Creating a Sloper - WITH THE GRD METHOD

(Use #GRDMethod, #Moulage, #MakingAMoulage, & @GinaReneeDesigns on Instagram)

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Tools & Supplies

- Oaktag or two pieces of poster board
- Pointed tracing wheel
- Pencil, sharpener, and eraser
- Pattern weights
- Grid ruler
- Hip curve
- French curve
- Notcher (or pointy scissors)
- Awl (or pointy scissors)
- Scissors (for cutting paper)
- Scotch matte tape (magic tape)
- Pattern hooks (optional)
- Large hole puncher (optional)

Using the Notcher/Notch Tracing

“Notch tracing” refers to making small slits as reference points to align pattern pieces while sewing or to manipulate your sloper into style patterns. When instructed to make a notch, you will simply make small notches in your paper board or fabric at the designated space with a notcher or scissors.

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Creating a Blouse / Dress Sloper

When you’ve finished all of the fit corrections for your moulage, you will add “ease over body” to it to make your sloper. This is the main difference between a moulage and sloper; a sloper has ease added to it.

“Ease over body” is the amount of extra room we add to garments, either to move more easily (movement ease) or to change the silhouette (design ease). Because this is such a huge (and fun!) topic, we will get into much more detail about wearing ease in future classes.

There are some garment styles for which you wouldn’t necessarily need to make a sloper and could just use the moulage: tight, strapless dresses; corsets; bras; eveningwear that is tight in the bust; and some garments made with stretchy woven fabrics. However, for most styles, you’re going to need added ease for movement and comfort.

There are many different methods for creating a sloper from your moulage. For instance, some people like to shift the shoulder and armhole darts into the side darts. This is an option, but I like to leave my slopers with all original darts in place. You can always shift or close darts later based on the style of garment you’re making, and this leaves you with more options to design.

This lesson will give you an intro into making your own woven blouse/dress sloper directly from your moulage. Future courses will cover sloper-making for layers like blazers, jackets, and coats; for those projects, your moulage will still be the base, and more ease over body is needed.

For the main circumference of the bust, waist, and chest, you may choose 1” (2.5cm), 1 ½” (4cm), or 2” (5cm) ease amounts (you can also adjust ease based on your preferences, giving even more ease). Think of the body in terms of a quarter (four parts); if you want 1” ease, you would add ¼” to each side seam on the front and back panels (two front panel side seams + two back side seams = four parts).

If you want more ease, you can give 1 ½” (3/8” per panel) or 2” (1/2” per panel) at the side seams. Some people like more wearing ease at the bust, so you could go up to 3” (3/4” per panel). If your garment style goes to the low hip, I suggest a minimum 2” and even more is better for some styles. When you want to change the amount of wearing ease as mentioned above, the only points that change are the side seams. All the other points remain the same. However, when we add a lot of ease, the princess/Apex lines may need to move out at the apex/waist.

You will make your slopers without any seam allowances, since we will always add them to the style pattern rather than the slopers. As a reminder, you can write “no seam allowances” on your slopers. I also suggest using Oak Tag or posterboard to make your slopers; it’s an easy way to work with shifting darts around for your style patterns.

On the following pages, the ease over body is marked per point “Fxx” or “Bxx”. Follow the direction of the arrows to shift the pattern and add the appropriate ease. These examples are for 3/8” (1cm) for each side seam, for a total of 1 1/2”. If you want more, the only number that will change are the side seam amounts. All other amounts will remain the same. You’ll notice pages 4-5 are in Inches (imperial). Pages 6-7 are in Centimeters (metric). Ignore the pages which you don’t need.

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Finding the right amount of ease means trialing out different amounts until you’re pleased. Follow the video for my suggestion in trialing out ease amounts. You will follow the video and do your first sloper on paper (not oaktag/board), mark it on your fabric, add seam allowances (1’’ (2.5cm) on the side seams), and follow the tips in the video before sewing it up.

