

sew masterclass

Master sewing velvet with our LEA TOP



Venture into the sumptuous world of velvet by making Fiona Hesford's easy top, with ruffle sleeve detail.

If you've never stitched with velvet before, just be mindful that the

fabric likes to move around a little – especially if you're using a silk blend.

If the layered ruffles aren't quite your style, you can omit one of the layers for a more subtle nod to the trend.

Get started

Note: top with one large frill uses 1m (140cm wide)

- Velvet fabric (140cm wide), 1.2m (small) or 1.3m (med/large)
- Seam binding (16mm wide), 1m
- One 1cm button
- Walking foot (optional)

Sizes

Size	Bust (cm)	Waist (cm)	Length* (cm)
Small (8-10)	94	46	54
Medium (12-14)	99	51	56.5
Large (16-18)	104	56	58.5

*from back neck, 3cm hem

Cutting guide

Note: fold fabric in half, right sides together and selvages aligned

Front: cut one on the fold

Back: cut one on folded fabric (two pieces altogether)

Note: notch seam allowance on following pieces as indicated on template

Sleeve top ruffle: cut one on folded fabric (two pieces altogether)

Sleeve under ruffle: cut one on folded fabric (two pieces altogether)

1cm seam allowance used unless otherwise specified.

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FREE PATTERN
DOWNLOAD
sewmag.co.uk
/templates

sew a RUFFLE SLEEVE TOP



Fiona Hesford's top tips for CUTTING AND FINISHING:

- Go online to sewmag.co.uk/templates to download and print the templates.
- Place your pattern pieces with the direction of the velvet's pile going downwards, ensuring all your pieces are cut out in the same direction.
- Steam the velvet fabric pieces rather than ironing them and avoid contact as this can cause marks in the pile.
- Use a sharp 70/80 needle and lengthen your stitch to 2.8. A walking foot can also make a big difference when sewing seams and hems.
- It is worth tacking your pieces by hand prior to sewing them, to avoid any puckering.
- Finish all raw edges with a zigzag stitch or overlocker.

Stitching the front and back



1 Cut out all of the pieces. Take the back pieces and join them at the centre seam with right sides together, sewing up to the marker point. Press the seam open, then finish the raw edges.



2 Sew the darts on the front. Slice the dart seam allowance down the centre and press open on the wrong side. Staystitch the front and back necklines 6mm from the edge.



3 Join the front to the back at the shoulders. Finish the raw edges. Press seam allowances open. Sew the front to the back at the sides with right sides together. Finish the raw edges.

Sewing the neck binding



4 Cut a length of seam binding for the neck edge and unfold one edge. Stretch the folded edge only to align with the neckline curve. Pin the unfolded edge right sides together to the neck edge all around, starting from the centre back opening.



5 Hand tack stitch to hold. Sew a 1cm seam all around. Fold over the binding at each far end into the back opening seam allowance. Trim and nick the curved seam allowance. Fold the binding over to the wrong side so that no binding is visible on the right side.



6 Pin then hand stitch the binding at the folded edge with small slip stitches so that no stitching is visible from the right side; it helps to tack first. Make a buttonhole stitch loop at the top of the back opening. Sew a button at the opposite side.

Assembling the sleeve frills



7 Finish the raw outer curved edges only of all the frill pieces and stitch a small single fold hem on this outer edge. Next, locate the back section of each frill.



8 Mark the back with tape or tailor's chalk. Place one top frill right side up on top of one under frill piece, also right side up, making sure they match up.



9 Tack to hold together at the raw edges. Pin the frill to the armhole edge, matching the raw edges with right sides together, and lining up the centre points.



10 Tack, then sew a 1cm seam allowance. Nick along them.



11 Finish the seam allowances. Make a single fold 1cm hem at the lower edge of the top.

Be sure to clip the curves around the neck to reduce bulk

Dry clean your velvet to keep it in tip-top condition, but wash it if you like the textured, crushed look

Sewing with velvet

Velvet is one of those fabric milestones that seems intimidating, but like any other fabric, it's much easier once you know what you're dealing with!

