

AVA *sundress*



Ava Gardner exuded an inimitable, feminine, sexy confidence. She was an intelligent and feisty woman who could swear and drink with the guys. This dress is fun and flirty and, with its halter top and swinging skirt, it's a modern take on Ava's style

Tutorial: **DOLIN BLISS O'SHEA**
Photography: **DANIEL CASTRO ©**
Image: **REXUSA AVA GARDNER © REX USA/MOVIESTORE COLLECTION/REX**



Dress sizing:

	XS	S	M	L	XL
Bust	84cm	91cm	99cm	107cm	114cm
Waist	63.5cm	71cm	79cm	86cm	94cm
Hips	91cm	99cm	107cm	114cm	122cm

Skirt sizing:

	XS	S	M	L	XL
Length	25"	25¼"	25½"	25¾"	26"
	63.5cm	64cm	65cm	65.5cm	66cm
Width	31½"	34½"	37½"	40½"	43½"
	80cm	88cm	95cm	103cm	110cm

Skill level ♥♥

SUGGESTED FABRICS:

Cotton voile, lawn, poplin or lightweight linen for dress

Voile, lawn or lightweight muslin for underlining (optional) and lining

MATERIALS:

- ♥ 2.1m 114cm-wide main fabric or 1.8m 152cm-wide main fabric for dress
- ♥ 70cm 50cm-wide interfacing
- ♥ 1.2m 16mm-wide ribbon
- ♥ 14" zip
- ♥ co-ordinating thread

Note: If you wish to use a sheer fabric, underline all pieces in solid cotton voile by cutting a second set of pieces from underlining fabric using the main fabric layout. You should then baste the main fabric pieces and underlining pieces together and treat as one when reading the instructions. Even if underlining, you should still line the bodice and waist pieces.

CUTTING:

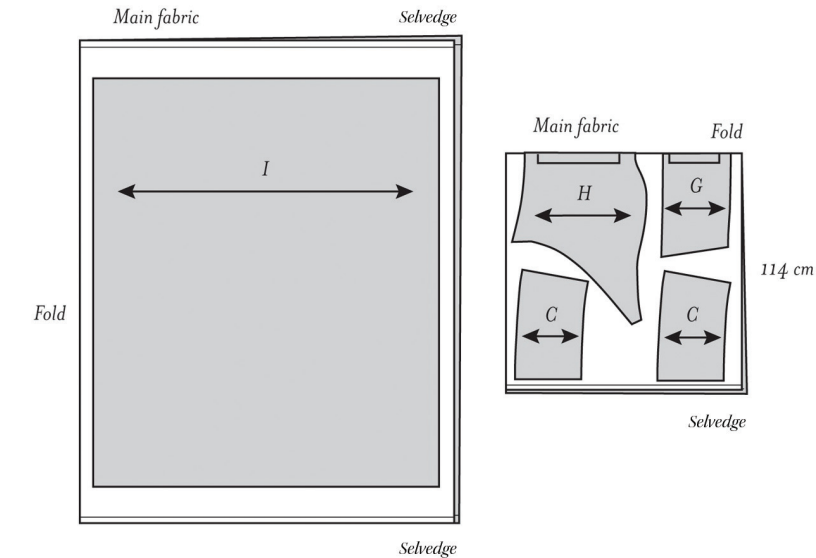
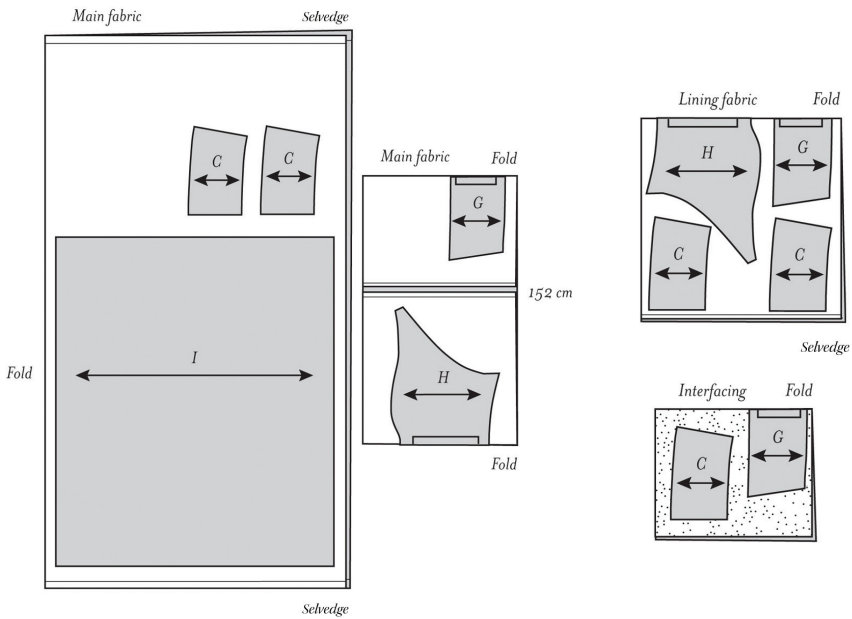
Lay the pattern pieces on the fabric as shown in the fabric layout and cut them out.

