



The Big Blue

This chic frock is ready for any special event. With its clean lines, flared skirt, subtle French darts, and vintage styling, all eyes will be on you. This is a dress that you wear, not the other way around—a classic that will be in your closet for years to come.

by **AMBER EDEN**

FABRIC in yd

- 45": XS-2 $\frac{1}{4}$, S-2 $\frac{3}{8}$, M-2 $\frac{5}{8}$, L-2 $\frac{7}{8}$, XL-2 $\frac{7}{8}$
- 60": XS-1 $\frac{3}{4}$, S-1 $\frac{3}{4}$, M-2, L-2 $\frac{1}{8}$, XL-2 $\frac{1}{4}$

OTHER SUPPLIES

- Pattern, starts on Page 30
- $\frac{1}{2}$ yd light- to medium-weight woven fusible interfacing
- 2 yd $\frac{1}{4}$ " twill tape
- Thread to match
- 24" invisible zipper
- 6 yd lace hem tape
- *Optional waist stay:* 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ yd of 1" wide grosgrain ribbon plus hook and eye

SIZE CHART	Bust	Waist	Hip
	XS 32-33"	25"	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ -35 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	S 34-35"	26-27"	36 $\frac{1}{2}$ -37 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	M 36-37 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	28-39 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	38 $\frac{1}{2}$ -40"
	L 39-41 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	31-33 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	41 $\frac{1}{2}$ -43"
	XL 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ -44 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ -36 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	45-47"
	Shown in size Small		



FOR EXPLANATIONS OF
TERMS + TECHNIQUES USED
CLICK HERE FOR OUR
SEWING BASICS ONLINE

PHOTO BY LARRY STEIN



NOTES

- First pin—then baste—then stitch. This is the key to accurate sewing for anything other than a straight seam.
- Make a muslin sample as a test garment. Adjust pattern as needed.
- Try putting the zipper in by hand with a pick-stitch for a clean, couture finish. A pick-stitch is sewn by hand like a straight stitch except the distance between the stitches is less than the length of the stitch. When finished it resembles a machine-stitched line.
- To keep the French dart bias line from stretching, reinforce with lightweight woven interfacing.
- If needed, reinforce the waist, shoulder seams, and neckline with 1/4" twill tape. Visit the SewDaily.com blog for more information.
- Clip curves and grade seams as needed.
- Finish seam allowances with preferred method. A Hong Kong finish is a seam allowance that is enclosed with bias strips, usually silk, a material whose fluidity keeps the seams from becoming too bulky. Serging, pinking, or zigzag stitching are also good seam finishes.
- Allow dress to hang 24 hours before hemming.
- All seam allowances are 1/2" unless otherwise indicated.
- RST= right sides together
- For explanations of terms and techniques, see Sewing Basics.

CUT + MARK + INTERFACE

- 1 Cut out all pieces as indicated on pattern.
- 2 Mark notches and darts.
- 3 Fuse interfacing to facing pieces according to manufacturer's directions.

STITCH BODICE

- 4 Stitch darts in Front and Back Bodice. Reinforce darts with fusible interfacing as needed.



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- 5 Stitch shoulder and side seams of bodice.
- 6 Staystitch neckline and waistline of skirt and bodice. If your fabric has a lot of stretch, use twill tape to further stabilize. Cut the desired length and stitch just inside the seam allowance.
- 7 Stitch the Front and Back Facings at shoulder seams, leaving center back seam open.
- 8 Attach facing to dress neck, RST.
- 9 Understitch neckline seam and turn facing to inside, tacking facing shoulder seams to bodice shoulder seams. Finish facing edges with a zigzag stitch or as desired. (See Glossary in Sewing Basics.)
- 10 Stitch sleeve seams. Run a basting stitch around the sleeve cap from back to front notches on each sleeve. Ease sleeve cap to fit dress armhole.
- 11 Baste sleeves to armholes, RST, matching front and back notches,

shoulder seams, and side seams. Stitch sleeves to armholes 1/4" from edge. Stitch again using 1/2" seam allowance.

STITCH SKIRT

- 12 Stitch Skirt Front to Skirt Back at side seams.
- 13 Stitch Skirt Back seam up to the zipper opening as marked on pattern.

ATTACH BODICE TO SKIRT

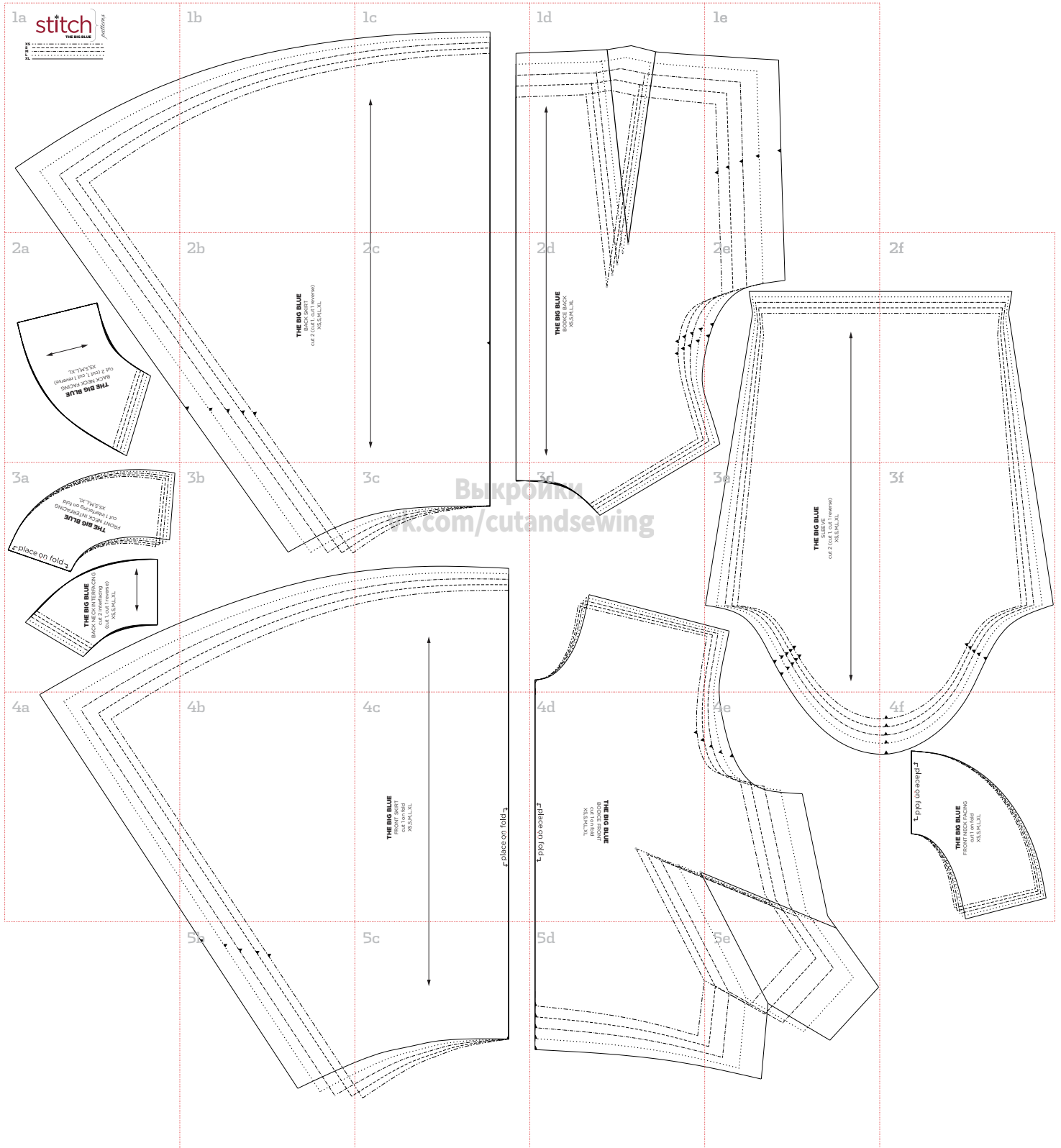
- 14 Stitch bodice to skirt at waist.
- 15 Insert the invisible zipper following manufacturer's directions. *Optional:* sew zipper in by hand with a pick-stitch. Refer to Notes.
- 16 *Optional waist stay:* a waist stay acts as a stabilizer and helps prevent the garment from sliding up or down. To make a waist stay, use a 1" wide grosgrain ribbon. Cut to the desired waist measurement plus 1". Anchor the waist stay by stitching to the waistline seam. Fold each end under 1/2" and add a hook and eye. Handstitch the ribbon ends to the zipper tape.

HEM DRESS + SLEEVES

- 17 Hang dress for 24 hours before hemming.
- 18 To hem sleeves, press sleeve edge up 1/2", then 1/2" again. Blindstitch hem in place.
- 19 To hem the dress, pin or hand baste lace hem tape 1/4" from right side edge of hem. Machine stitch lace in place. Turn up hem 1/2" press. Handstitch hem using a blindstitch.

AMBER EDEN is the editor of *Stitch and SewDaily.com*. She loves all things sewing and is a lifer student at Fashion Institute of Technology. She lives between Boston and Huntington, New York, and has three fur children (two golden retrievers, plus a cat who thinks she is one) and a husband who dotes on each of them.

The Big Blue Patterns, Templates, + Cutting Layouts

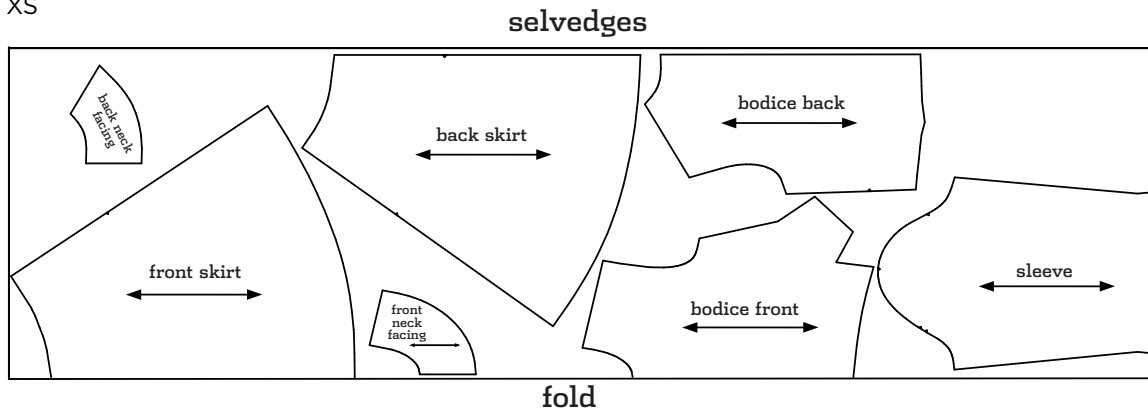


The Big Blue Patterns, Templates, + Cutting Layouts

45"