- Velvets come in various forms and weights; silk velvets tend to have better drape whereas cotton versions have more body and weight to them.
- The nap of the fabric can change easily so instead of using scissors, try cutting yours out with a rotary cutter and mat instead.
- Velvet can easily move around so when instructed to cut on the fold, it's worth cutting one single layer and with the central line accurately marked, flipping the pattern piece over to cut the other side. Always cut velvet from the wrong side!

sew SHOPPER



VELVET CRUSH

Silk viscose velvet, £38 per metre,
clothhouse.com

thank you for shopping!

**PRINT
OUT
& KEEP**

LEA TOP TEMPLATES

Use these guides to get started today

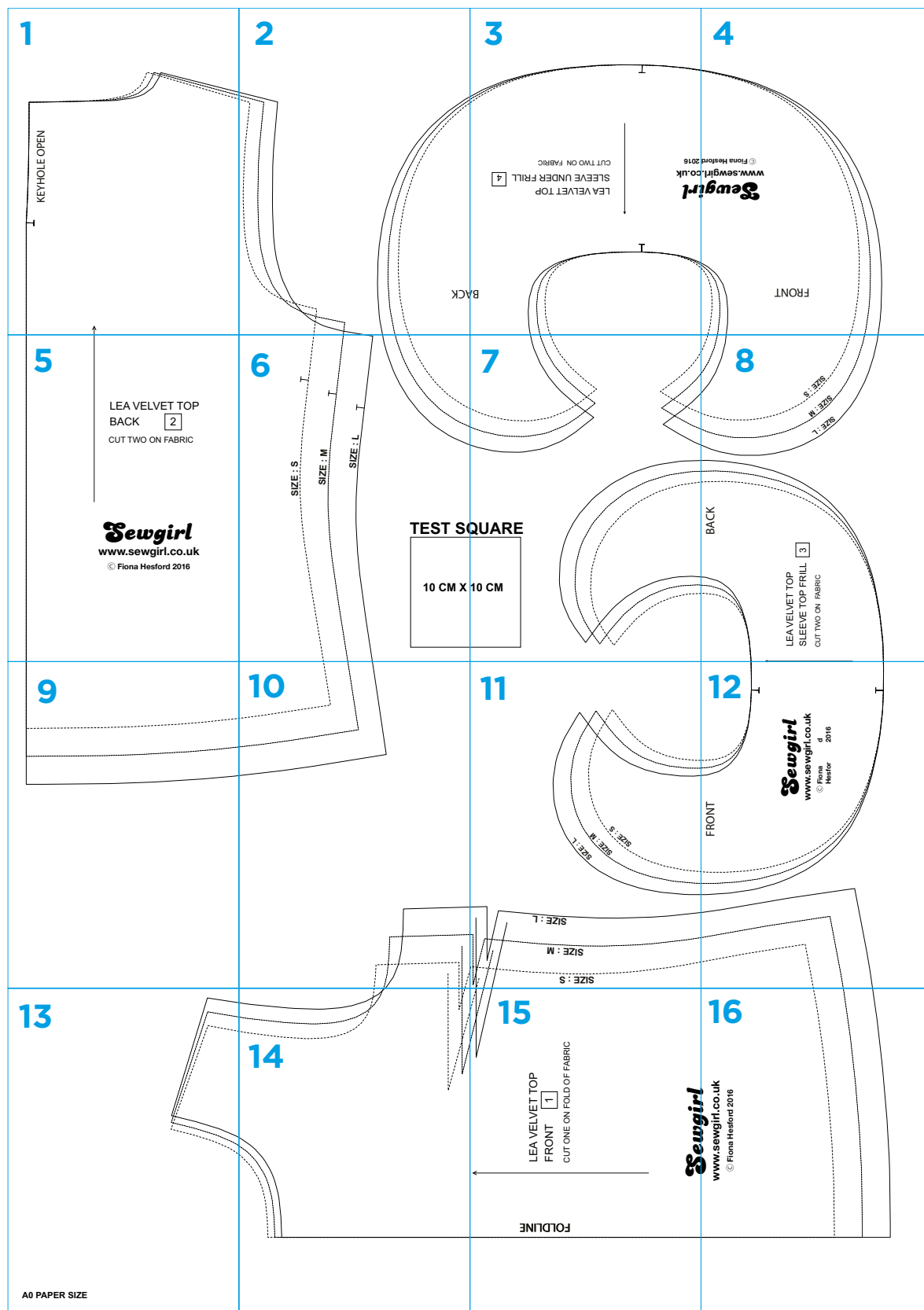
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Title: Lea Top
Designer: Fiona Hesford
Magazine page: 41
Total 18 pages to print

