



**This Free Swayback Fitting Corrections  
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# The FITTING BOOK

The information in this free guide is taken directly from the book I wrote called, The Fitting Book. The Fitting Book has nearly 100 short videos linked through QR codes. Refer to the YouTube video to help walk you through this guide by scanning the QR code:



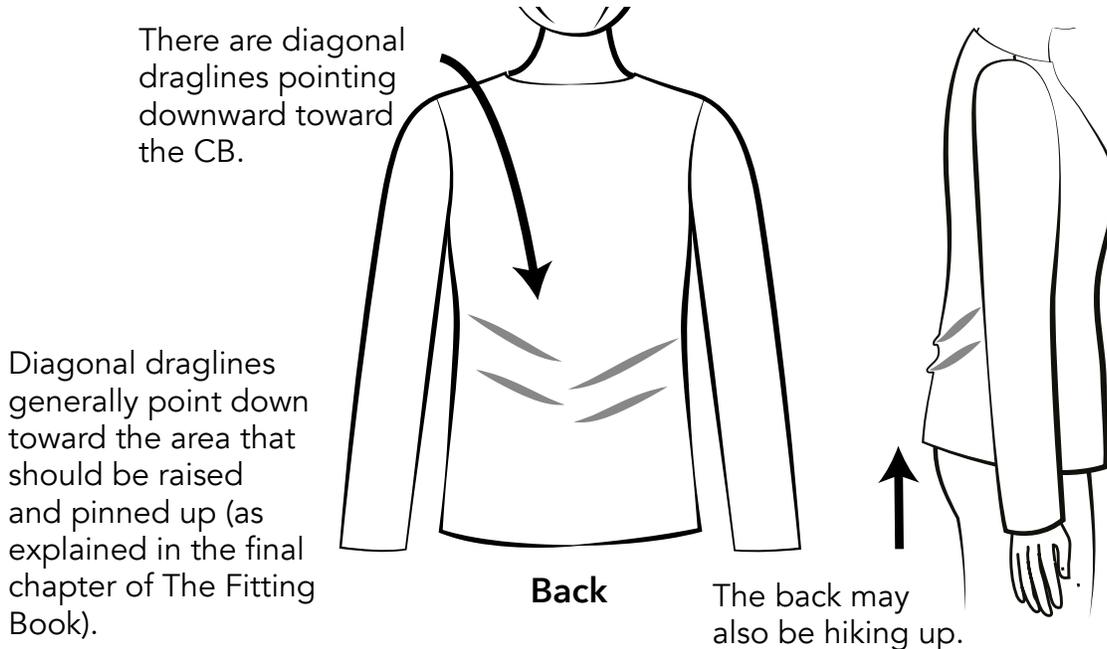
## GINA RENEE DUNHAM

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# Back Waist Draglines

## Step (A) for Options 1-7

**A) Identifying the Issue** - The back waist has excess fabric. The back hemline may be hiking upward and not parallel to the floor. This is often referred to as a sway back adjustment.



There are several options for fixing the problem. I highly recommend trying multiple options and combining what works best.

**Option 1 (page 3)** - For either woven fabrics or knits.

Add additional ease to the hip area below at the side seams.

**Option 2 (page 4)** - For either woven fabrics or knits. Skip this step if you started with a customized sloper or moulage.

Check the back armhole position in comparison to the front

**Option 3 (page 4)** - For either woven fabrics or knits.

Make a shoulder slope and back neckline adjustment

**Option 4 (page 5)** - For either woven fabrics or knits.

Add a horizontal design line from the waistline up, like a yoke or peplum seam.

**Option 5 (page 6)** - Recommended mainly for woven fabrics but can also be done on knit styles.

Add vertical darts or princess seams. This correction often will not eliminate the problem if there are diagonal draglines. If the draglines are more vertical, it will help the issue.

**Option 6 (pages 7- 8)** - Recommended only for woven fabrics.

Add vertical darts or princess seams and a center back seam.