MAIN FABRIC

- ♥ 1 front bodice
- ♥ 1 front waist
- ♥ 1 back waist
- ♥ 2 rectangles (draft one rectangle onto pattern paper in the dimensions from the skirt size chart above. Label this piece "Skirt, cut 2 main fabric" and place the grainline along the length of the piece.)

LINING

- ♥ 1 front bodice
- ♥ 1 front waist
- ♥ 1 back waist



How to make

- 1 Transfer all pattern markings to the fabric pieces after cutting.
- 2 Take one of the skirt pieces, fold in half by aligning the short ends together, and cut each piece in half along the fold. These will now be referred to as the back skirt pieces.
- 3 Stay-stitch the armhole edges of the bodice lining pieces 12mm from the edge.
- 4 Fuse the interfacing to the wrong side of the main fabric front waist and one set (mirror images) of back waist pieces. Fold the front waist and front waist lining pieces in half, and mark a small notch into the seam allowance of the waist edge along the centre front fold.

ASSEMBLING THE BODICE

- 5 Align the waist pieces RST matching notches.

Stitch with 1.5cm seam allowance. Repeat for the waist lining pieces.

- 6 Align the edges of the bodice and bodice lining RST, and pin along the sides, armholes and top edges. Sew together, grade the seam allowances and clip along the curves. Trim off excess seam allowance at the top corners. Turn the bodice RS out and press flat along the seams. Edge-stitch along both armhole edges.
- 7 Treating the bodice pieces as one, machine baste three rows of stitching between each set of bust notches.

SEW THE WAIST TO THE BODICE

- 8 Gather the bodice pieces between each set of bust notches to approximately the width of the corresponding notches on the front waist piece. Align the bottom of the bodice to the top

AVA SUNDRESS

of the joined waist pieces along the raw edges RST and pin. Make sure to distribute the bust gathers evenly, matching the bust notches, and the notches on the bodice to the side seams of the waist pieces. Baste the bodice to the waist pieces. (See Pic A.)

9 Place the RS of the waist lining on top of the wrong side of the bodice pieces, and waist pieces, aligning the raw upper edges. With the bodice sandwiched between the waist and waist lining pieces, pin. Stitch in one continuous seam. Remove any visible basting stitches.

10 Make a casing for the ribbon to be laced through along the top edge of the bodice. Fold over the top edge 2cm to the wrong side, then edge-stitch along the inner edge to form the casing.

SEW THE SKIRT SEAMS AND JOIN TO THE WAIST

11 Align the front skirt and one back skirt piece along the side seam raw edge, RST, and pin. Sew together, press the seam open, and finish the raw edges in your preferred method. Repeat with the second back skirt piece on the opposite side seam of the front skirt.

12 Machine- or hand-baste three rows of stitching along the top raw edge of the skirt. Gather the top edge of the skirt to approximately the width of the waist piece. (See Pic B.)

13 Align the top edge of the skirt with the waist piece RST, and pin. Make sure to match the side seams and distribute the gathers evenly. Sew together in one continuous seam. Press the SA upwards. The bottom edge of the waist lining should remain loose on the inside of the garment at this time.

