

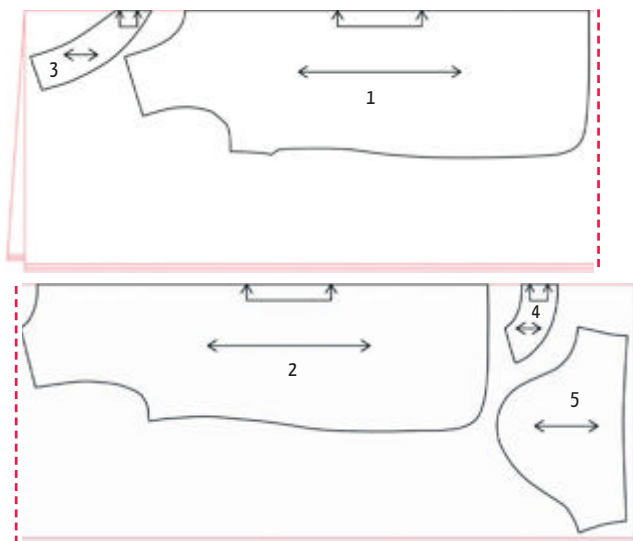
ESSENTIALS

Woven fabric with some drape, 150cm wide, 2.5m or 114 cm wide, 2.7m
Lightweight fusible interfacing, 40cm
Invisible zip, 28cm
Coordinating sewing thread



Dimensions:

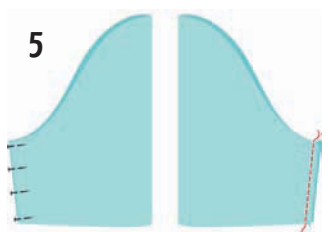
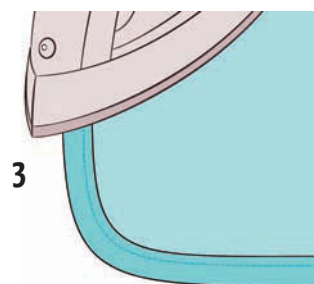
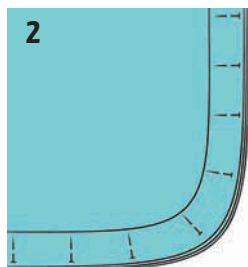
Size	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Bust (cm)	85	90	95	100	106	112	118
Waist (cm)	83	88	93	98	104	110	116



Cutting guide

- 1 Front, cut one on fold
- 2 Back, cut one on fold
- 3 Front neck facing, cut one on fold in fabric, cut one on fold in interfacing

- 4 Back neck facing, cut one on fold in fabric, cut one on fold in interfacing
 - 5 Sleeve, cut two
- A 1.5cm seam allowance is included throughout unless otherwise stated



USE YOUR FREE PATTERN SHEETS TO CREATE CLAIRE-LOUISE HARDIE'S SHIFT DRESS

This semi-fitted shift dress is perfect for practising key techniques such as inserting facings, sleeves and a concealed zip. The hem is finished with a narrow band of self fabric bias binding as a mini facing.

There is also a choice between a high or V-neck and the pattern can be shortened to make a T-shirt variation. The casual style means minimal fitting for a fuss-free garment that will flatter most figures.



SEW A SHIFT DRESS

1 Trace the pattern from your pattern sheet onto dressmaker's tissue paper, transferring all the markings. Using the cutting guide, cut all the pieces from fabric. There are different front facings depending whether you're making the high or V-neck option. Pin and sew the bust darts on the front piece. Press the darts down towards the hem. With right sides facing, pin the front and back together at the shoulder seams. Machine stitch. Neaten the seam allowances and press the seams open.

2 If using, apply fusible interfacing to the front and back neck facings. With right sides together, pin the facings at the shoulder seams. Machine stitch. Neaten the seam allowances and press the seams open.

Neaten the lower edge of the facing with a zig zag stitch or an overlocker.

3 Lay the dress flat, with the right side facing up. Lay the facing right side down on top, matching up the raw edges of the neckline and the shoulder seams. Pin, then sew around the neckline. Clip around the neckline curve to allow it to sit flat when turned right side out [1].

4 Press both the facing and the seam allowance away from the body of the dress. Understitch the facing around the neckline, sewing only through the facing and the seam allowance. Secure the facing to the shoulder seam allowance with a few small hand stitches.

5 From dress fabric, make strips of bias binding for your hem. You'll need two strips up to 78cm long; depending on the size you're making, there will probably be a little leftover to trim off.

Fold the two strips of bias binding in half lengthways, with the wrong sides on the inside. Press in place.

6 With right sides together, aligning all the raw edges, pin the bias binding around the edge of the hem on the right side of the front of the dress, following the pattern markings and gently curving the binding around the hem [2]. Sew it in place, stitching 1cm from the edge. Repeat on the back of the dress. Trim and grade the seam allowances.

7 Roll the bias binding over to the wrong side of the hem, so it's not seen from the front, and press. Pin in place and edge stitch really close to the fold of the bias. From the wrong side, press the hem [3]. This sets and stretches out the stitches.

8 Locate the zip placement notches on the left side seam of the back piece. Change to an invisible zip foot. Insert an invisible zip, then stitch the seam below as far as the hem. Stitch the seam above the zip up to the armhole in the same way [4]. Pin and stitch the right side seam, then neaten the seam allowance and press the seam open.

9 Fold the sleeves in half, right sides together. Pin and sew the underarm seams [5]. Neaten the seam allowances separately, then press the seams open. Press 1cm, then 2cm to the wrong side on the lower edge of each sleeve. Slip stitch the folded edge of the sleeve hem in place [6].

10 Turn the sleeves right side out. With the dress inside out, slip the sleeves through the armholes, matching up underarm seams with side seams and shoulder seams with notches on the sleeve heads. Pin around the armholes, easing the sleeve heads into the shoulders with extra pins.

11 Use horizontally placed pins to help the sleeves fit without tucks or gathers, or roll the armhole over your hand to distribute the fullness. Carefully sew around the armhole, removing the pins as you work and holding it taut to ease in the sleeve head. Neaten the seam allowances and press the armhole seams towards the sleeve.

GET THE BOOK

For this and many more great garment patterns, check out *The Great British Sewing Bee: Fashion with Fabric* by Claire-Louise Hardie (£25, Quadrille).



Stitch it with... Brother XR27NT

The Brother XR27NT is a practical yet easy to use machine offering a wide range of utility and decorative stitches. There are 27 built-in stitches to choose from, including an automatic one step buttonhole. The drop feed facility enables you to try out free hand embroidery and a free arm for sewing items such as sleeves. The quick set bobbin and automatic needle threader mean you can start stitching without delay, as does the quick cut bobbin winding system. It also comes with ample accessory storage and an instructional DVD. Priced £179, visit www.brothersewing.co.uk or call 0333 777 4444 to find your nearest stockist.



brother
at your side

ALL SEWN UP!

Crop the dress as indicated on the pattern to make a T-shirt variation.



Next month...

Next issue we have a sleeveless shell top pattern from *The Great British Sewing Bee: Fashion with Fabric*, in sizes 8-20 FREE with your magazine.



