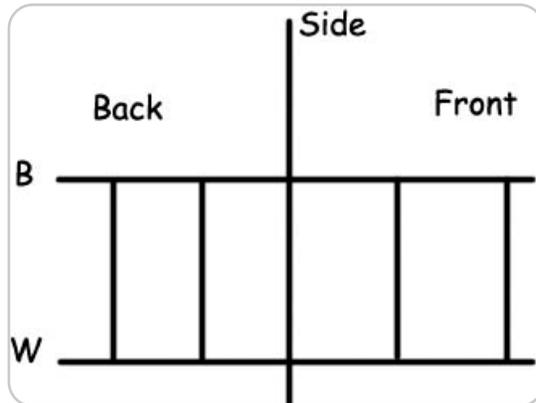
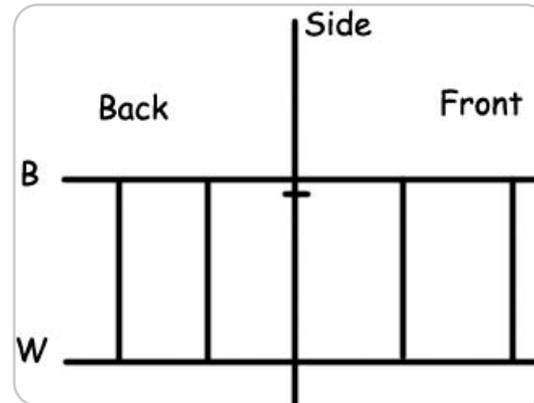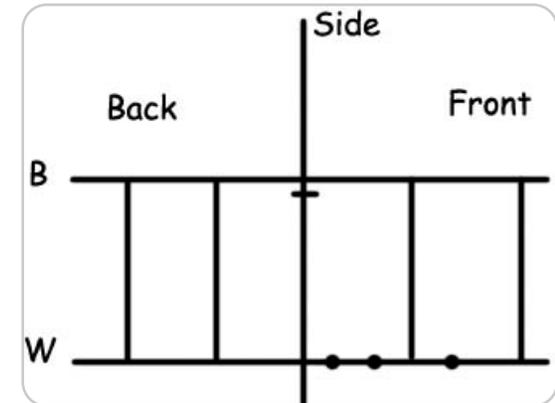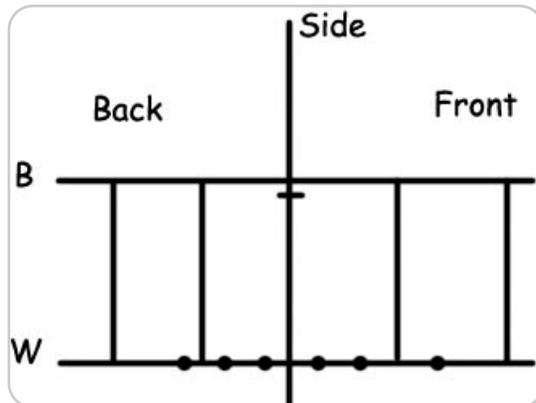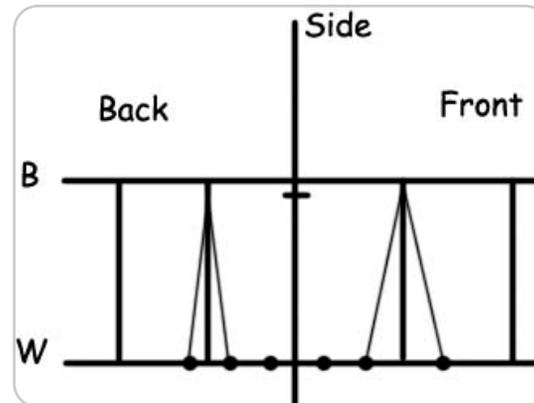**Step 7:** Divide the Back rectangle in half horizontally with a line (back mid-line).