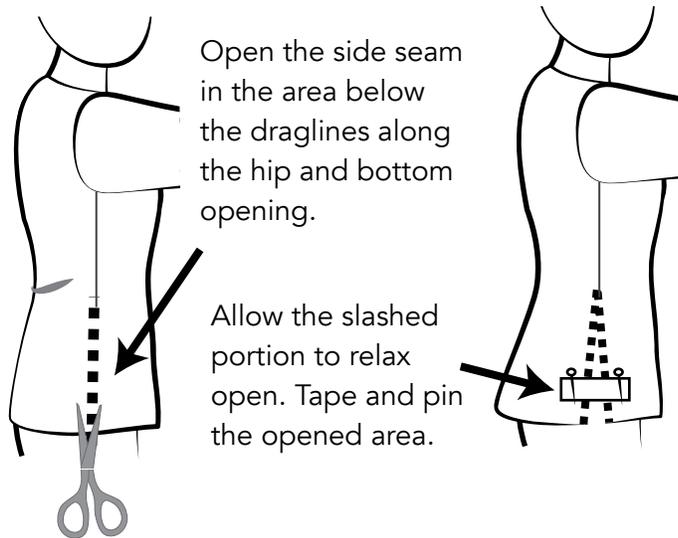
**Option 7 (page 9)** - Recommended only for knit fabrics.

# Back Waist Draglines

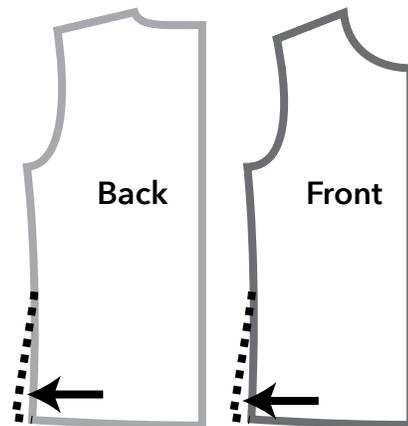
## Option 1 - Making the Hip Area Larger

A common reason for this fitting issue is that the hip area on the garment is not big enough to accommodate the curves of the body.

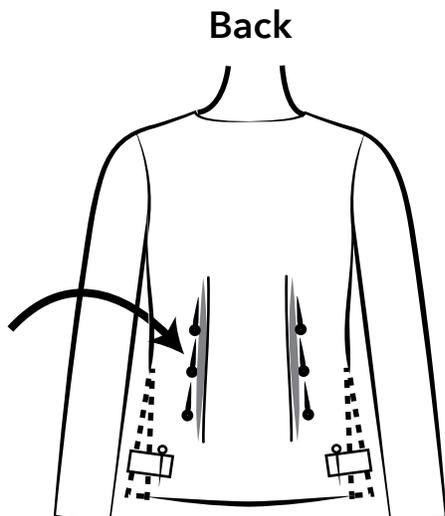
**B) Cutting and Pinning the Sample** - To check if this is the issue, open the side seams from the waist down to allow the garment to relax and hang down.



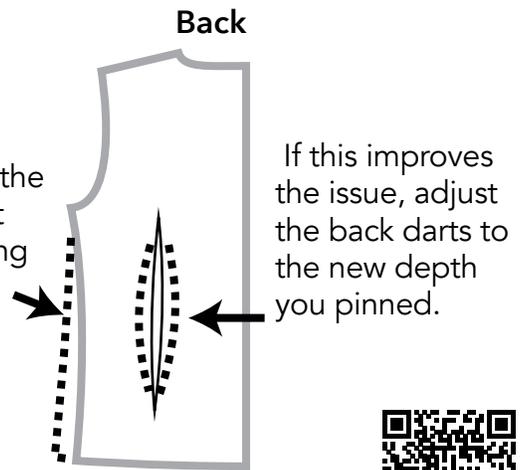
**C) Correcting the Pattern** - If this corrects or helps the issue, measure the amount you have opened, and add it to the side seams in the hip and bottom opening areas. Add to both the front and back panels.



**Continue this Correction for Styles with Back Waist Darts:** If this helps the issue but does not fully resolve it, and there are back darts in the garment, increase the dart depths by pinning the garment at the back darts in the waist area. This correction is done in addition to the above correction.