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Designer: Fiona Hesford
Magazine page: 41
Total 18 pages to print

UK SIZE GUIDE	8-10 (small)	12-14 (medium)	16-18 (large)
Bust (cm)	82-86	91-96	100-106
Waist (cm)	65-69	74-79	84-89
Hips (cm)	90-94	99-104	109-114

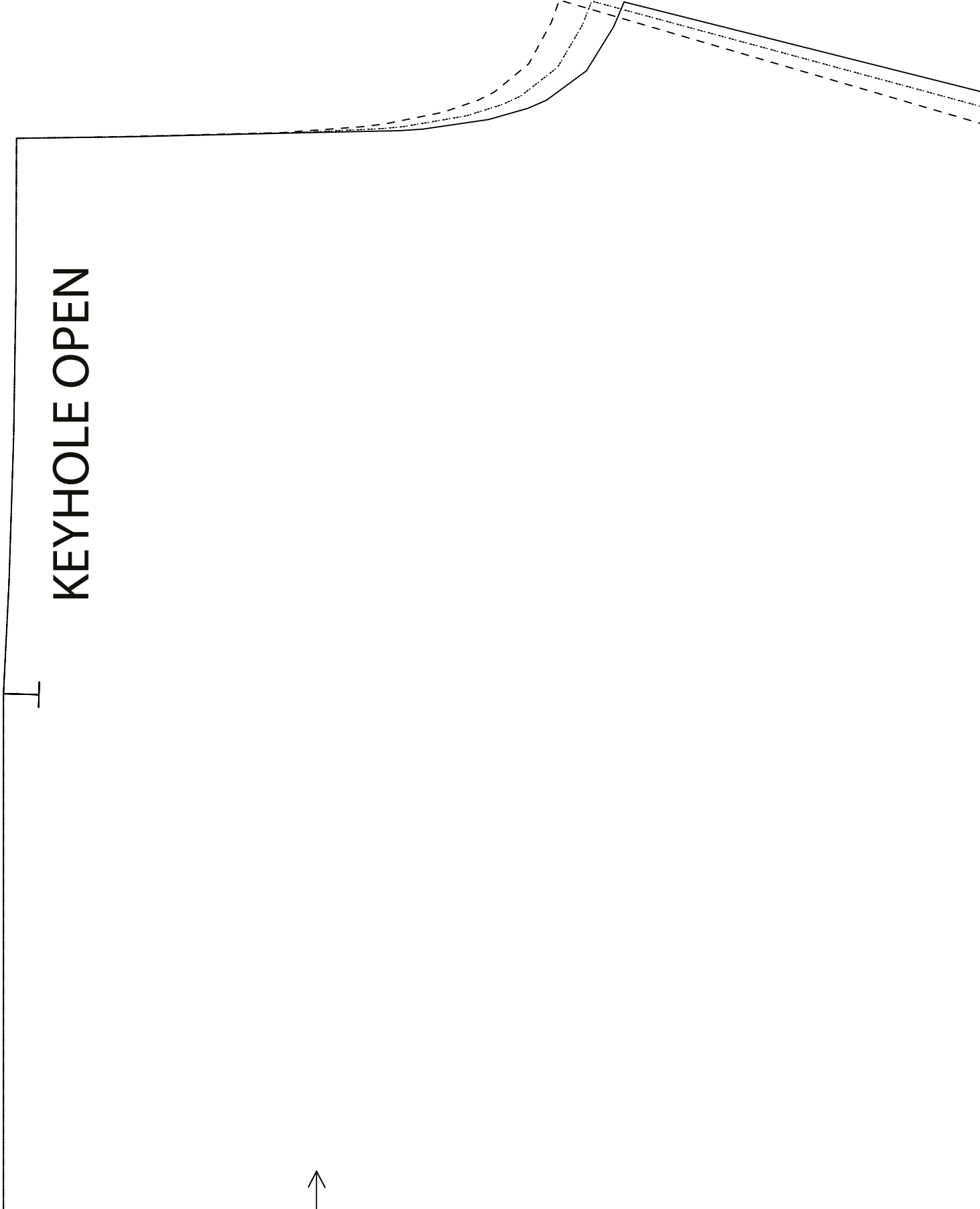


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KEYHOLE OPEN



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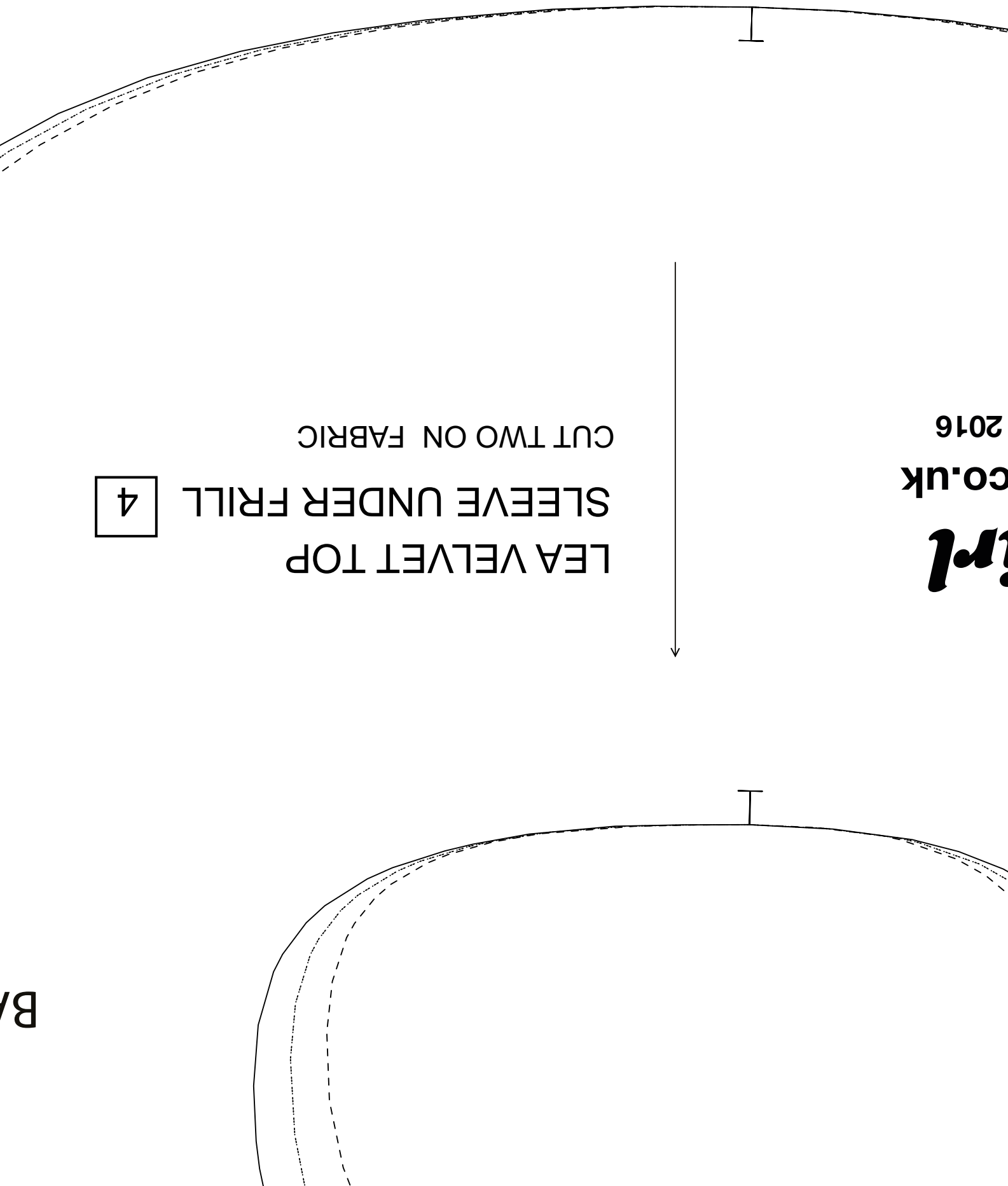
ACK