Issue 71 May 2015

MOTIFS & TEMPLATES



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Page 2-26

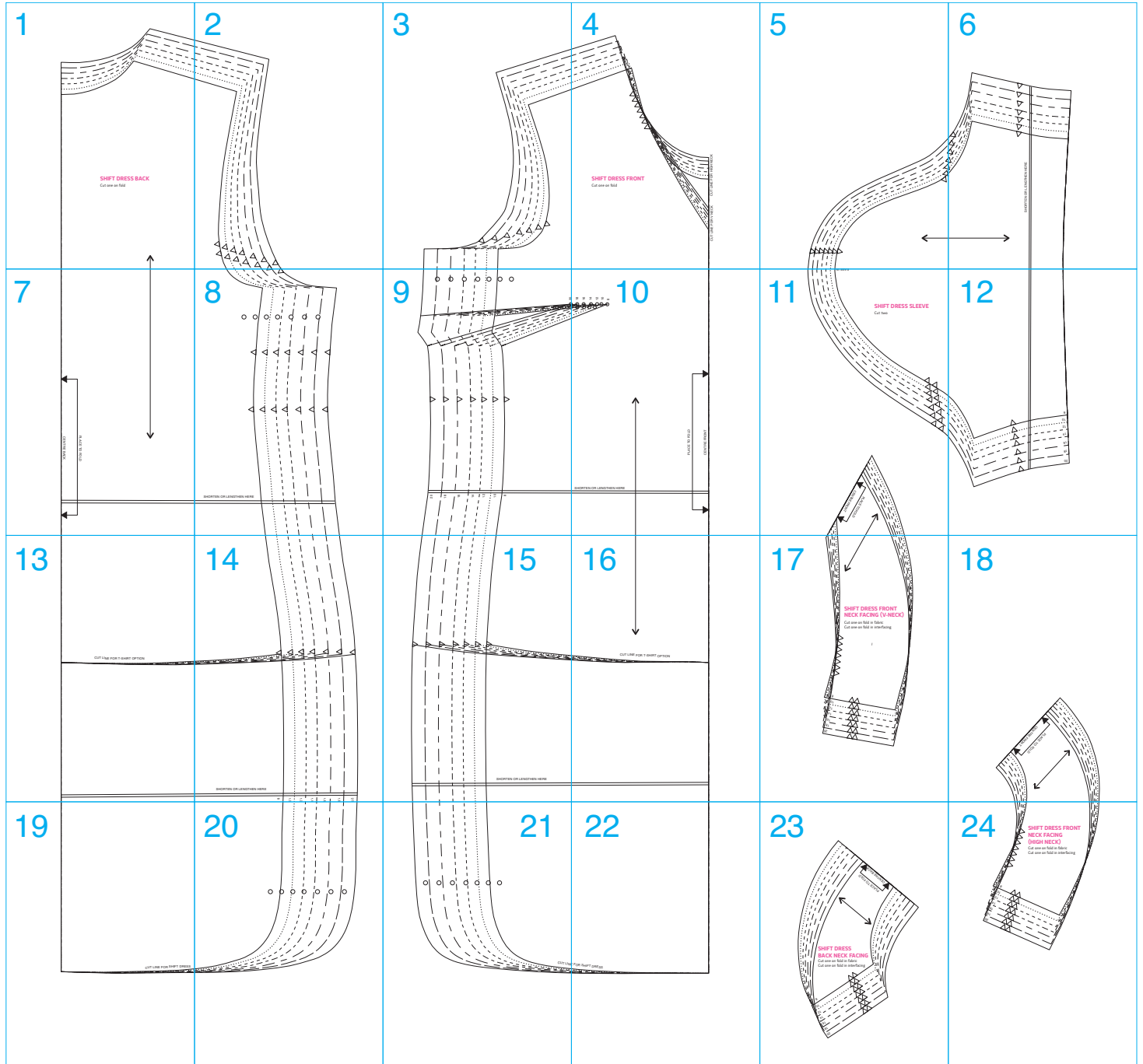
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Designer: Claire-Louise Hardie

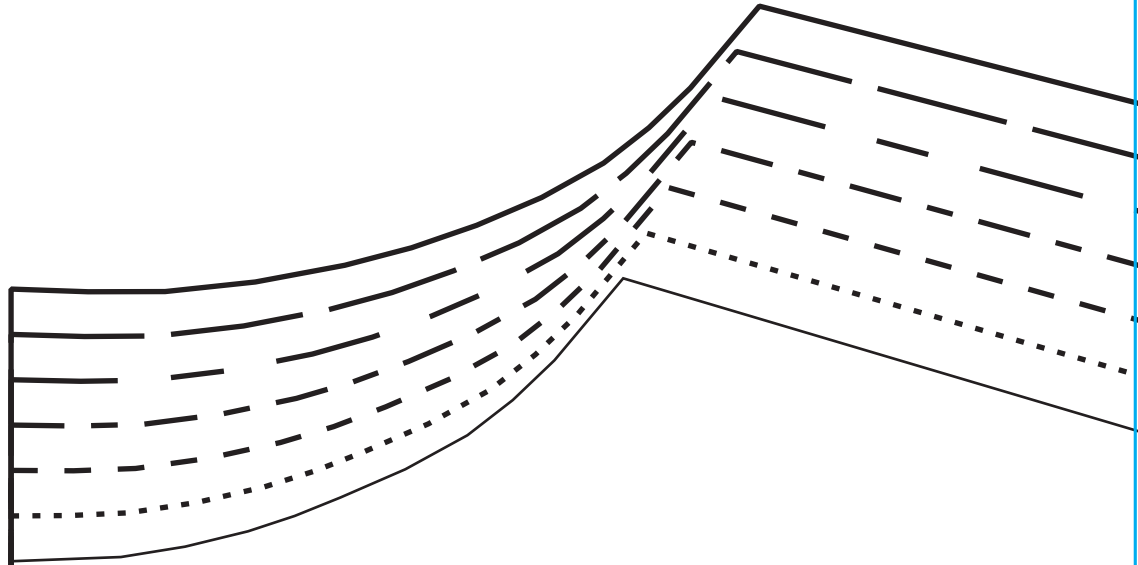
Magazine page: 18

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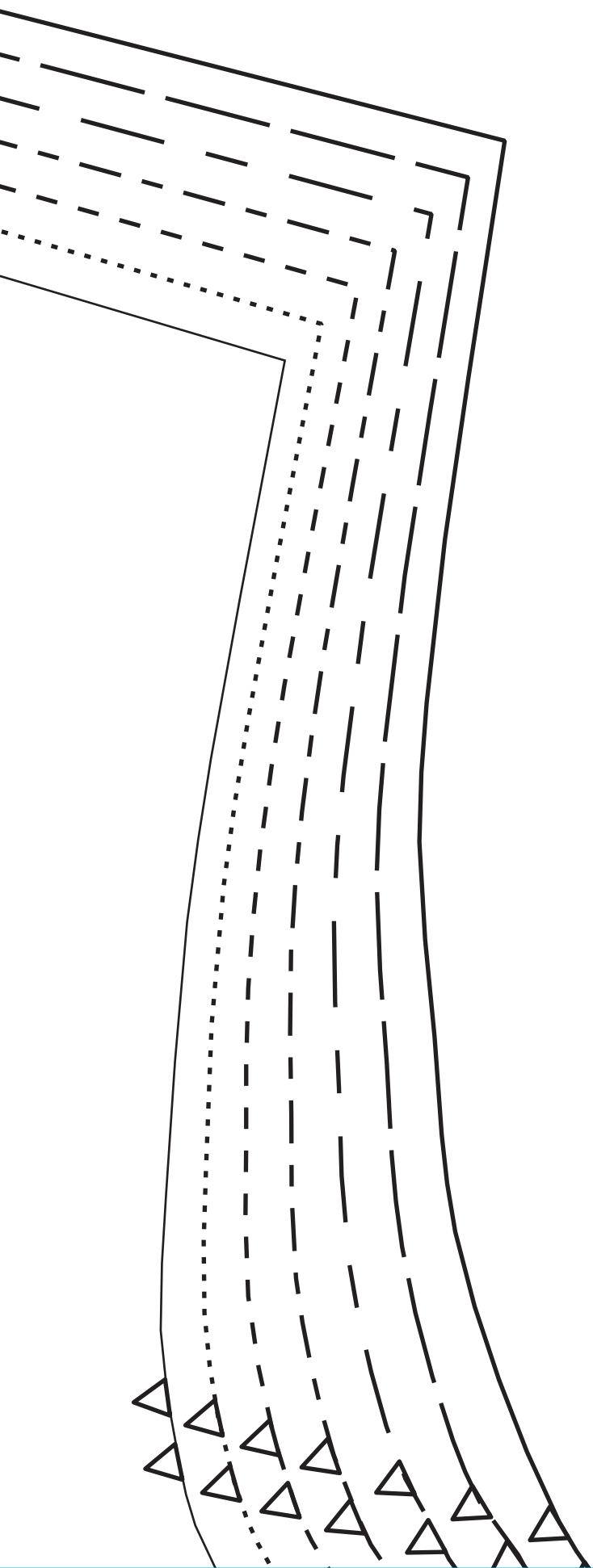


