

Enlarging the Sleeve & Raising the Sleeve Cap

Trace the cap onto colored tissue before altering

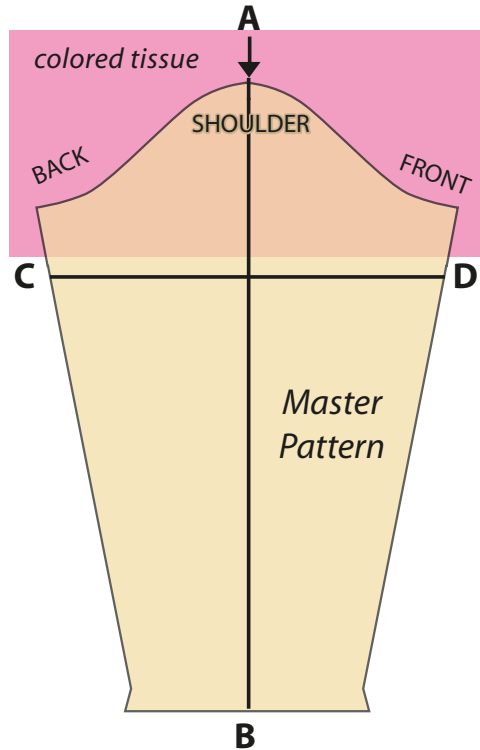


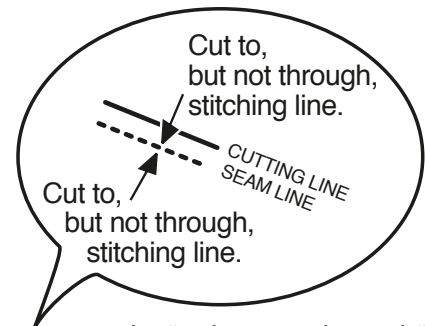
Diagram A

Start by measuring your arm circumference at your mid upper arm and add 1 inch for ease for a tee-shirt sleeve or 1½ inches for a cardigan. Then measure the width of the sleeve pattern less seam allowances at the CD line as shown on Diagram A, which is 6½ inches down from the sleeve cap. Compare your arm measurement with ease to the sleeve measurement. If the difference is 3½ inches or less, you can modify your sleeve pattern with these instructions. If the difference is greater than 3½ inches, do not use this technique only, you may have to add some to the sleeve seam as well.

Draw a copy of the sleeve cap on the colored tissue. See Diagram A. Be sure to mark back, front and shoulder marks. Set the colored tissue sleeve cap drawing aside for future use. **DO NOT** attach to the master sleeve pattern yet.

On the Master Pattern, mark the following points as shown on Diagram A:

- Point A is the top of the sleeve cap, which is beside the shoulder mark
- Draw a vertical line from point A that is perpendicular to the hemline and mark Point B.
- Points C and D are 6½ inches down from the sleeve cap at the side seams.



Clip "to but not through" stitching lines so pattern will swivel at the cap after cutting

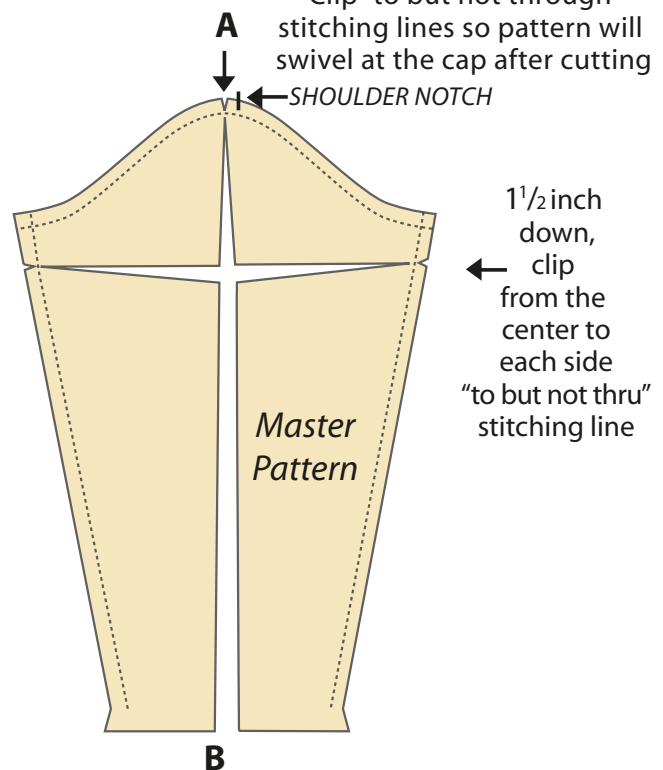


Diagram B



Knit Patterns for the Hard To Fit

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Draw a line from C to D, which is perpendicular to the AB line