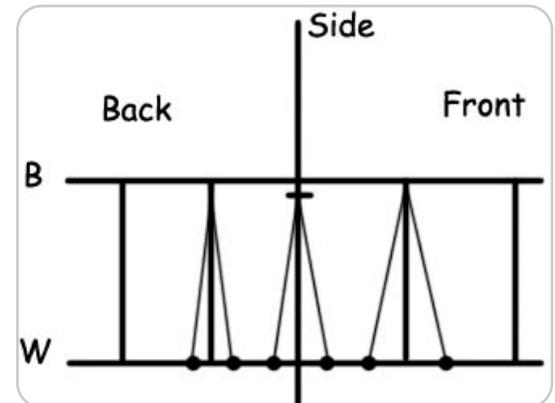**Step 8:** Measure (E) up Side line from Waist line. Mark this point.

Step 9: Divide (C-F) by 6. Mark this distance on W to the Front of Side line and either side of front mid-line.

Step 10: Divide (D-G) by 6. Mark this distance on W to the Back of Side line and either side of front mid-line.

Step 11: Draw lines from marked points near mid-lines to tops of mid-lines.

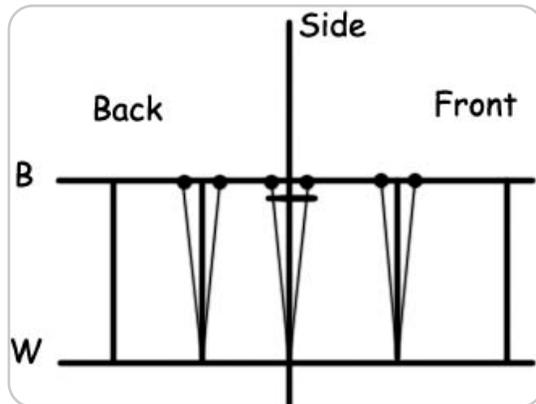**Step 12:** Draw lines from marked points near Side line to mark (from Step 8).

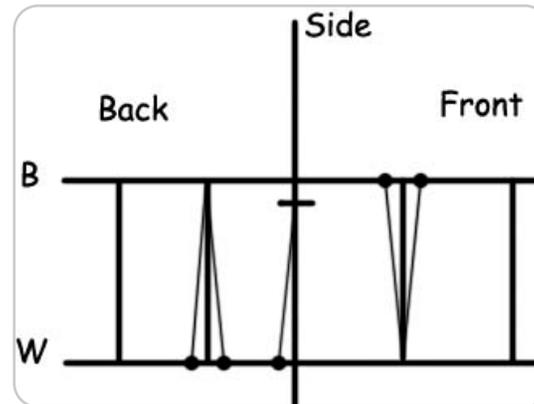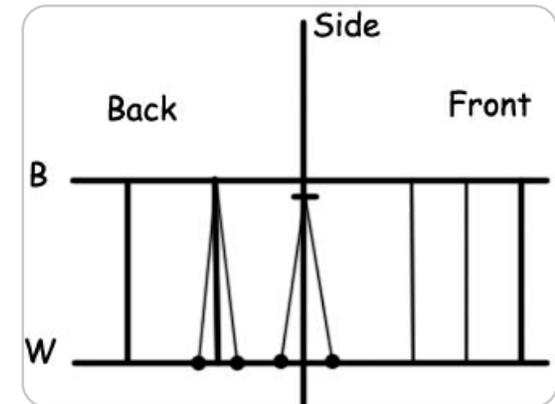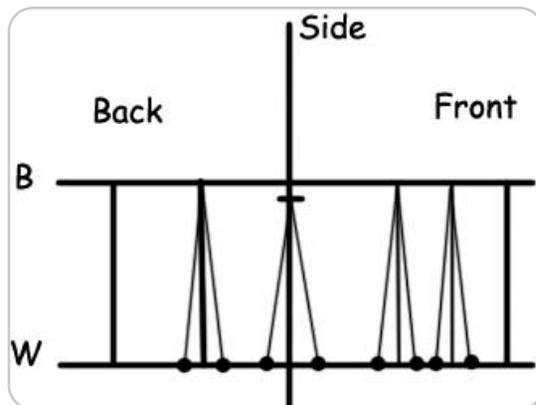**Alternate 9-12 for Large Waist:** Mark points from 9, 10 on line B, connect to bottoms of midlines.
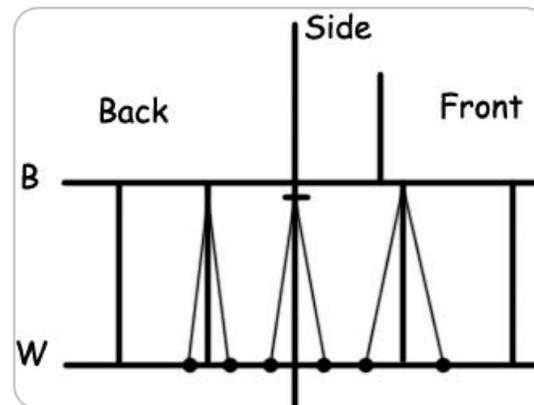

