



Core skill: INVISIBLE ZIPPER

An invisible zipper foot is worth buying to ensure a professional finish. Press the seam allowance, then open the zip and place face-down on the right side of the fabric, matching the teeth to the fold line. You might like to tack the tape in place, then stitch along the tape close to the zipper teeth. From the right side, it should look like a subtle seam line.



sew SHOPPER



COOL AS YOU PLEASE

Robert Kaufman cotton chambray dots in royal blue, £15.80 per metre, dragonflyfabrics.co.uk

thank you for shopping!

Walk straight into spring wearing the

EILIS DRESS

Get started

- Light to medium-weight fabric, 2.2m (1.5m wide)
- Fusible interfacing
- 30cm concealed zip
- Four buttons
- Single-sided fusible buckram, 2.5cm wide
- Buckle

Sizes

8-20

Cutting guide

FABRIC

Front bodice: cut one pair

Back bodice: cut one on the fold

Front skirt: cut one on the fold

Back skirt: cut one on the fold

Sleeve: cut one pair

Pocket back: cut two on the fold

Pocket bag: cut two on the fold

Belt: cut one 6cm x (waist + 24cm) strip

Collar: cut two

BUCKRAM

Belt: cut one 2.5cm x (waist + 20cm) strip

1.5cm seam allowance used unless otherwise stated.

This light and lovely shirt dress is great for layering now, then staying cool all summer long – especially if you opt for chambray, like Amanda Walker has here (don't forget to neaten the raw edges). You'll add shaping with simple darts and tucks, then master gathered-head sleeves and inserting an invisible zipper... we promise it will quickly become a favourite in your me-made wardrobe!

outer edge. Trim the corners, then turn right sides out and press. Clip the curve around the neckline. Pin the collar to the neck, matching the centre-back points and the front dots, then stitch. Leave the collar pinned down.

3 Fold the facing part of the front bodice to the right side, noting the fold line indicated on the pattern, so that the collar is sandwiched between the bodice outer and the facing. Pin, then stitch along the neckline as far as the shoulder seams on both sides of the front bodice, so a small step is formed in front of each end of the collar. Trim the corners, turn the facings to the inside, then press flat.

4 Turn under the short edge at the top of the facing, then stitch it to the shoulder seam. Topstitch 1cm from the fold, up one front edge, around the back of the collar, then down the other side. Pin the front and back bodice at the side seams, right sides together, then stitch from the underarm to the zip notch on the left.

5 Sew two rows of 5mm-long gathering stitches between the notches on the head of the sleeves. Pin the underarm seams right sides together, sew, then press them open. Turn the sleeves out, then pull the gathering threads slightly to fit them into the bodice armholes, matching the notches. Align the side and underarm seams, then pin and stitch in place.

6 Pin the pocket bags to the curved upper edge of the front skirt, right sides together, matching the notches, then sew with



whip up a BELT

Trim one end of the buckram strip into an arrow shape, fuse it to the wrong side of the fabric belt strip, then fold the edges of the fabric to the reverse and secure with fabric glue. Topstitch around, 1cm from the edge. Attach a buckle to the straight end.

a 1cm allowance. Clip the curve, turn the pouches to the wrong side of the skirt, press, then topstitch along the curved edges. Pin the back pocket pieces behind the bags, then sew around the curve and press. Fold the tucks on the front waistline, then pin the pockets onto the skirt and stitch along the top and side.

7 Pin the skirt pieces right sides together, then stitch the side seams, only sewing as far up as the zipper notch on the left-hand

seam. Press the seams open. Pin the skirt to the bodice at the waistline, right sides together, matching the side seams and the centre-back and front, then stitch.

8 Insert the invisible zipper into the left-hand side seam. Fold and press a 3cm hem at the skirt base and sleeve cuffs, then topstitch in place. Make four buttonholes on the right side of the front bodice, then stitch buttons on the left.

stitch a SHIRT DRESS

1 Download and print the pattern at sewmag.co.uk/templates. Cut all the pieces as indicated in the cutting guide and transfer all markings. Fuse interfacing to the collar and front bodice facing area as indicated. Stitch the darts into the front and back bodice pieces, then press towards the centre. Fold in and pin the tucks at either side of the front darts, then stitch them down along the waistline.

2 Neaten the shoulders and side seams on the front and back bodice pieces, pin right sides together, then sew the shoulder seams. Pin the collars right sides together, then stitch along the

Use a kitchen tea towel for our UPCYCLED APRON

If you ever find yourself in the distressing scenario where your fabric stash has been – *sharp inhale* – totally depleted, fear not. Household items like the classic linen tea towel can be utilised and transformed, much like it has here into a traditional 50s apron. Featuring pleats at the waist and a handy pocket, you can also add D-rings to hold a cloth and keep it to hand.

stitch a TEA TOWEL APRON

Get started

- Tea towel or fabric, 50cm x 76cm
- White herringbone tape, 2m (4cm wide)
- 4cm D-rings, two (optional)

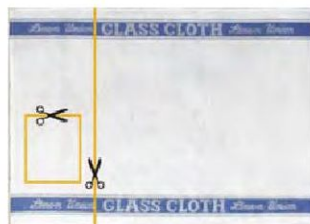
Cutting guide

D-ring tab: cut one 15cm length from herringbone tape

Pocket: cut one 18cm x 23cm piece from main fabric *

* See step 2

1cm seam allowance used unless otherwise stated.



CUTTING OUT

Consider what part of the fabric you want on show when cutting out.



1 Cut the D-ring tab according to the cutting guide. Fold it through two D-rings, aligning the raw ends. Zigzag stitch back and forth from the folded end to encase the rings. You may have to use a zipper foot for this depending on the width of your standard foot and the diameter of the D-rings.



4 Topstitch the pocket, back-tacking at the top corners to strengthen. Find the top-centre, measure 14cm out from this point on either side, then mark five more points 3cm apart. Make three pleats on each side, with their folds facing away from the centre. Pin, tack, then stitch to hold the pleats.



2 Lay the tea towel or fabric out in front of you, wrong side facing up and landscape view. Mark 58cm from the left-hand edge, draw a vertical line and cut along it. Cut the pocket piece from the rest. On the main piece, fold a double 1cm hem at the raw right-hand edge and press. Pin, tack, then stitch.



5 Press the herringbone tape in half lengthwise. Match its centre to the apron top, fold over to encase it then pin along, inserting the D-ring tab 7cm from the left edge. Fold each raw edge in by 1cm. Stitch down one end of the tape tie, along the bottom edge, along the tape and up the other end.



3 Fold a double 1cm hem at the top edge of the pocket piece, then press. Pin, tack and stitch. Fold the three raw edges in by 1cm and press. Pin the pocket to the front of the apron, 4.5cm in from the right-hand edge and 12cm from the bottom.

get the BOOK



Find more great projects in *Take a Tea Towel* by Jenima Schlee. £12.99, thegmcgroup.com

**PRINT
OUT
& KEEP**

EILIS DRESS TEMPLATE

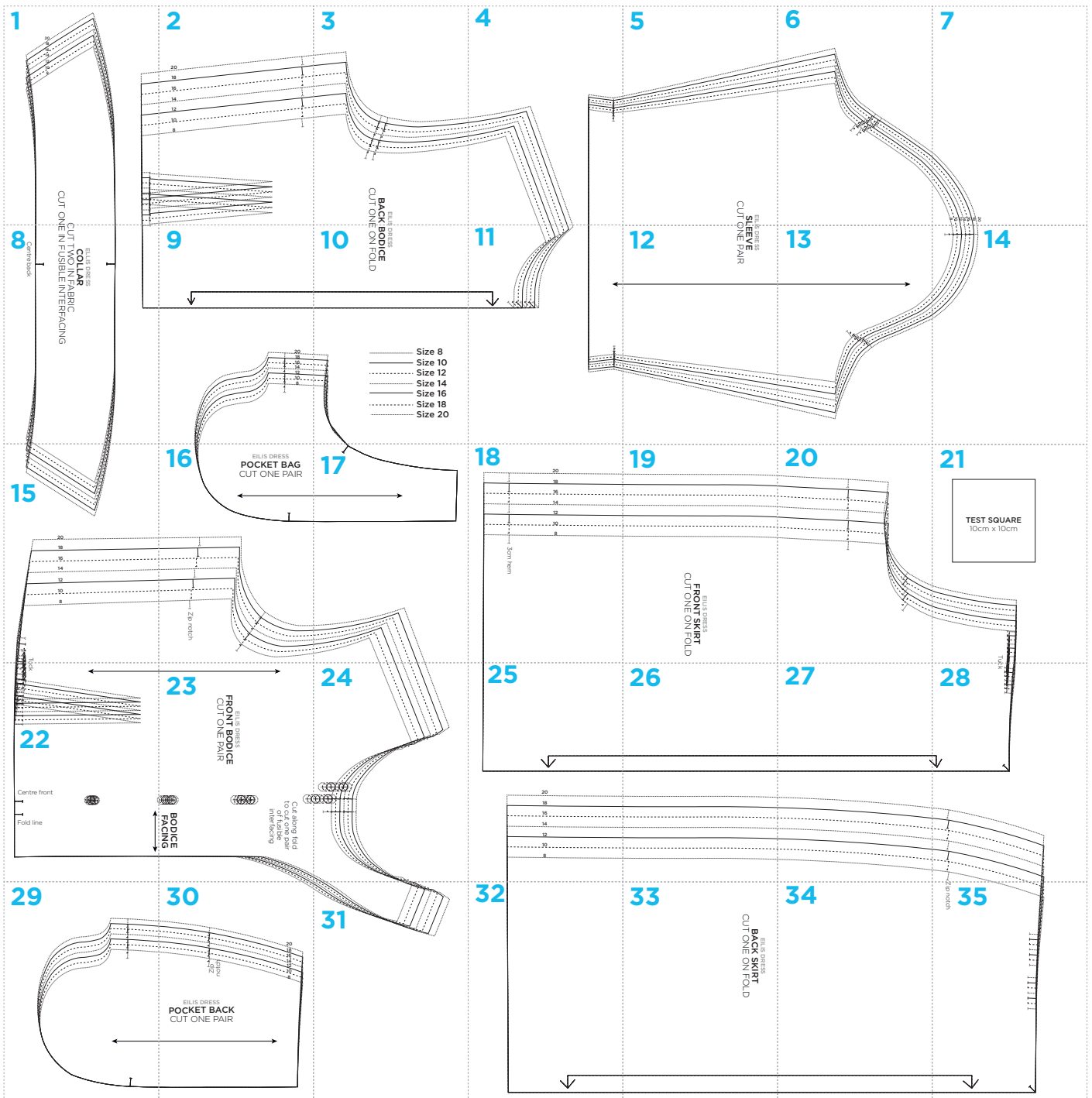
Use these guides to get started today

IN YOUR PRINT MENU, UNDER SIZE OPTIONS, BE SURE TO
SELECT TO PRINT 'ACTUAL SIZE', INSTEAD OF 'FIT TO PAGE'