main fabric

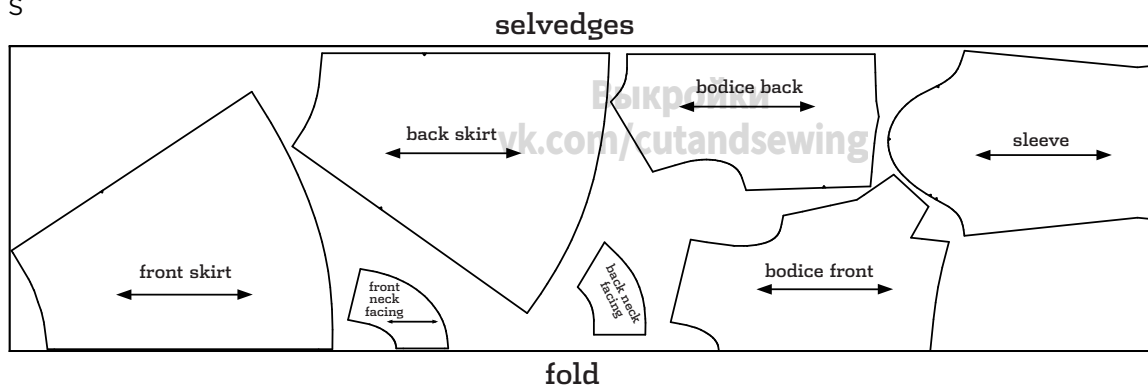
XS



45"

main fabric

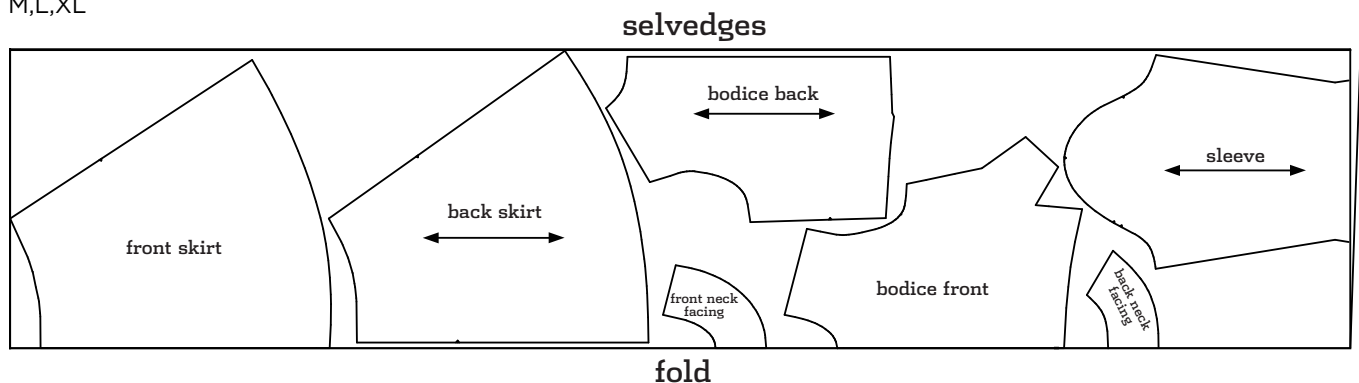
S



45"

main fabric

M,L,XL

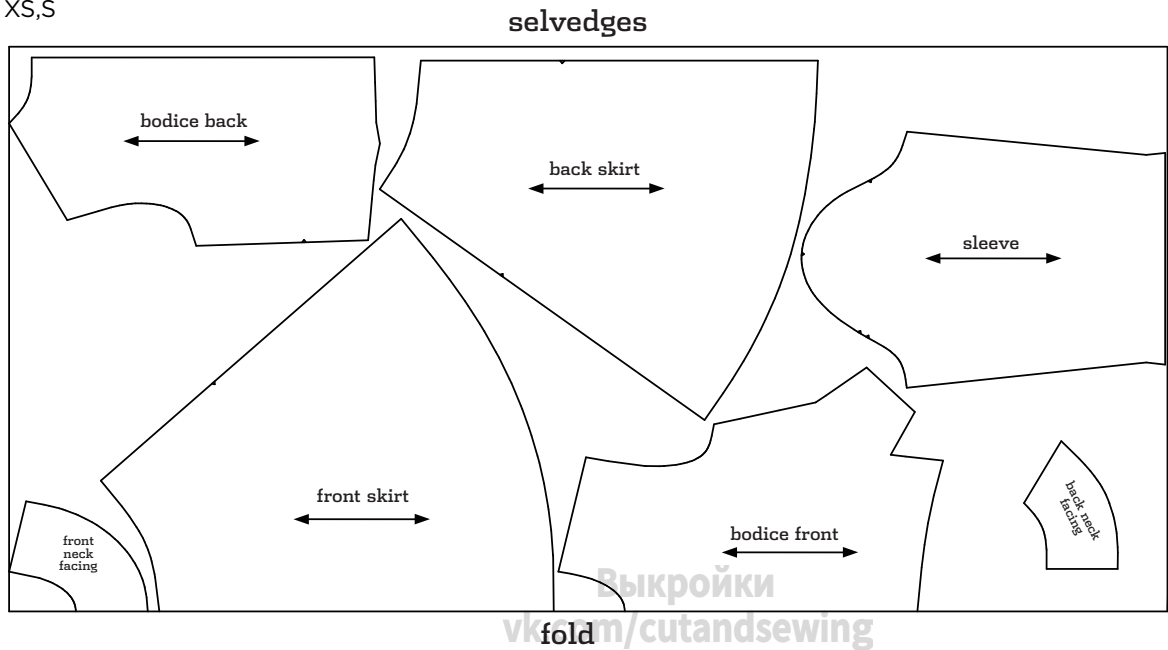


The Big Blue Patterns, Templates, + Cutting Layouts

60"

main fabric

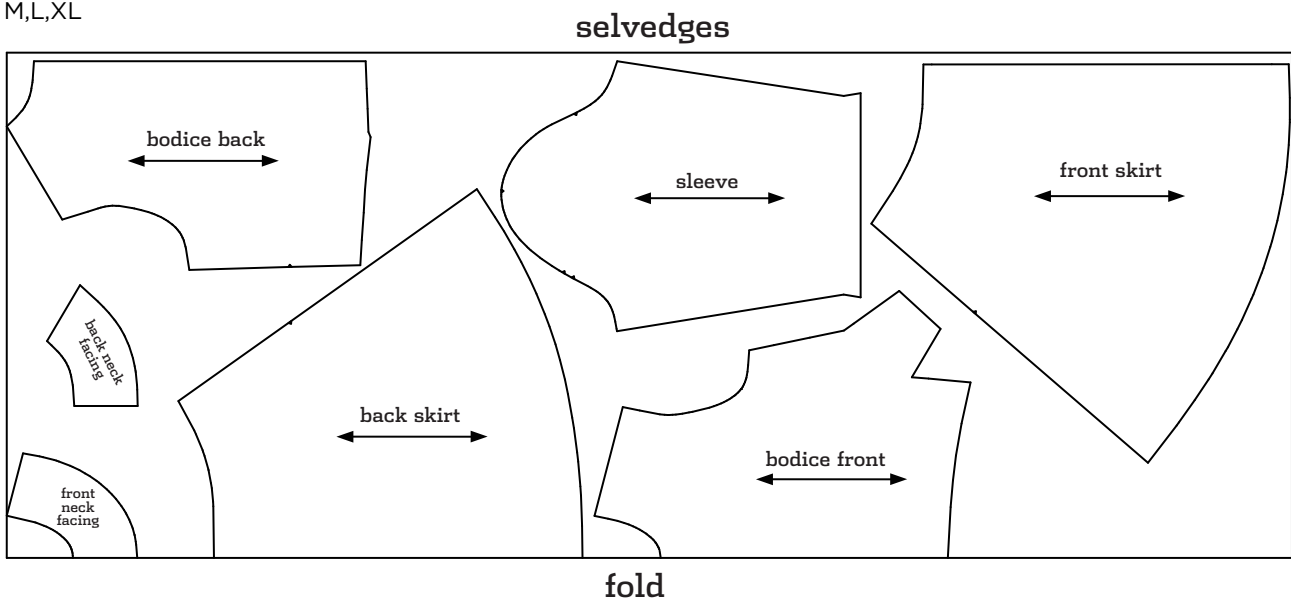
XS,S



60"