Alternate 9-12 for Prominent Tum: Draft back normally, draft front per alternate. Omit line to Front of Side.
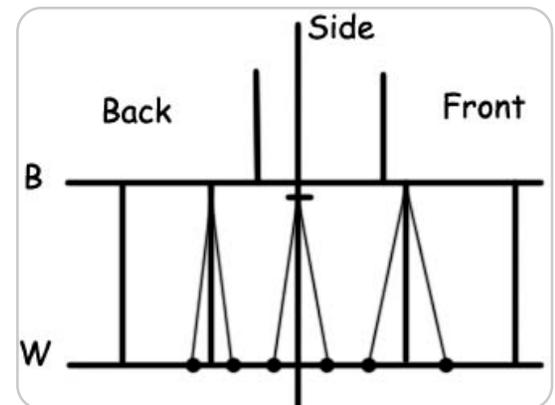

Alternate 9-12 for Large Bust: Back and Side: no change. Divide area front of Front mid-line in half horizontally.

Large Bust, con't: Mark (C-F) divided by 12 to either side of new lines. Connect marks with tops of lines.

Step 13: Measure in (1/2 H) from the Front vertical line. Draw a line upwards.

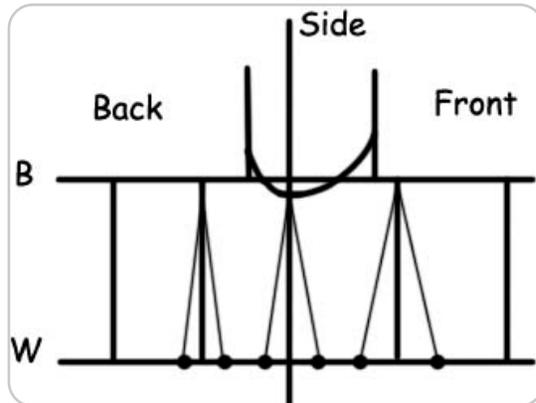**Step 14:** Measure in (1/2 I) from the Back vertical line. Draw a line upwards.