Title: Eilis dress
Designer: Amanda Walker
Magazine page: 48



EILIS DRESS PATTERN LAYOUT



Cutting guide

FABRIC

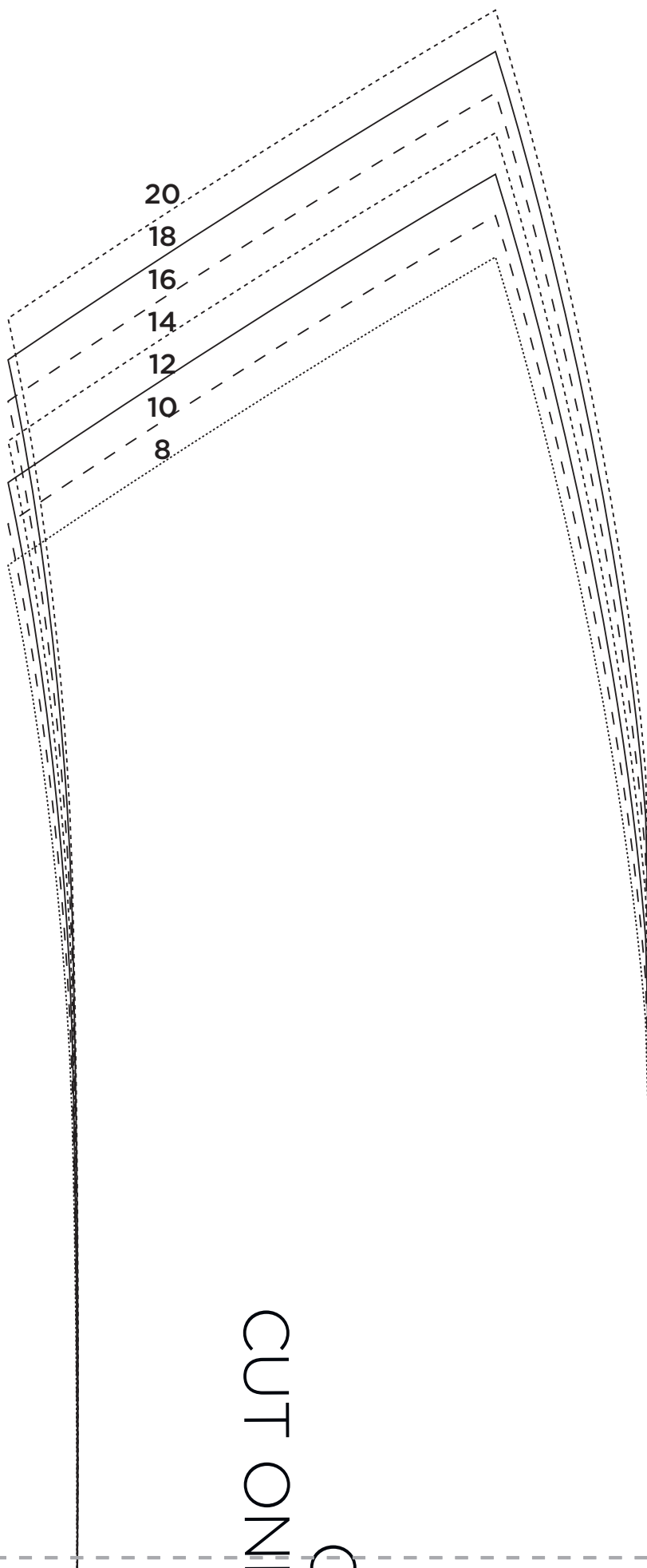
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Back bodice: cut one on the fold
Front skirt: cut one on the fold
Back skirt: cut one on the fold
Sleeve: cut one pair
Pocket back: cut one pair
Pocket bag: cut one pair
Belt: cut one 6cm x (waist + 24cm) strip
Collar: cut two

BUCKRAM

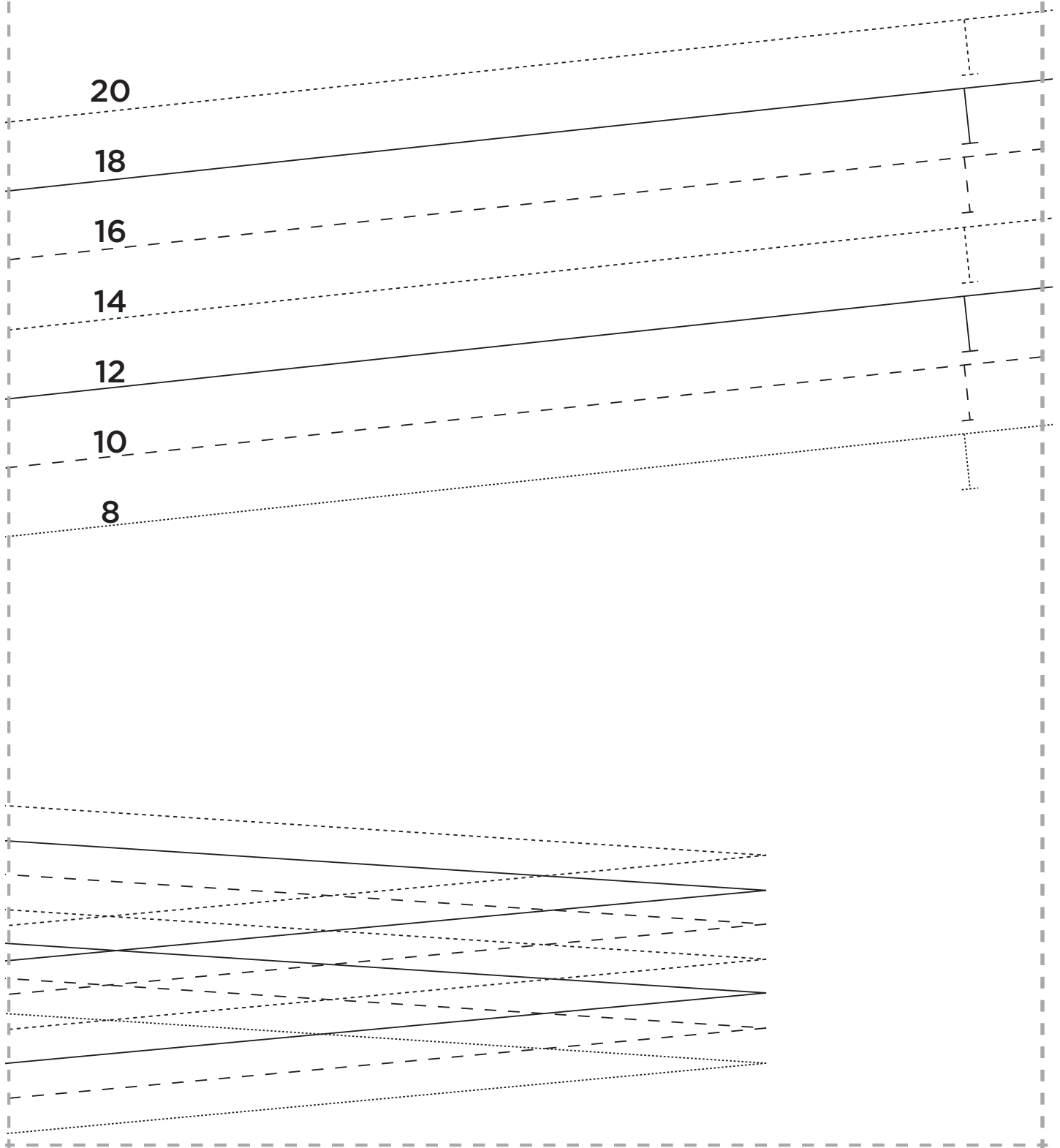
Belt: cut one 2.5cm x (waist + 20cm) strip
 1.5cm seam allowance used unless otherwise stated.

.....	Size 8
————	Size 10
- - - -	Size 12
- . - .	Size 14
— — — —	Size 16
- - - -	Size 18
- . - .	Size 20