main fabric

M,L,XL



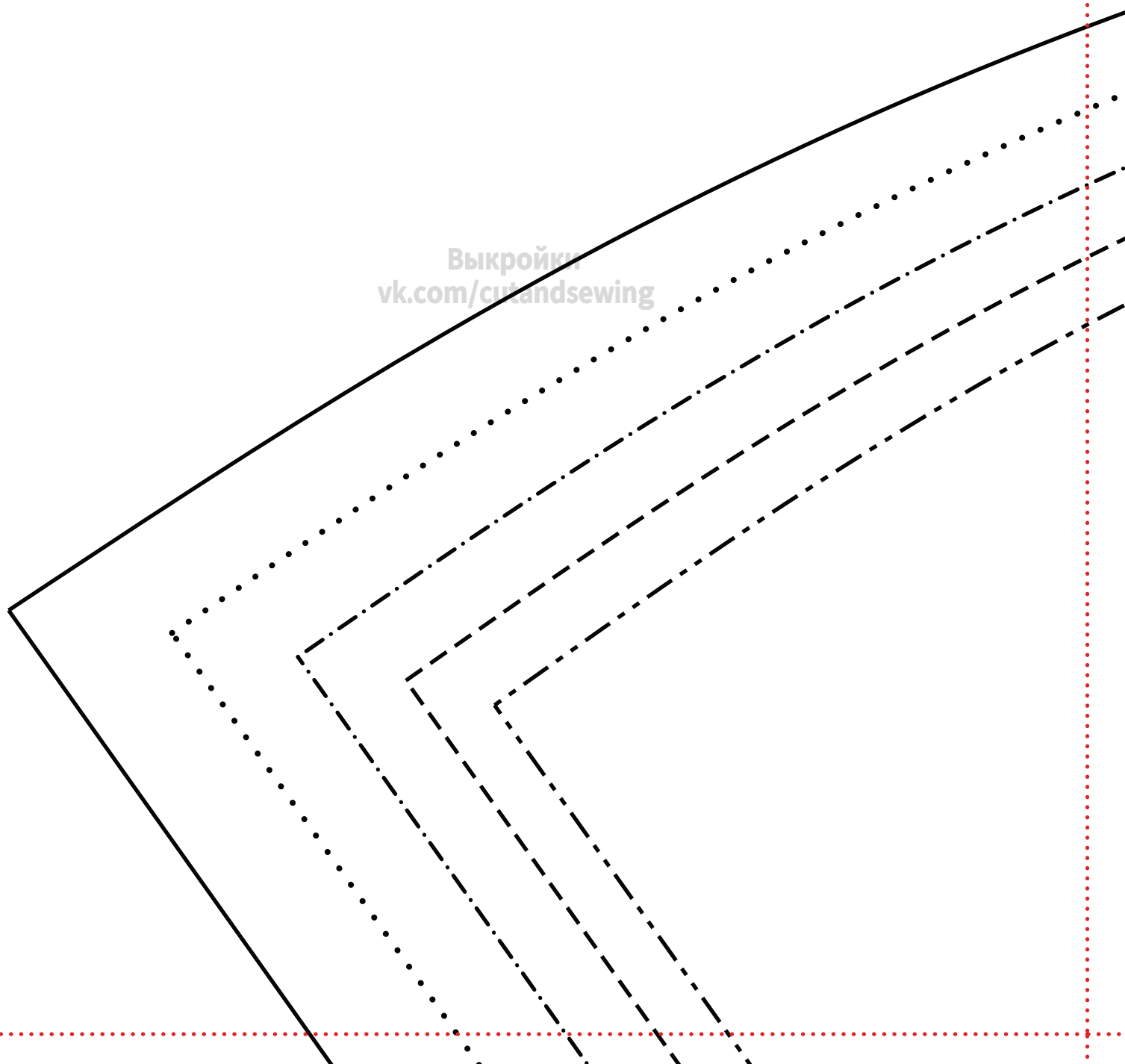
stitch*

patterns

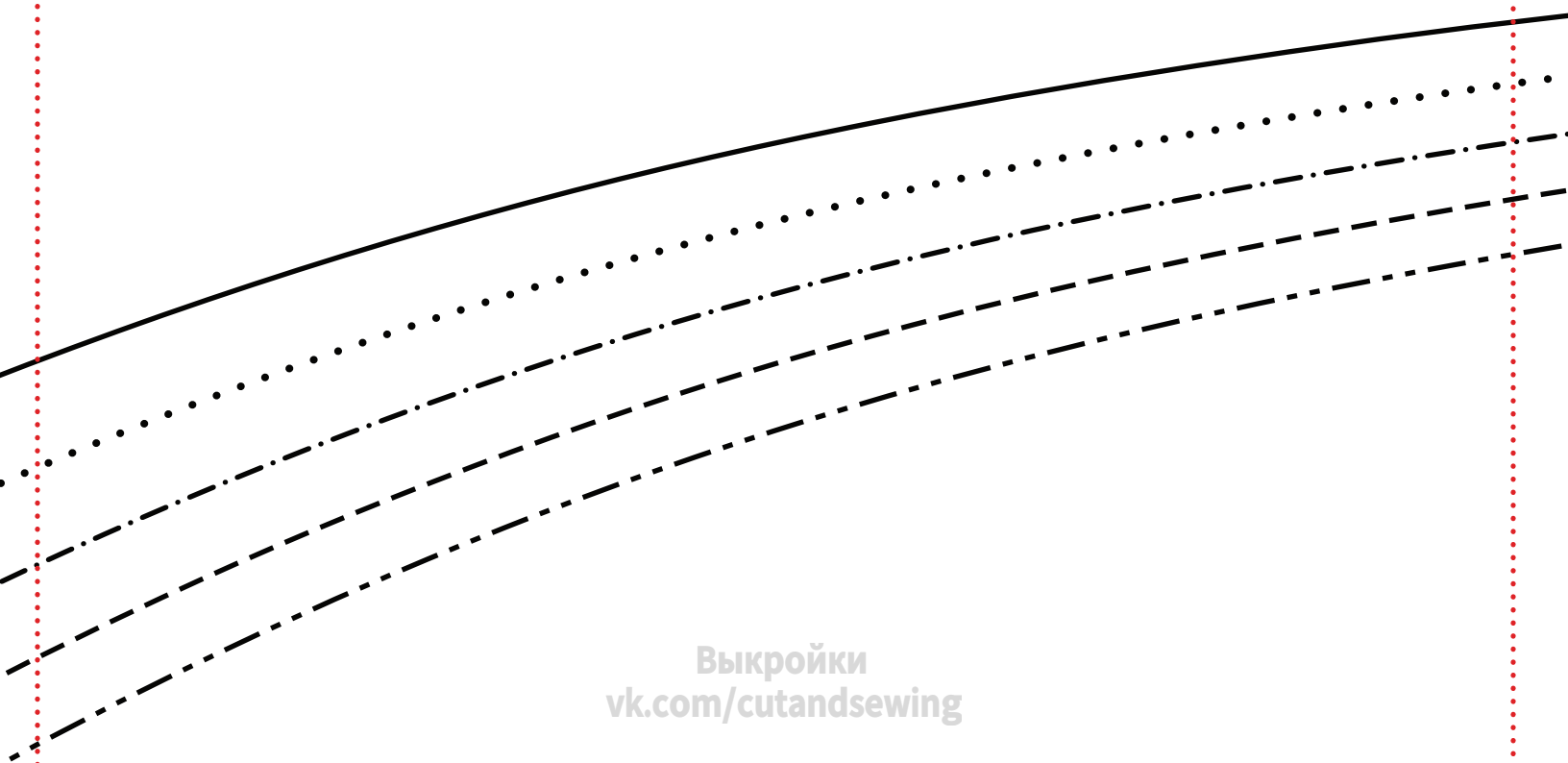
THE BIG BLUE

XS - - - - -
S - - - - -
M
L
XL _____

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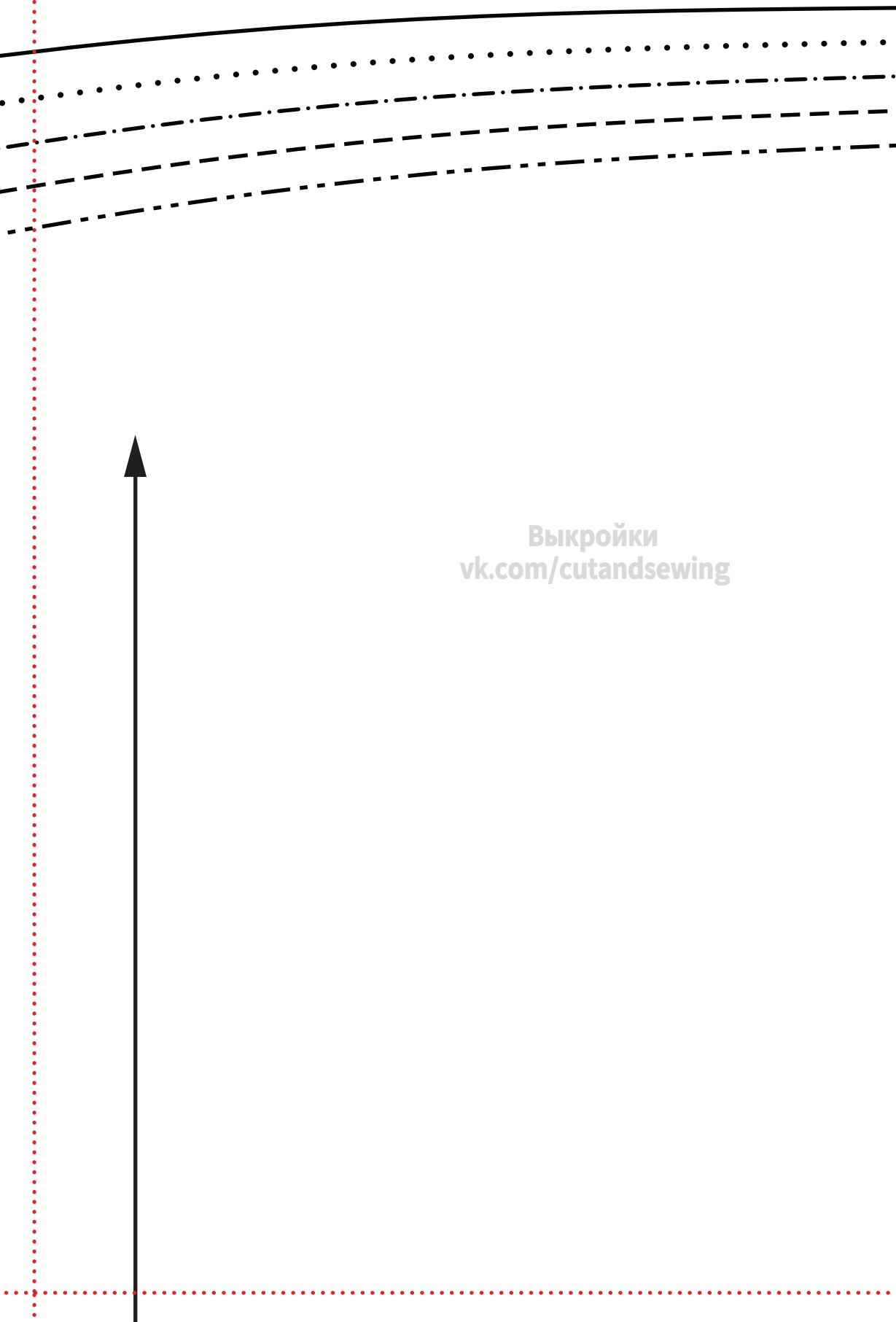