Give the amount you've pinned to the back side seam at the waist, achieving the original waist measurement if desired.



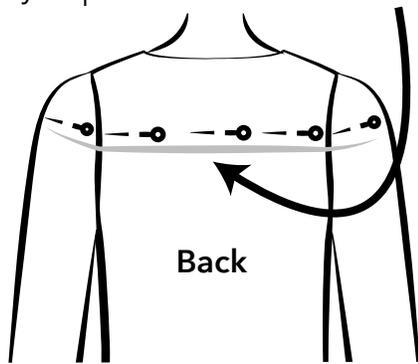
# Back Waist Draglines

## Option 2 - Checking the Armhole Positions

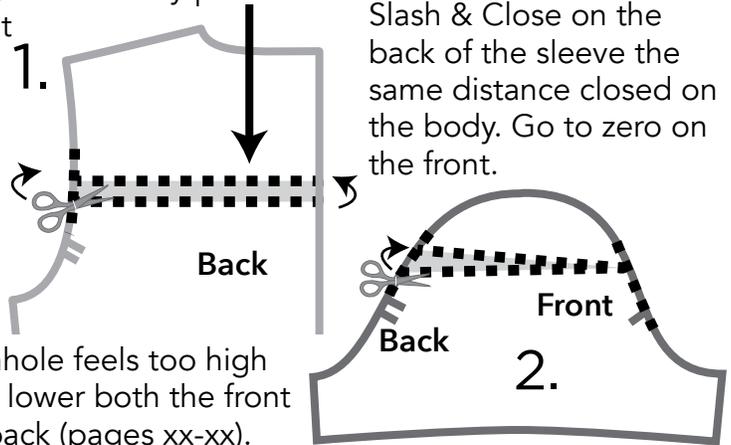
Skip this Step if you are using a Gina Renee pattern or custom moulage/sloper.

Check the pattern to see if the pattern is balanced. An unbalanced pattern, specifically at the armhole positions, may cause back draglines. Refer to pages 62-66 to ensure the back armhole position is not too low in comparison to the front armhole position when the HPS is aligned. If you are not certain, check the garment with the method below. If you have started from a customized moulage or sloper, skip this step because you have a customized fit.

**B) Pinning the Problem** - Pin the across back area the same amount across the back of the garment. The amount on the body part must be parallel but the sleeve does not need to be parallel. Measure the amount you pinned.



**C) Correcting the Pattern** - Mark the pattern the same amount you pinned the sample. Slash & Close parallel across the back body panel.

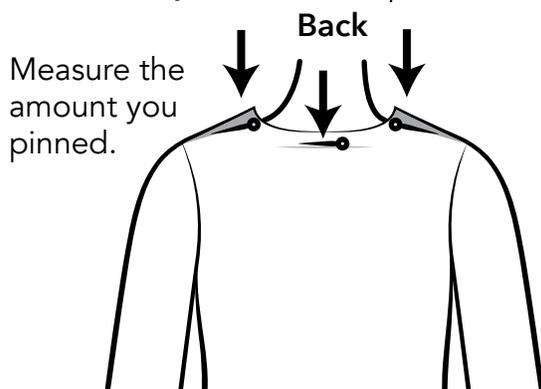


If the armhole feels too high after this, lower both the front and the back (pages xx-xx).

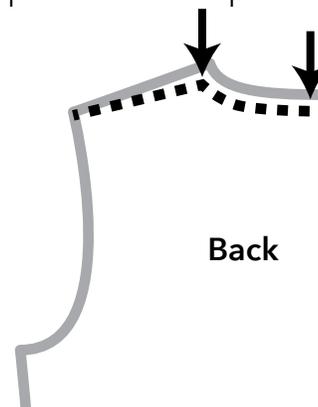
## Option 3 - Making a Shoulder Slope and Back Neckline Adjustment

This correction follows The GRD Method™ in fitting. Diagonal draglines generally point down toward the area that should be raised and pinned up (as explained in the final chapter of the book). If there are diagonal draglines, this is the best option.