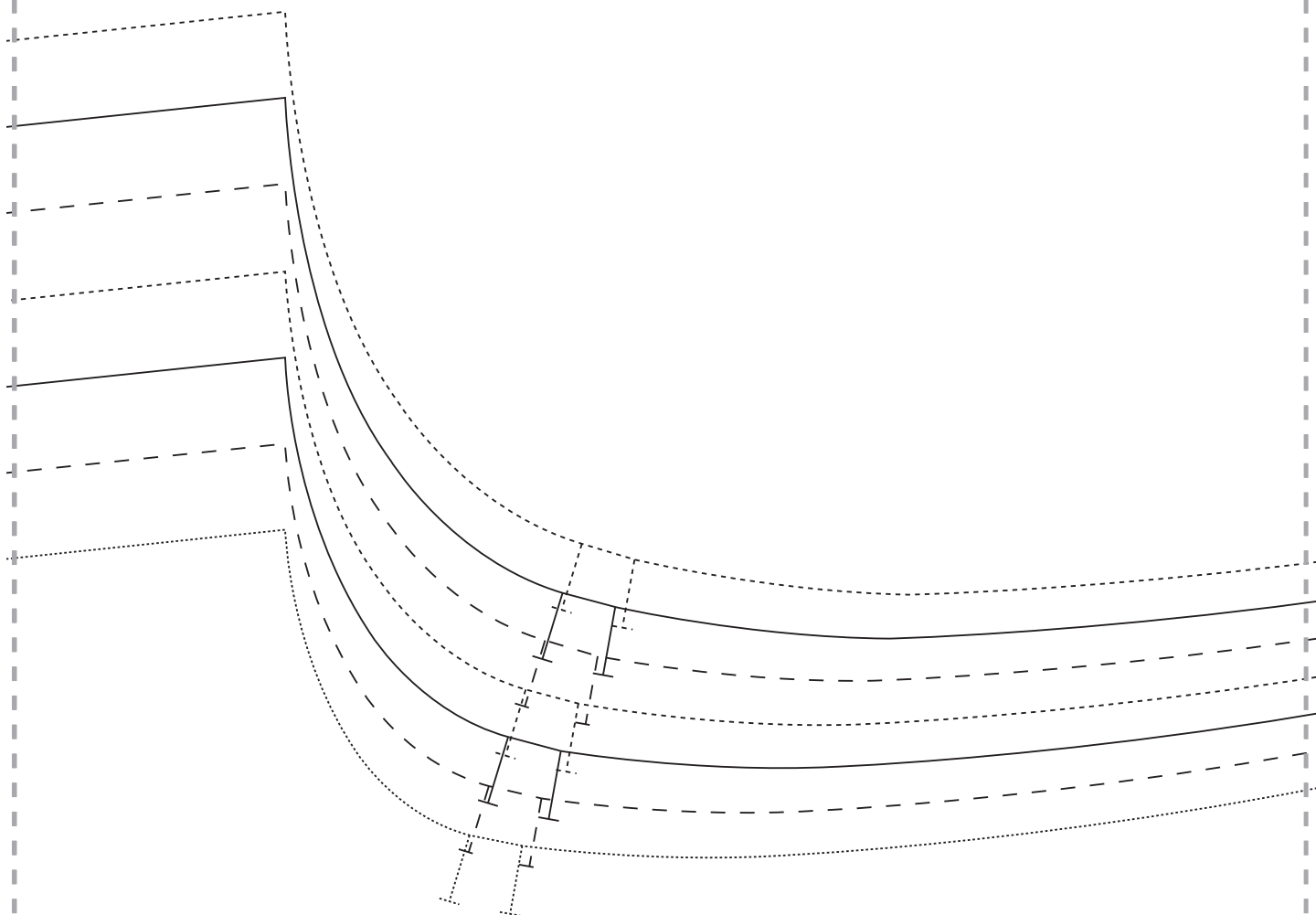
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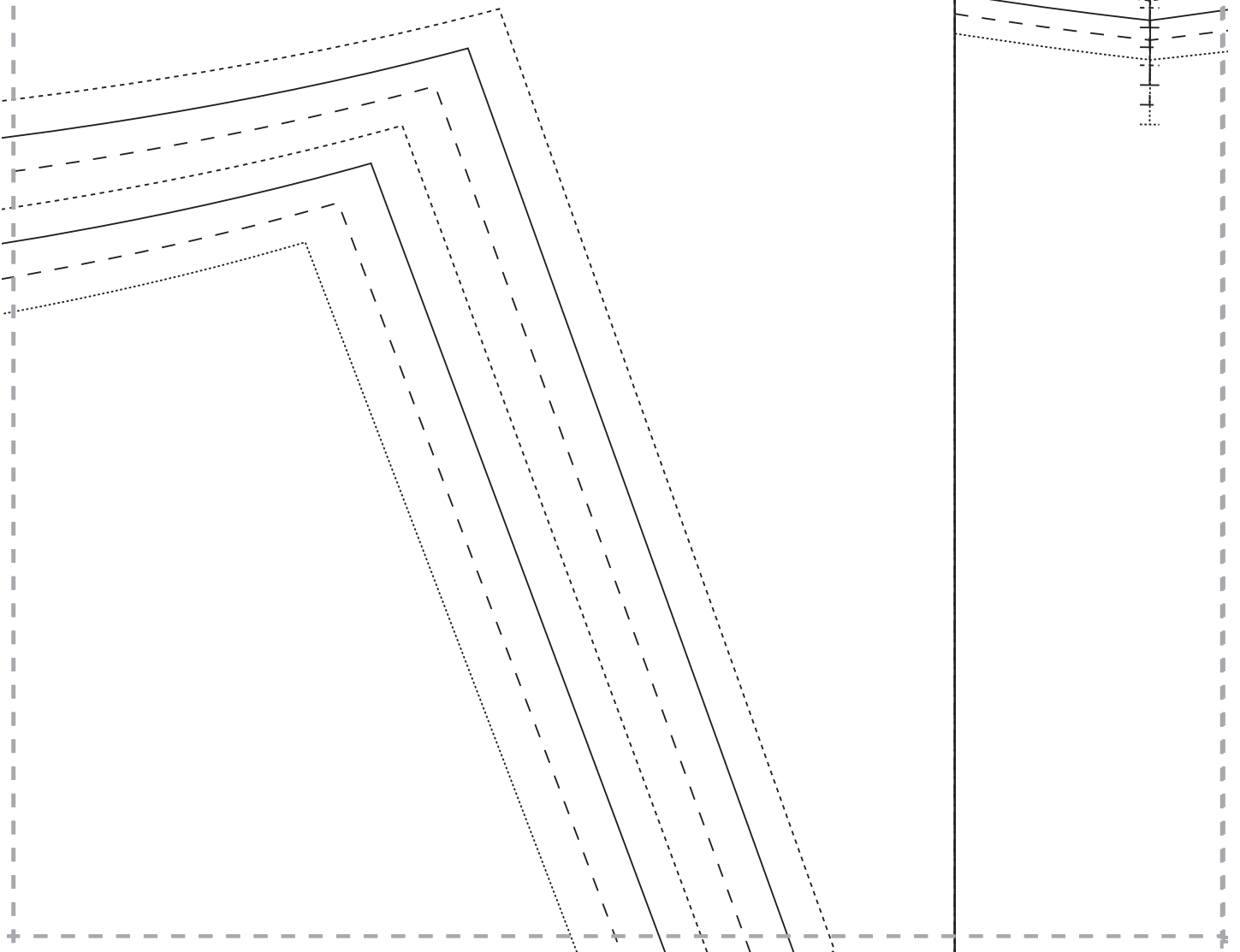


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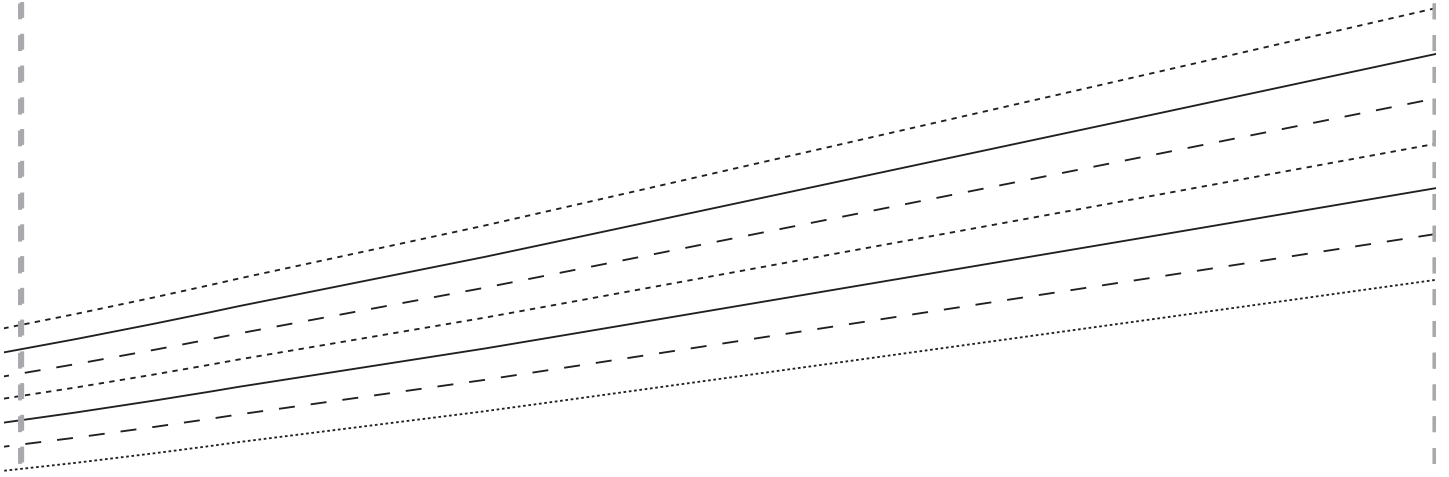


