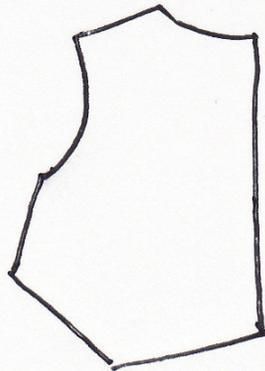


Notes:

- There are a couple of different ways to grade a pattern. The most accurate is probably slashing and spreading, but I find that time consuming, and a little more difficult. I prefer to just shift the pattern, tracing as I go. It may not be the most professional method, but it works !
- I am using the example of a pattern I recently graded down.
- If you need to grade the pattern by an uneven amount (ie the difference between your size and the pattern is not the same in the bust waist & hip- this is probably the case if you are pear shaped), I find the easiest way is to separate the pattern & grade the areas separately, then blend the two sections together
- Another thing to keep in mind is your cup size. Commercial patterns are based on a B cup, so if you are smaller or large than that, you will probably need to do a bust adjustment (not covered in this tutorial).
- Also this method is just as easily adapted to grading a skirt.

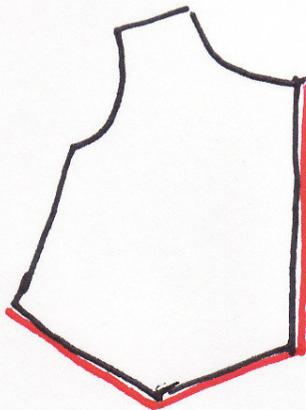
Steps:

1. Determine how much you need to grade your pattern by. Compare your measurements to the pattern's. As a side note, my pattern was a size 14 to fit bust 36", which would appear to be perfect for me as I have a 36" bust. But I find that commercial patterns have too much ease for my taste, so I always go down a size. So I wanted to grade down to a size 12, ie 34" bust. Which meant I needed to grade down by 2".



Original
Size 14, to
fit bust 36"

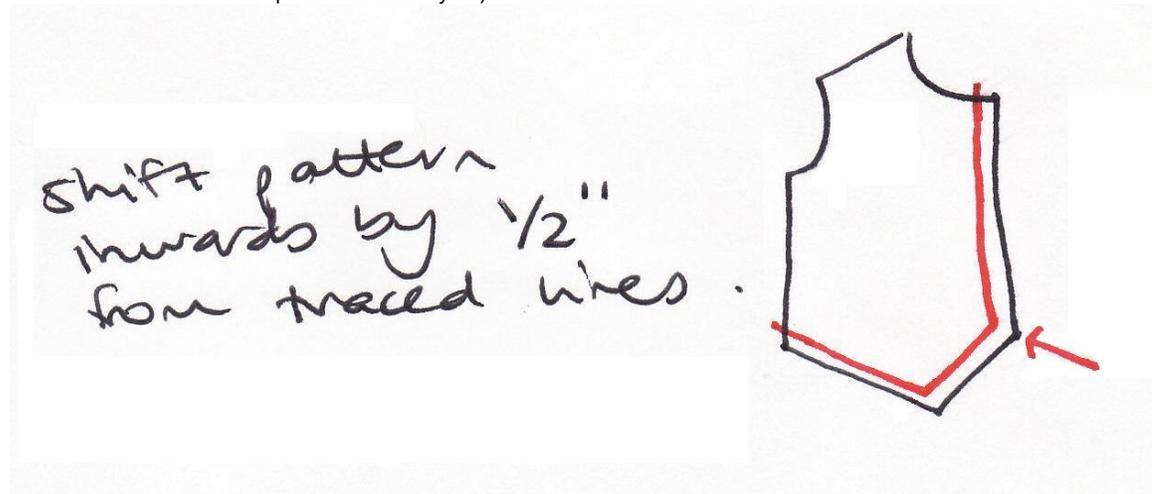
2. Then divide this measurement by 4 to determine how much to shift each pattern piece. For me this was $\frac{1}{2}$ " (ie 2 divided by 4)
3. Lay the pattern piece on some pattern paper (I'm using the bodice front), and trace the centre & bottom edges



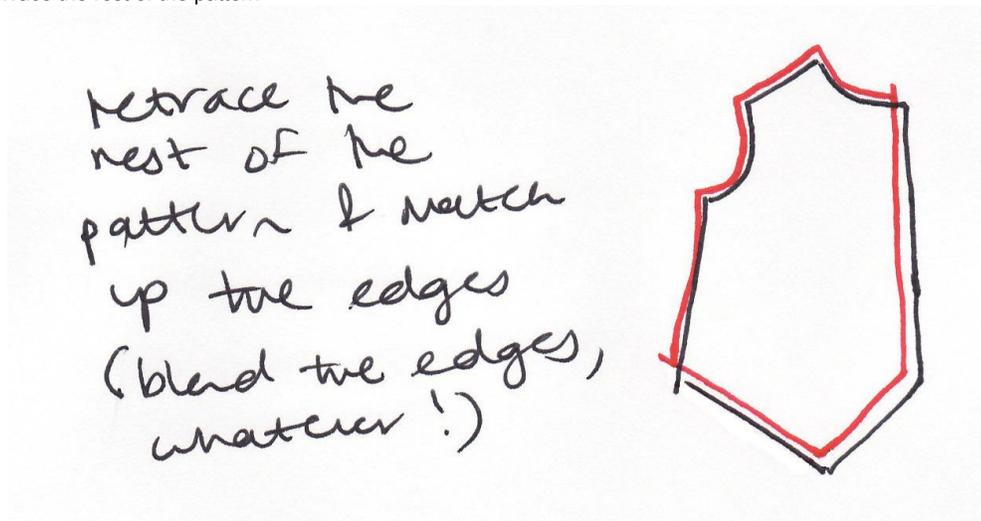
Lay original
pattern on
pattern paper &
trace centre
edge & bottom
edge.

easy pattern grading

4. Then shift the pattern outwards by $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the bottom right corner edge (if you were grading outwards you would need to shift the pattern inwards by $\frac{1}{2}$ ")



5. Trace the rest of the pattern



6. Neaten up the edges, and now you have a smaller bodice front pattern. Follow the steps for the bodice back as well, and then you are done!