**B) Pinning the Problem** - Pin along the shoulder seams on the back panel only and primarily at the HPS. Stop pinning at the LPS. If the CB neckline gets too high, pin any excess or place a pin to the newly desired neck position.



**C) Correcting the Pattern** - Mark the pattern the same amount you pinned the sample.



The pattern correction reduces the shoulder slope angle the amount pinned.

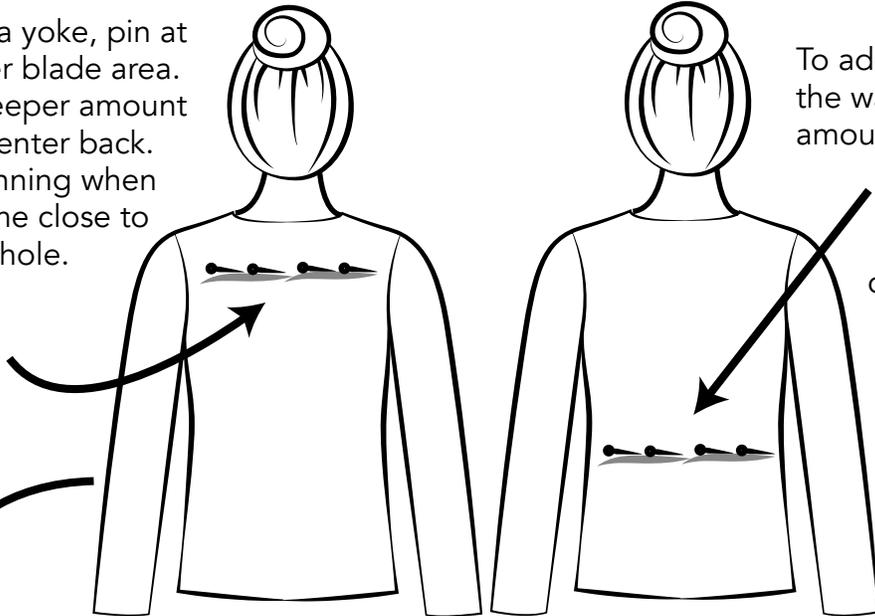


# Back Waist Draglines

## Option 4 - Adding a Horizontal Design Line

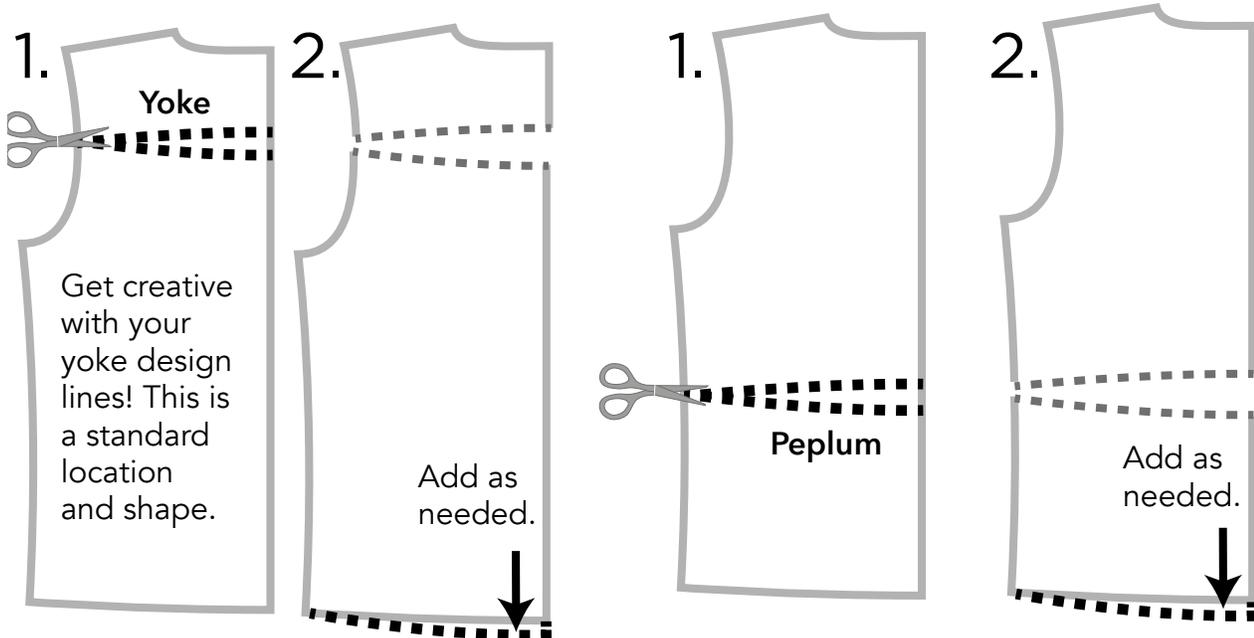
**B) Pinning the Problem** - Pin horizontally wherever you want to add a design line. The most common locations are a yoke seam or a peplum seam. However, you can choose any location you want at the waist or above. This correction follows The GRD Method™ in fitting. Diagonal draglines generally point down toward the area that should be raised and pinned up (as explained in the final chapter of the book).