ELIS
BACK
CUT ONE

4

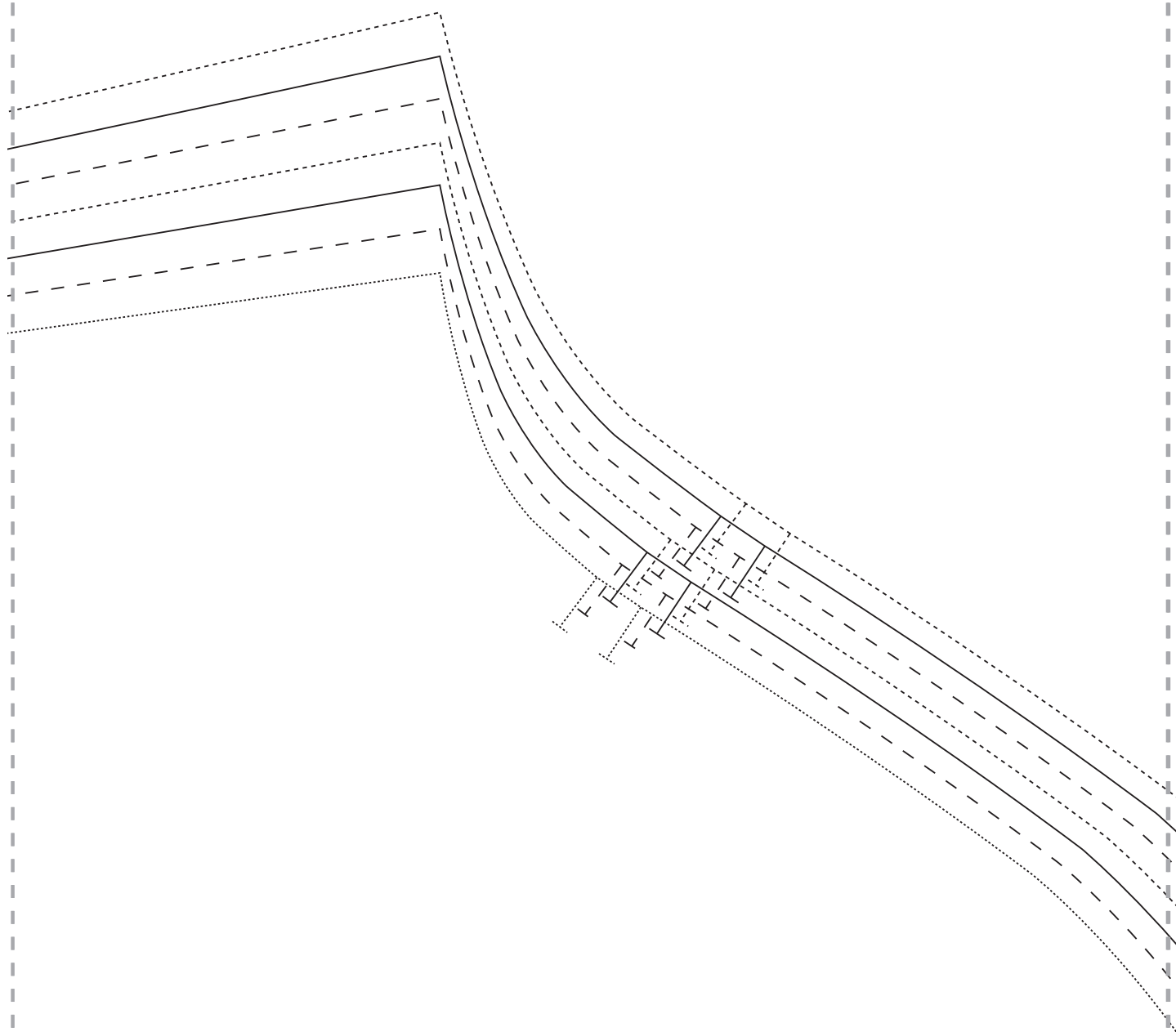


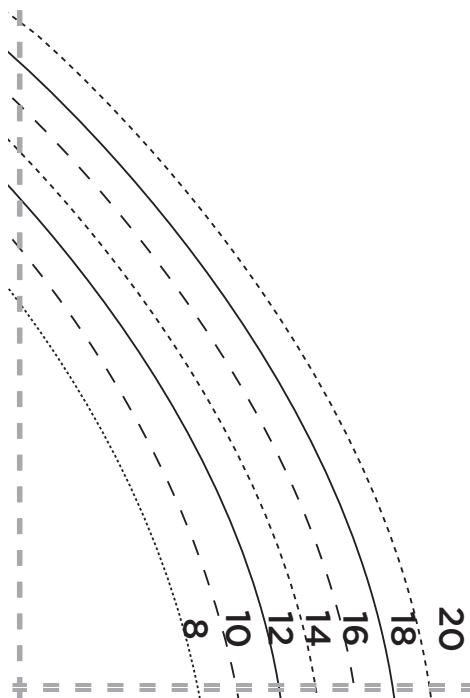
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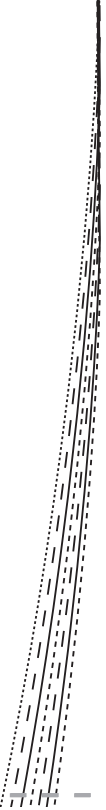


SLIP
CUT C

6







ELLIS DRESS

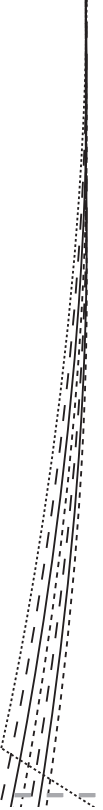
COLLAR

CUT TWO IN FABRIC
E IN FUSIBLE INTERFACING

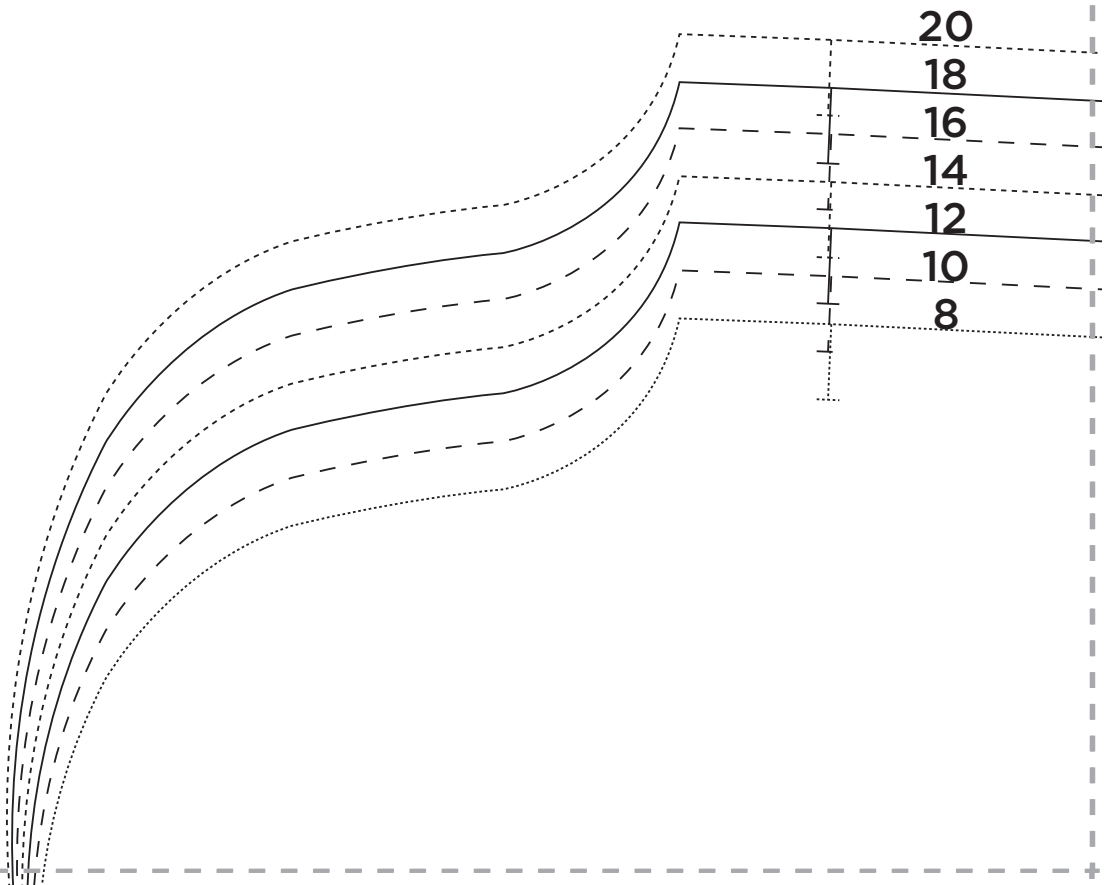


Centre back

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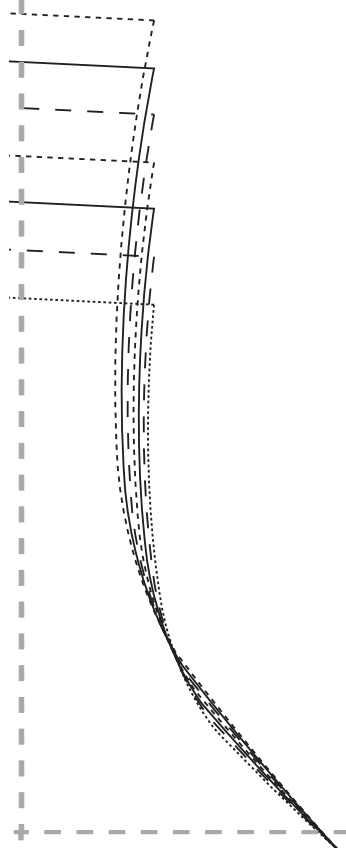


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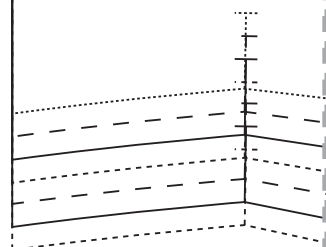
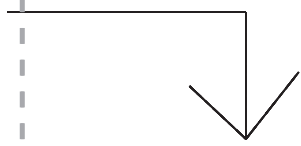
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DRESS BODICE ON FOLD



.....	Size 8
————	Size 10
- - - - -	Size 12
.....	Size 14
————	Size 16
- - - - -	Size 18
.....	Size 20