3

LEA VELVET TOP
SLEEVE UNDER FRILL
CUT TWO ON FABRIC

4

B/



4



FRONT

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5

LEA VELVET TOP

BACK

2

CUT TWO ON FABRIC

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SIZE : S

SIZE : M

SIZE : L

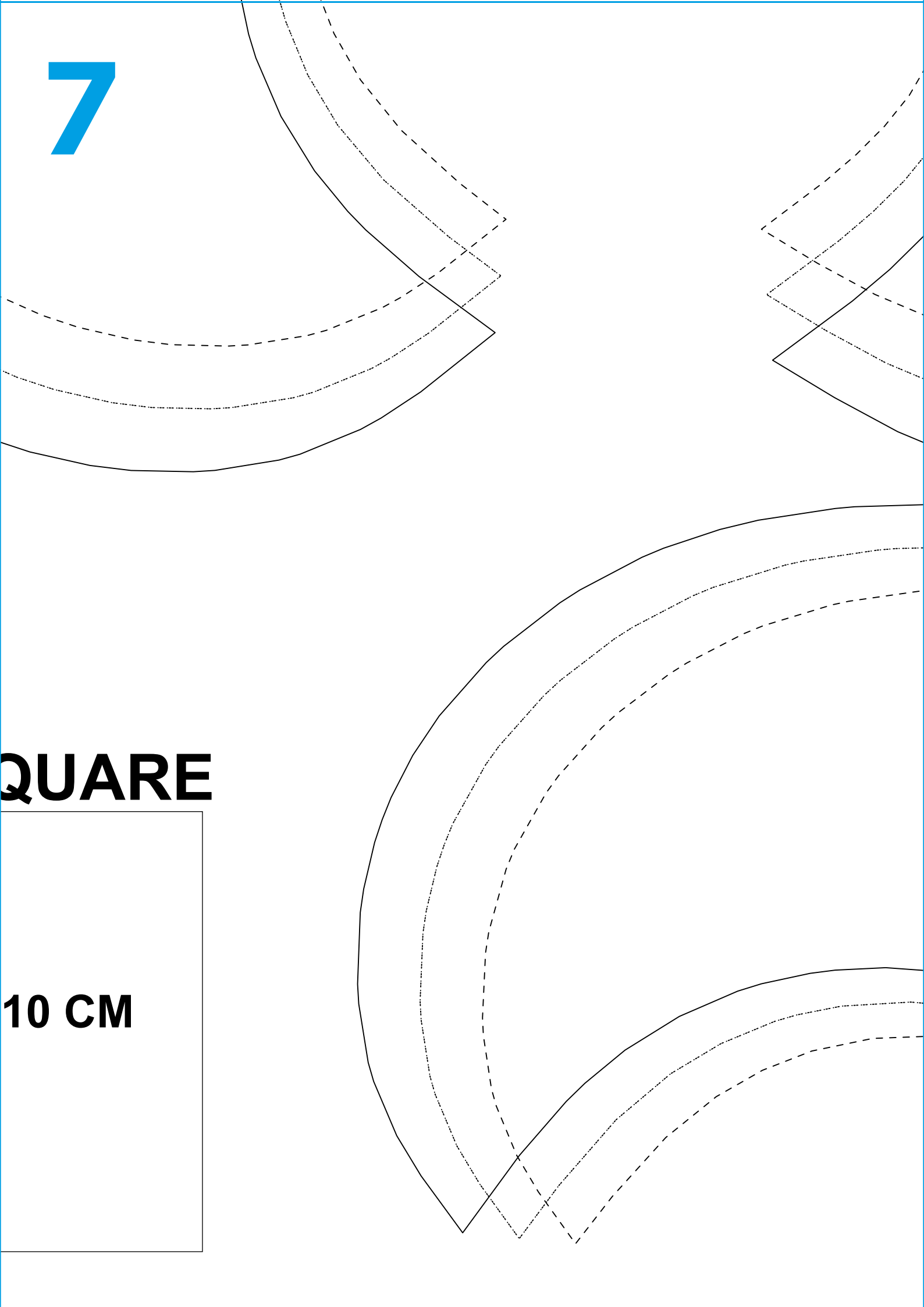
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10 CM X