Cut the Master Pattern from B up to A – to but not through – the stitching line, then down from A to stitching line (to but not through) to create a paper hinge. (See Diagram B.) Cut from AB line to C and AB line to D – to but not through -- the stitching line. Then cut from the edges at C and D to but not through the stitching line to create a paper hinge.

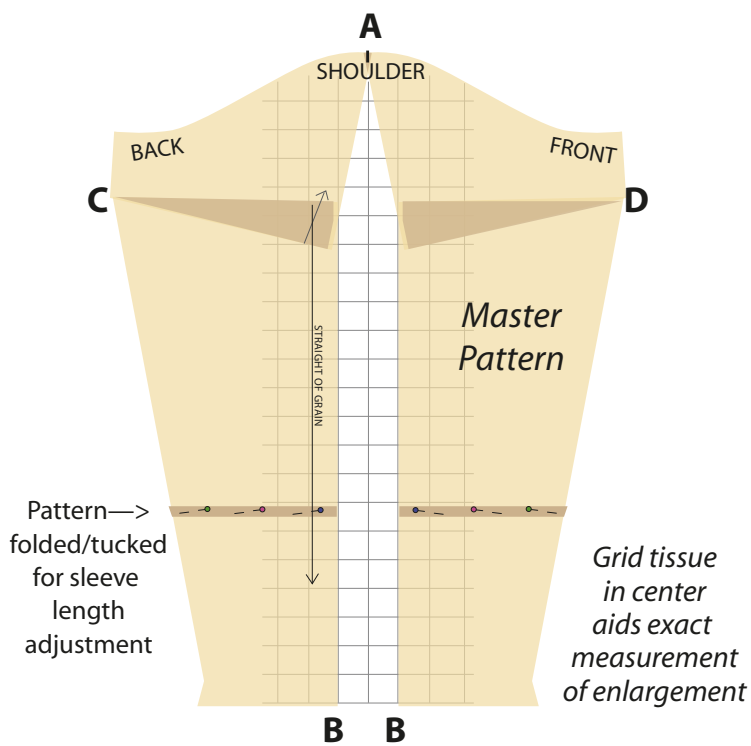


Diagram C

Place a 5-inch by sleeve length strip of gridded pattern paper (I use Pati Palmer’s Perfect Pattern Paper) underneath the AB line of the Master Pattern. Lay one side of the AB line at CD (cut edge) on a vertical grid line that is ½ inch from the edge of the gridded pattern paper, so that the hemline is on a horizontal line. Tape the vertical line to the gridded pattern paper from the hemline (Point B) up to 1½ inches from the CD line. Do not tape all the way to the top yet, just from CD line down.

Increase the opening of the AB line by the amount that you need to add for the sleeve width, which could be up to 3½ inches. The gridded pattern paper makes it easy to accurately add the same amount so that the cut lines are parallel and the hemlines on both sides are on the same horizontal line. Tape this second vertical line to the gridded pattern paper, from the hemline (Point B) up to 1½ inches from the CD line.

Notice what this does to the Master Sleeve Pattern above the CD line. One cut edge of the CD line will overlap with the other cut edge of the CD line. Be sure that the paper hinges on the CD line allow the Master Pattern to lay flat. Tape down the remainder of the AB line and the overlapped CD lines. It should now look like Diagram C.