11

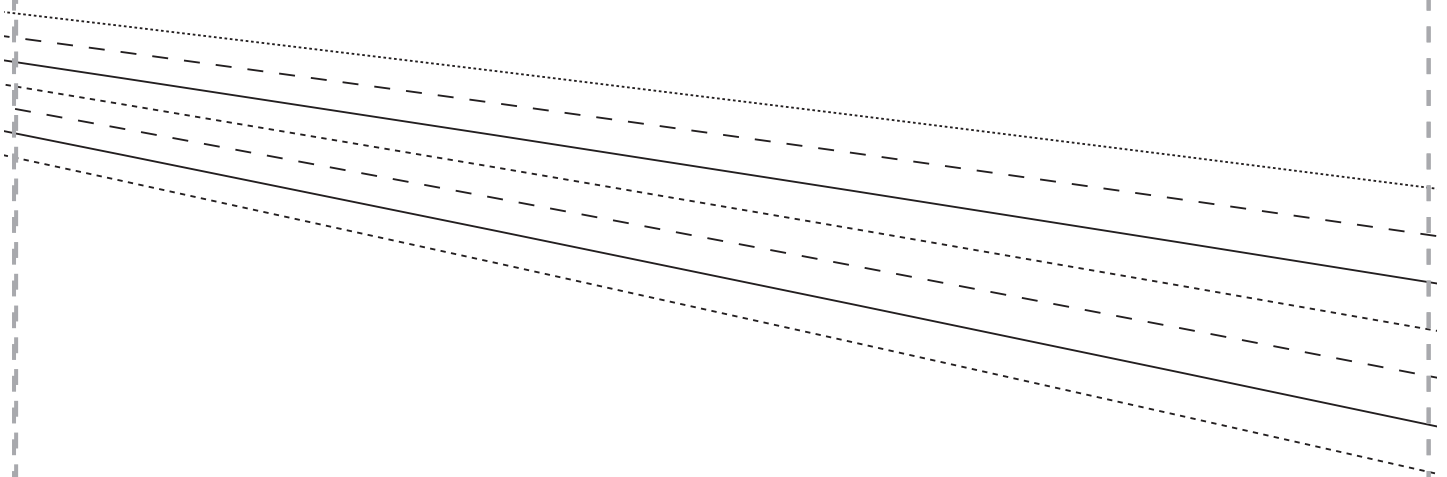


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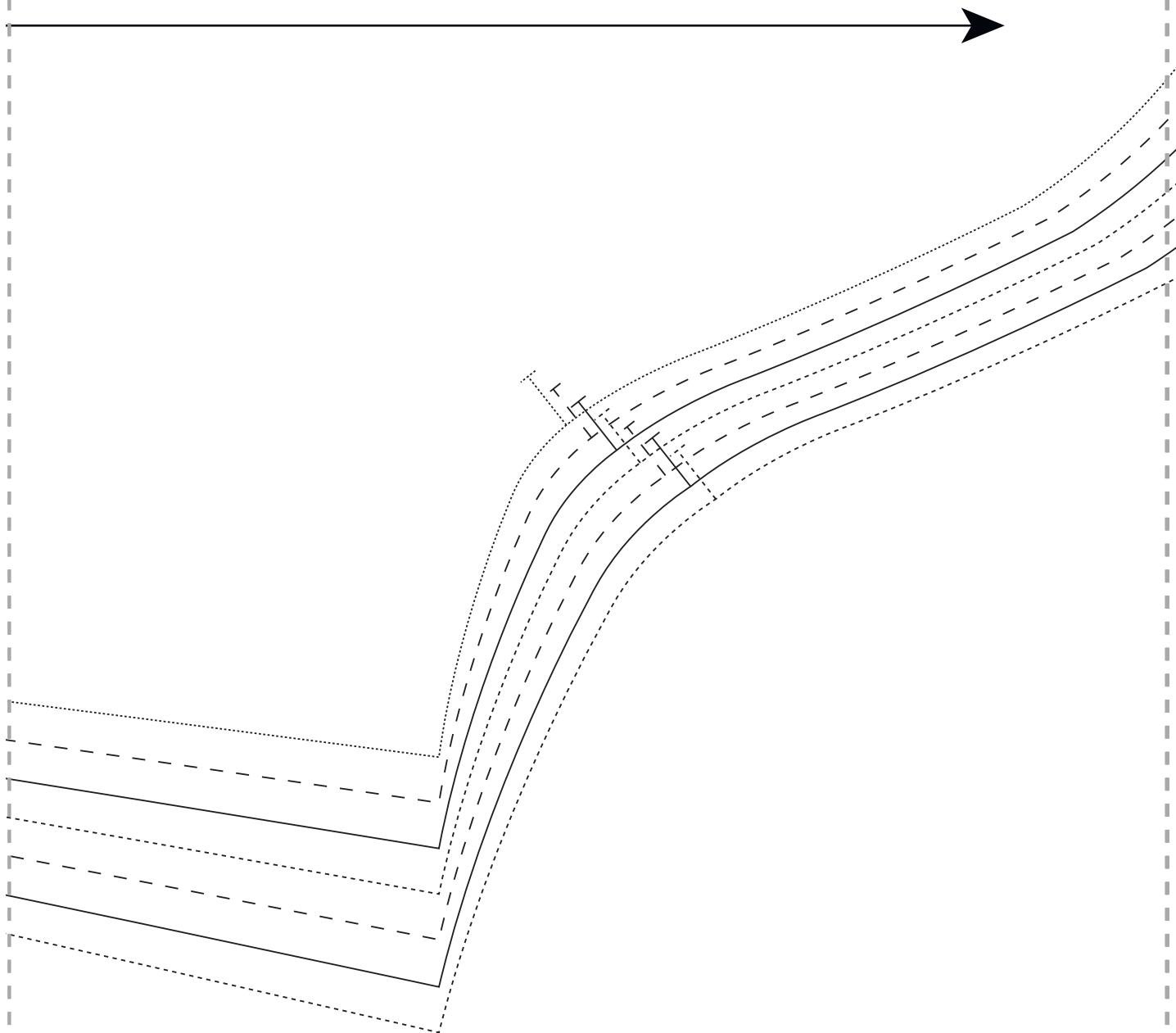
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ONE PAIR

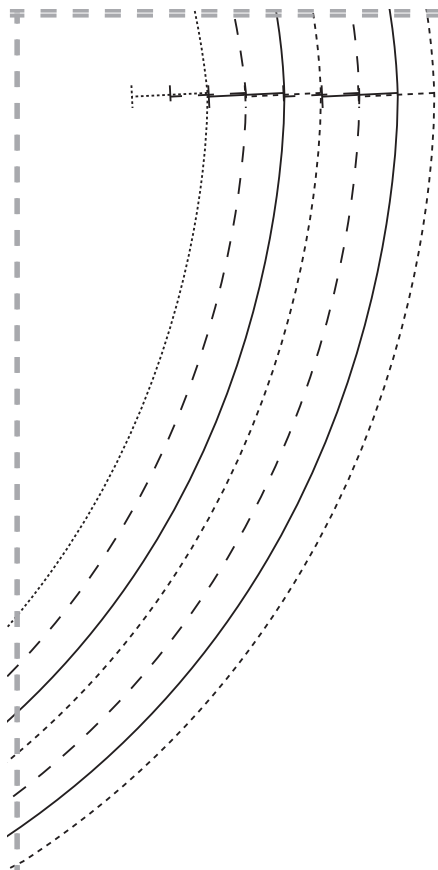
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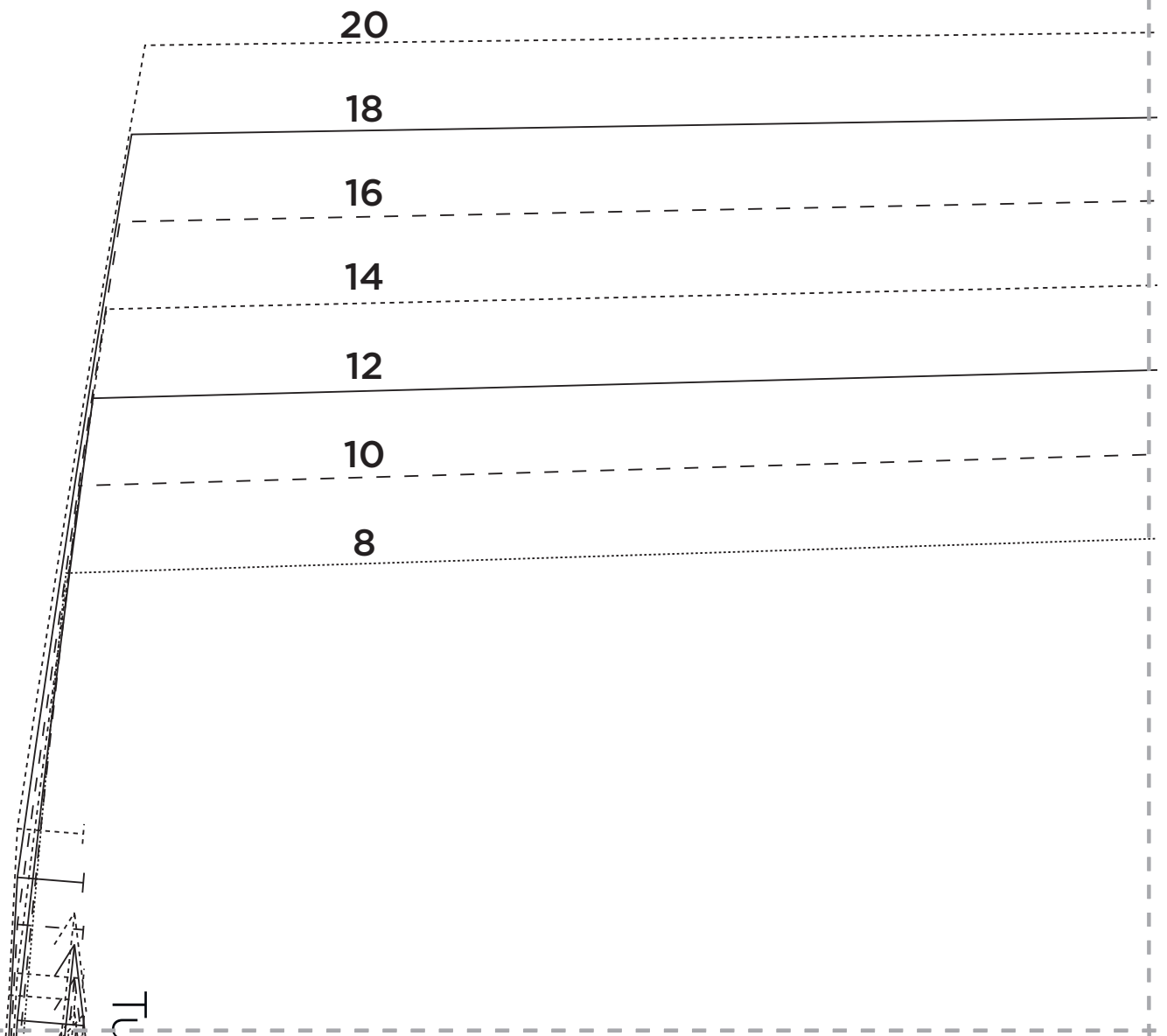
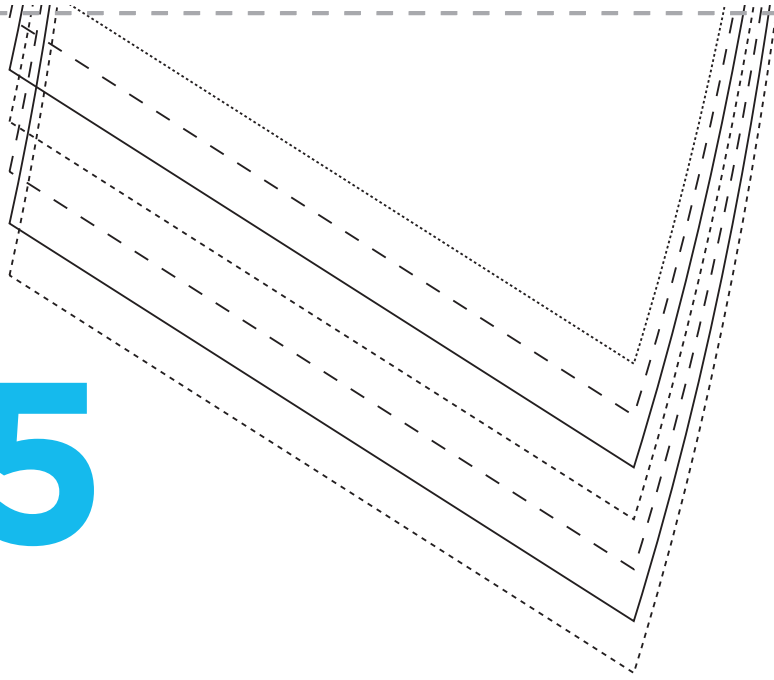
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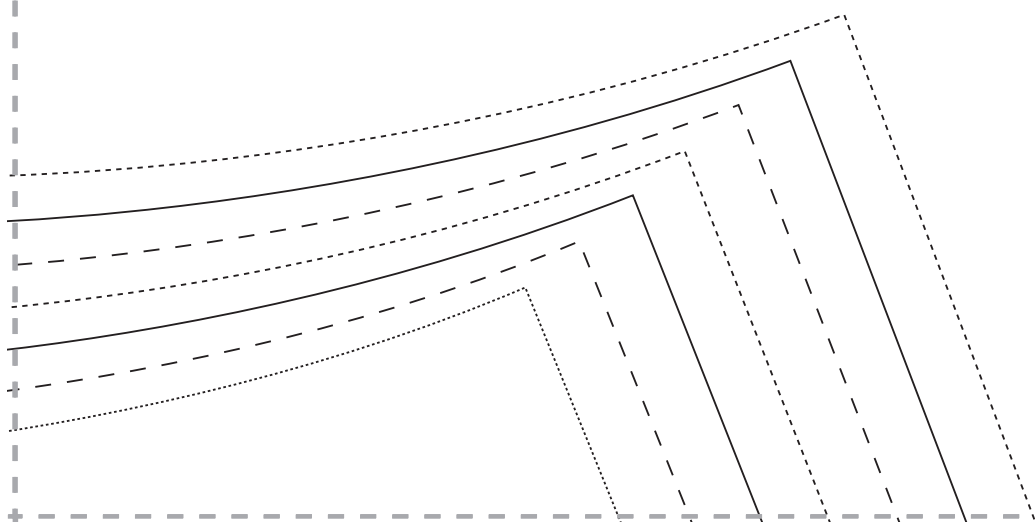
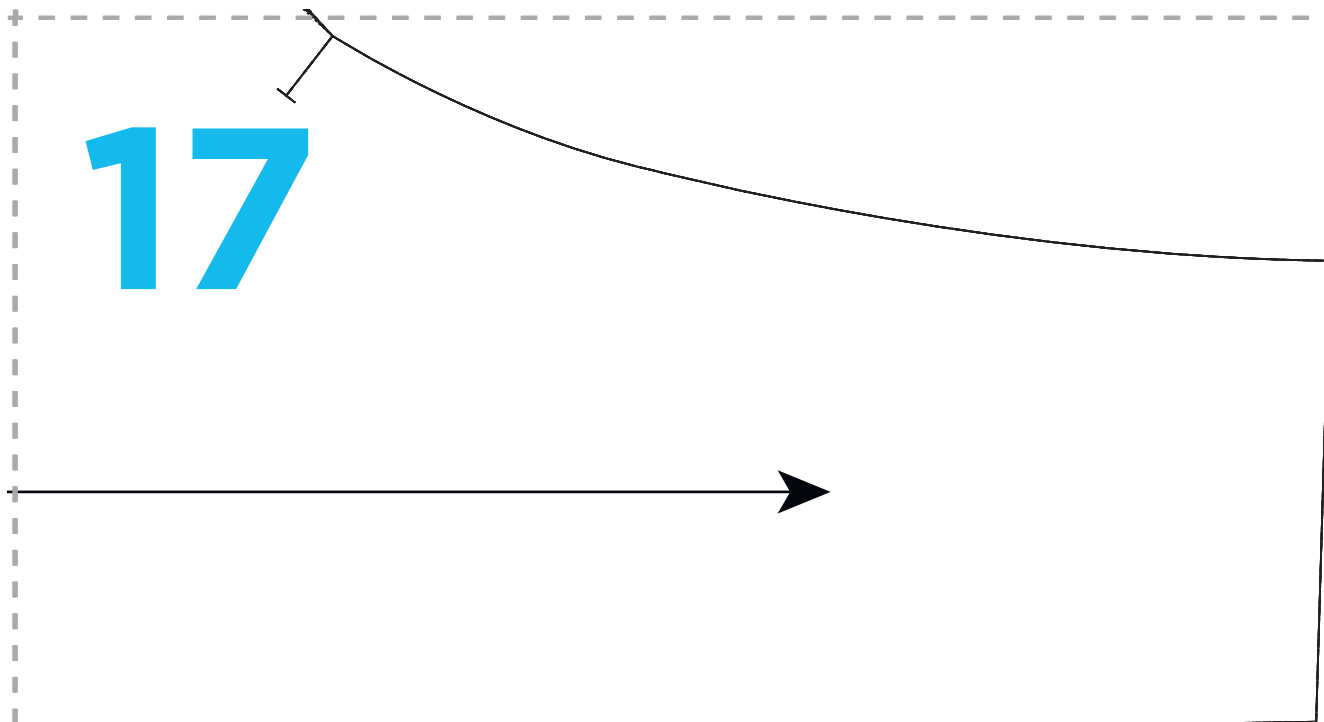
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EILIS DRESS POCKET BAG CUT ONE PAIR