SHIFT DRESS BACK

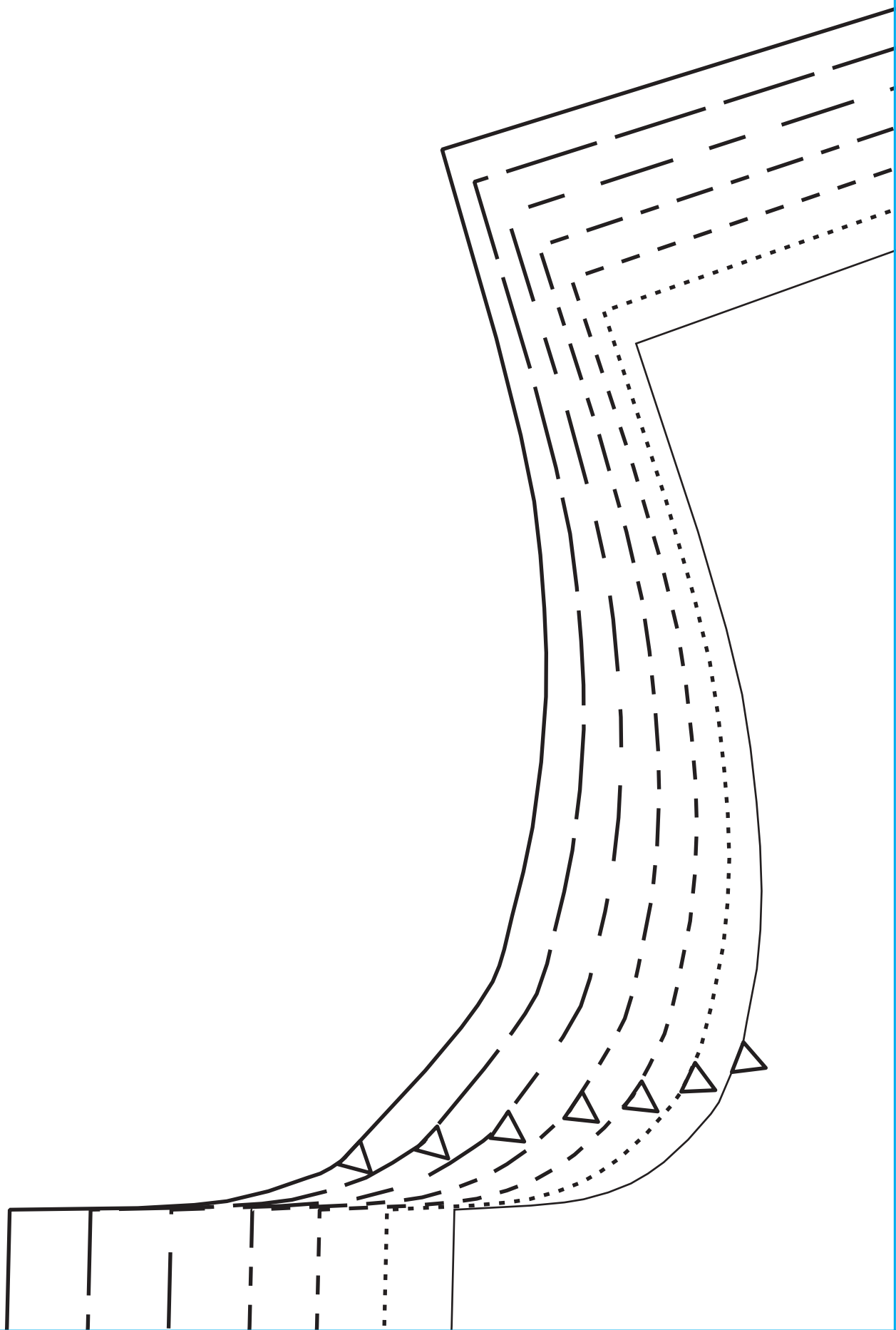
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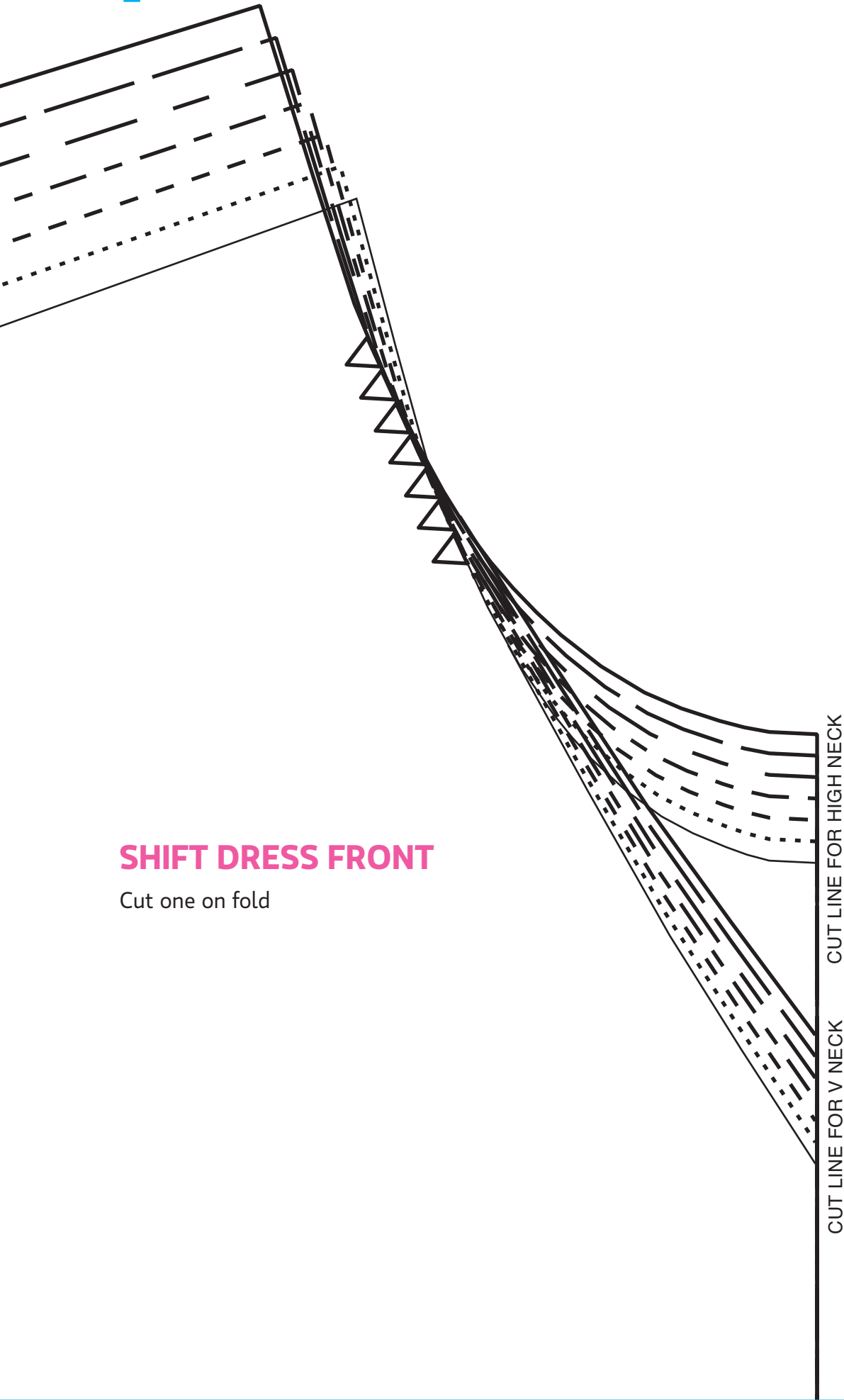
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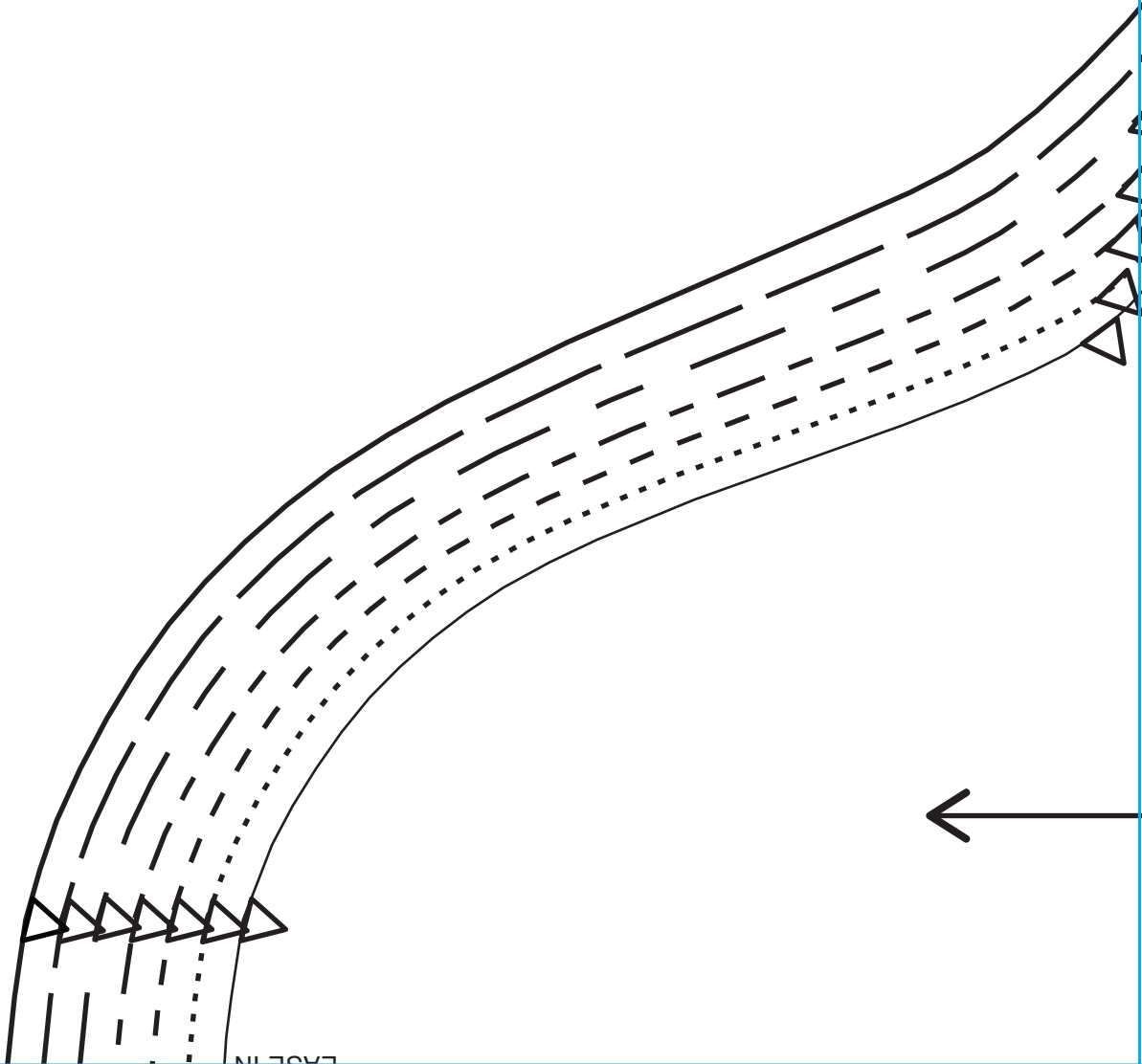
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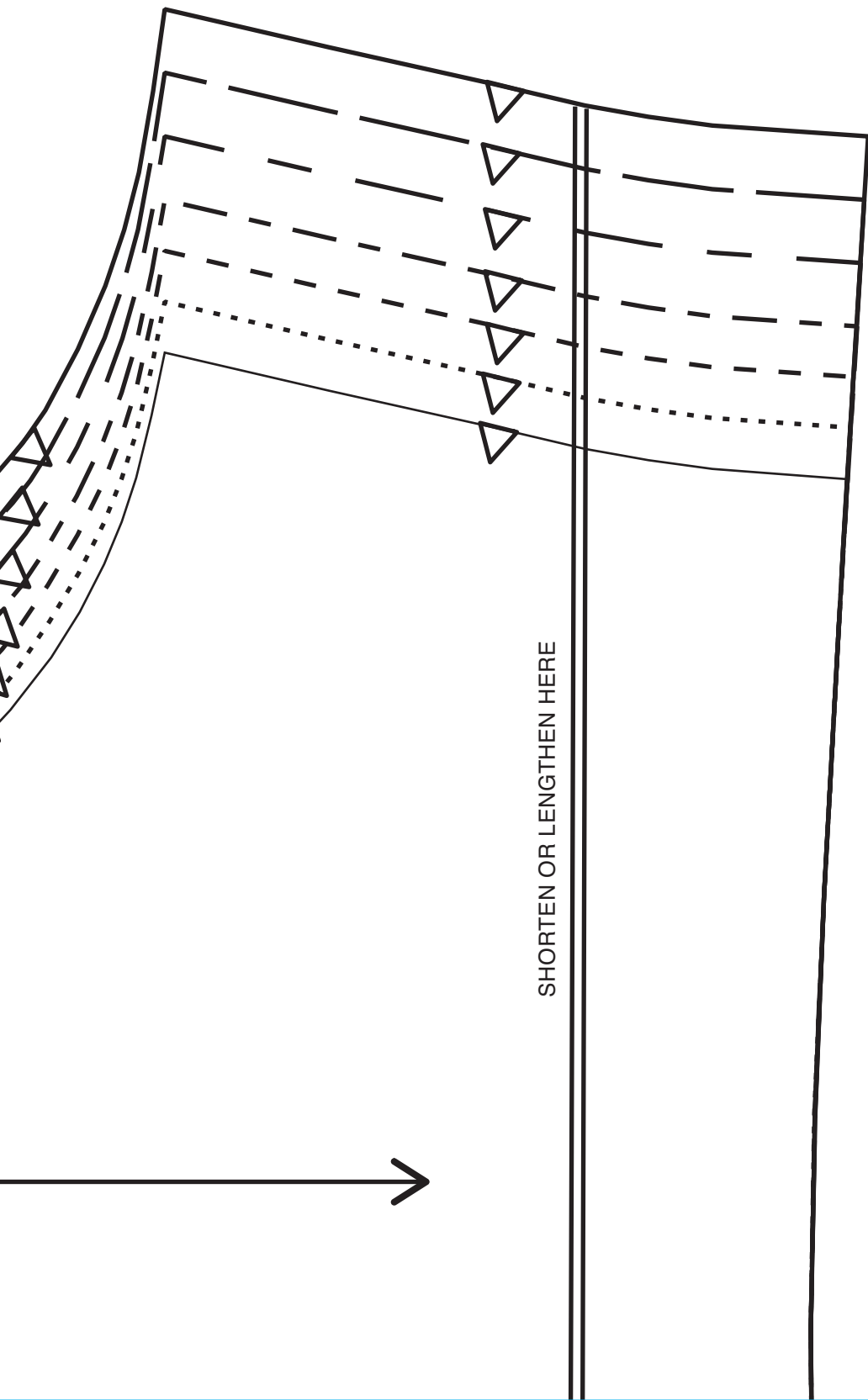
SHIFT DRESS FRONT