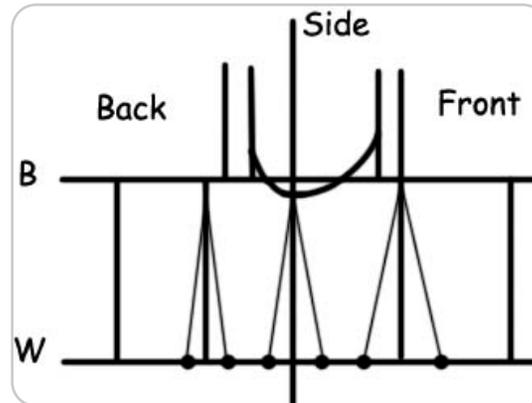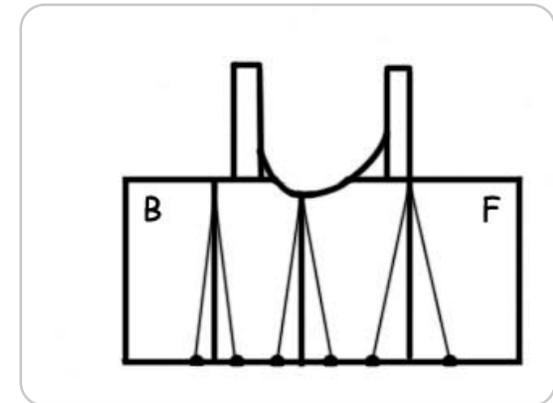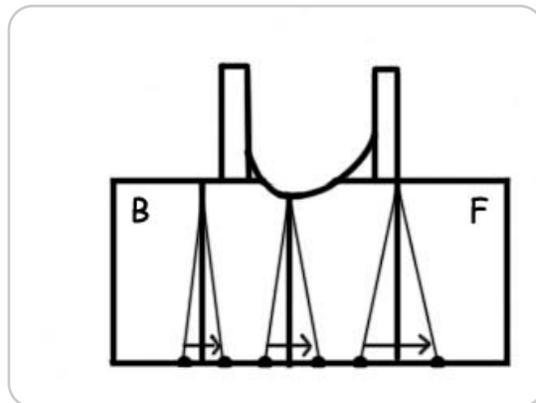**Step 15:** Connect the two new lines with a curve that passes through the mark at E on the Side line.
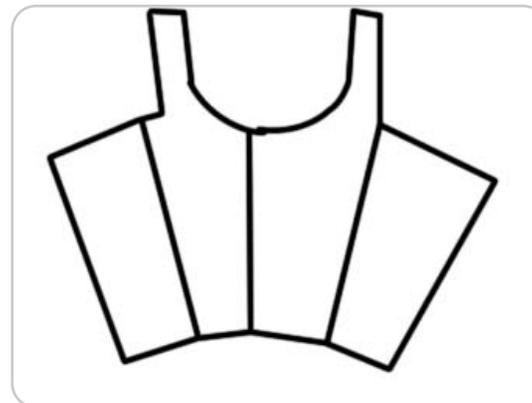

Step 16: Draw two vertical lines next to the upwards lines. For a human, they should be 1-2" away.
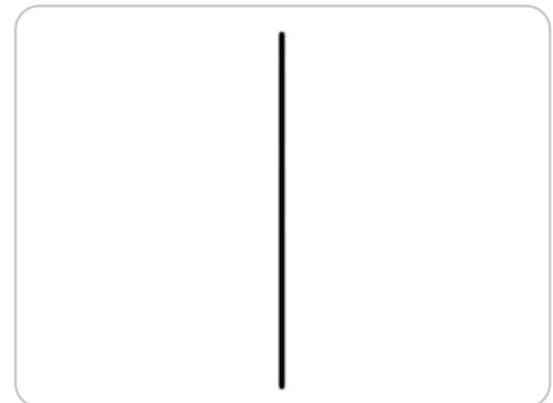

Step 17: Cut out block.

Step 18: Fold the block so that the legs of the triangles touch.

Step 19 (Watchpoint): Folded block if bust is larger than waist. If waist is larger, it will be a smile-arc instead of a frown.