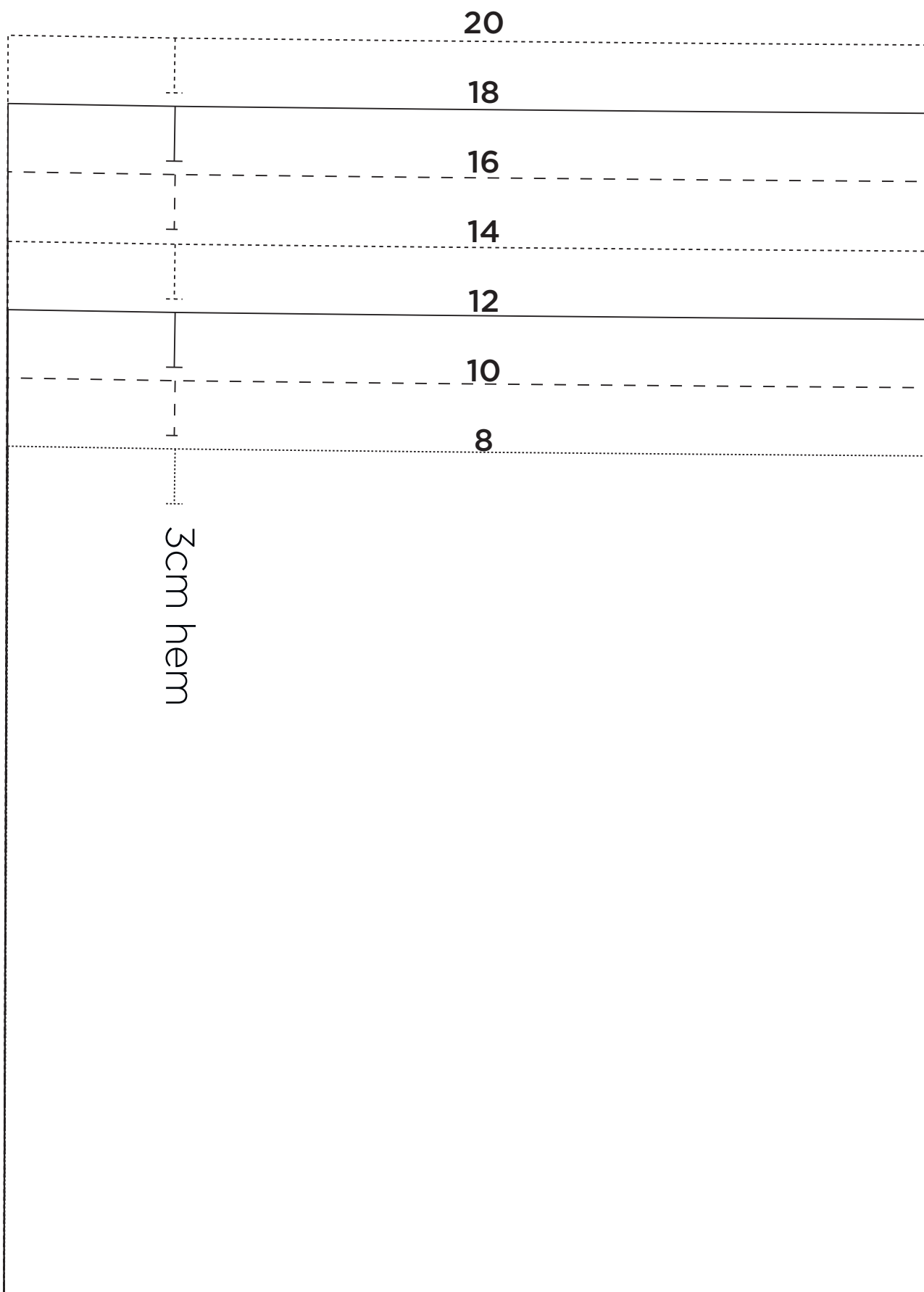


Zip notch

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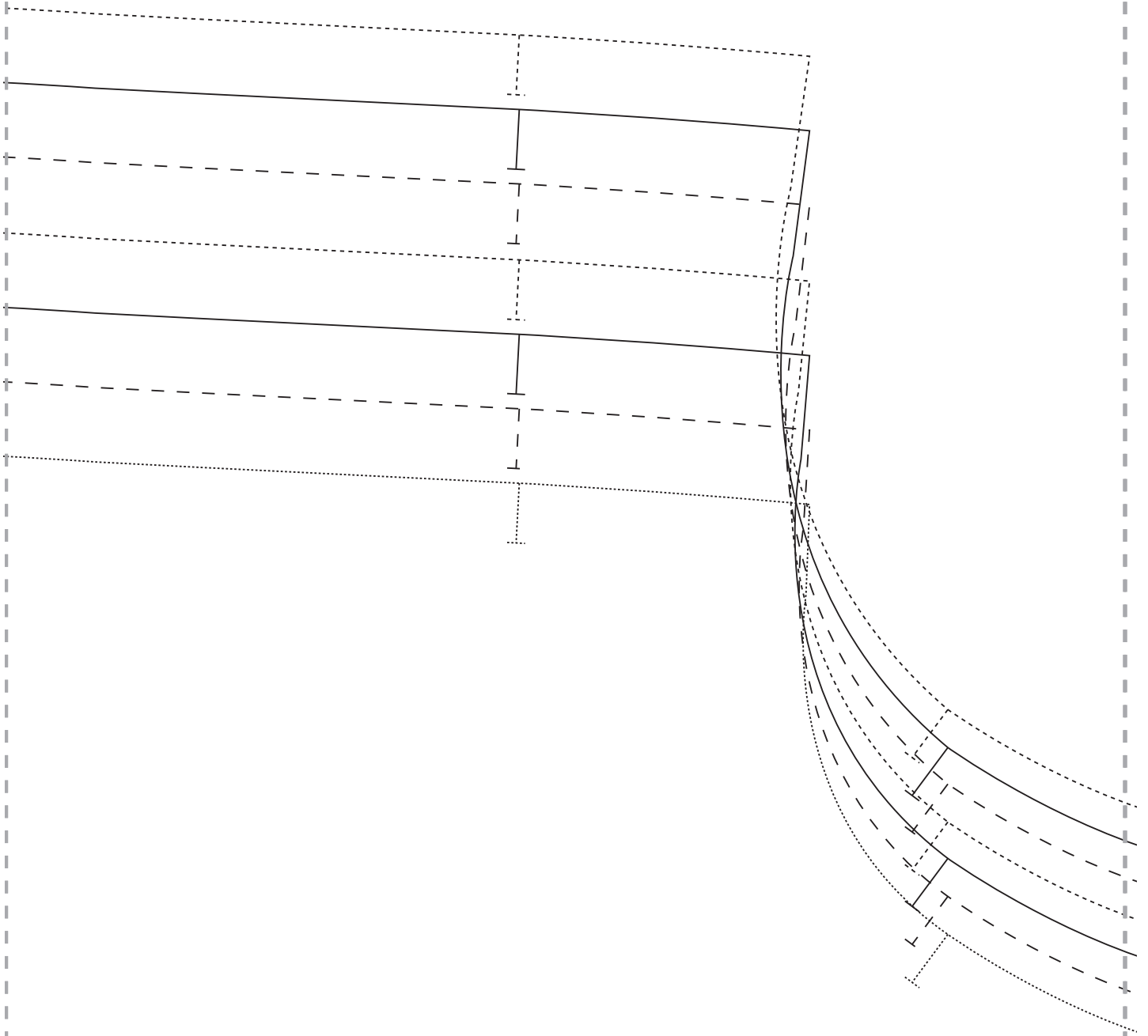
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EILIS DRESS
FRONT SKIRT
CUT ONE ON FOLD