1b

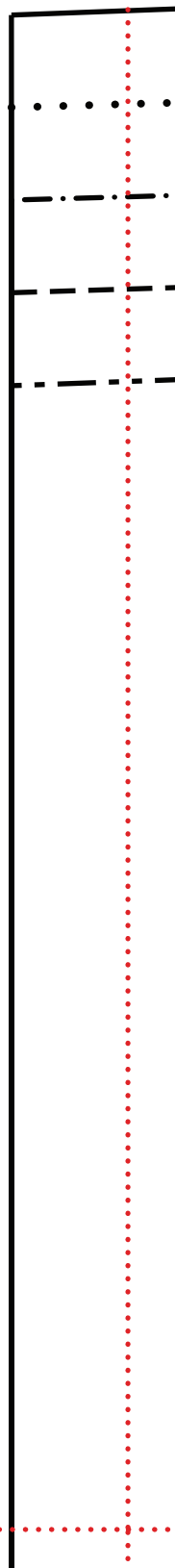


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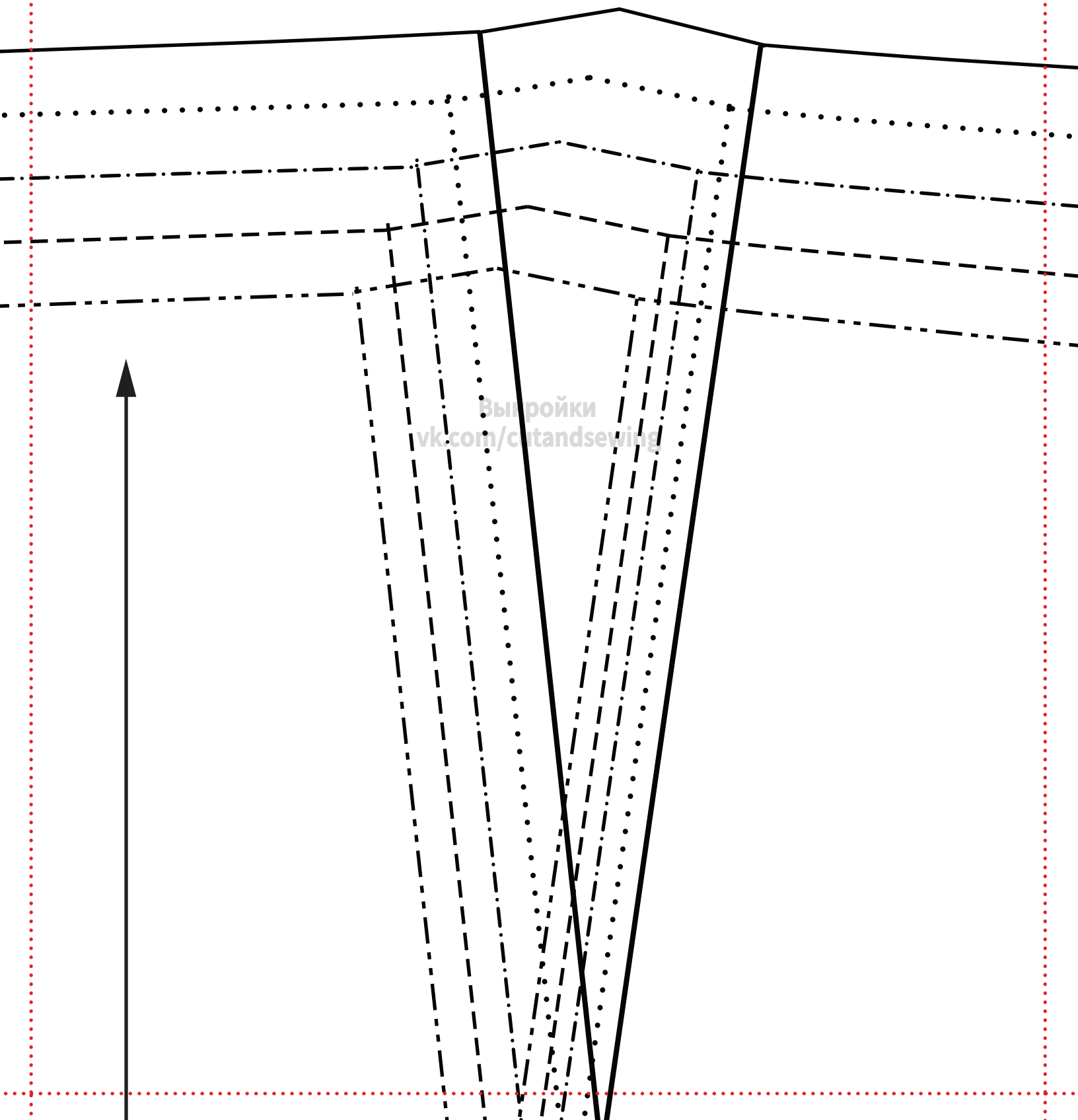
1с



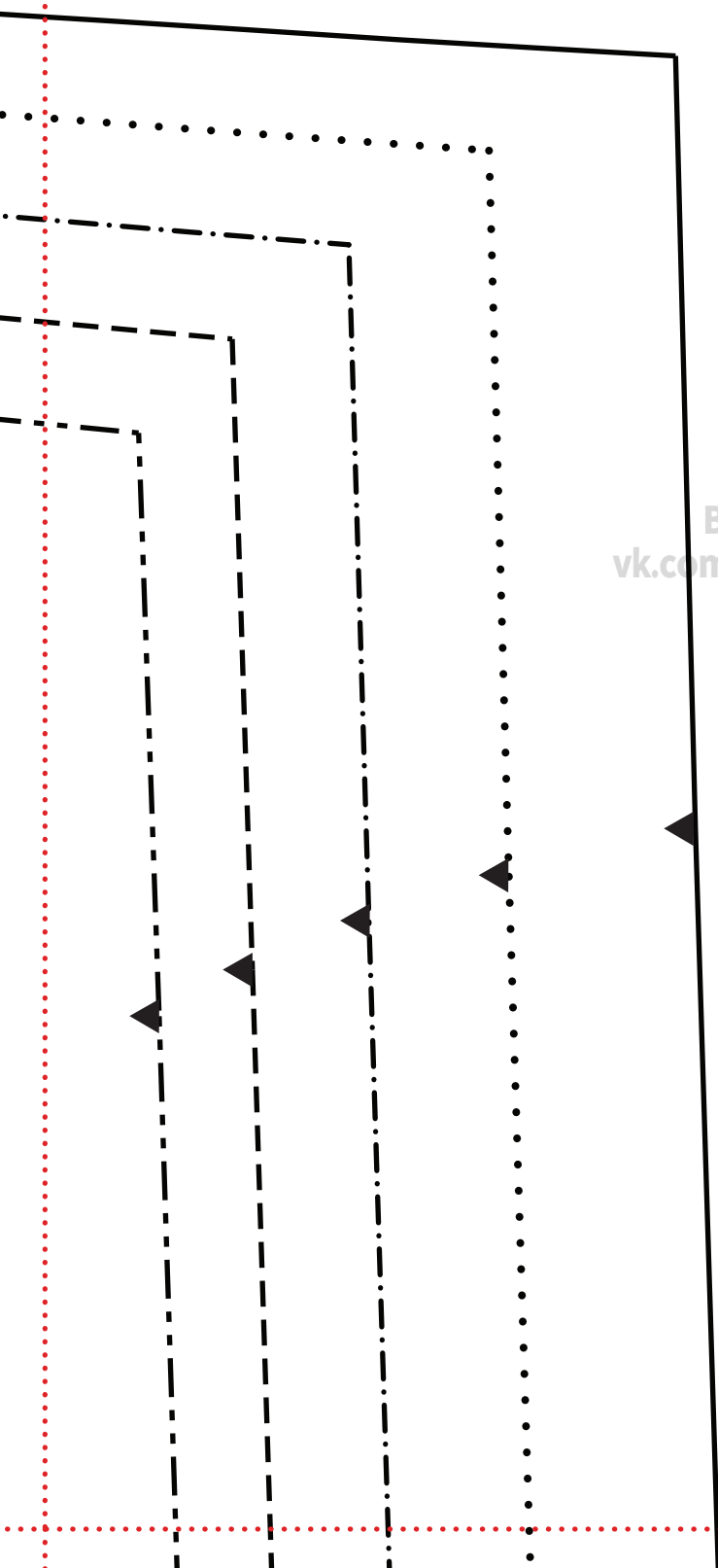
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1d