To add a yoke, pin at shoulder blade area. Pin a deeper amount at the center back. Stop pinning when you come close to the armhole.



To add a peplum seam, pin the waist area. Pin a deeper amount at the center back, and stop when you are close to the side seams. It is most common to continue the peplum seam around to the front pattern too. However, only mark the position in the front, and do not pin.

**C) Correcting the Pattern** - Mark the pattern the same amount you pinned the sample. In many cases, the lines will be curved with a fish-eye appearance.



Cut the pattern along the yoke or peplum line. These are the new pattern pieces. If needed, add to the back length to ensure the hemline is parallel to the ground.



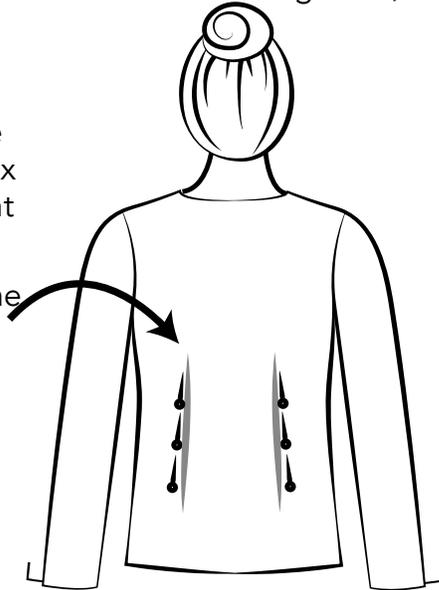
# Back Waist Draglines

## Option 5 - Adding Darts or Princess Seams

**B) Pinning the Problem** - Pin vertically along each side on the back of the garment, where darts or princess seams would be. The dart option is recommended only for woven fabrics because knits usually do not require darts. However, you may consider doing this option for knits if you turn the dart into a princess seam or a design line, as shown in Steps 2-3.

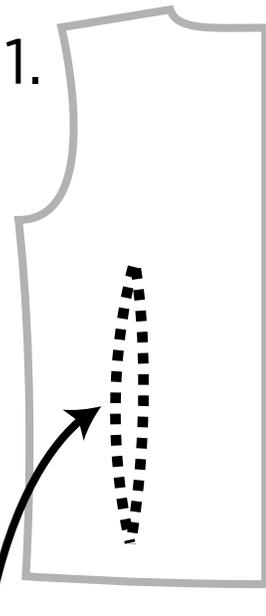
To determine the distance between darts, measure the front of your body from apex to apex (from one high point of one breast to the other).

This measurement will be the distance between darts or princess seams on the back panel of the garment. The dart position will begin 1" (2.5 cm) below the bustline.