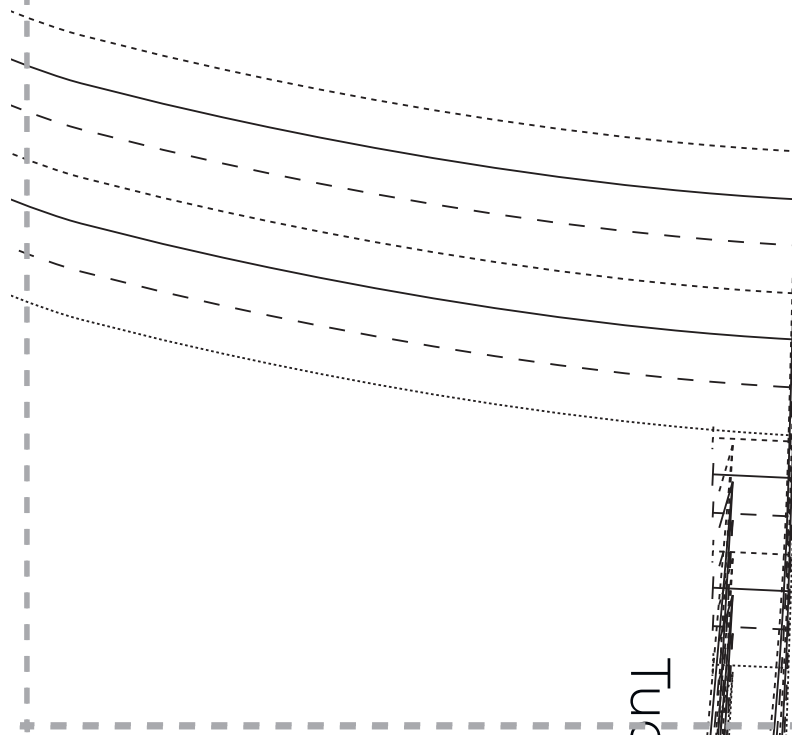
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TEST SQUARE