Cut one on fold

5



6





PLACE TO FOLD



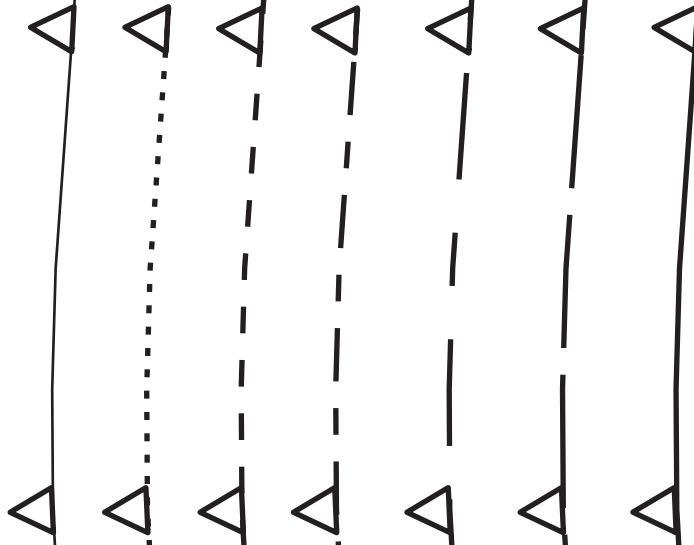
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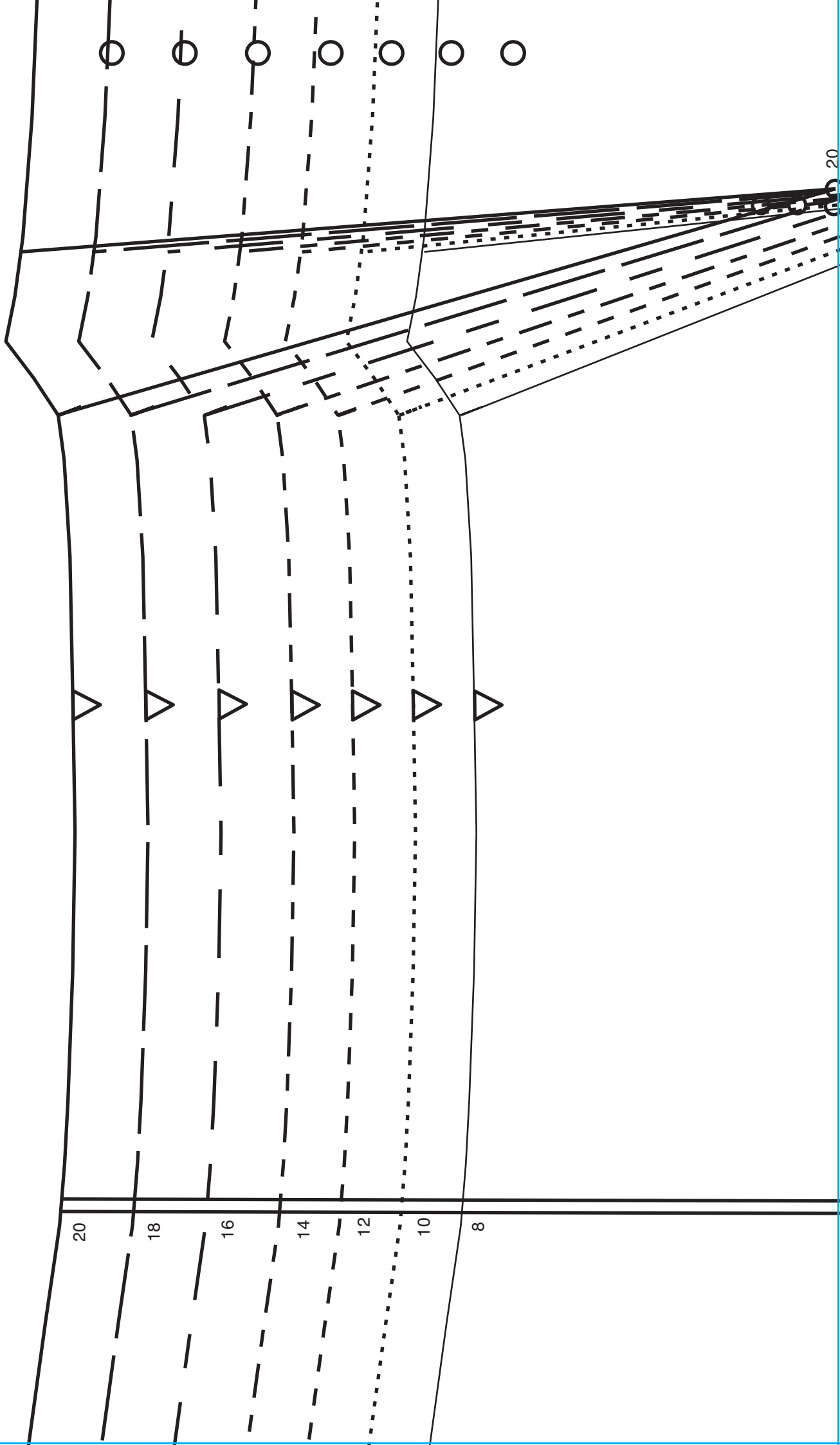
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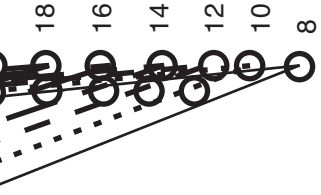
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SHORTEN OR LENGTHEN HERE