7

SQUARE

10 CM



8

SIZE : S

SIZE : M

SIZE : L

BACK

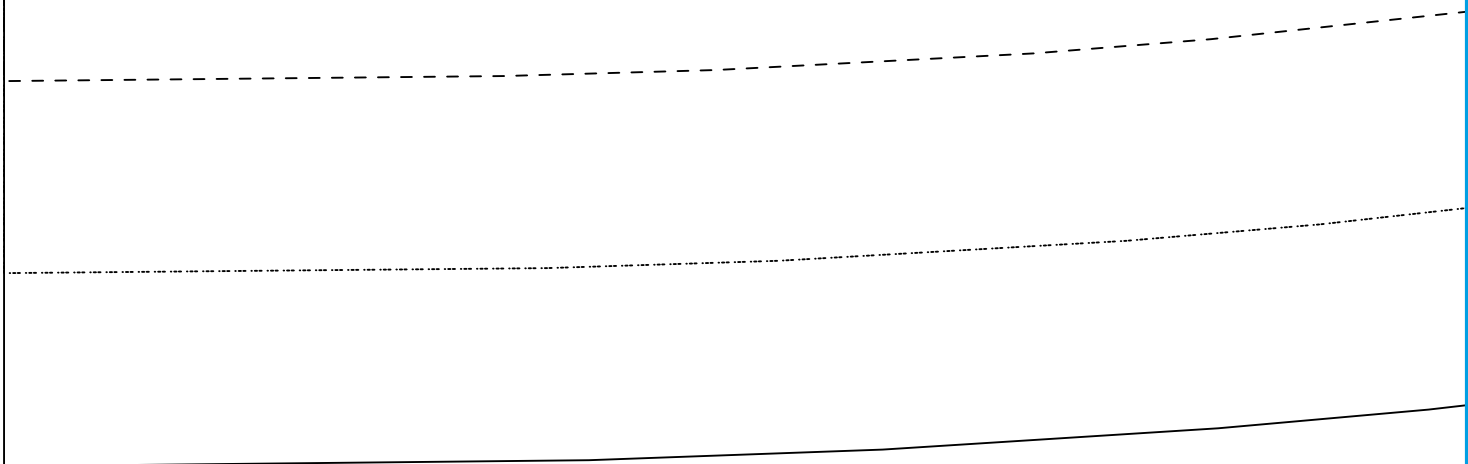
LEA VELVET TOP

SLEEVE TOP FRILL