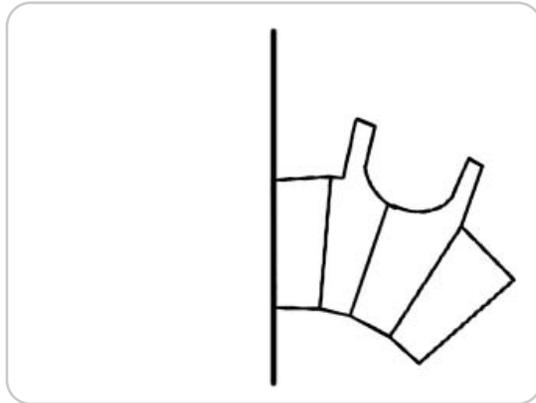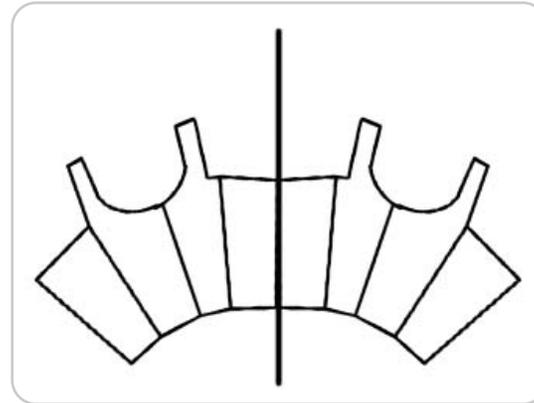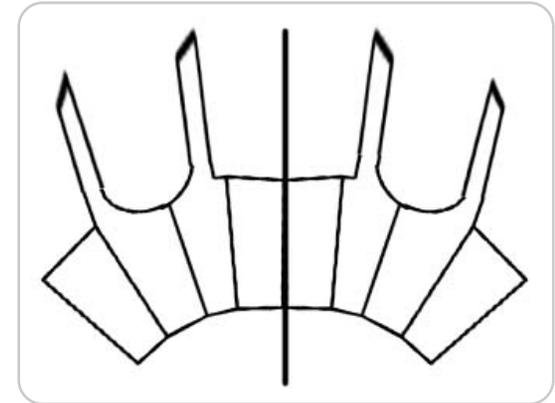**Step 20:** Draw a vertical line in the middle of a new, very large, sheet of paper.
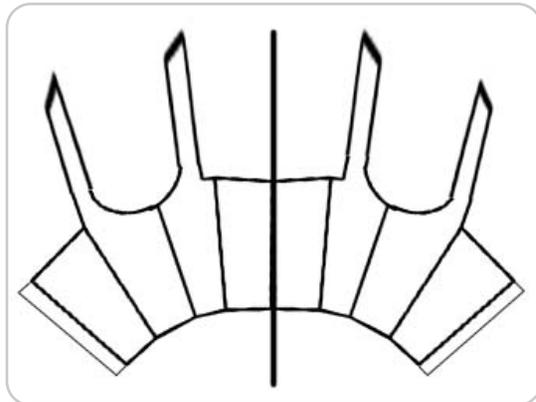
Step 21: Trace block to one side of line. Transfer all markings.

Step 22: Trace block to the other side of line, matching up along the back. Transfer all markings.

Step 23: Extend straps. Longer is better.

Step 24: Extend Center Fronts by 2-3 inches (for a human size). You now have a mockup to check fit.

Fitting: Put mockup around body, with opening to front. (Wear bra.) Check to see that center front lines match up, bottom hits waist, etc. See original article for guidance on marking adjustments.

For Straps: Pull straps together at top of shoulder. Mark top of shoulder on each strap. Fold out any "wonkiness" in the strap by smoothing the strap along the body, from shoulder down towards where the strap joins the bodice. The excess should make a fold at the base of the strap. Crease well.

(This exceeds my graphical abilities.)
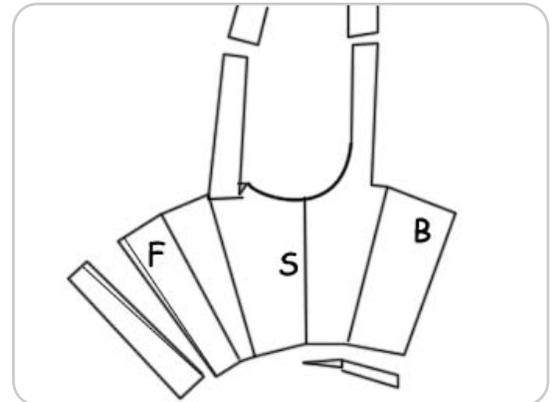
Step 25: Cut mockup in half at Center Back. Remove areas of the block as marked (excess strap, length, etc)

Step 26:

On a new sheet of paper, trace neatly around the fitting mockup. Transfer Front, Back, and Side markings. Label block with as Basic Conic Block, Name, Date.

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Congratulations!
It might not look like much, but this basic block is the foundation for many patterns to come!