10



SHORTEN OR LENGTHEN HERE

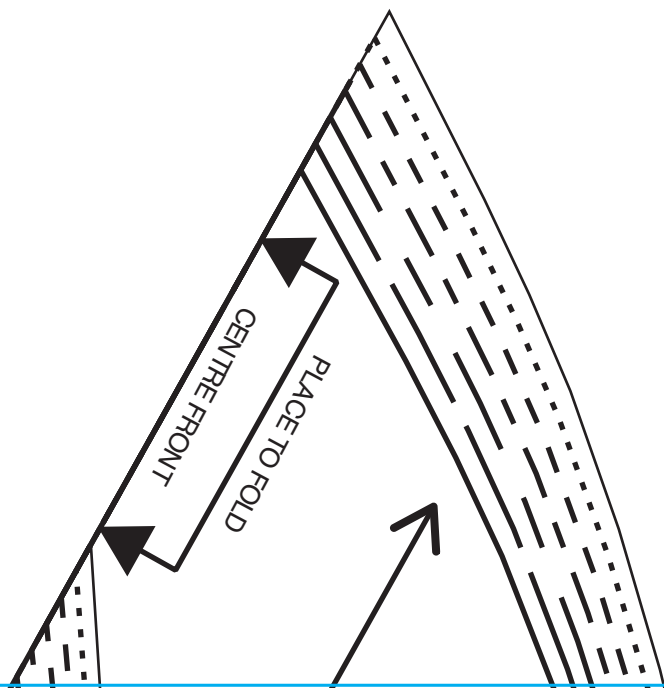
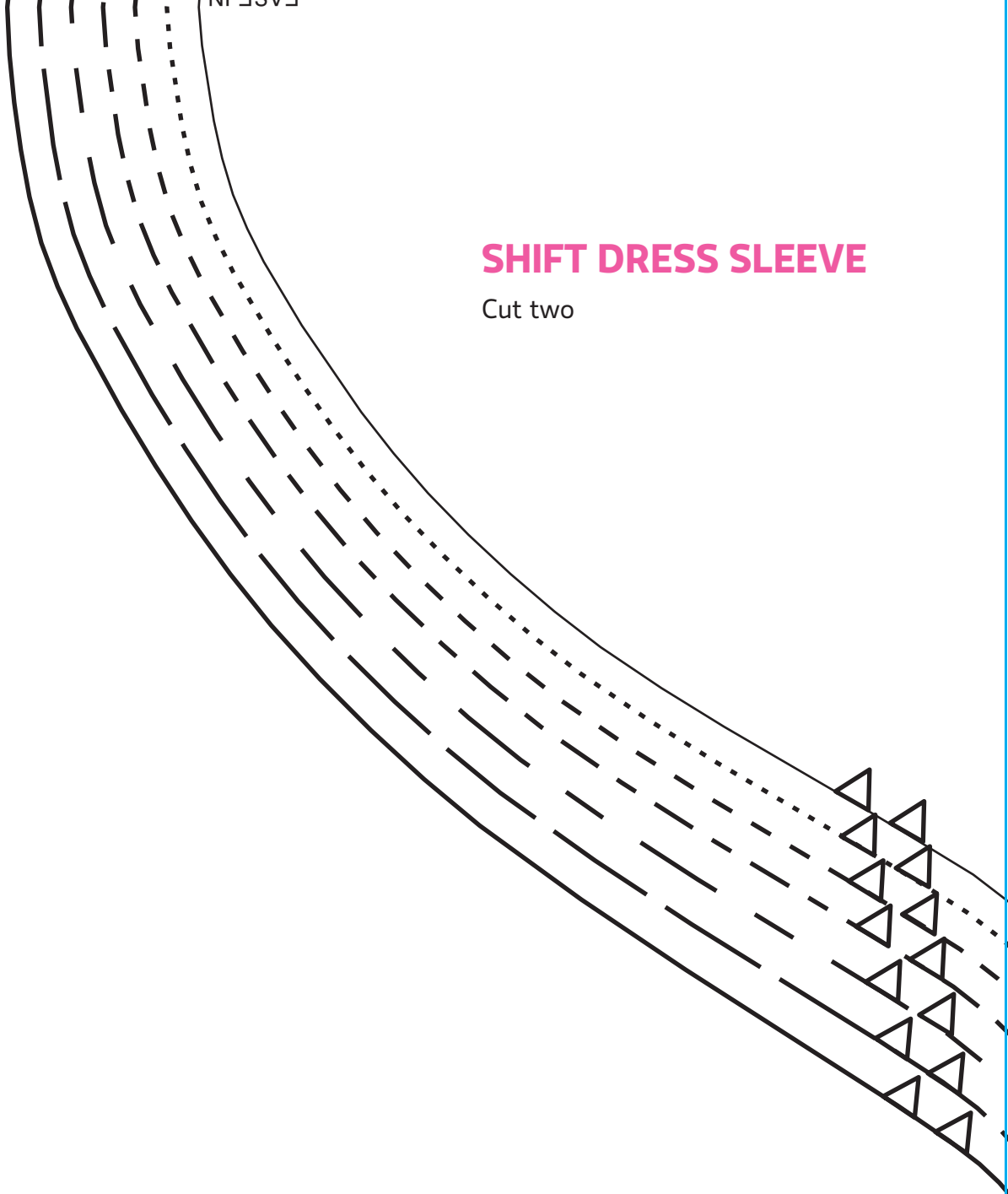
PLACE TO FOLD