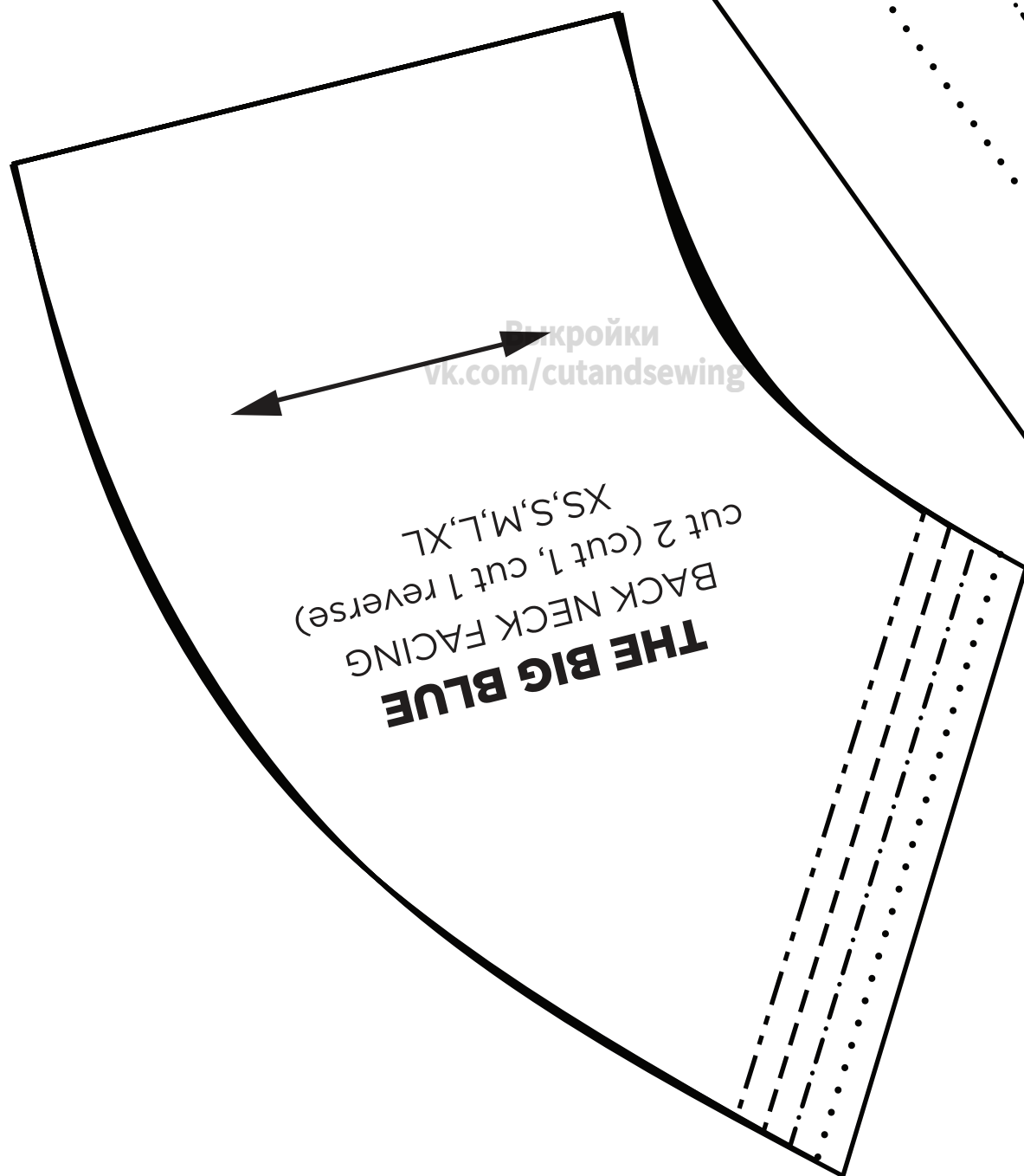


1e



Выкройки
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2a



2b

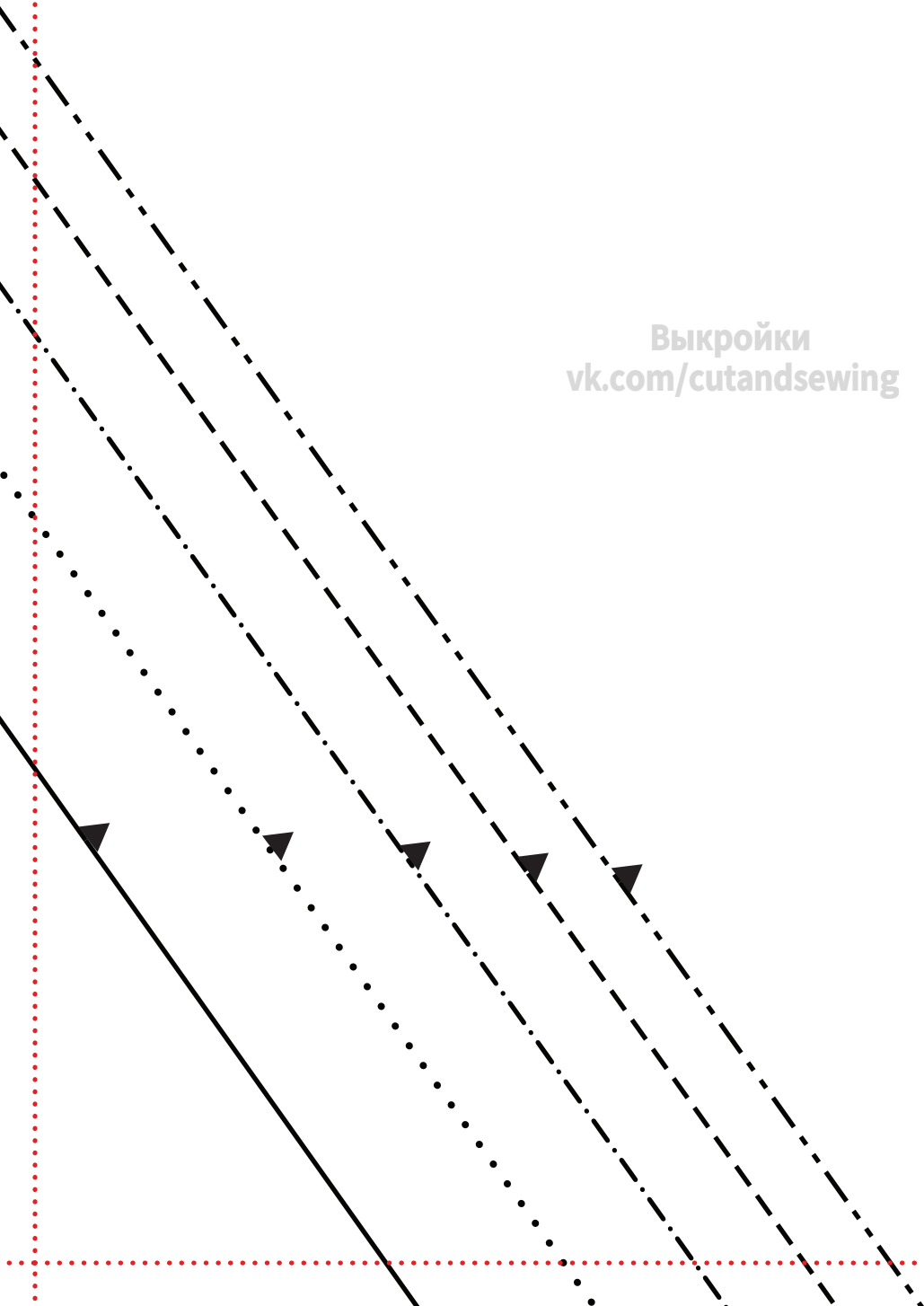
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THE BIG BLUE

BACK SKIRT

cut 2 (cut 1, cut 1 reverse)

XS,S,M,L,XL



2с

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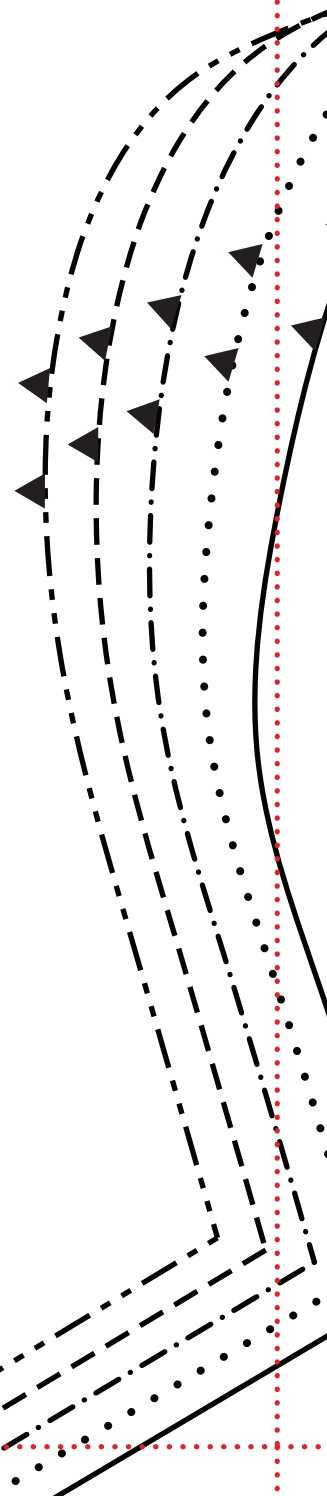
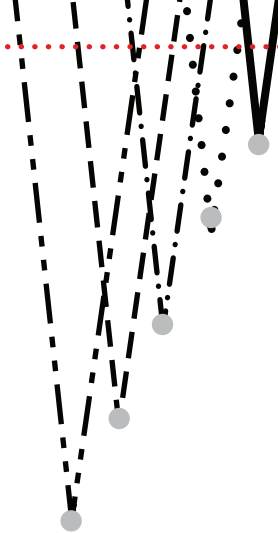
2d

THE BIG BLUE

BODICE BACK

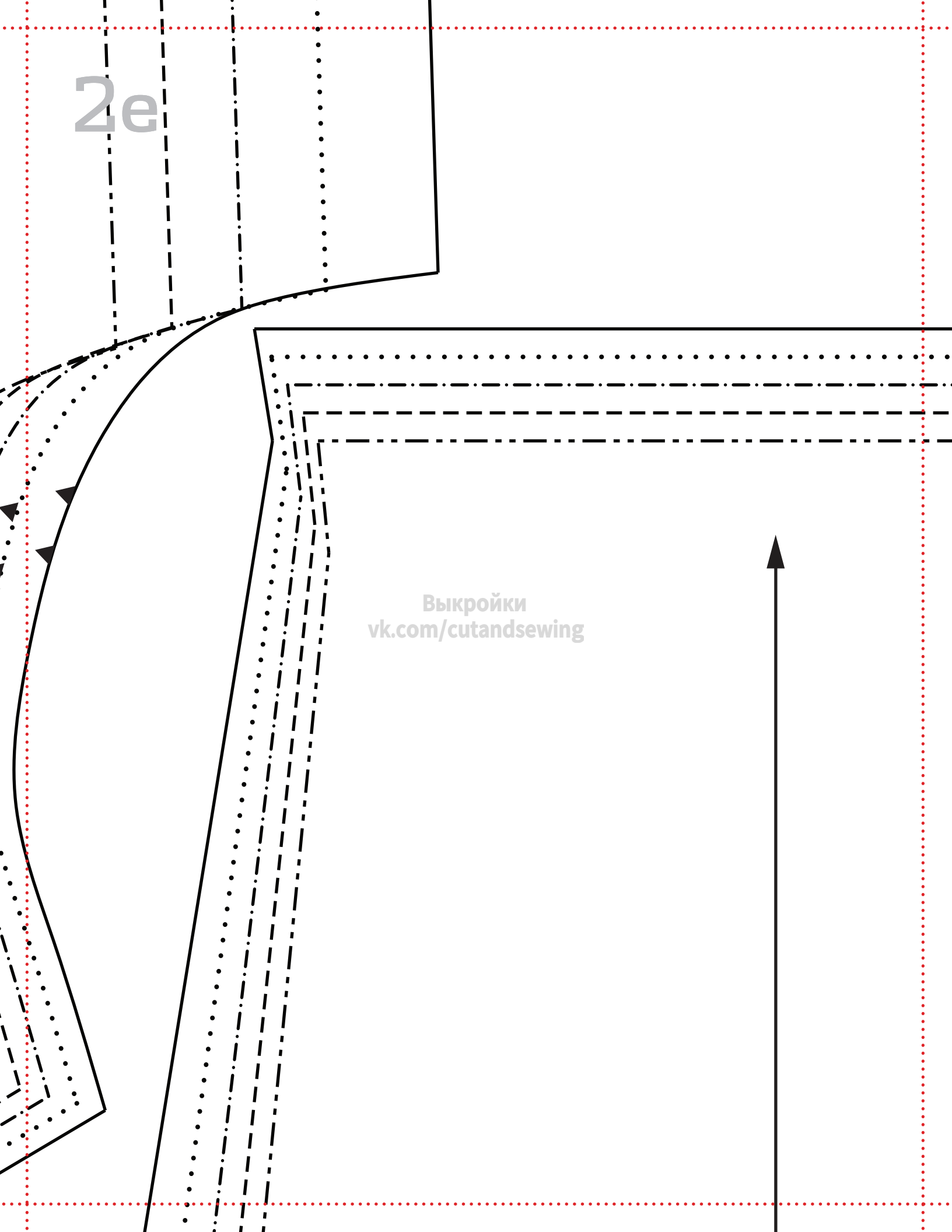
XS,S,M,L,XL

Выкройки
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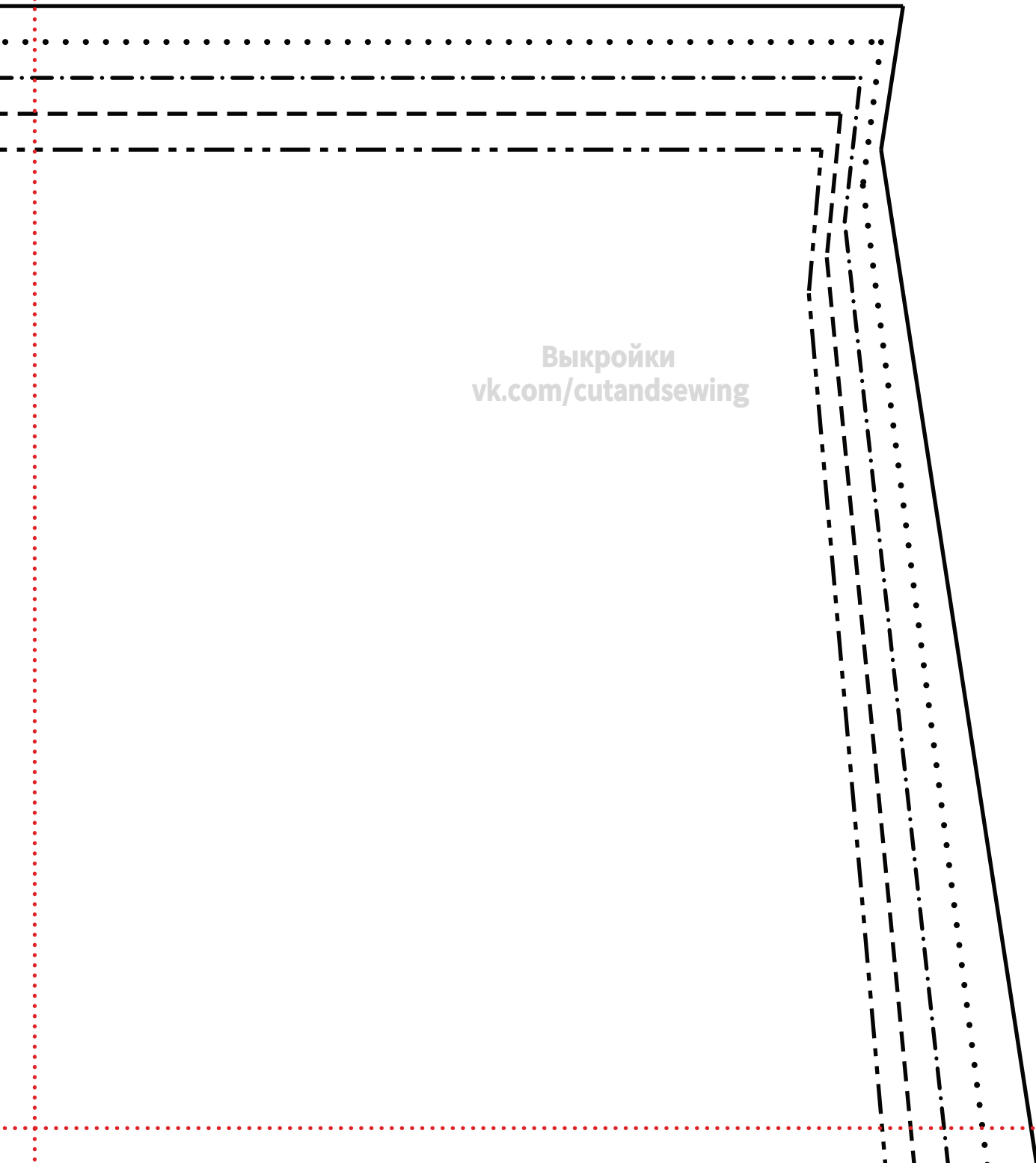