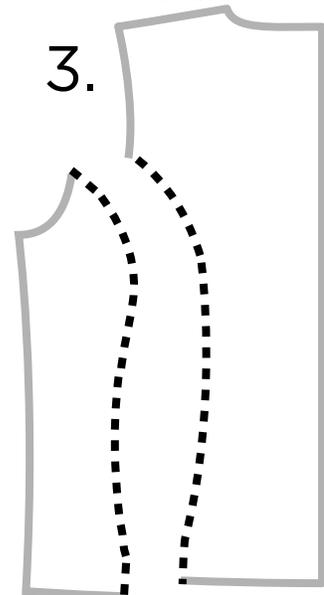
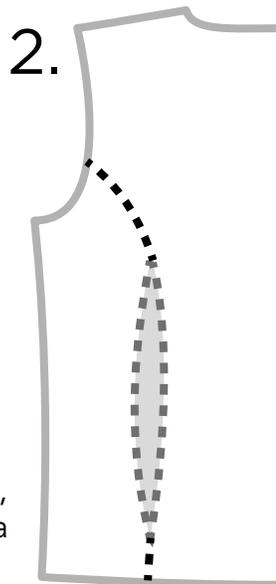


This correction often will not eliminate the problem if there are diagonal draglines. If the draglines are more vertical, it will help the issue. There is also a continuation option on the next page which can be used in conjunction with this correction.

**C) Correcting the Pattern** - Mark the pattern the same amount you pinned the sample. The dart should have a fish-eye appearance.



A further option could be to turn the dart into a princess seam or design line. Draw the location you want for the seam. Be creative with your design lines. The example below shows a traditional placement. Eliminate the inside of the dart, cut the pieces apart, and true the lines.



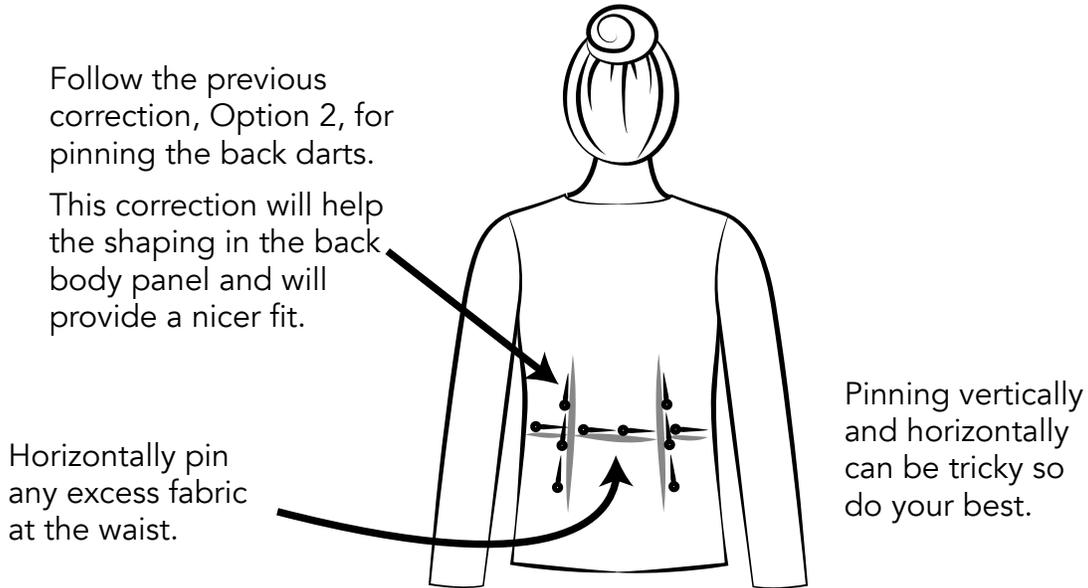
This is the dart added to the pattern. You can either stop here, or continue to turn the dart into a princess seam or design line.