10cm x 10cm



Jack

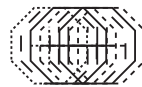


22

Centre front



Fold line





Cut along fold
to cut one pair
of fusible
interfacing



EILIS DRESS

FRONT BODICE

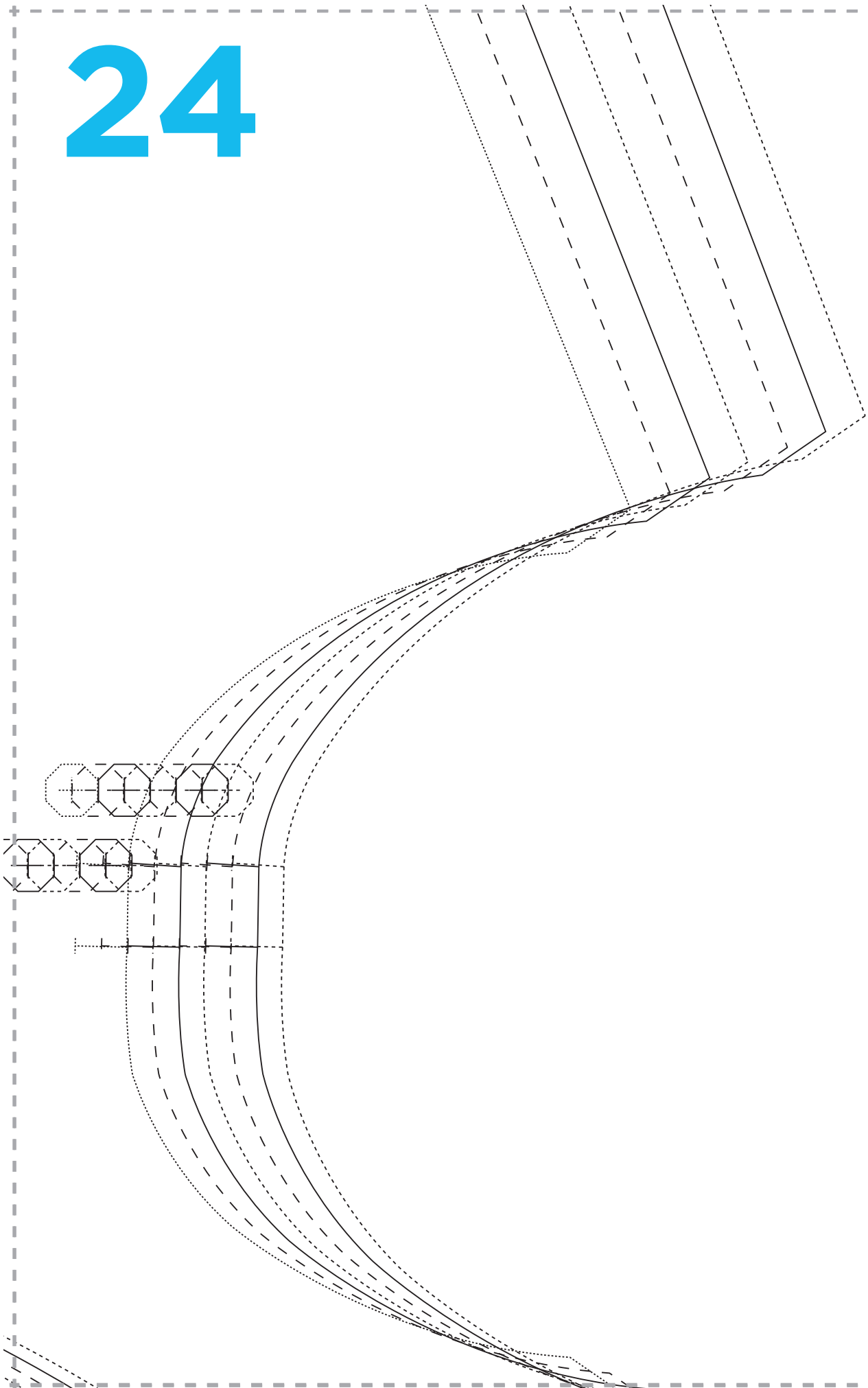
CUT ONE PAIR

23

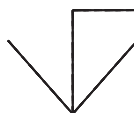


BODICE FACING

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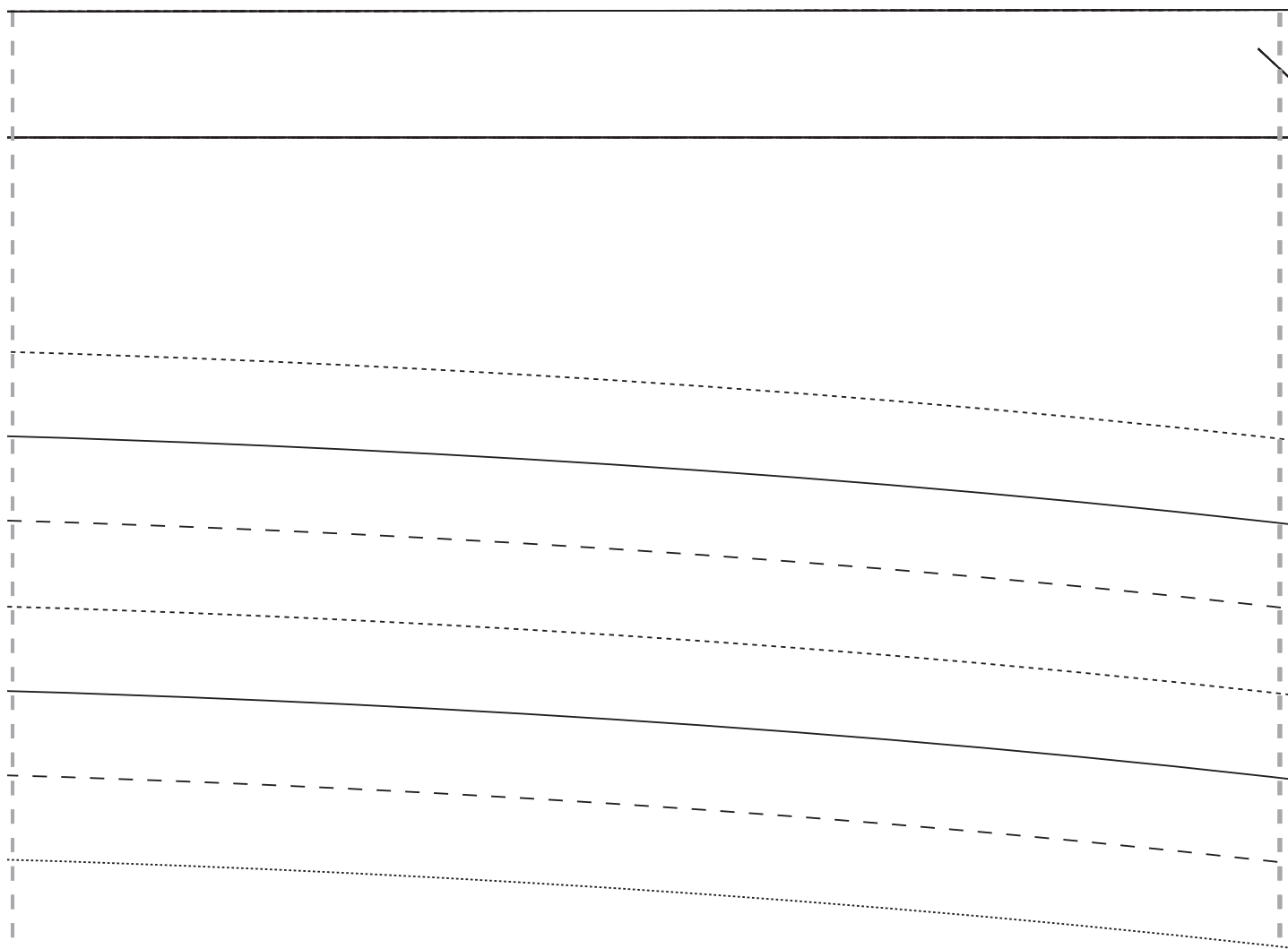
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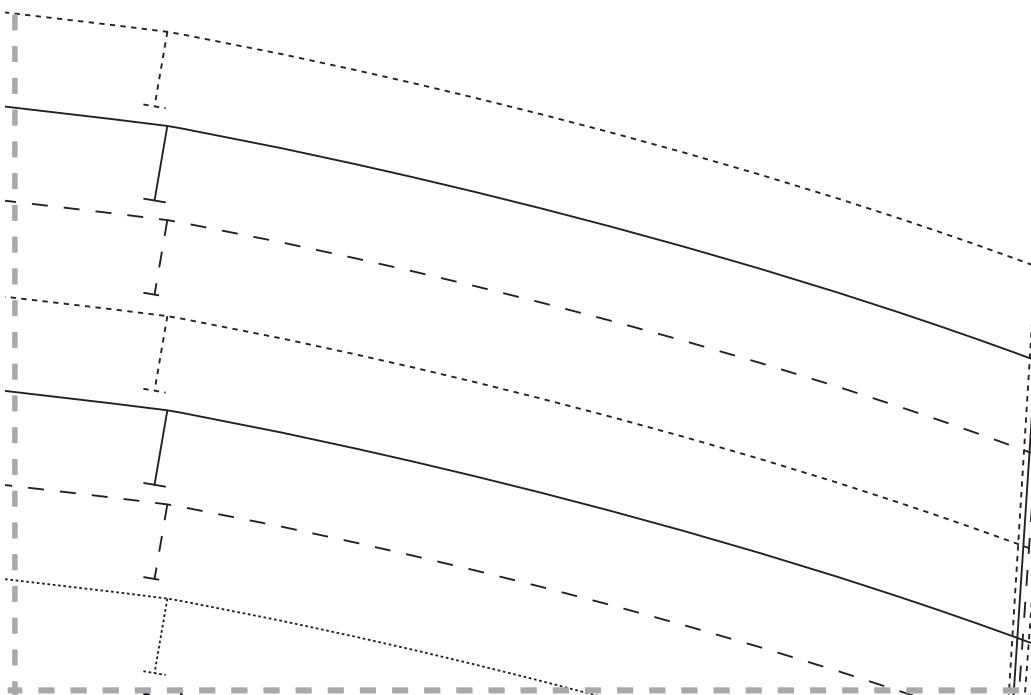
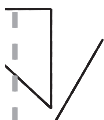
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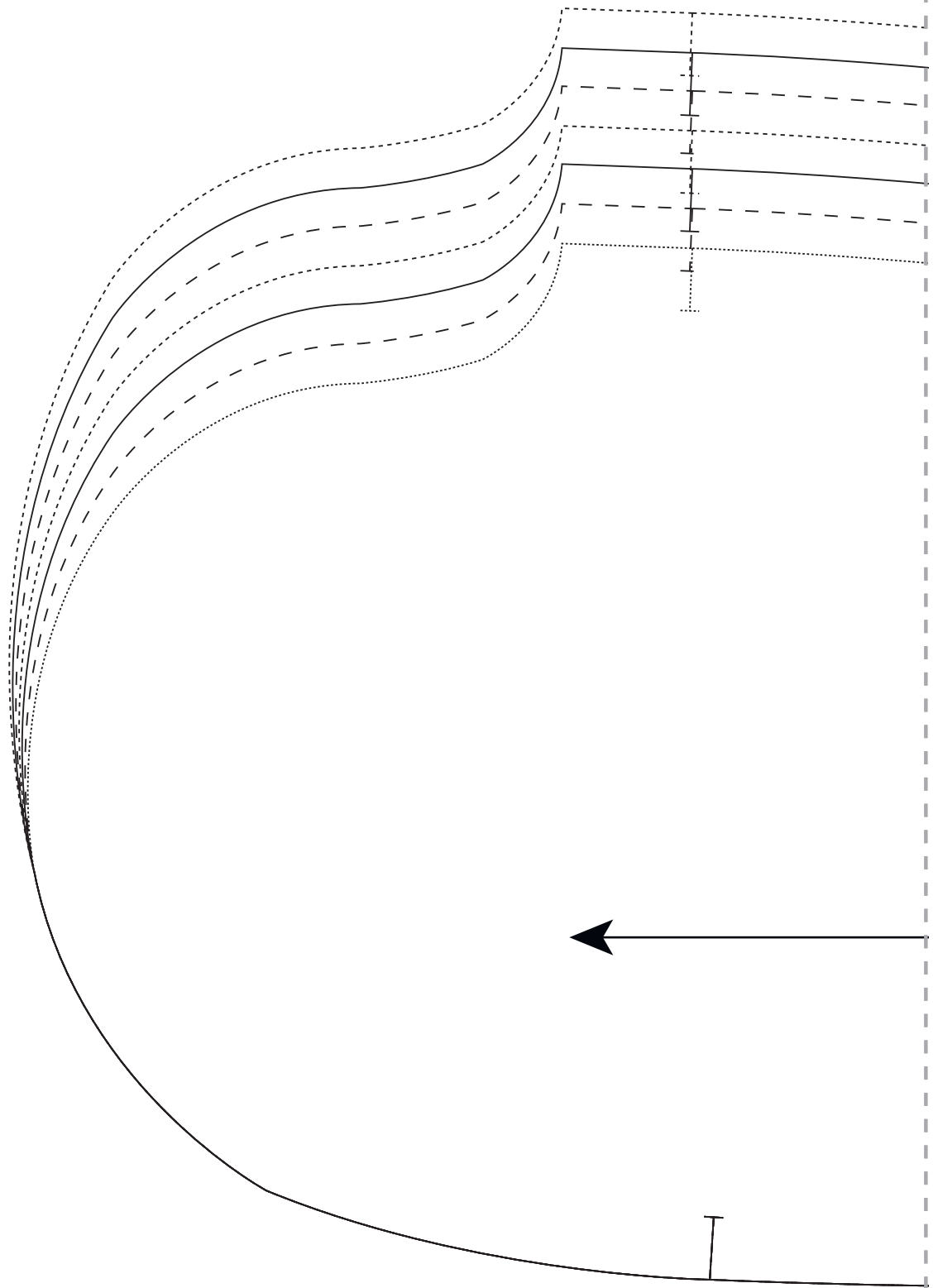


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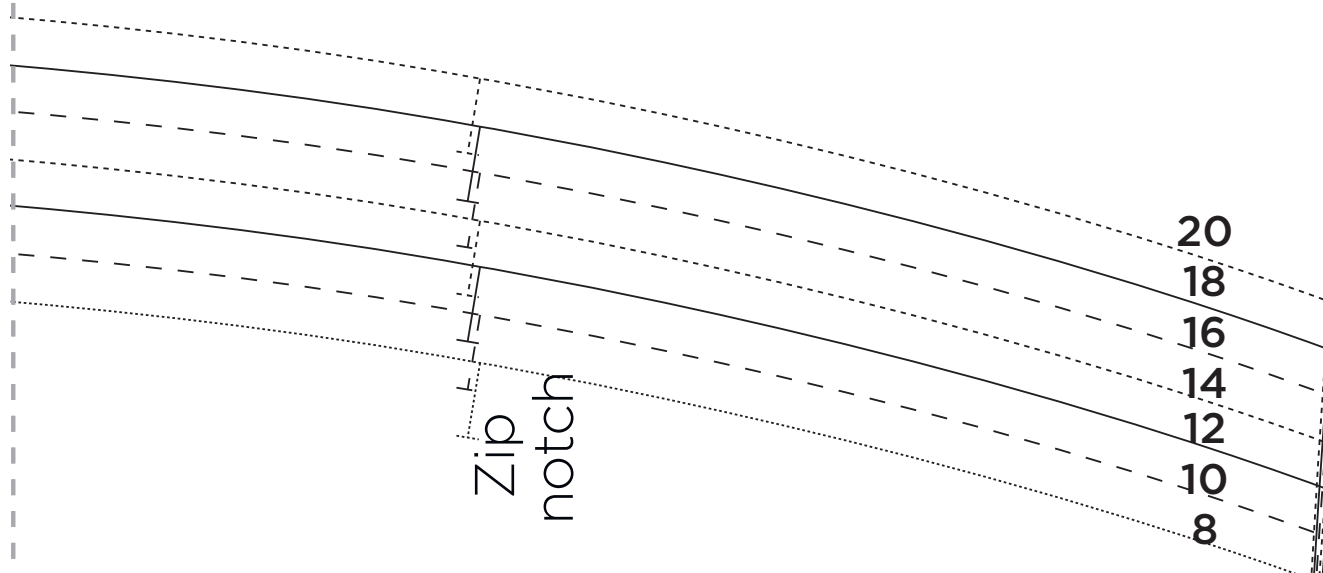
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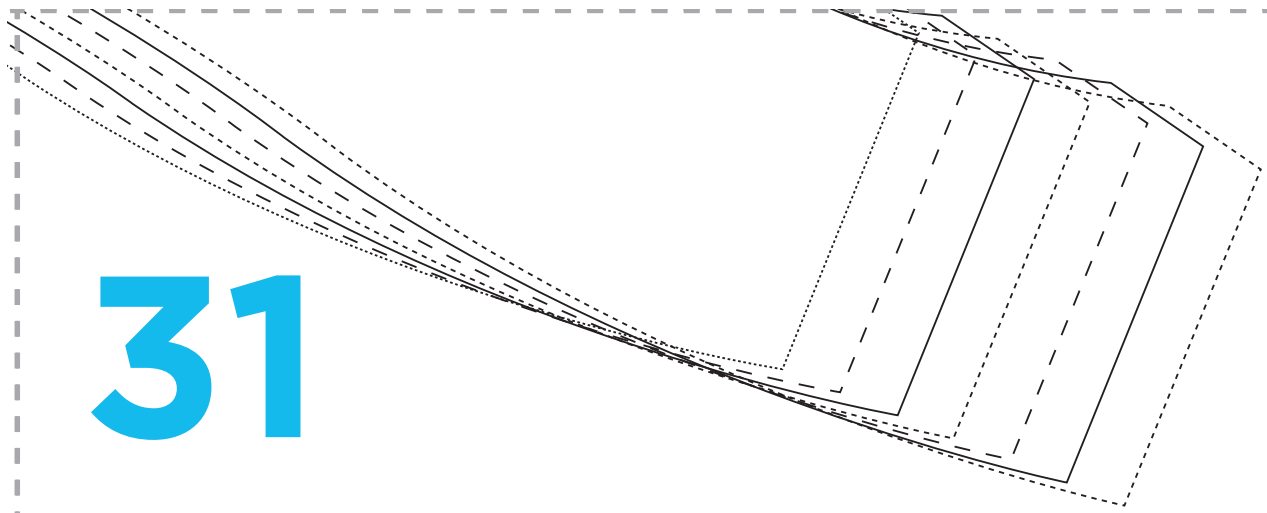


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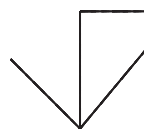


EILIS DRESS
POCKET BACK
CUT ONE PAIR

31



32



33

EILIS DRESS
BACK SKIRT
CUT ONE ON FOLD

34

Zip notch

35