2e

Выкройки
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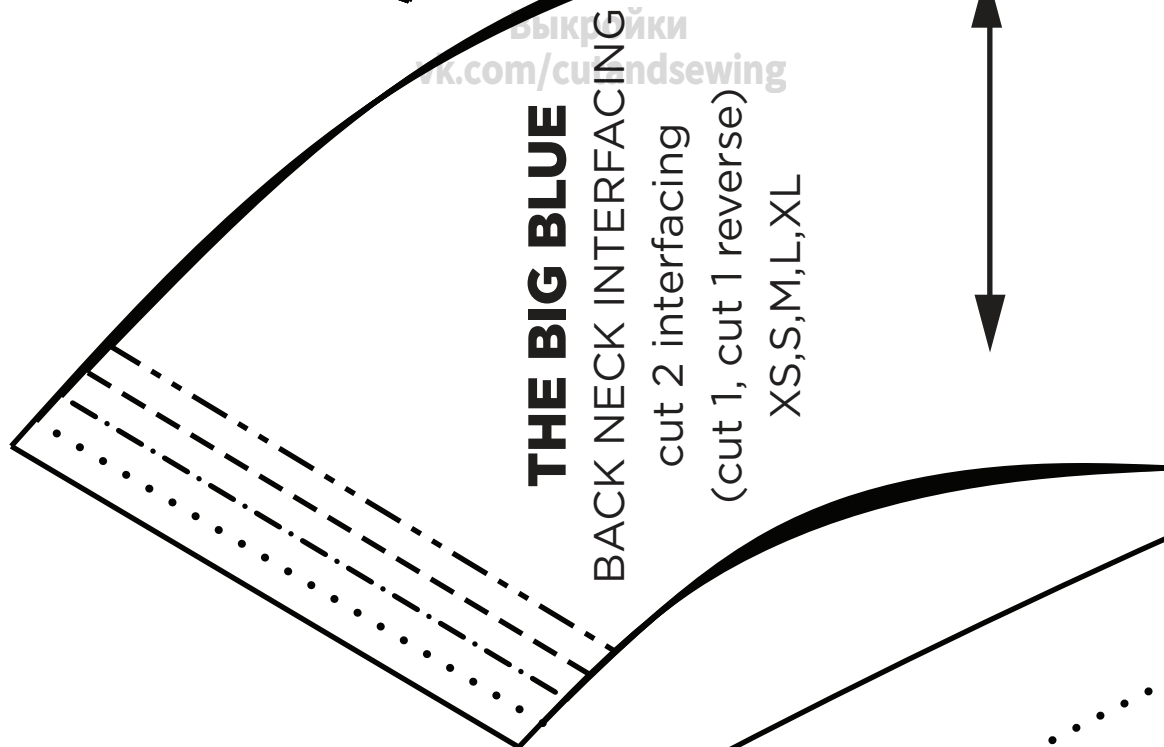


2f



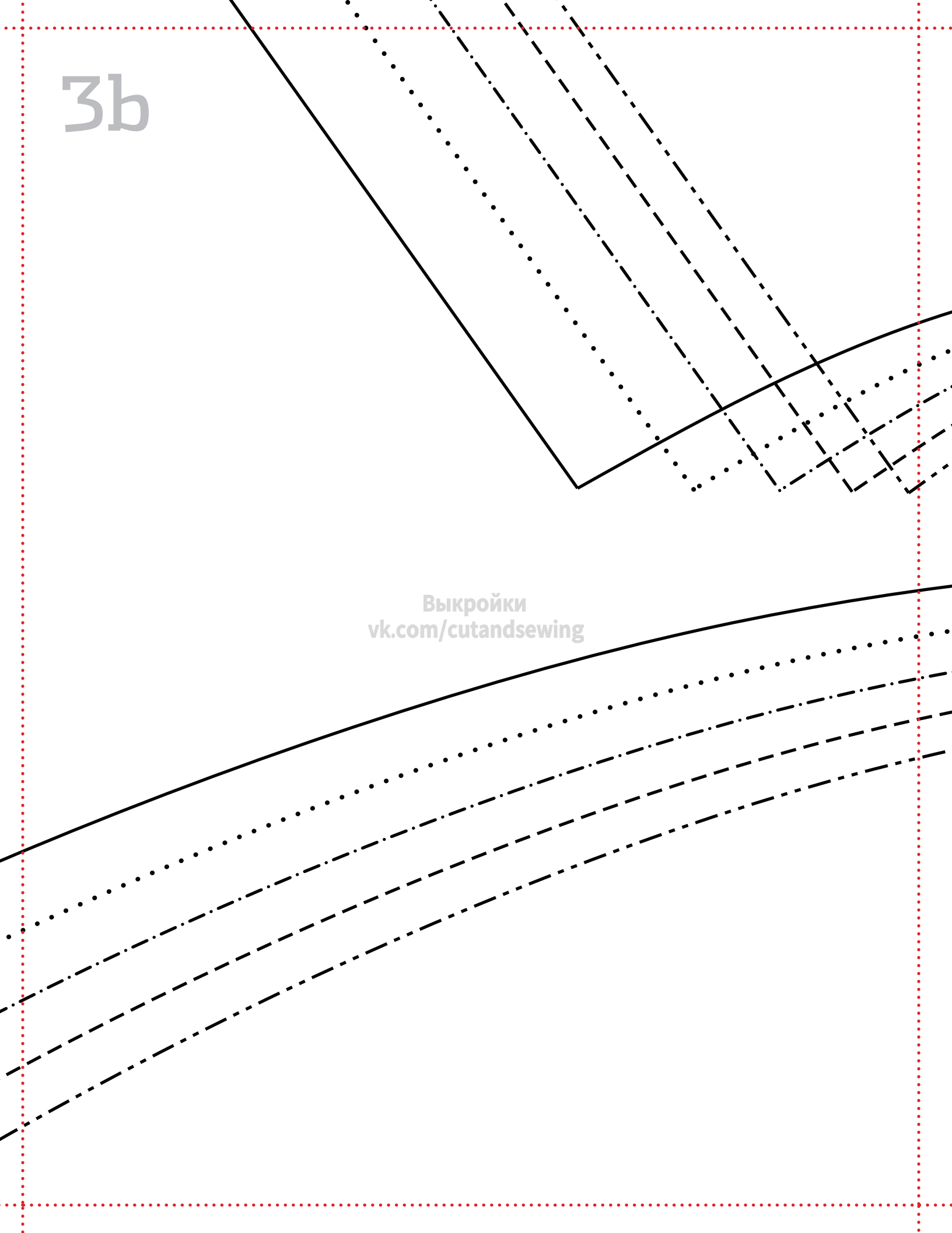
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3a

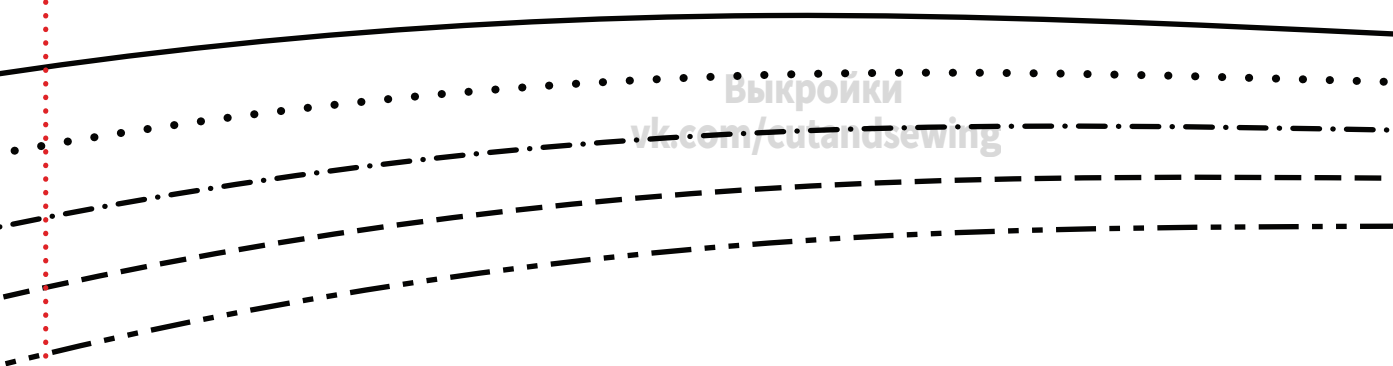
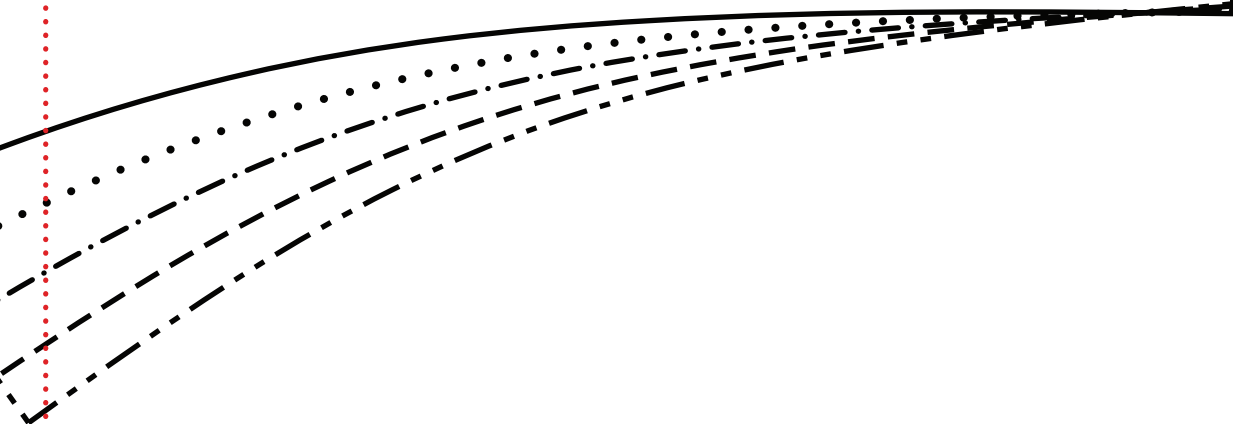


