

Skill Development

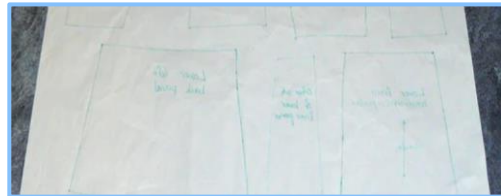
Skill 1 – Tracing patterns from existing garments

Practitioner: lamsewcrazy - a clothing designer who creates patterns from existing garments.

Method:

1. Spread out garment section on paper.
2. Pin along seams, marking paper.
3. Connect paper's pinpricks with marker.
4. Add 1.5cm seam allowance.
5. Cut out and label pattern

(lamsewcrazy, n.d.)

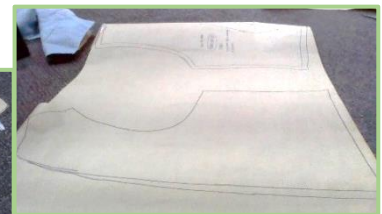
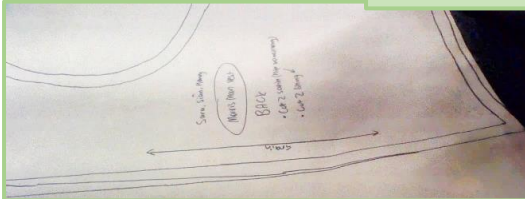


Securing fabric down prevented movement when pinpricking, improving my patterns' neatness



Repeatedly stabbing one pin made the process faster and used available pins efficiently.

Incorrect paper positioning required extra paper to be stuck on the end to complete the pattern. My pattern piece positioning improved in my next attempt.



The stretchy fabric caused inaccurate lines on the pattern. I improved this inaccuracy by securely pinning the fabric.

I developed the skill to add an even 1.5cm seam allowance by measuring the distance with a ruler.

The practitioner's method simply and effectively allowed me to create a pattern from an existing garment. I can use this skill to replicate favourite garments with different colours or fabrics, saving money from buying expensive patterns. This skill also enables me to sew garments that fit perfectly for events like the musical and Sunday school plays.

Skill 2 – Cutting Satin

Practitioners: Julia Garza,
Catherine Sews, Brother Sews
Ambassador

Tips:

- Use sharp scissors
- Cut pattern pieces on cross-grain, not on bias.
- All fabric pieces going the same way.
- Only pin in seam allowances
- Cut single layer of fabric

(Brother Sews Ambassador,
2020) (Garza, n.d.) (Sews, n.d.)

Curved patterns caused difficulty laying them on the cross-grain. A grainline arrow on the patterns helped me to get this more correct.



Firmly secured fabric prevented the fabric sliding when cutting. Cutting precision improved when I slowed down and neaten the edges after.



Pinning in seam allowance prevented obvious pinholes, improving the fabric's overall look.



My cutting skills developed immensely from my first fabric piece which was super rough and jagged to my final attempt which was much neater.

I have developed the skill to correctly cut satin using the practitioners' advice. This skill will be useful when cutting slippery fabrics like satin for the musical or sewing projects to minimise fraying and ensure a neat, uniform look. It allows me to utilize a wider fabric range because I can now cut more fabrics correctly.

Skill 3 – Sewing Pieces Together

Practitioner: Kirsty Palmer

Method:

1. Sew lining pieces together
2. Sew satin pieces together
3. Pin lining to corresponding satin pieces, right sides together.
4. Sew around edge, leaving a 5cm gap.
5. Turn the right way.

The satin buckled when sewn, possibly caused by correlation of fabric to the crossgrain. Ironing smoothed the buckling.

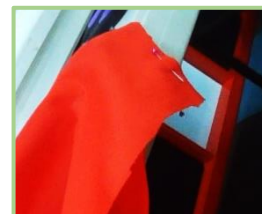
My speed and confidence sewing increased dramatically as I gained experience



Varying fabric sizes caused difficulty sewing. I solved this by centring the pieces.

(Palmer, 2023)

Sewing the armholes before turning the vest the right way didn't work. I unpicked the armhole seams before fully turning the vest. Through this I developed resilience and experience, enabling me to improve my next attempt.



Pinning helped to develop accurate sewing skills.

Anchoring stitches prevented seams unravelling.



I have developed the skill to accurately sew fabric, allowing me to effectively create costumes, benefiting the musical. This skill is versatile and will be used to sew many things like clothes, garment alterations, house decor or similar projects like scrunchies. Challenges resulting from the development of this skill has enabled me to develop more resilience.

Skill 4 – Sewing Armscyes

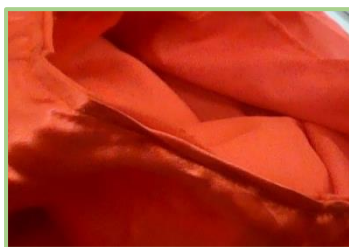
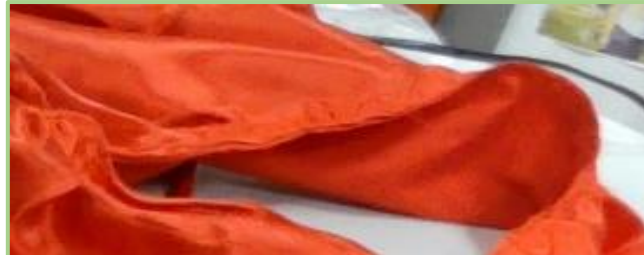
Practitioner: Kirsty Palmer

Method:

1. Iron, pin and sew hems of lining and satin separately.
2. Sew the hems together.
3. Repeat with other armscye
4. Iron vest

(Palmer, 2023)

First attempt: super buckled and mismatched seams. I didn't iron the hem before sewing, so it was not equidistant, causing buckling.



Second attempt: much neater. I sewed hems and fabric together all at once after pinning and ironing, decreasing buckling.

I pinned and ironed my second hem before sewing, making it much neater. I also sewed closer to the edge, resulting in a more professional look.



My sewing neatness increased when I slowed down and used more pins.

Ironing seams after lessened buckling, improving the overall finish.



The satin and lining pieces were different sizes which I fixed by adding tucks in unnoticeable places.

I have developed the skill to sew armscyes. This will be useful when sewing curved edges with slippery fabrics for projects like dresses and tops. It will be a valuable skill when sewing costumes for the musical as most costumes contain armscyes.

Glossary

Anchoring Stitches: sewing backwards and forwards at the start or end of a seam to prevent unravelling.

Armscye: sewing word for armhole

Bias: 45% to the selvage – makes fabric pieces stretchy.

Crossgrain: perpendicular to the selvage.

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