CENTRE FRONT

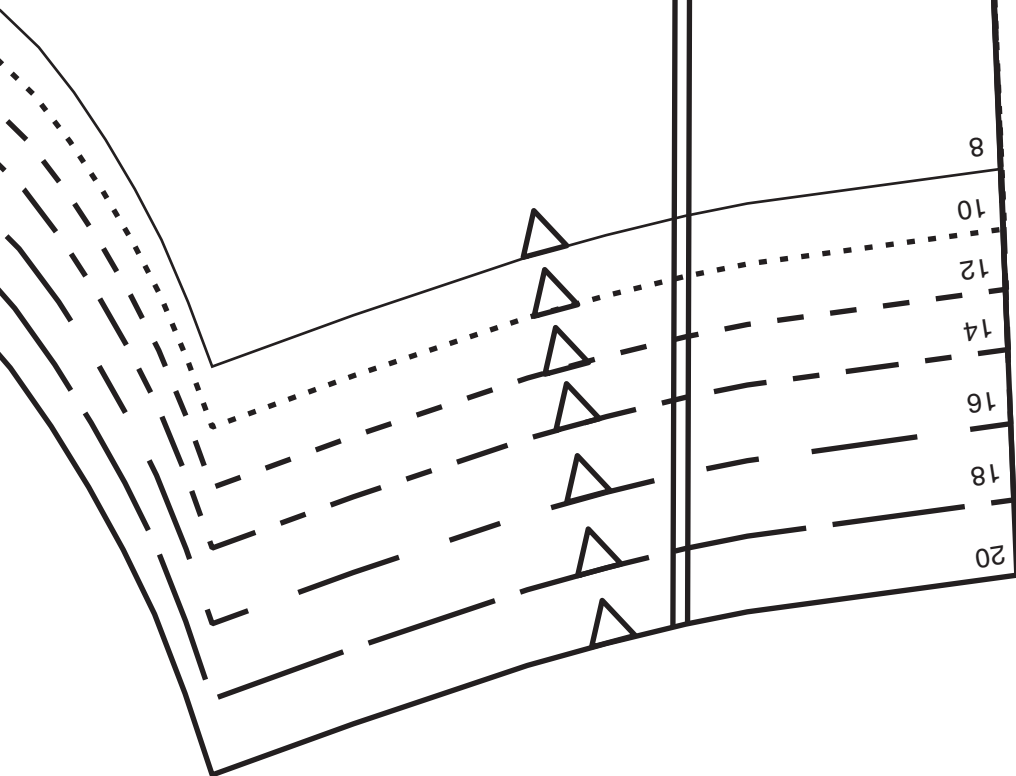


SHIFT DRESS SLEEVE

Cut two



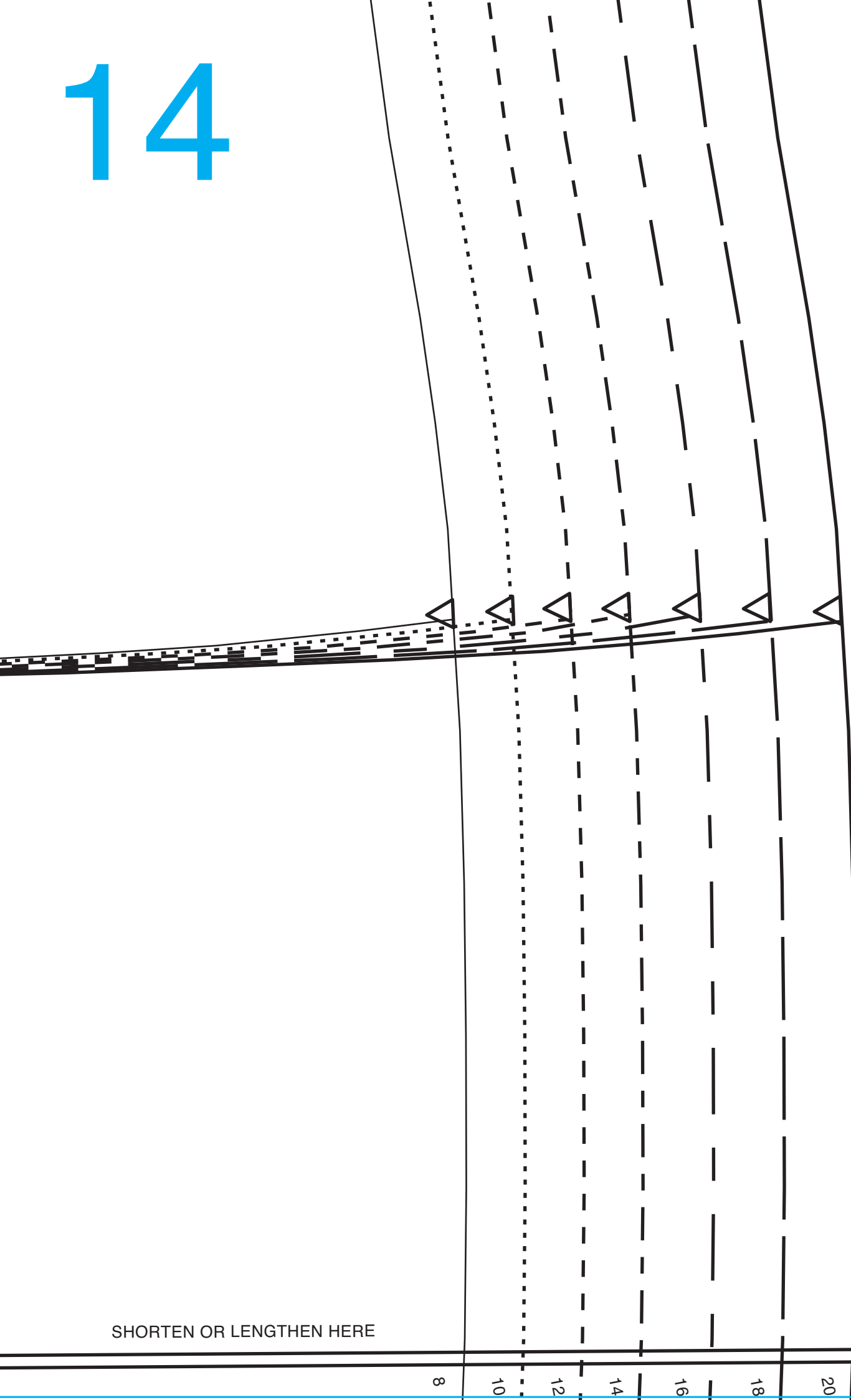
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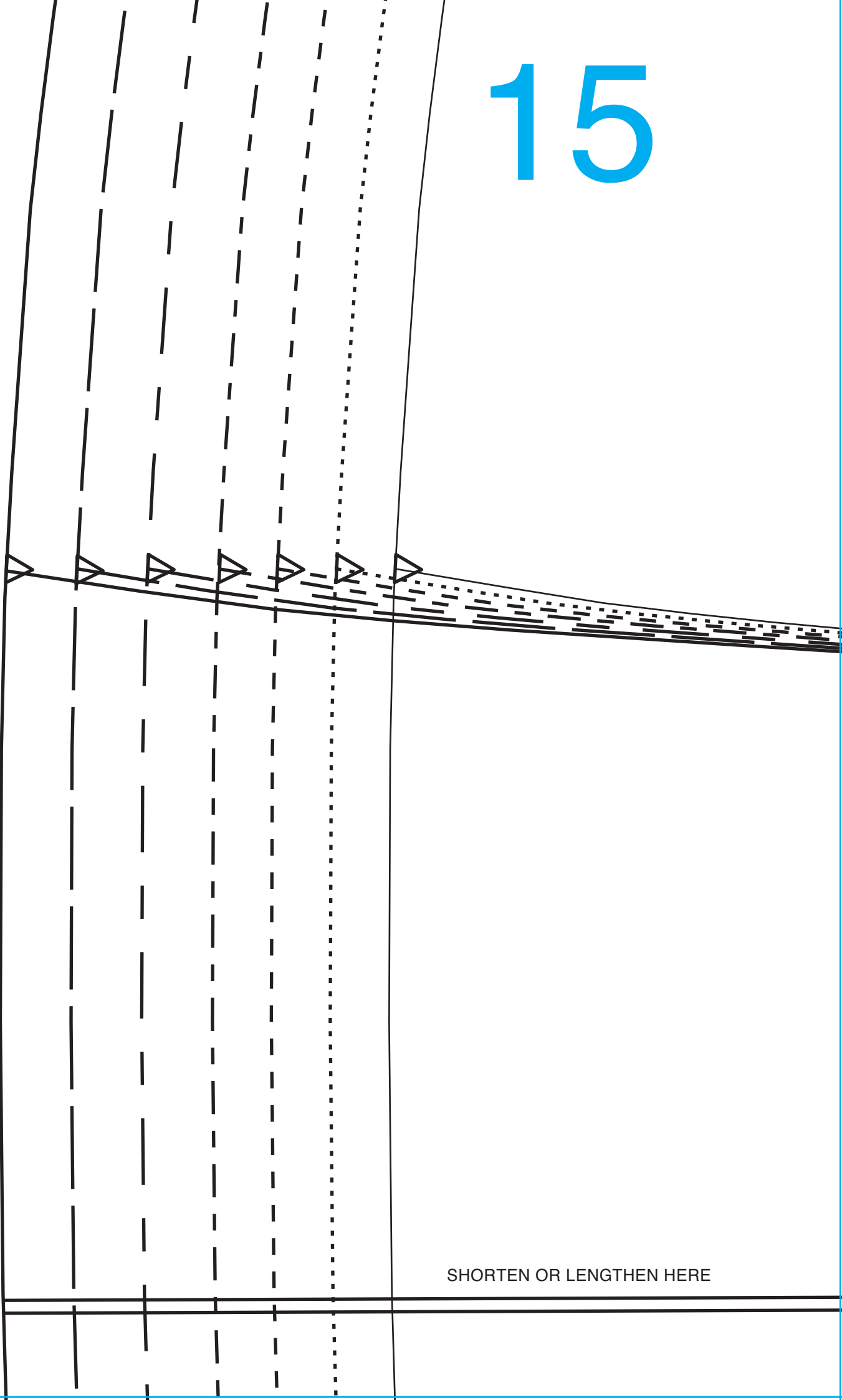
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CUT LINE FOR T-SHIRT OPTION