Since every person has a different level of tightness to their moulage, you may even increase your ease amounts significantly more than 2” (5cm). Here is a guide below for different options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Ease Amount (circumference of the garment)</th>
<th>Quarter Amount (as added to the side seams)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1” (2.5cm) This is a snug-fitting garment!</td>
<td>1/4” (0.6cm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/2” (4cm) This is still a slim fitting garment</td>
<td>3/8” (1cm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2” (5cm) This is more Regular fitting garment</td>
<td>1/2” (1.3cm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 1/2” (6.4cm)</td>
<td>5/8” (6.4cm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3” (8cm)</td>
<td>3/4” (2cm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 1/2” (8.8cm)</td>
<td>7/8” (8.8cm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4” (10cm)</td>
<td>1” (2.5cm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The larger the person, the more ease you will want. The more petite you are, the less ease you will want.

In the video, we will have enough seam allowance on our samples to cover up to even to 4 1/2” (11.4cm) ease amounts. However, if you do end up having this much ease, you may need to move your apex/waist dart line over towards your side seam more in your fitting.

Once you’ve fit your Sloper sample and you’re pleased with the ease amounts, transfer the pattern to oaktag/board and that’s your final sloper!
Use the awl to punch holes where shown.

Notch waist and high hip.

Notch all darts, keeping the width of darts the exact same on the new lines. So, if the side dart is 1 1/4” wide on the moulage, it should also be 1 1/4” wide on the sloper.

Pretend like the front bust dart doesn’t exist for the standard blouse/dress sloper. However, you can still notch the dart legs and use it for wrap dresses or low v-necks.

Make the CF line straight.

Leave the darts going straight to the apex.

For the sloper, I like to keep all the darts going directly to the apex for easier dart manipulation. Then, adjust the dart points to be further away from the apex on the style pattern level.

When you make the style patterns, you’ll move the points of the darts away from the apex the following amounts according to your cup size:

- 3/4” = A cup
- 1” = B cup
- 1 1/4” = C cup
- 1 1/2” = D cup
- 1 3/4” = E cup
- 2” = any size over an E cup
Use an awl to punch holes in your sloper, indicating the points/shapes of darts.

Measure the amount between the straight CB line and new center back line. Then, shift it into the back darts. Place half of the amount on each side of the dart.

After you’ve increased the size of your back darts, your CB will then take on a straight line.

If you want to turn this into a dress, you would simply make the length longer (to the knee or floor). Do this on the style pattern, not the sloper.
**Metric (cm) - Front Blouse/Dress Sloper**

**Use the awl to punch holes where shown.**

**Notch waist and high hip.**

**Notch all darts, keeping the width of darts the exact same on the new lines. So, if the side dart is 3.1cm wide on the moulage, it should also be 3.1cm wide on the sloper.**

**Pretend like the front bust dart doesn’t exist for the standard blouse/dress sloper. However, you can still notch the dart legs and use it for wrap dresses or low v-necks.**

**Make the CF line straight.**

**Notch waist and high hip.**

**Leave the darts going straight to the apex.**

For the sloper, I like to keep all the darts going directly to the apex for easier dart manipulation. Then, adjust the dart points to be further away from the apex on the style pattern level.

**When you make the style patterns, you’ll move the points of the darts to be from the apex the follow amounts for your cup size:**

- 2cm = A cup
- 2.5cm = B cup
- 3cm = C cup
- 3.5cm = D cup
- 4.5cm = E cup
- 5cm = Any size over an E cup
Notch waist and hip on side seam and at CB.

Measure the amount between the straight CB line and new center back line. Then, shift it into the back darts. Place half of the amount on each side of the dart.

After you've increased the size of your back darts, your CB will then take on a straight line.

If you want to turn this into a dress, you would simply make the length longer (to the knee or floor). Do this on the style pattern, not the sloper.
You’re finished! Congratulations! I am so proud of your Accomplishment & I hope you are, too. Time to celebrate!

Join the sewing community group on Instagram or Facebook by searching for @GinaReneeDesigns or “Gina Renee Designs.”

Please share photos of your moulage on Instagram, Facebook, and Pinterest. Don’t forget to tag @GinaReneeDesigns and use hashtags #GRDmethod, #Moulage, #MakingAMoulage.

By posting on social media, it will help inspire others to achieve their goals too (and it helps me tremendously!)

You’re amazing. I knew you could do this. I believe in you and your abilities; imagine the possibilities ahead of you!


Gina Renee Designs

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Make clothes you love that fit.