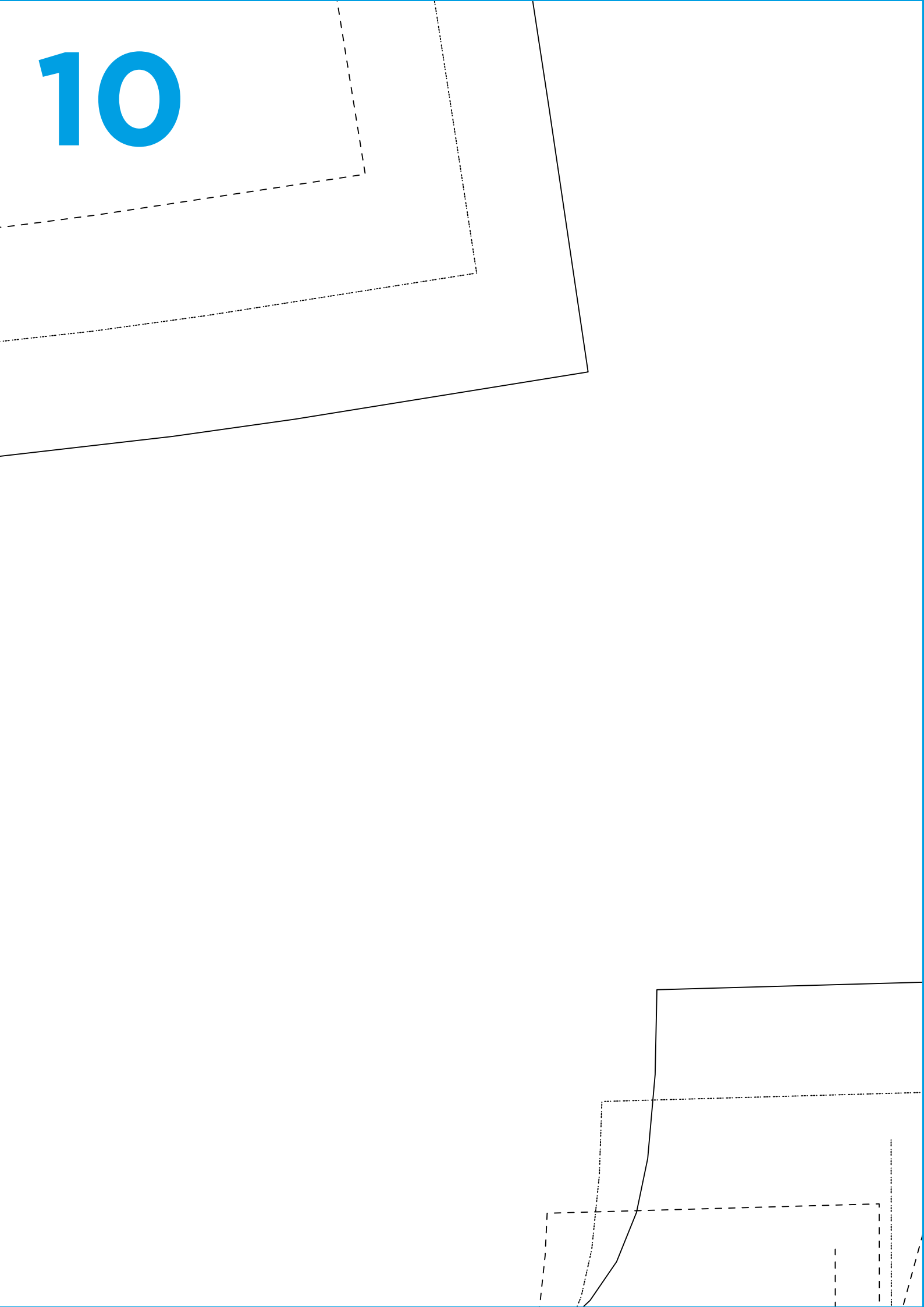
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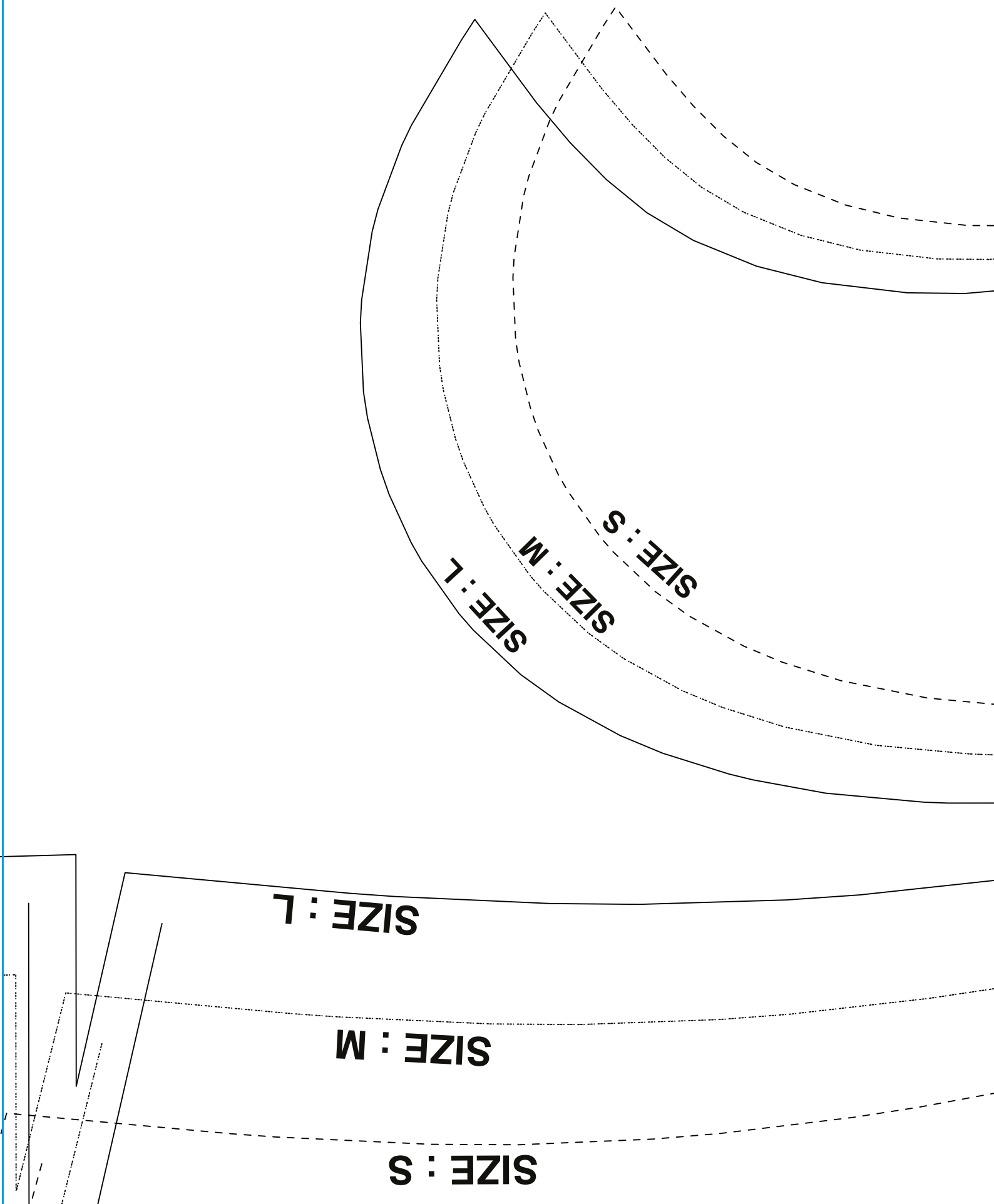
CUT TWO ON FABRIC