14



15

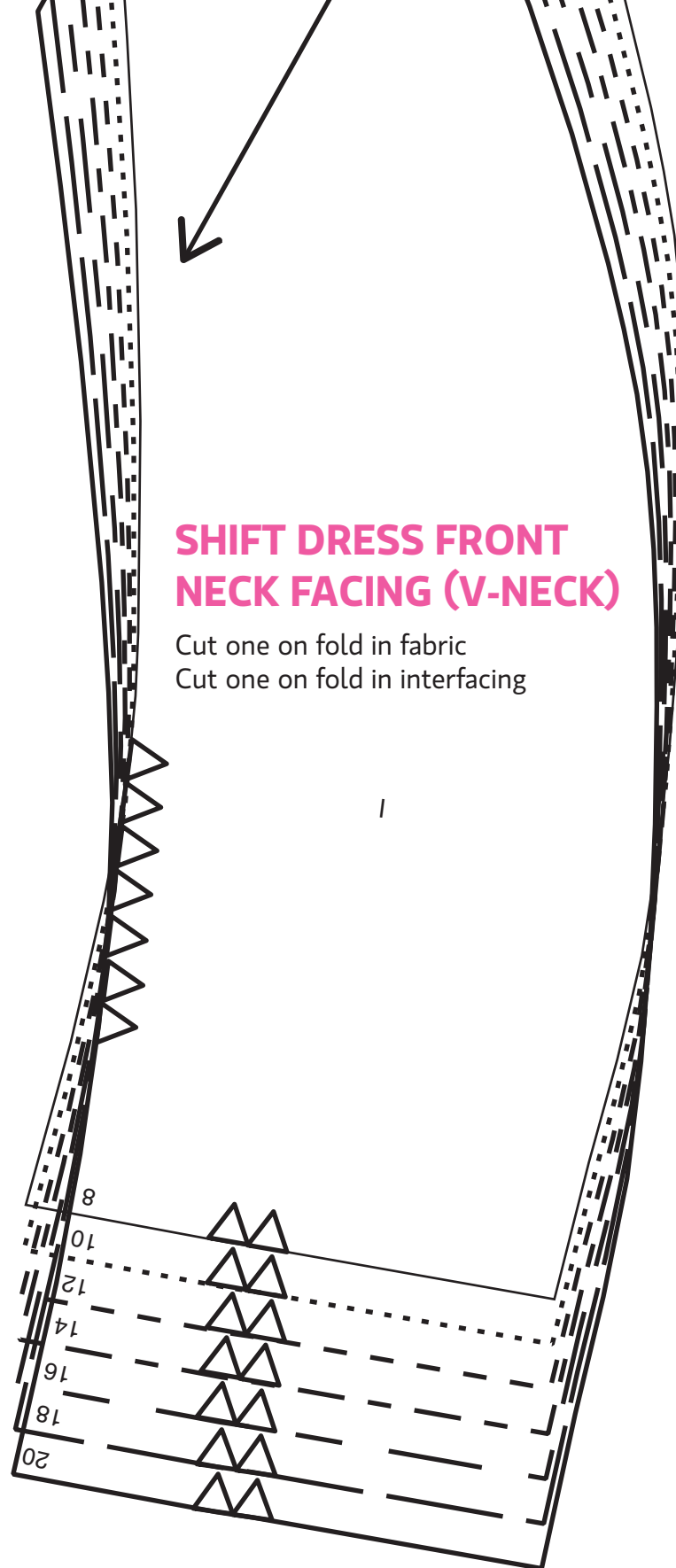


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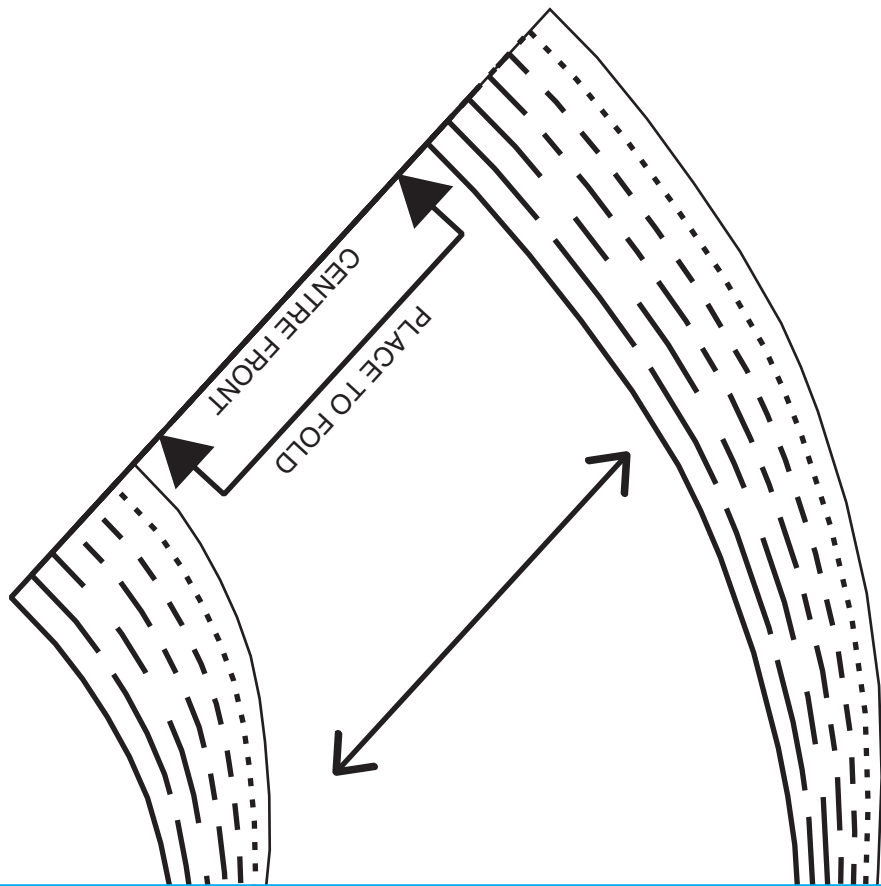
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CUT LINE FOR T-SHIRT OPTION