FINAL STEPS

14 Mark a notch into the centre back skirt seam allowance, 21.5cm down from the waist seam to indicate the end of the zip. Flip the waist lining out of the way, so it isn't caught in the centre back seam. Align the centre back raw edges, RST, and pin. Make sure the waist seams match then baste the seam and press open. Place the zip with teeth face down along the seam, baste and stitch. (See pics C and D). Complete the back skirt seam.

15 Fold the centre back waist lining edges under by 1.5cm, and slip-stitch the centre back waist lining folded edges to the zipper tape.

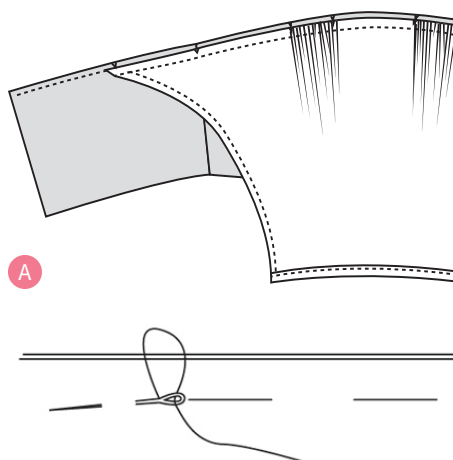
16 Fold the waist lining bottom raw edge under by 1.5cm, and slip-stitch the waist lining to the waist seam allowance. Finish the skirt with a narrow 1cm hem. (See Pic E.)



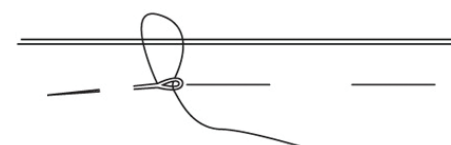
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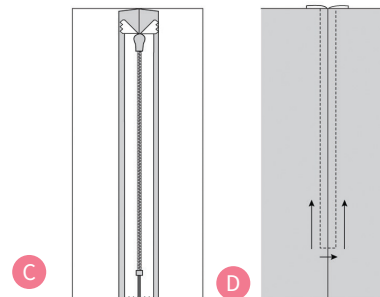
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A

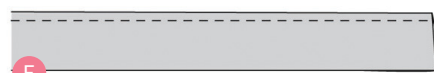


B



C

D



E

18 Finish the raw edges of the ribbon by pressing the ends over 6mm to the wrong side, then fold and press the ends over again 6mm. Edge-stitch along the inner folded edge of each of the folded ends, to hem the ribbon ends. Attach the safety pin to one end of the ribbon and lace it through the casing. Remove the safety pin. Tie the ends of the ribbon into a knot behind your neck to create a halter.

Reader offer:

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1

Place on Fold

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FRONT BODICE

Cut 1 main fabric on the fold

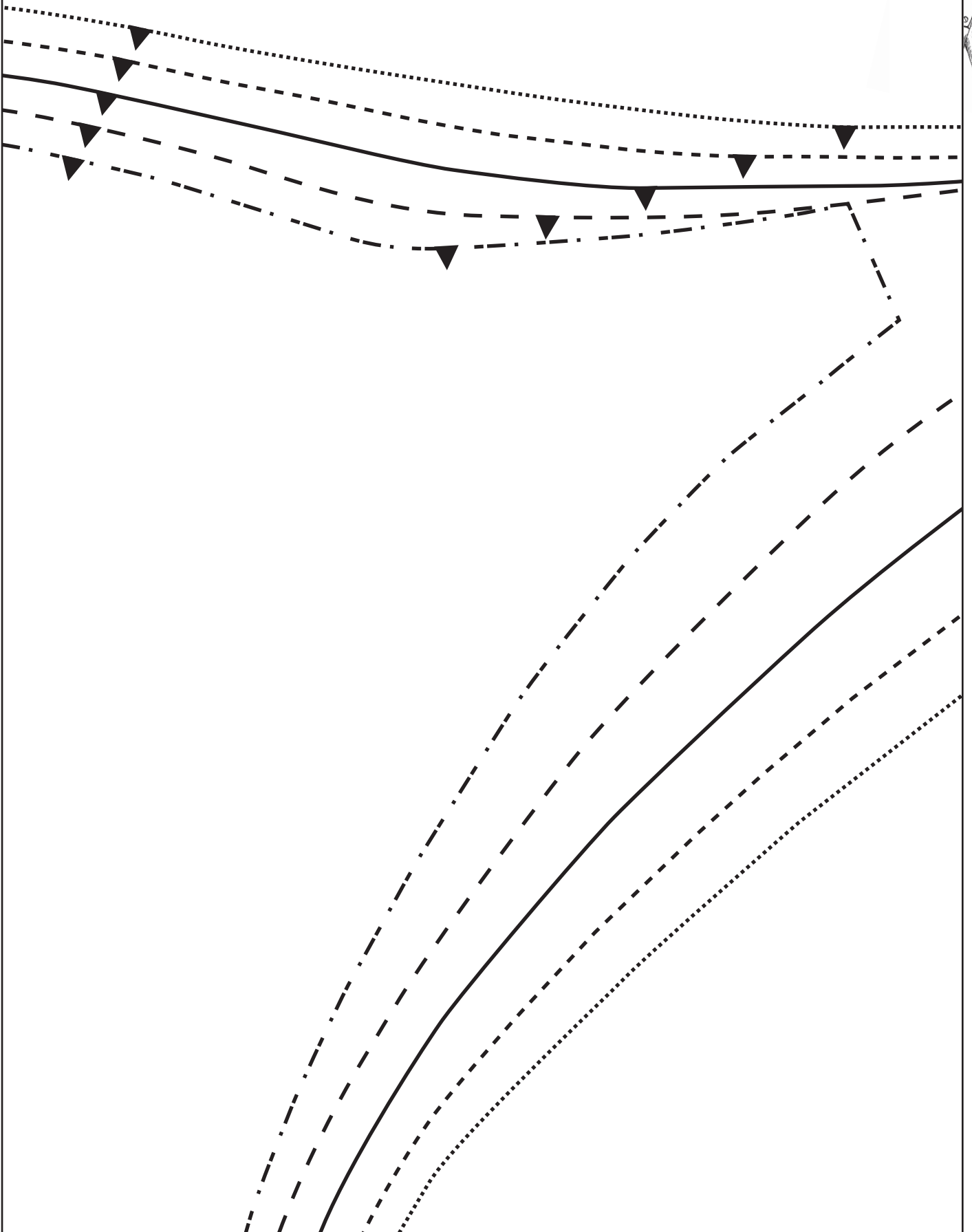
Cut 1 Underlining on the fold

(optional)

