Step 1: Apply style tape to your dress form to establish the bust level. Tape from center front to side seam.
Step 2 And on the back, the shoulder blade level, which is 1/4th the distance from your neckline and waistline. Tape from the center back to the armhole ridge. Be sure that both guidelines lines are parallel to the floor.
Module 2 – Extract Measurements

Step 1 To prepare your front muslin block measure across the bust level from center front to side seam and add 4”. This will be the width of your front block.
Step 2 For the front block length, measure from the neckband to the waistline (at the bottom of the tape) and add 3”.
**Step 3** On the back, measure at the widest part of the back, under the armplate from side seam to center back and add 4”. This will be the width of your back block.
Module 2 – Extract Measurements

Step 4 Then measure from top of the back neckband to the waistline again, at the bottom of the tape, and add 2” for the back block length.
Module 3 – Prepare Muslin Blocks

**Step 1A** Using the measurements that you extracted from your dress form, prepare your front and back muslin blocks. Measure, tear, and block your muslin pieces so that your grains are at right angles to each other.
Step 1B Use your L square to check that your muslin corners are at right angles.
Step 1C Turn your muslin block over and reblock if necessary.
Module 3 – Prepare Muslin Blocks

Step 2 Then press your pieces in the direction of the length grain.
Module 4 – Measurements & Mark Guidelines

Step 1 Front – draw lines on screen
Module 4 – Measurements & Mark Guidelines

Step 1A You will need the following measurements when marking your muslin blocks beginning with the front: Neckband to bust level
Step 1B Apex to center front
Step 1C And then the side seam to the apex plus 1/8” added ease
Step 2 On your front muslin block measure in 1” from the right side edge and drag a guideline down, this represents center front
Step 3 Then measure down from the top of the muslin your neckband to apex measurement and drag a guideline across your muslin block. This represents the bust level.
Step 4 On the bust level, place a mark representing center front to apex and drop a guideline down.
Step 5A Taking your measurement from apex to side seam including the 1/8” ease, place a mark on the bust level. This represents side seam.
Step 5B Divide the side seam to apex at bust level and drag a guideline down. This is your balance guideline.
Module 4 – Measurements & Mark Guidelines

Step 6 On your shoulder blade level, extract the measurement from your center back to the armhole ridge plus 1/4” ease.
Step 7 Measure in 1” from the left side of the muslin block, drag a guideline down. This is your center back
Step 8A Measure down 3” from the top of the back muslin and place a mark to represent your center back neckline.
**Step 8B** From center back neckline measure down your shoulder blade level and drag a guideline across. Place a mark representing your center back to armhole ridge measurement including the 1/4” ease.
Step 9 From your armhole ridge marking, place another mark at 1 1/4” away and then drag a guideline down. This represents a back guideline.
Module 4 – Measurements & Mark Guidelines

Step 10 Once you marked your muslin blocks give a final blocking and pressing in preparation for draping.
Step 11 Bend back your 1” extension and finger press both front and back block. Never iron the folded extension as it will stretch the grain.
Module 5 – Draping the Front

Step 1 Begin the drape by lining up the apex marking on the muslin to the apex of the dress form. Secure it with 2 pins.
**Step 2** Pin along the centerfront to the neckline, keeping the muslin bust level, level to the bust level of the dress form.
Step 3 As you pin the center front from bust level to waistline, make sure that you allow for bust ease. Meaning that you do not pin the muslin flat to the form in the area between the left and right apex points.
Step 4 Continue to pin along the bust level from side seam to the apex. Secure your pins in alternating directions, this will help stabilize the muslin while you drape. Distribute the 1/8” ease between the apex and side seam.
Step 5A Pin along your guideline down to the waistline. Make sure that your guideline is at a right angle to the bust level.
Step 5B Once you reach the waistline, pick up a pinch of ease with a pin and secure it at the waist/guideline intersection.
Step 6 Place a pin at the armhole side seam intersection.
Step 7 Next, slash at the guideline from below the waistline to the bottom of the waist tape. This releases the high hip area.
Step 8 Continue to pin the waistline until you reach the side seam waistline intersection.
Step 9 The waist dart is formed by picking up the excess with a pin at the waistline, at the bottom of the waist tape. Your muslin guideline is the center of the dart.
Step 10A Smooth the muslin around the neckline and with your fingernail, make a crease. Using your shears, cut away a rectangular piece of muslin at the centerfront neckline 1” up and 1 “ over.
Step 10B Then release the neckline by slashing into the neckline excess to the creaseline. Be careful not to cut beyond the crease.
Module 5 – Draping the Front

