

# Costume Construction

**How we make stuff**

# SO NOW

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Now that we know how to sew, we can actually (hypothetically) make stuff. So let's look into how we do that.

- Patterns
- Using a sewing machine
- Costume Crafts

# Patterns

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A Pattern is a template for the a costume. It has shapes for all the pieces of fabric needed to make the costume along with instructions on how to construct a costume.



# Working with a Pattern

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The first step is to cut out all the shapes of the pattern.

Most patterns work for a variety of sizes, so make sure to follow the line for the size you want.

Before cutting check out the **Seam Allowance** for the pattern.

We never sew right at the edge of the fabric, instead we're usually about a half inch from the edge. This buffer zone is the seam allowance. Some patterns include the seam allowance, some do not.

# Working with a Pattern

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With the pieces cut, we lay them out on the fabric.

You'll often be instructed to double up the fabric, or place the pattern in a fold.

Once laid out, there are a couple options:

- Weigh the paper pattern on the fabric with some small heavy objects (quarters) and cut out the fabric.
- Pin the pattern to the fabric and cut out.
- Trace the pattern onto the fabric with a wax pencil.

# Interfacing

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There's a type of fabric called interfacing. Interfacing is a very stiff fabric that can become flexible through steaming. A lot of patterns will sandwich interfacing between two pieces of fabric. Things like shirt collars and sleeve cuffs; things that want to be a little rigid.

# Working With a Pattern

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With the fabric cut out, the instructions can direct you how to assemble the pieces. Be sure to use your seam allowance.

Patterns will vary in complexity and organization. There are many more advanced techniques and materials that are beyond the scope of this class.

If this aspect interests you, It's a very easy and rewarding thing to try on your own! Making your own clothes is not an unreachable goal. Patterns are generally pretty cheap as well.