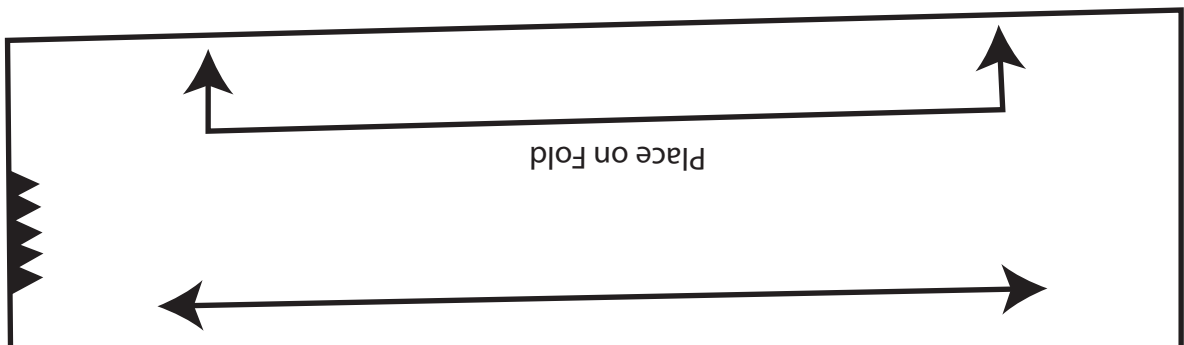
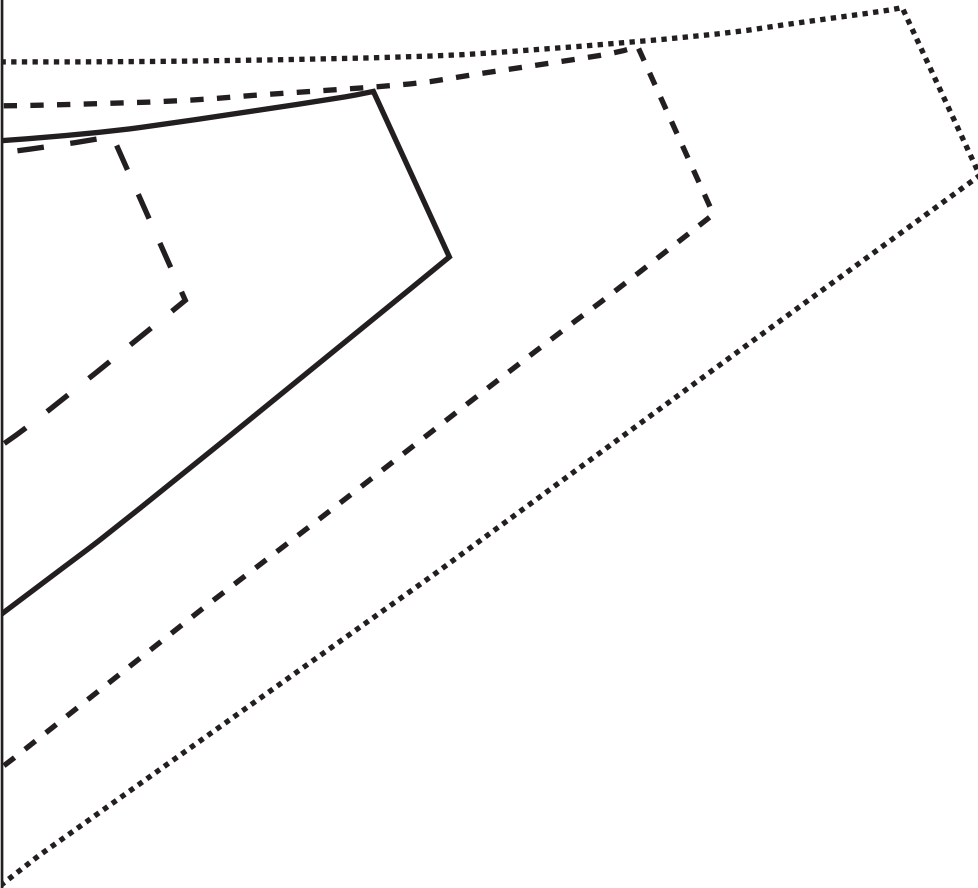
Cut 1 Lining on the fold