Step 11 Place a pin at the neckline shoulder intersection.
Module 5 – Draping the Front

Step 12 Form the shoulder dart by smoothing the muslin up and over the chest area folding the dart flat with the dart excess on the inside. Be sure that you smooth out all wrinkles. Your dart seam should align with the princess seam. This dart method is different from the waist dart which was formed with the dart excess on the outside. Secure the dart with a pin at the princess/shoulderline intersection.
Module 5 – Draping the Front

Step 13 Then, place a pin at the shoulder armhole intersection.
Step 1A Start marking the front muslin in a counterclockwise direction. Place a dash mark on center front/neckline and a few small dots along the neckline.
Module 6 – Marking the Front

Step 1B Crossmark the shoulder/neckline intersection.
Module 6 – Marking the Front

**Step 2** Place a crossmark on the dart fold and on the body at the shoulder/princess intersection.
Step 3 Mark the armhole/shoulder intersection.
Module 6 – Marking the Front

Step 4 Then mark the armhole, dotting along the armhole ridge. Stop at the screw level and place a crossmark.
Step 5 Place another crossmark at the side seam/underarm intersection. This is known as the tight body line.
Module 6 – Marking the Front

**Step 6** Crossmark at the waistline/side seam intersection and working at the bottom of the waist tape continue to place dot marks along the waistline until you come to the waist dart.
Step 7 Mark both sides of the waist dart and continue to dot the waistline until you get to the center front waistline intersection where you will then place a dash mark.
Step 8 To form the shoulder dart, guide the shoulder dart in the direction of the apex.
Step 9 Then smooth the waist dart along the guideline towards the apex.
Module 6 – Marking the Front

Step 10 Mark the vanishing point of the shoulder dart 1” away from the apex.
Step 11 Mark the vanishing point of the waist dart 1” from the apex. Note that the fuller the bust the farther away the vanishing point of the dart is from the apex.
Step 12 Before removing the front muslin from the dress form, be sure that you have captured all of your markings.
Step 1A With your front bodice flat on the table begin by truing the neckline. Square a line for about 1/4” at the center front/neckline intersection. Drop your center front neckline 1/4” or to accommodate a collar, drop 1/2”.
Module 7 – Trueing the Front

Step 1B Then blend the neckline to the shoulder seam.
Module 7 – Trueing the Front

Step 2 True your shoulder dart by connecting the mark closest to the center front at the shoulder to the apex.
Step 3 Come up 1/2” on that line and put a mark. Then connect the vanishing point of that dart to the corresponding mark at the shoulder.
Step 4 True the waist dart by first making sure that the dart pick-up on both sides of the dart are equal. If not you will need to adjust. Then connect the lines to the dart’s vanishing point.
Module 7 – Trueing the Front

**Step 5A** Next, true the side seam by first connecting the side seam/armhole mark to the waistline/side seam mark. This is called your tight body line.
Step 5B For planning a bodice with a sleeve, drop your underarm 1” and extend the side seam 1/2” to nothing at the waist. When planning a sleeveless garment drop the underarm 1/2” and extend the side seam 1/4”.
**Module 7 – Trueing the Front**

**Step 6A** Before trueing the armhole, square a line off the lowered extended side seam for 1/2".
Module 7 – Trueing the Front

