

Draft yourself a Dress Pattern

A Pattern Drafting Tutorial by Hannah-Rose Smith

Things you'll need:

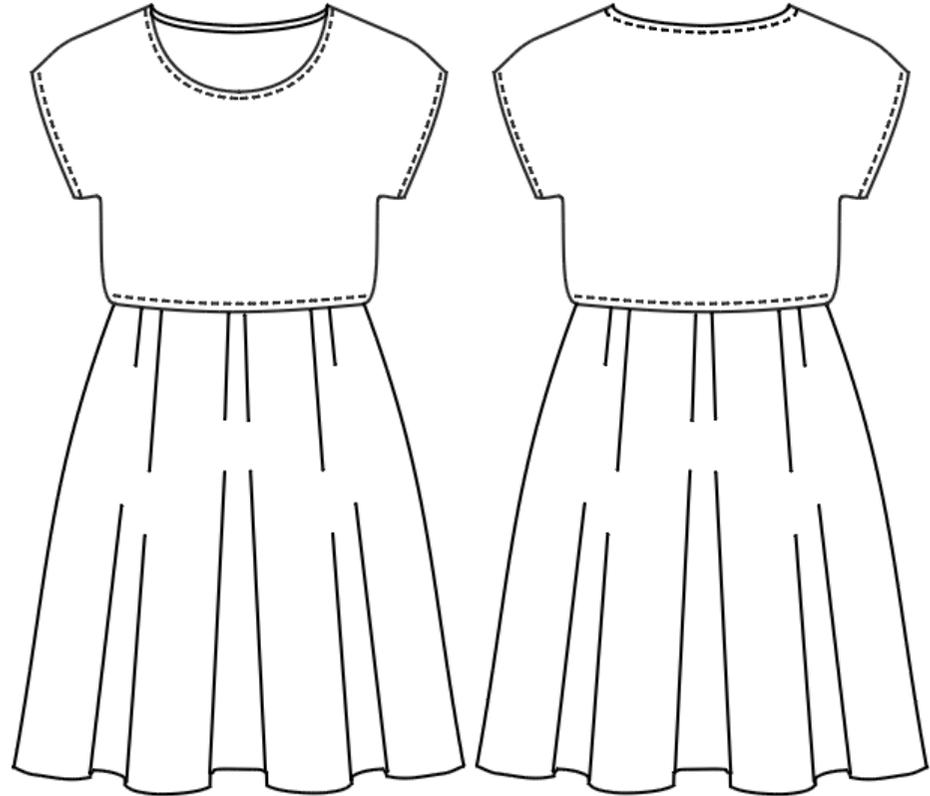
- Big pieces of paper.
I use the rolls of brown paper that are 2m x 0.5m.
You could tape together newspaper if necessary.
- Pencil
- Pen
- Ruler
- L shaped Ruler if you have
- Paper Scissors
- Measuring Tape

This is a basic dress made up of two parts: A Boxy Tshirt Bodice and a Skirt.

I'll show you how to draft the bodice and then the skirt.

You can further customise the pattern with frills, pockets, various sleeve and skirt lengths as well as different necklines.

Let's start with the necessary measurements.



Bodice Measurements



Bust/Waist:

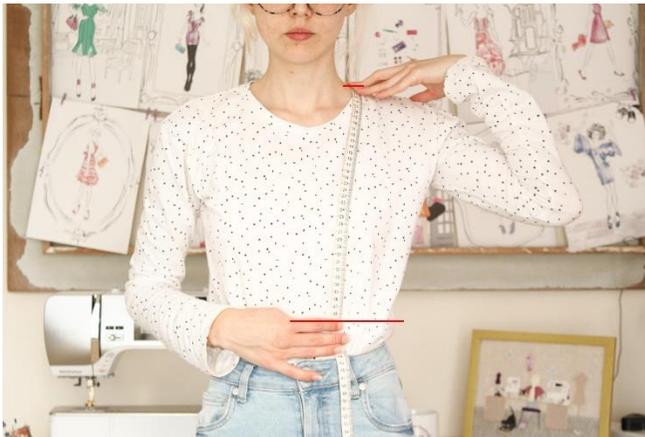
Measure around your Bust and Natural Waist.

Choose the bigger of the two measurements and add 20% ease.

Example: My bust is bigger than my waist so I will use that measurement.

80cm + 20% = 96cm

My Bust/Waist measurement for drafting the pattern is 96cm.



Length:

Measure from the point where your High Shoulder Point (*where your Neck & Shoulder meet*) down to your Natural Waist.

Follow the curve of your Bust.



Neck width:

Hold the measuring tape taut in front of your neck, just above your clavicle.

Using your eye to judge and keeping the measuring tape straight, gauge how wide you want the Neck opening to be.



Neck Depth:

Measure straight down from your High Shoulder Point to where you want the Neckline to end.

Don't curve or angle the measuring tape.

**Something to keep in mind when taking these two Neck measurements: the neck opening needs to be big enough to fit over your head, especially when using woven fabrics.*

You could refer to a garment you own for reference.



Sleeve/Shoulder Length:

Hold your arm straight out and measure from the middle of your Neck Dent (*the dip between your clavicles*) across to where you want your Sleeve to end.



Sleeve Width:

Measure around the fullest part of your bicep and add 20% - 50% ease. (The bigger the % you add, the bigger Sleeve Opening will be.)

Skirt Measurements



Bust/Waist:

Same as above.

Measure around your Bust and Natural Waist.

Choose the bigger of the two measurements and add 20% ease.

*Example: My bust is bigger than my waist so I will use that measurement.
80cm + 20% = 96cm is my Bust/Waist measurement for drafting the pattern.*



Hip:

Measure around your torso at the fullest part of your bottom.
Add 20% ease to this measurement.

Example:

87cm + 20% = 104.4cm

My Hip measurement for drafting the pattern is 104.4cm



Length:

Measure from your Natural Waist down to where you want the dress to end.
Measure along the side of your torso.



Hip Depth:

Measure from your Natural Waist down to your Hip along the side of your torso.