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FRONT

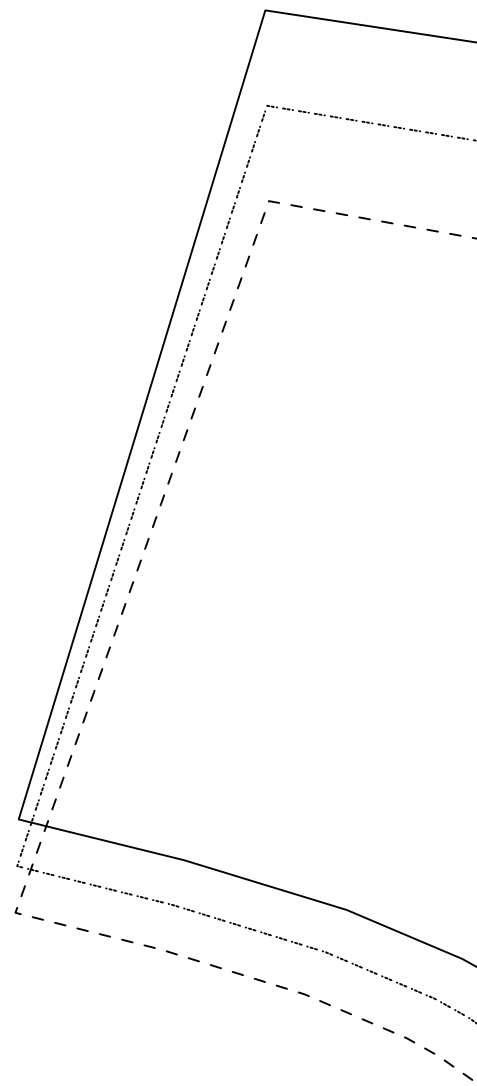
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A0 PAPER SIZE

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FOLDLINE

LEA VELVET TOP

FRONT

1

CUT ONE ON FOLD OF FABRIC

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