3b

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3с



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3d

Выкройки
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3e

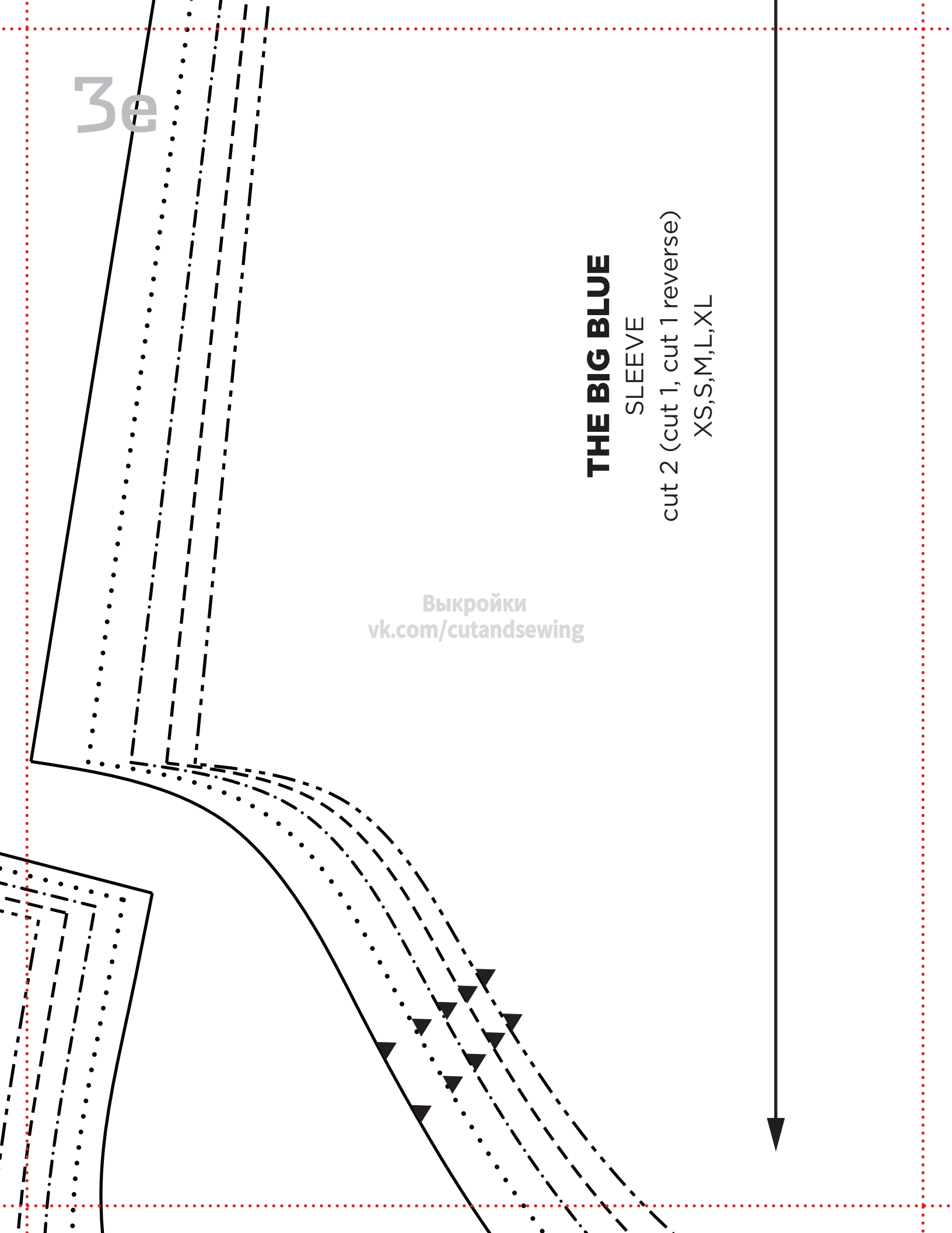
THE BIG BLUE

SLEEVE

cut 2 (cut 1, cut 1 reverse)

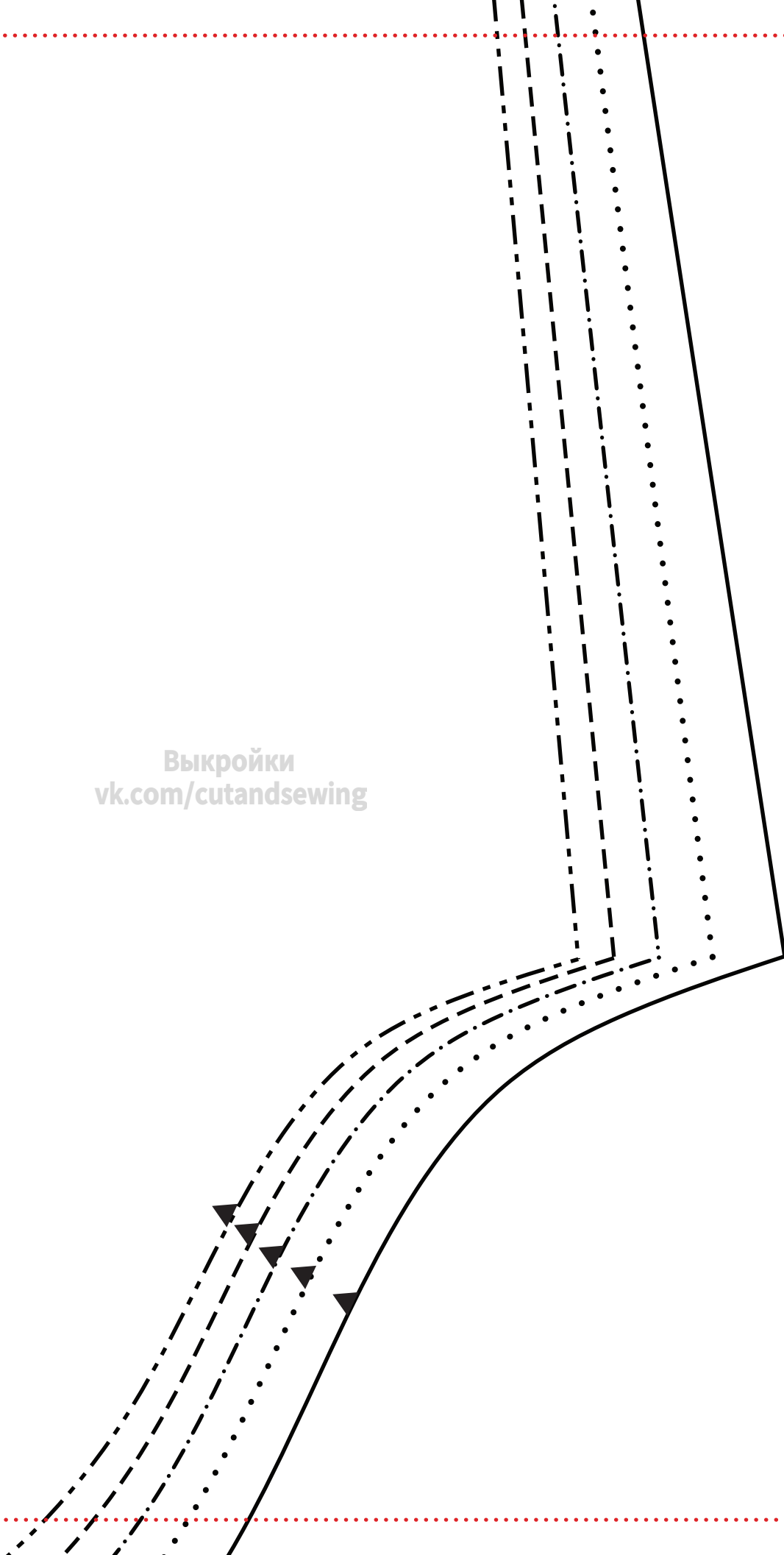
XS,S,M,L,XL

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3f

Выкройки
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4a

Выкройки
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4b

Выкройки
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4c

THE BIG BLUE

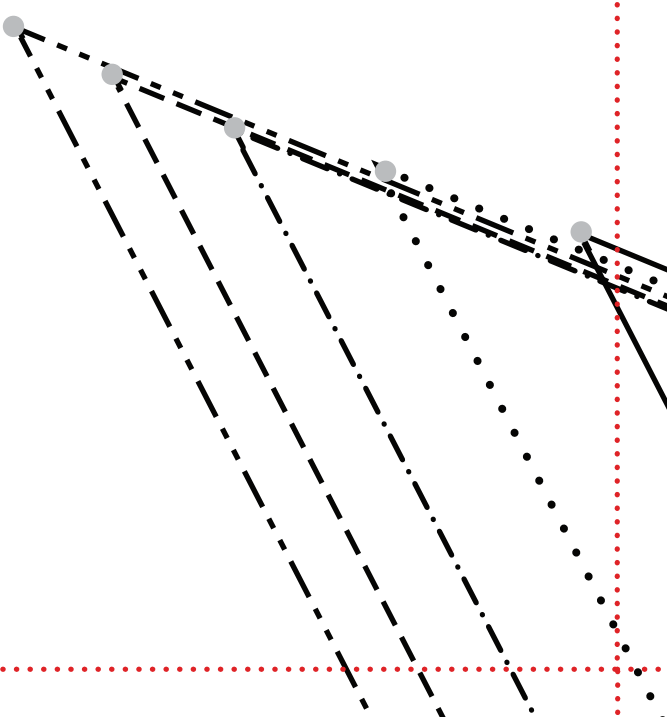
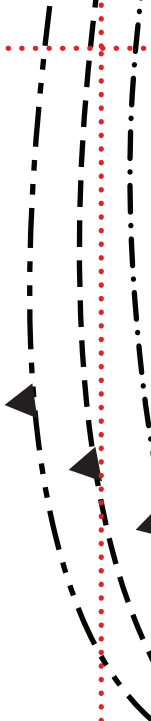
FRONT SKIRT