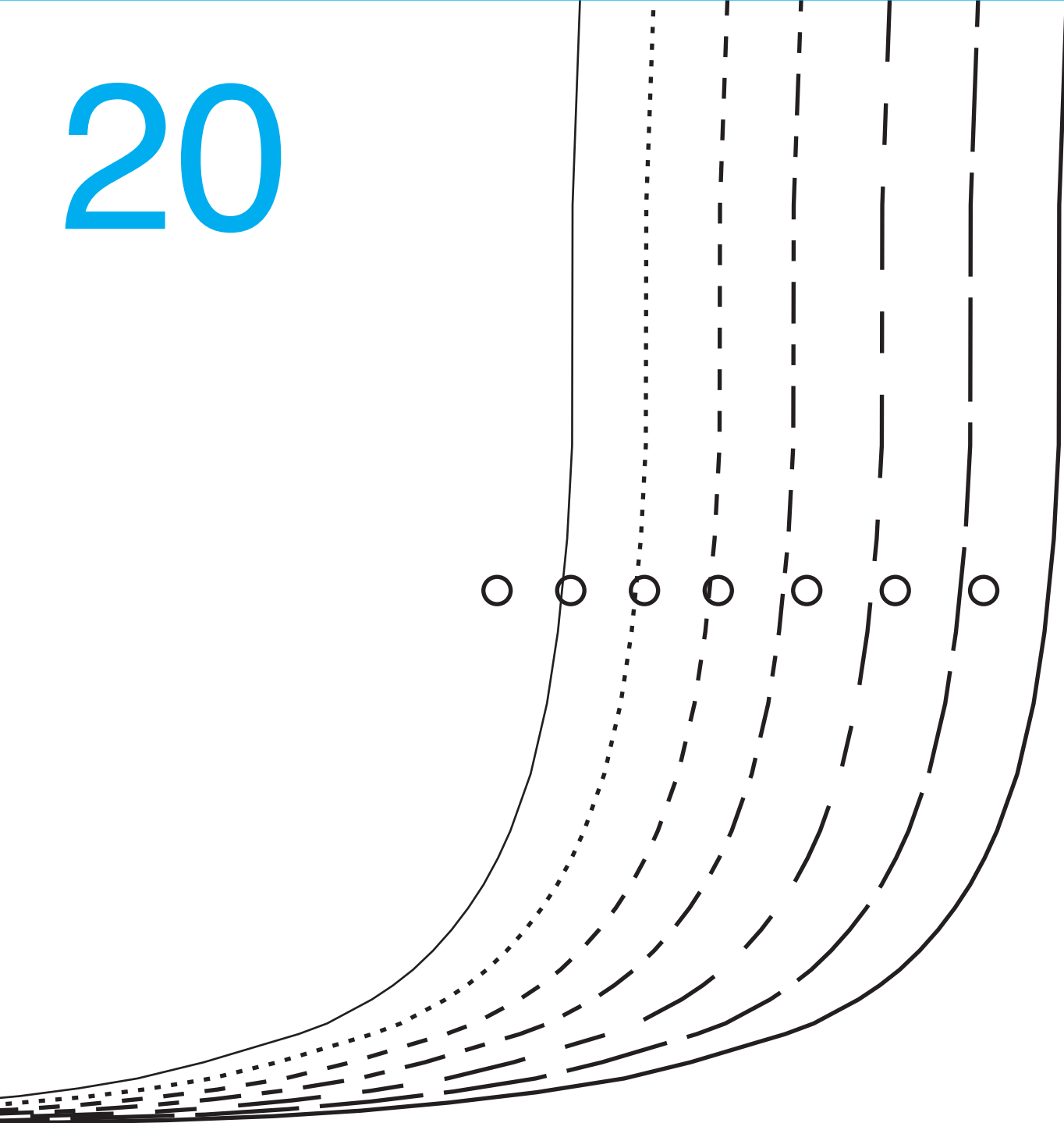
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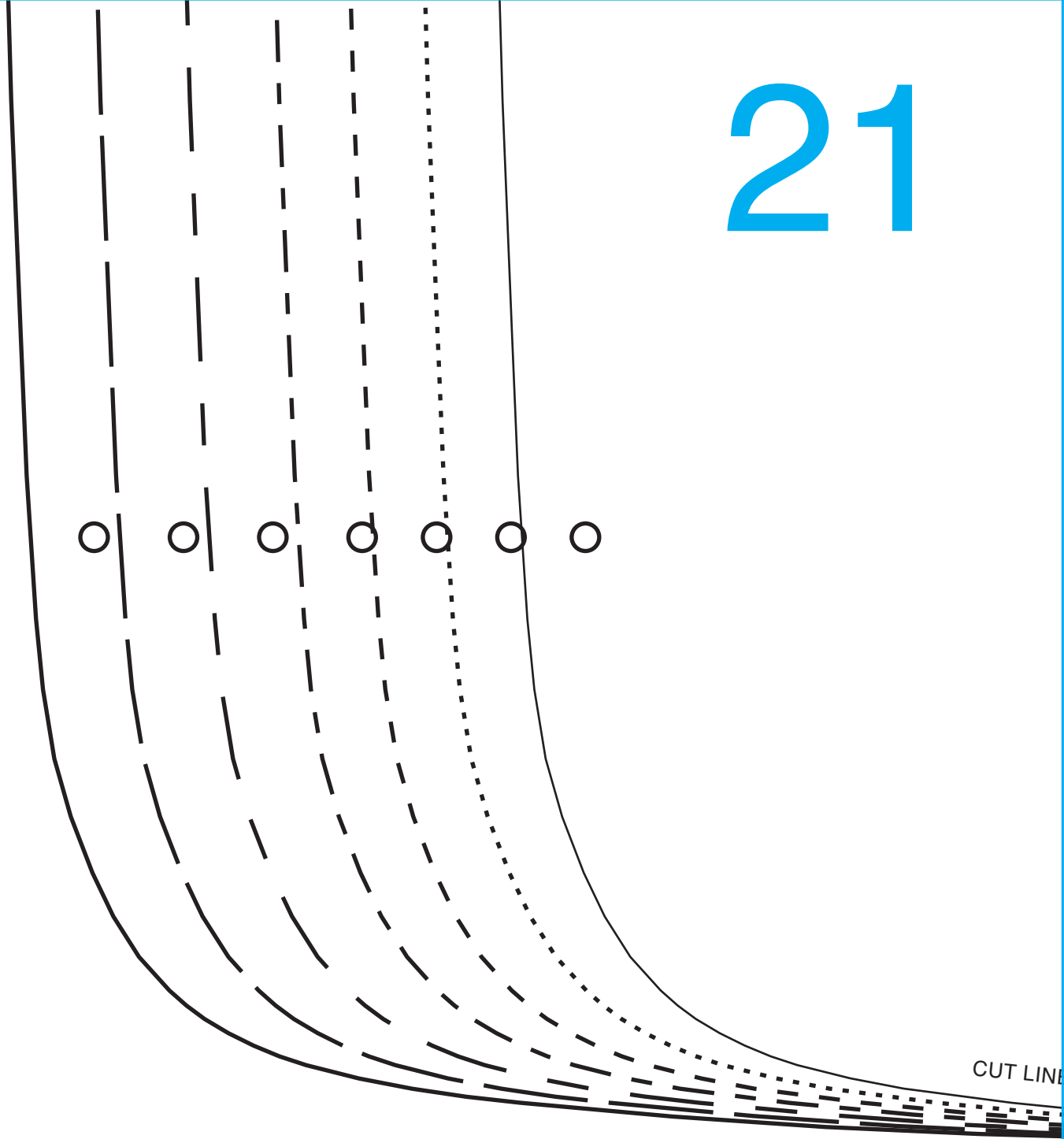
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CUT LINE FOR SHIFT DRESS

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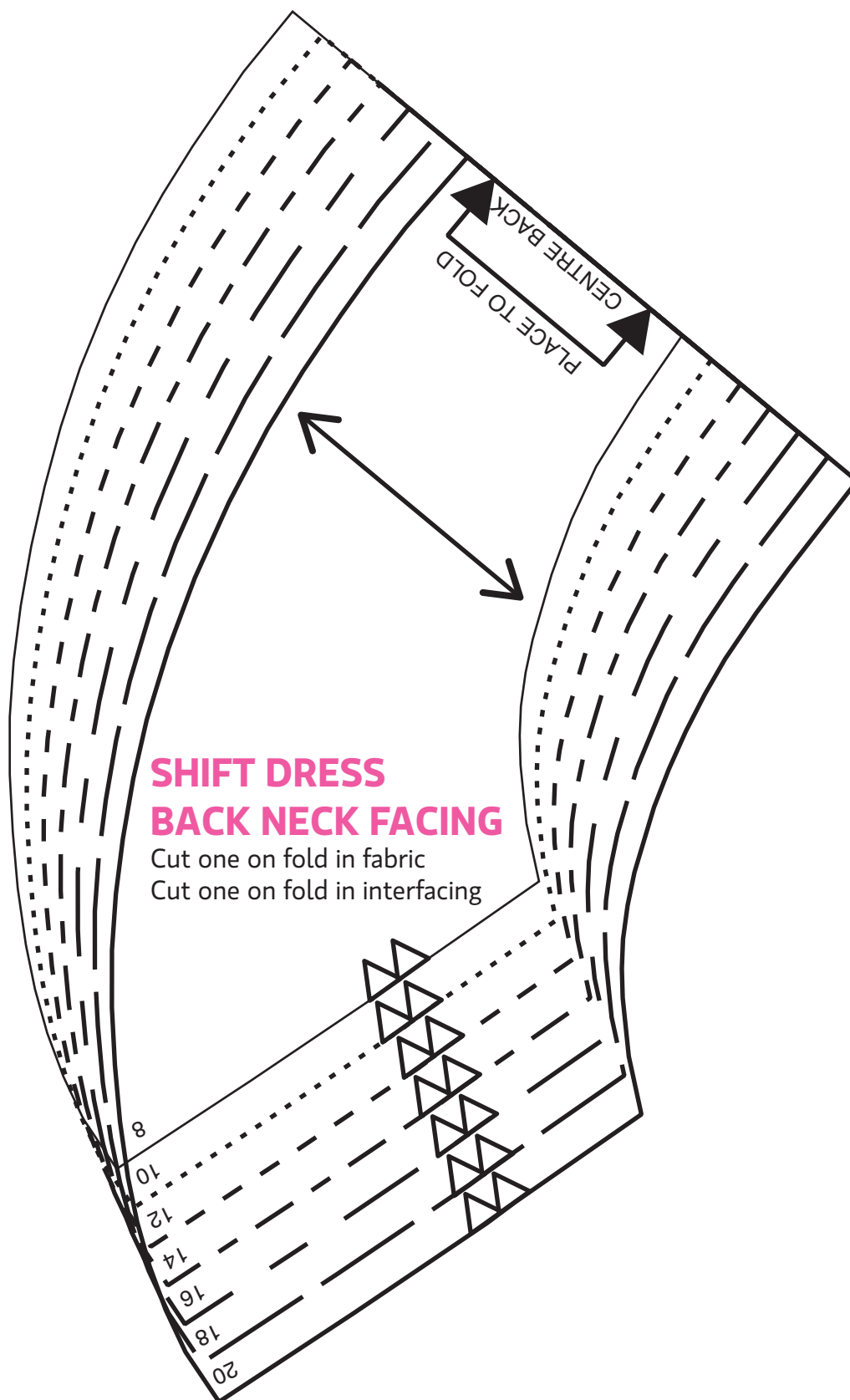


21



22

E FOR SHIFT DRESS



24

SHIFT DRESS FRONT NECK FACING (HIGH NECK)

Cut one on fold in fabric
Cut one on fold in interfacing