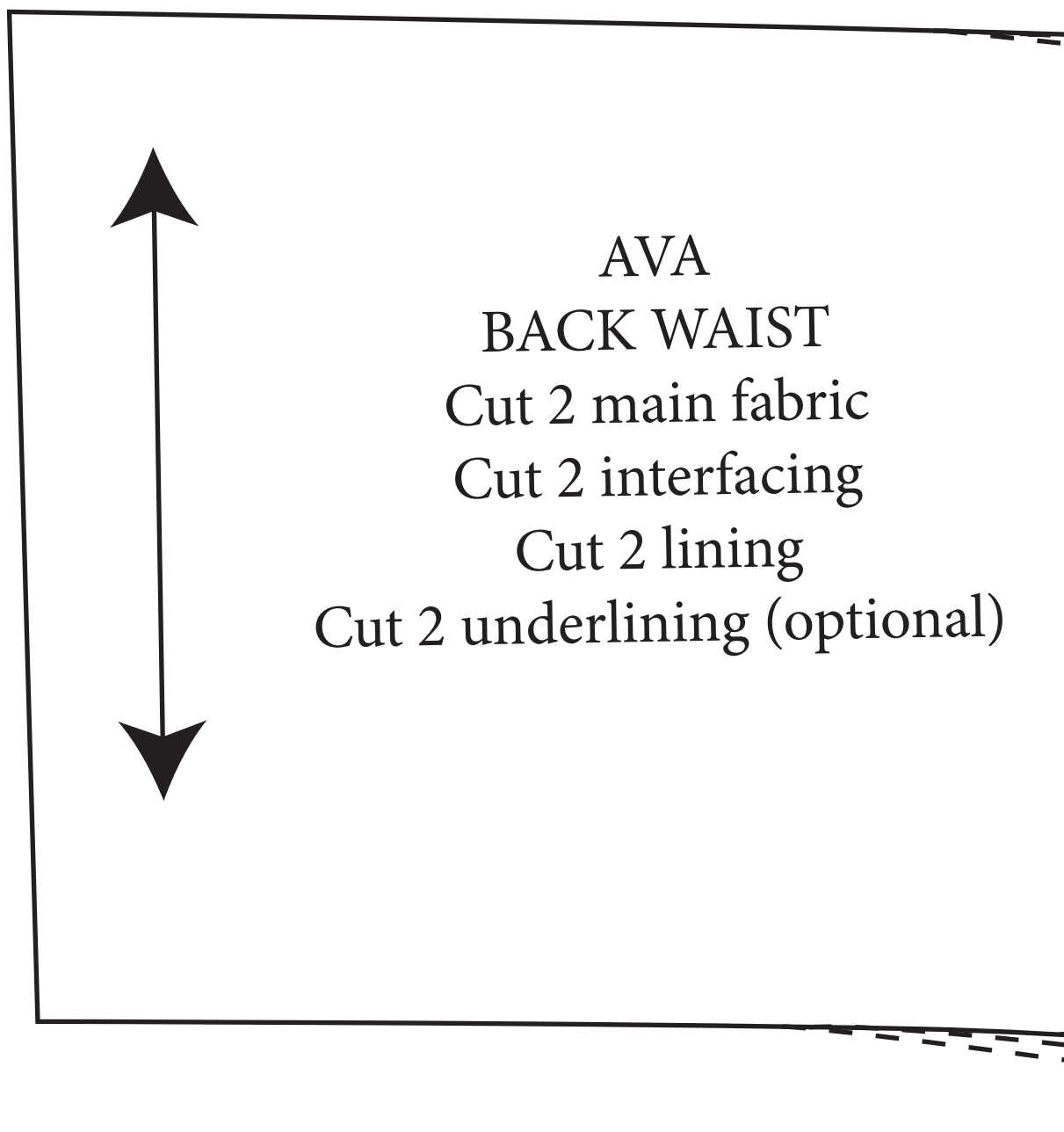
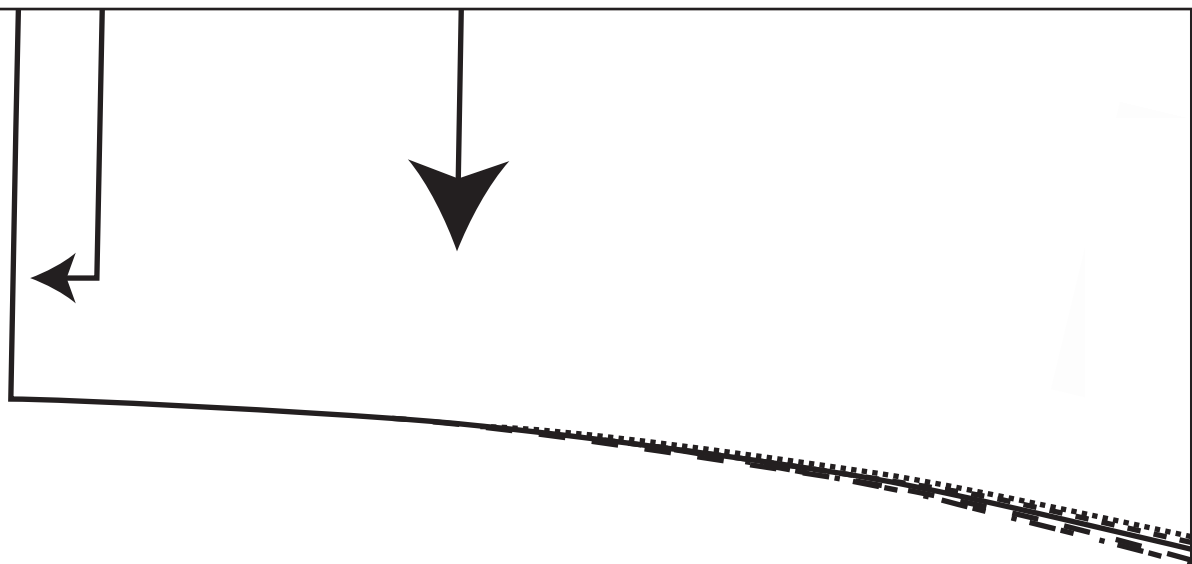
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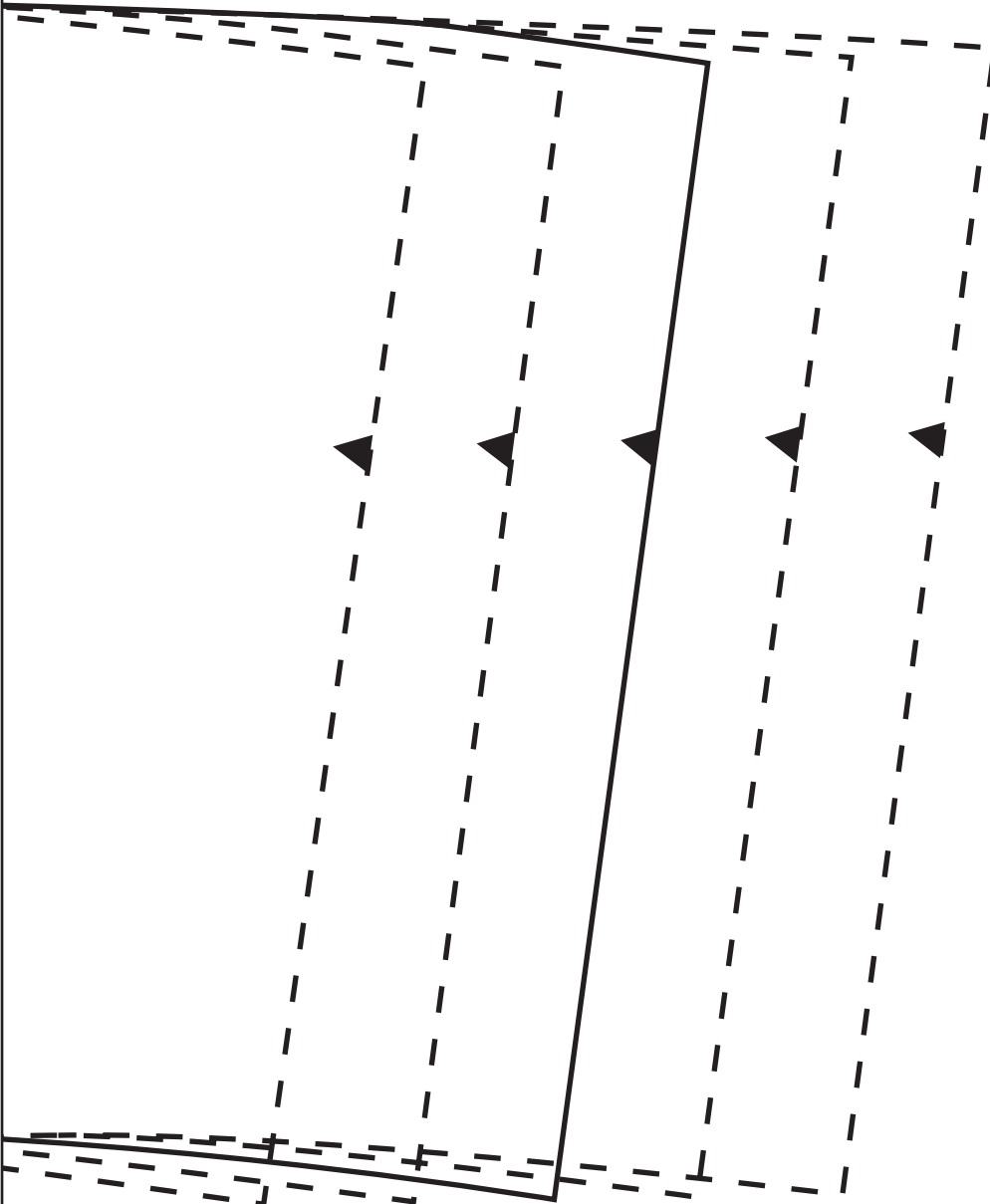