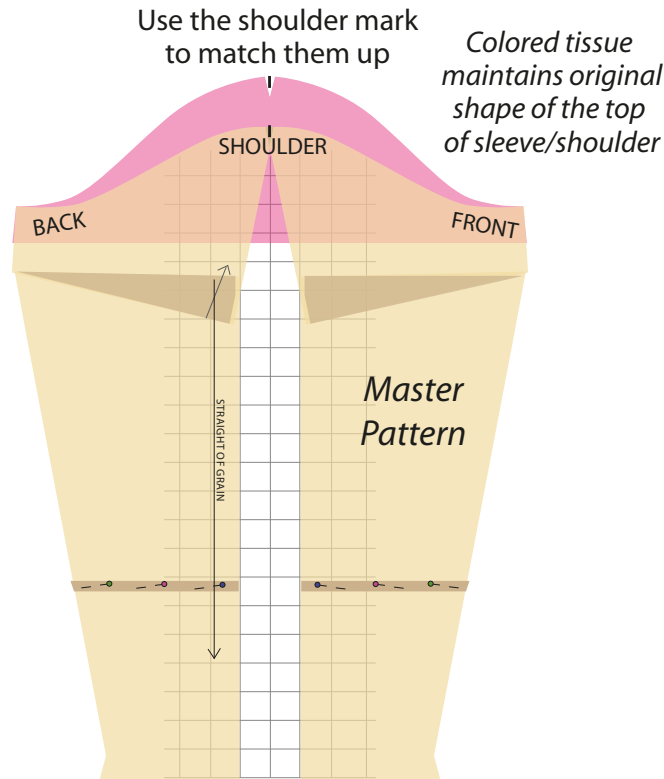


Diagram D

Now get the colored tissue where you traced a copy of the sleeve cap. Lay the tissue paper behind the Master Sleeve Pattern so the fronts and backs are together. Align the shoulder marks on the tissue and the Master Sleeve Pattern, so the tissue shoulder mark is directly above the shoulder mark on the Master Sleeve Pattern. It is possible that the tissue drawing of the sleeve cap may not match the enlarged Master Sleeve Pattern at the side seam. Sometimes, the tissue will be ½" narrower than the Master Pattern on each side. This is not a problem — use the width of the enlarged Master Sleeve Pattern. Tape the colored tissue to the Master Pattern. Cut around the sleeve cap on the colored tissue. See Diagram D.

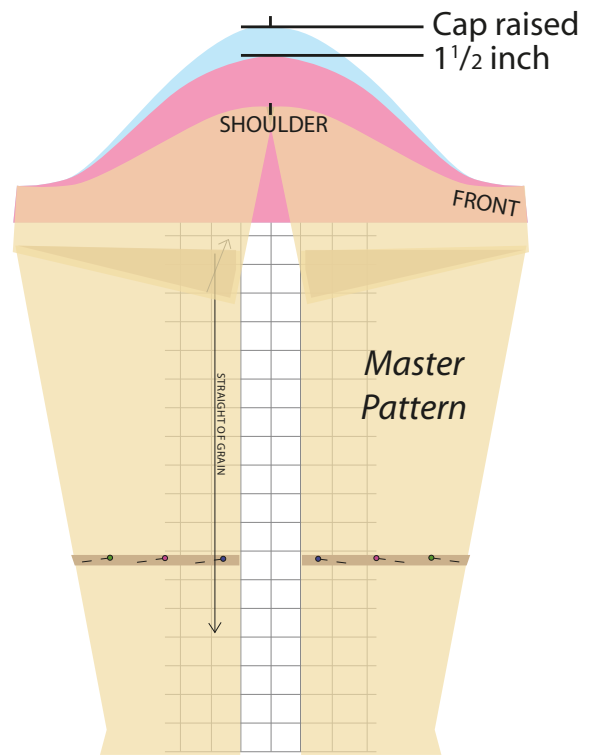


Diagram E

Your Master Sleeve Pattern has now been enlarged for a larger upper arm. If your Master Pattern was slightly wider than the colored tissue, ease that slight amount into the armhole. This should be easy because of the knit fabric.

If your arm measurement with ease is smaller than the Master Sleeve Pattern, you can follow the same process. However, instead of adding the gridded pattern paper underneath, you will overlap the two sides of the AB line for the amount that you want to narrow your Master Sleeve Pattern.

If the master pattern you used is for a knit pattern and has a flatter sleeve cap (as most knit patterns do), you may wish to raise the cap to allow a little more drop to your sleeve. Each person is different as to what they need.

I measured a couple different patterns for wovens that I had on hand and decided that 1½ inches would be a good amount to add to the height of my personal sleeve pattern.

Measure up the 1½ inches (or your figure) at the shoulder line, mark, and then taper down to finally blend into each side of the sleeve cap. See Diagram E.

One other thing about knit sleeve patterns, a lot of the designers mark the shoulder line at an equal distance from the sleeve side seams. The better drawn patterns have the back sleeve cap longer than the front sleeve cap, as most shoulder seam should be more forward... which means a longer back sleeve.