Step 6B True the armhole by placing your French curve so that it intersects in three places: on the lowered extended mark, at the screw level and at the shoulder. Then draw a line for the armhole.
Step 6C Add 1/2 “ seam allowance to the front armhole stopping at the screw plate level.
Step 6D Trim away the excess muslin.
Step 7 Add 1/2 " seam allowance to your lowered neckline and trim away the excess muslin.
Step 8 Finger press the fold of the shoulder dart and then pin the dart closed with the dart material excess in the direction of center front.
Step 9 True the shoulder by connecting the neck mark to the shoulder mark with your clear plastic ruler.
Step 10 Add 1” seam allowance and trim.
Step 11 Next, finger press the waist dart and pin closed with the dart material excess toward center front.
Step 12 Place your front drape back on the dress form. Make sure that you put it back on the way you draped it matching all key points such as neckline, centerfront, waistline and the shoulder neckline intersection.
Step 13 Align your shoulder seam and then sink your pins flat into the shoulder seam allowance.
Step 14A Match up the side seam of the muslin to that of the dress form and then place pins about 1” away.
Step 14B This will secure the muslin so that you can turn back the side seam in preparation for draping the back.
Step 1 Line up your back muslin block starting at center back and neckline.
Step 2 Line up the shoulder blade guideline with the shoulder blade level of the dress form, pin the cross back shoulder mark to the armhole ridge of the dress form.
Module 8 – Draping the Back

Step 3 Trap your back ease between the guideline and center back, pinning in alternating directions.
**Step 4** Pin your center back beginning at the bottom of the waist tape to your shoulder blade level.
Step 5A Position your back guideline so that it is at a right angle to the shoulder blade level.
Module 8 – Draping the Back

**Step 5B** Pick up a pinch of ease at the guideline on the waist and place a pin.
Step 6A Next, release the pin holding the front side seam. In preparation for balancing the side seams, match up your front and back side seams at the armhole. Start at the top, by pinning the front and back tight bodyline at the underarm.
Step 6B Then match the side seam at the waist.
**Step 7** The front and back side seam edges will either match exactly or, as demonstrated here, will be different. Here the back is wider than the front by 1/4” at the underarm. It is important that whatever the difference you must adjust the side seam at the waist so that the difference is the same both at the top and at the bottom.
Modue 8 – Draping the Back

**Step 8** To balance your side seam, remove the back waist guideline pin and repin, repositioning the side seam at the waist until the side seam is balanced, meaning that whatever the difference is at the underarm, it should be the same at the waist, in this case 1/4”. If you are using a horizontal stripe or plaid, balancing the side seams is critical for matching.
Step 9 Once you have balanced the side seam, secure pins along the back guideline to the dress form.
Module 8 – Draping the Back

**Step 10** Slash your back guideline to the bottom of the waist tape to release the high hip.
Step 11 Form your waist dart at the princess seam or at 2 1/2” away from center back for a size 6.
Step 12A Pick up the dart and pin at the bottom of the waist tape.
Step 12B Guide the dart upwards with your fingers.
Step 13 Place another pin at the waist between the dart and center back at the bottom of the waist tape.
Step 14 Fingernail press the back neckline to form a crease.
Module 8 – Draping the Back

Step 15 Slash into the crease with your shears to release the muslin around the neck.
Step 16 Trim off some of the excess muslin to keep it for curling.
Step 17 Place a pin at the shoulder neck intersection. The back shoulder will have 2 pinches of ease and one small dart.
Step 18 Take a pinch of ease directly over the shoulder seam between shoulder neck intersection and your front shoulder dart.
Step 19 Then pick up 1/4” and form a dart in line with the front shoulder dart.
Step 20 Take another pinch of ease between the dart and shoulder/armhole intersection.
Step 21 Gently tug on the back muslin and pin to hold the muslin in place.
Step 22 Then, place a pin at the shoulder/armhole intersection.
Step 1 Begin marking clockwise, placing a dash mark on center back neck and dots along the neckline.
Step 2 Place a crossmark at the shoulder/neckline intersection and continue to dot the shoulder seam.
Step 3 Mark both sides of the shoulder dart and continue dotting the shoulder until you reach the shoulder/armhole intersection where you will place a crossmark.
**Module 9 – Marking the Back**