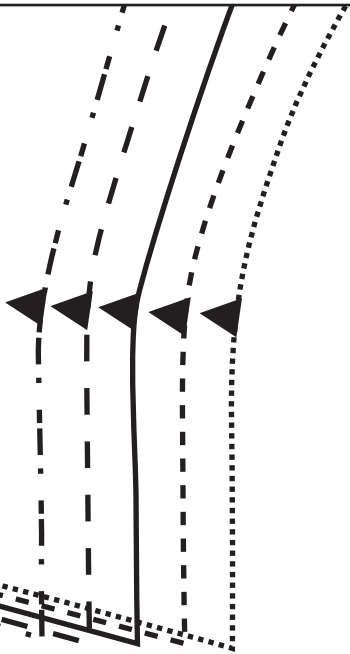
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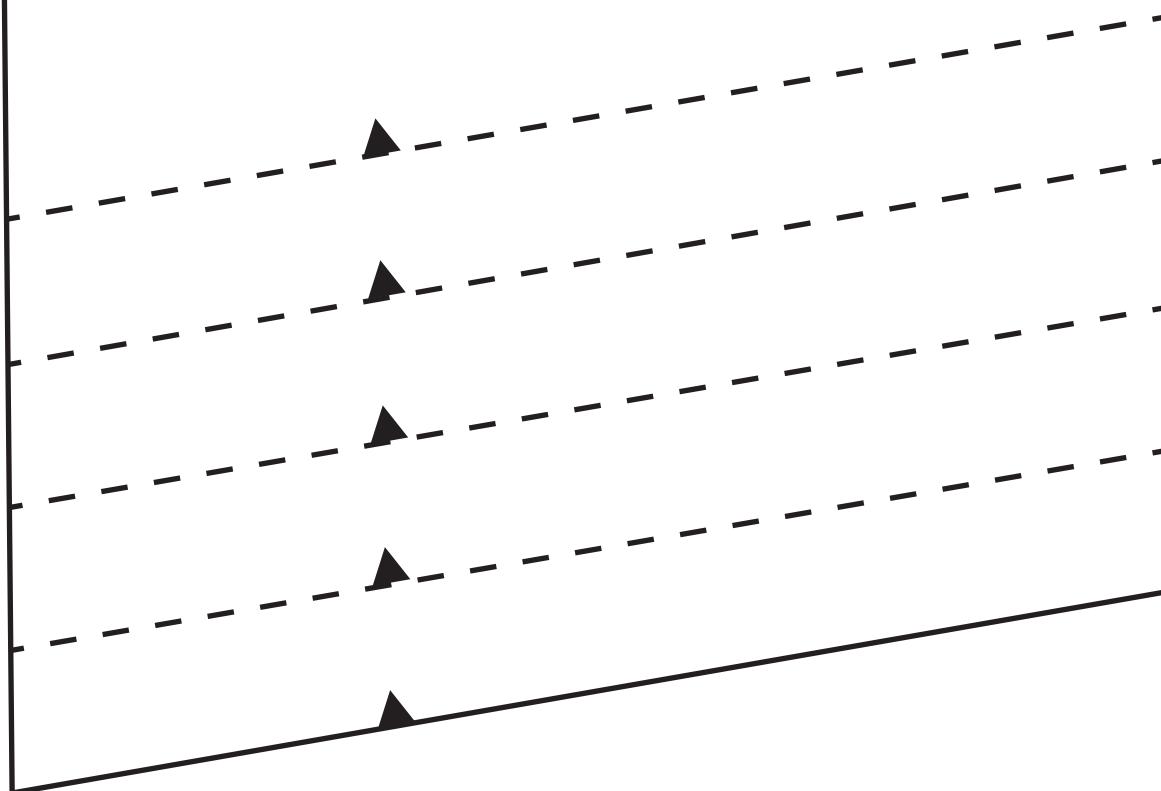


4



5





AVA

FRONT WAIST

Cut 1 main fabric on the fold

Cut 1 Underlining on the fold

(optional)

Cut 1 Lining on the fold

Cut 1 Interfacing on the fold