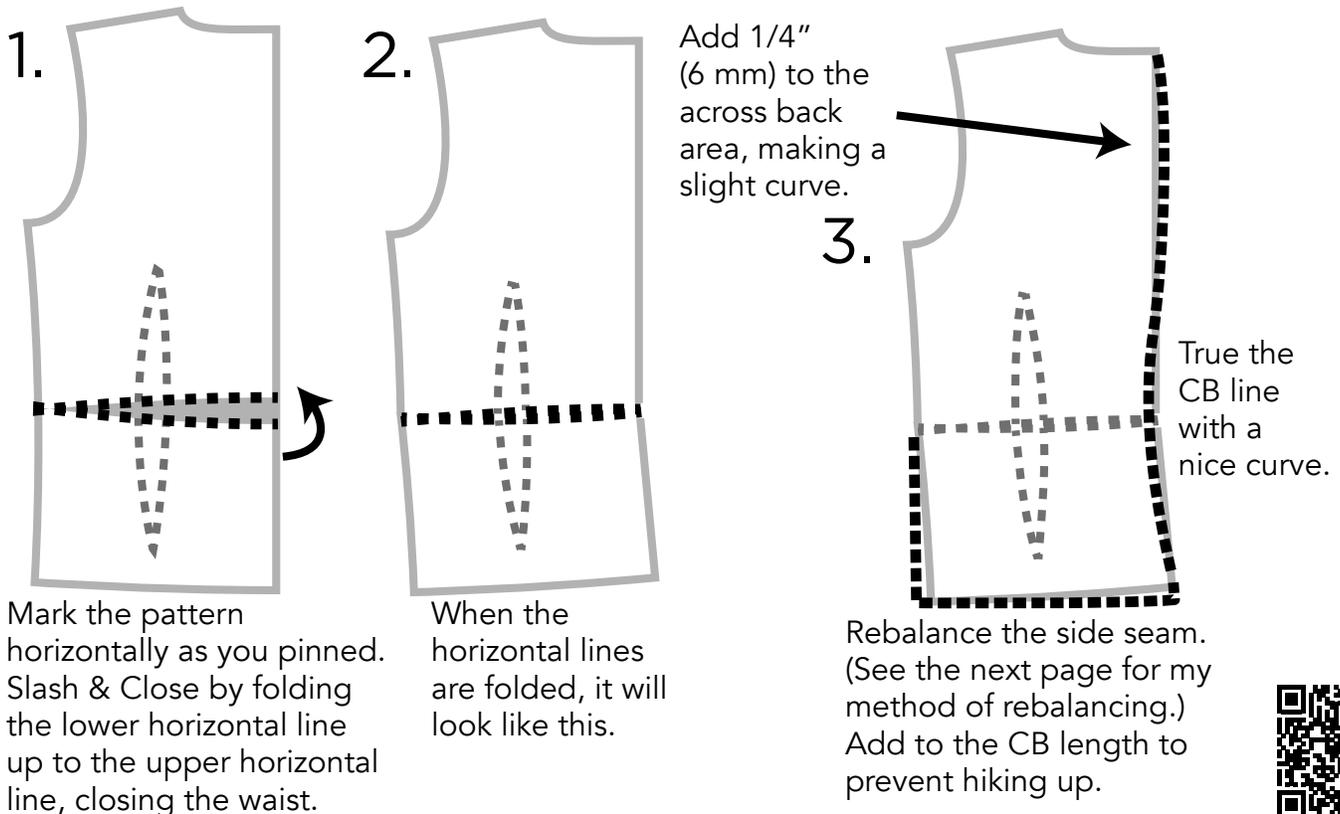
# Back Waist Draglines

## Option 6 - Adding a CB Seam

**B) Pinning the Problem** - If there are still draglines at the waist from Option 2, do this correction in conjunction with it, and add a center back seam. This option can be done on its own without doing Option 2. However, it is only recommended for woven styles.



**C) Correcting the Pattern** - Follow Option 2 for adding the dart if you choose. Slash & Close the amount you pinned at the waistline, and reshape the CB seam.



# Back Waist Draglines

## Option 6 (continued) Rebalancing the Side Seams

In order to rebalance the side seams, use this method for bodices and dresses.

Other pages in the book refer to this page to rebalance a bodice pattern. Follow the steps (4-7) on this page for balancing a pattern.