**Step 4** Crossmark the tight body line at the underarm plate.
Step 5 Crossmark the waistline at the bottom of the waist tape.
Step 6 Continue to dot the waistline.
Step 7 Place a crossmark on both sides of the dart pick-up.
Module 9 – Marking the Back

**Step 8** Continue to dot the waistline and place a dash mark at the center back/waistline intersection.
Module 9 – Marking the Back

Step 9 Check to make sure that you have captured all of the necessary markings before removing the muslin from the dress form. Keep the side seams pinned together as well as the darts in preparation for trueing.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

Step 1 With the front muslin facing up, carefully reposition your underarm and waistline pins so that they are at right angles to the tight body line.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

Step 2 Place your tracing paper face up under the side seam. Using your tracing wheel, trace the waistline marking, the tight body line, the lowered extended side seam line and 1/2” along the armhole marking.
Step 3 Turn your muslin over and check your markings.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

Step 4 Using your clear plastic ruler, add 1” seam allowance to your lowered extended side seam and trim away the excess muslin.
Step 5 Remove your side seam pins and separate the front and back muslin.
Step 6 On the back muslin, drop a guideline down from the armhole/shoulder blade mark for about 1”.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

Step 7A Using your French curve, true the upper armhole.
Step 7B Flip the curve over and then true the lower armhole making sure that your curve rests on the new guideline and on the lowered extended underarm.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

Step 8 Extend the underarm seam out into the seam allowance with your ruler.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

Step 9 Finger press the center of the waist dart and remove the pin.
Step 10 Find the center of the dart and drag a guideline up to the level of the lowered arm-hole and then place a dash mark. This is the vanishing point of the waist dart.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

Step 11 Mark the dart center and connect the waist markings to the vanishing point of the dart.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

Step 12 Next, unpin the back shoulder dart and ease pins
Step 13 Place your straight ruler on the shoulder dart mark closest to center back then draw a straight line that connects to the vanishing point of the waist dart.
Step 14 Measure down 3 1/4” from the shoulder and place a mark.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

Step 15 Then connect that point to the shoulder mark closest to the armhole to form the back shoulder dart.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

Step 16 Fingerpress the back shoulder dart and pin the dart closed with the excess toward center back.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

**Step 17A** The back shoulder is trued in 2 steps. First with the French curve connecting the neck to the dart.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

**Step 17B** Flip the curve over and true from the dart to the armhole.
Step 18A Square a line for 1/4” off center back/back neck
Step 18B Using your French curve, true the back neckline.
Step 19 Add 1/2” seam allowance to the neckline.
Step 20A Next, add 1" seam allowance.
Step 20B Trim the excess muslin from the shoulder and the neckline.
Step 21 Finger press the back waist dart with the dart excess towards center back and pin the dart closed.
**Step 22** Pin the back side seam over front on the lowered extended seamline.
Step 23A If your bodice has a sleeve then you will need to lower the side seam 1/4” before blending the waistline with your hip curve.
**Step 23B** Flip the hip curve over to get a position that best connects your waistline markings. Be sure that your centerfront and center back waistlines are at right angles to centerfront and center back.
Module 10 – Trueing the Back

Step 24 Add 1” seam allowance to the waistline and trim the excess muslin.
Step 25A Add 1/2 " seam allowance to your front and back armhole.
25B Trim the excess muslin.
Step 26A Fingerpress the back shoulder seam allowance.
Step 26B Pin the back shoulder over the front, trapping the back shoulder ease between the pins.
Step 27A Then place the bodice back on the dress form the way you draped it and check the fit.