cut 1 on fold

XS,S,M,L,XL

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↵ place on fold ↵



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THE BIG BLUE

BODICE FRONT

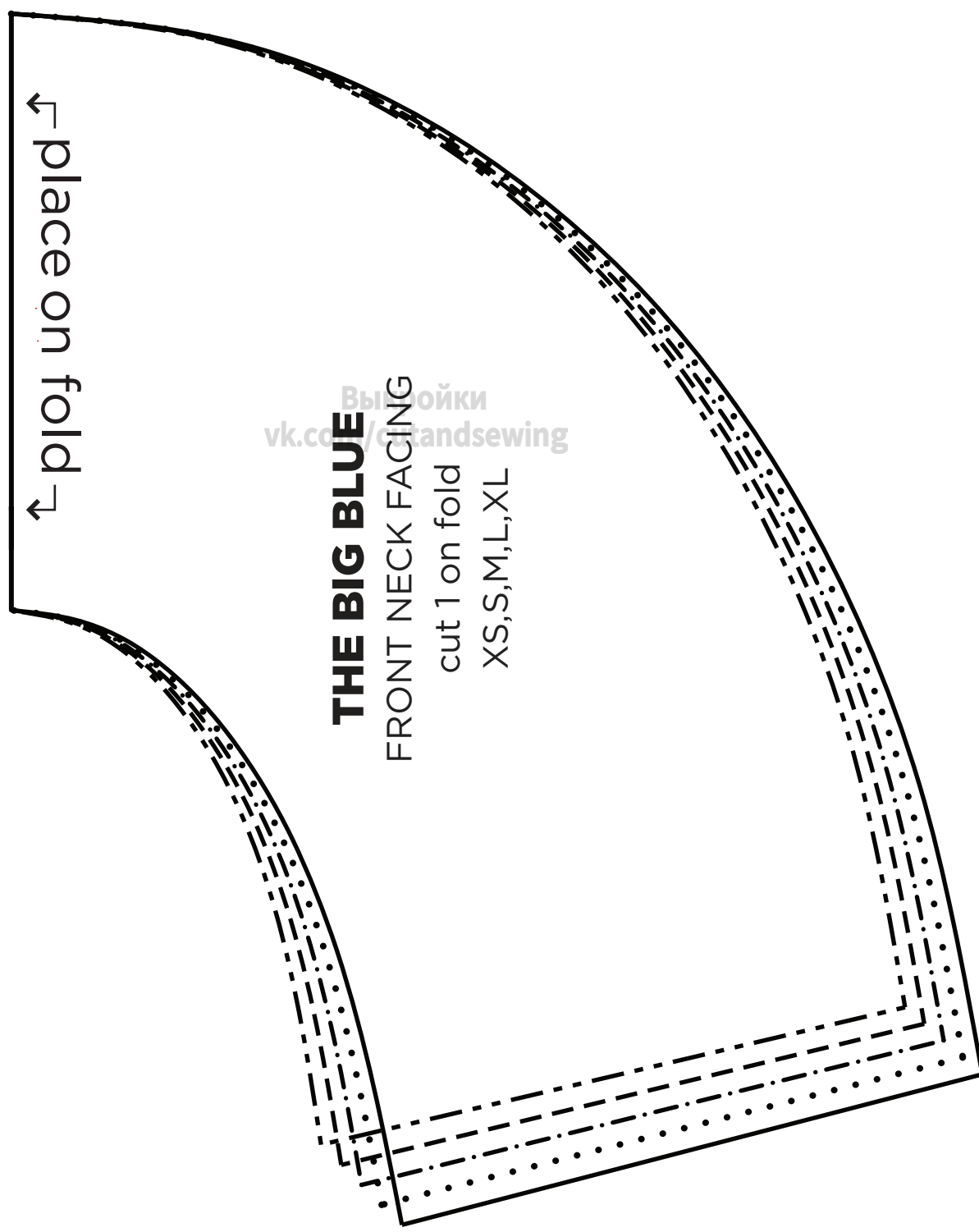
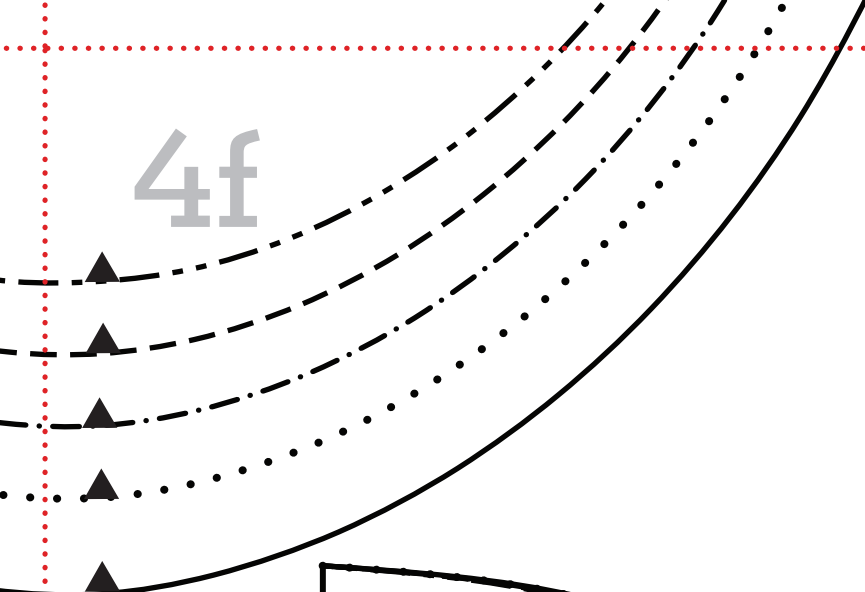
cut 1 on fold
XS,S,M,L,XL

4d

↵ place on fold ↵

4e

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THE BIG BLUE

FRONT NECK FACING

cut 1 on fold

XS,S,M,L,XL

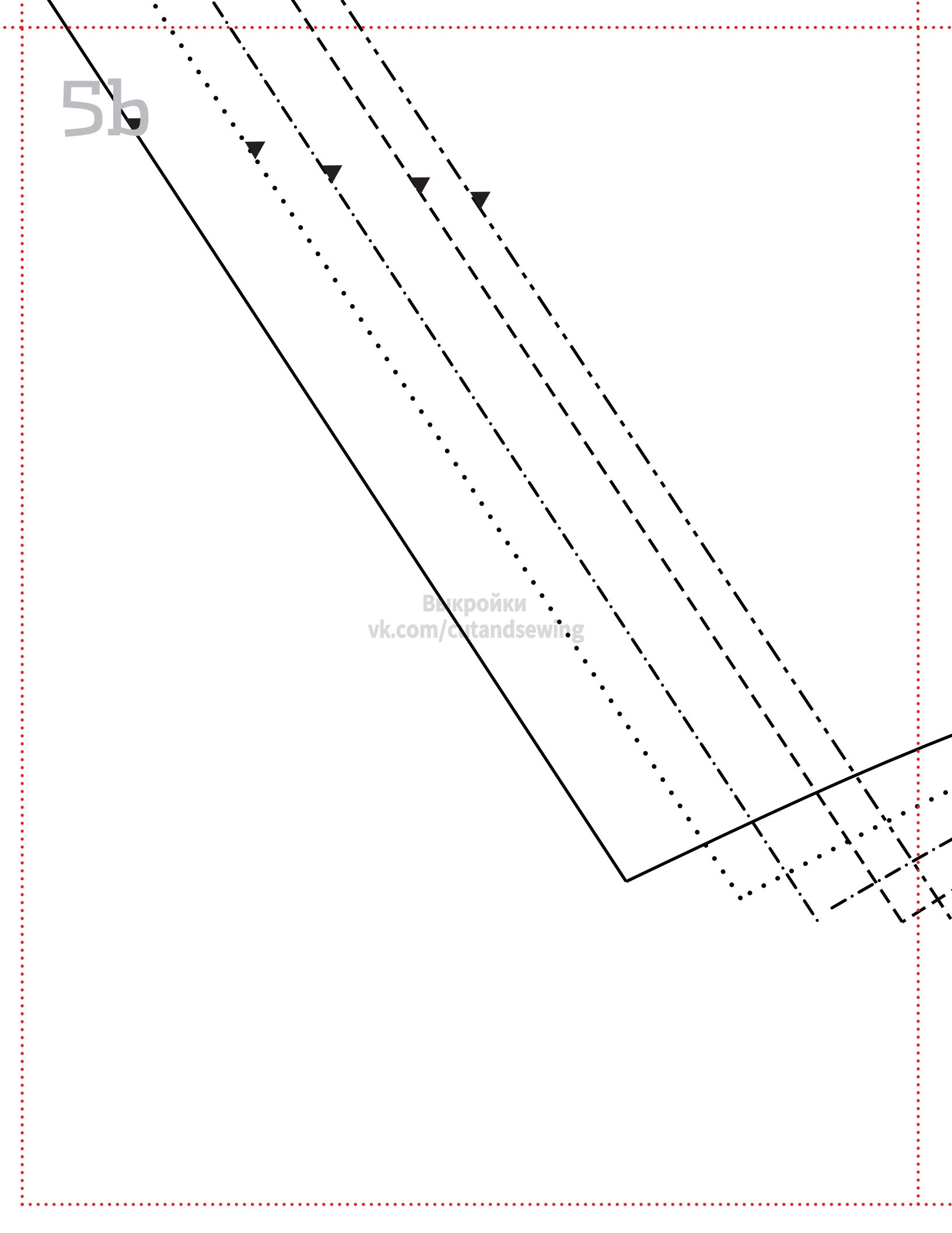
Выкройки
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4f

place on fold

5b

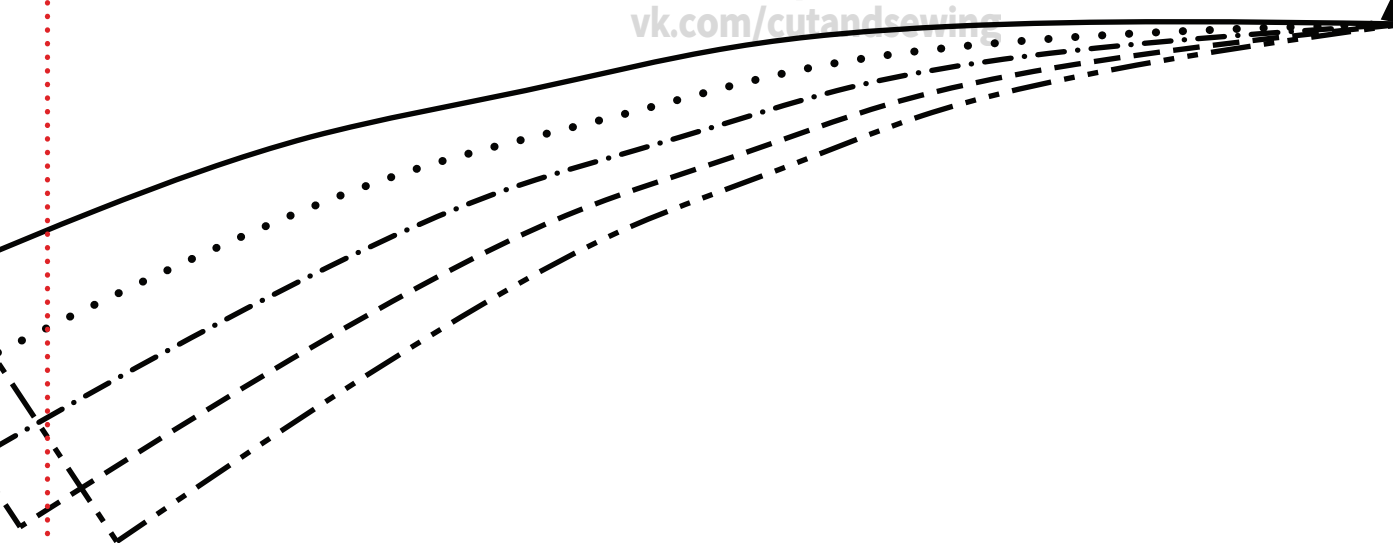
Выкройки
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5с



Выкройки
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5d

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5e

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