5. Draw a horizontal guideline perpendicular to the CF, going through the front armhole position. Lay the front pattern (darker grey line) on the back pattern (lighter grey line), aligning the armhole position on the horizontal guideline. The armhole positions should touch anywhere on this horizontal guideline. This means the armhole positions are the same depth from the HPS on both the front and back panels.

7. Measure the halfway distance between the two panels along the side seams. Mark the halfway point along the entire side seam where there is a difference. The dotted line is the halfway point between the back panel and the front panel. This is the NEW side seam location for both the front and the back panels.

4. Draw a vertical guideline parallel to the CF. Align the front and back HPS positions on the vertical guideline.

6. If the armhole positions do not align on the horizontal guideline for blouses and dresses, take the halfway point between the two and re-draw both front and back armholes to the middle distance.

Rebalancing is that easy!



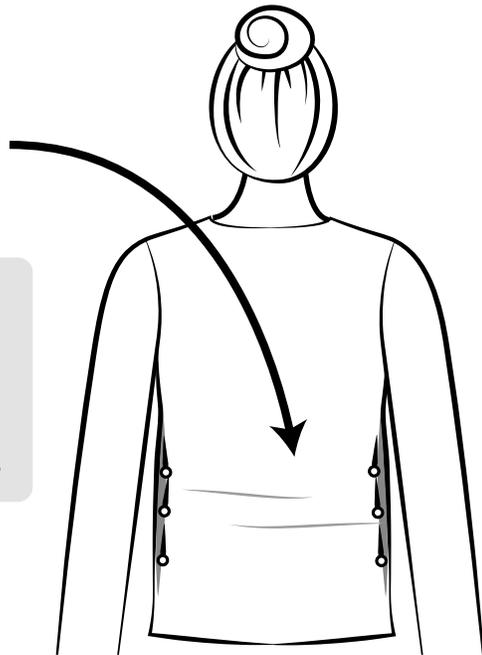
# Back Waist Draglines

## Option 7 - Making the Garment Tighter at the Waist

**B) Pinning the Sample** - This option is for knits and will make the garment more fitted. Pin vertically along each side seam, making the garment tighter. You may pin the back only or both the front and back panels.

There will still be some wrinkles, but they will be tighter and straighter.

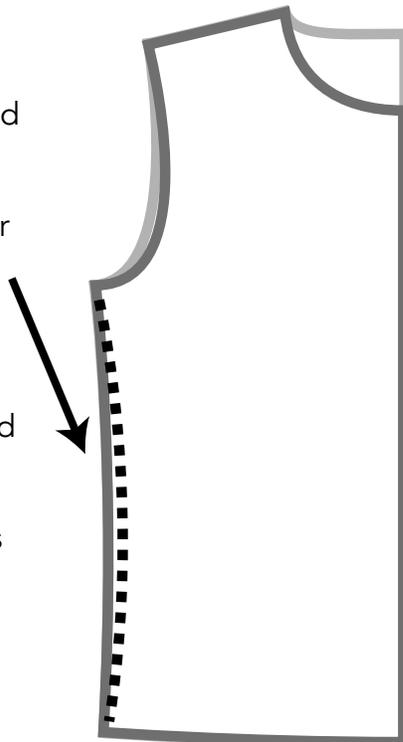
**Tip:** Before adjusting the pattern, make sure the pattern is balanced. When the HPS is aligned, the armhole positions should be the same from the front to the back patterns for stretchable knit styles (as shown on page 64).



**C) Correcting the Pattern** - Mark the pattern the same amount you pinned the sample on the front and back side seams.

If you pinned on both the front and back side seams, make sure the side seams mirror each other. Mark the new seams on the front and back panels.

If you only pinned on the back panel, it will not be mirrored. This is acceptable when it comes to customized patterns.



While making the garment tighter will not eliminate the draglines completely, it will make them less visible. The tighter a knit garment is, the better the draglines look. If you want to completely eliminate them, go back to Option 1 to add a yoke or design line to the garment. However, with knits, be cautious when sewing horizontal design lines because the fabric stretches and can give a wavy appearance.

For fitted knit styles, it is generally acceptable to have some draglines in the back waist area when there are no design lines.

