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DRAPED HAERT IN BODICE

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Below I will show you step by step how to make a draped heart into a bodice which includes the waist and bust shaping.

It's good to know that instead of a heart shape it is possible to use any other shape you wish. As long as the cutseam will be drawn through the bust apex.



• WHAT SUPPLIES DO YOU NEED?:

- a well fitted bodice pattern
- fabric for your bodice mock-up (I used unbleached cotton)
- a marker
- fabric scissors
- pins
- fabric for the heart shape
- fabric for your bodice
- sewing machine



1 Sew your mock-up bodice including the waist and bust darts. Press your CF seam so it is clearly visible. Pin the bodice onto a mannequin or yourself. Draw on half of the bodice the heart shape you wish, while making sure the drawn line runs through the apex .
Where do I find the apex?: When extending the waist dart upwards and the bust dart horizontally, the position of the bust apex is the point where these two lines intersect. Which should actually be the position of the nipple.



2 Remove the bodice from the mannequin and fold it at the CF. Mark notches on several places, which will help you later on with the sewing process. Cut the heart while folded, so you will end up with a perfect symmetrical shape. Place several notches on the other side of the heart as well.



③ Press your pattern pieces and you will see that the pieces are actually flat now. The shaping of the chest and waist are transferred into the space between the heart and the bodice.

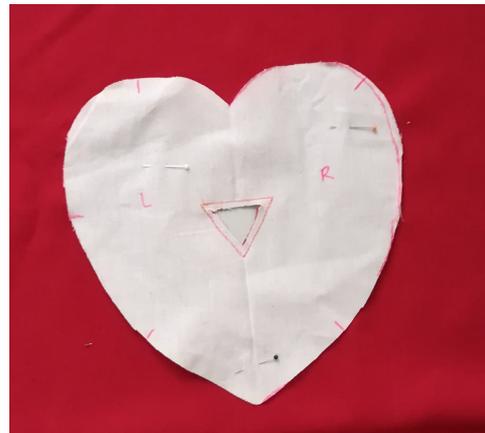
It's very possible that the shape of your pieces look much different than shown in these photos. This all depends on the size and shape of your body and varies per person.



④ Pin the bodice piece on your fabric, both right sides facing and making sure that CF is on the straight grain. To be able to sew the heart later on, you will need to add seam allowance. The easiest to sew this shape is when using a small allowance, e.g. ¼ inch or 0,5 cm. Make sure to add this when cutting the bodice along the heart shape. Along the rest of the seams you use the standard allowance (which might already be included in your block pattern). Copy the marked notches.



⑤ Place the heart on top of your mock-up fabric and copy its shape one more time, but including ¼ inch or 0,5 cm seam allowance. Copy the marked notches on the back side of the heart as well.



⑥ Pin the heart in the center of the fabric you want to use for your draped heart, both right sides facing again. Mark a point in your heart where you wish to have the draped lines come together. I used the center of the heart, but this could be at any place you wish. Draw a triangle at this point as shown in photo and stitch over these lines. Cut the triangle out leaving ¼ inch or 0,5 cm seam and clip into the corners.



7 Now push the heart through the opening to the wrong side of the fabric.



8 Press the opening (in this photo you are looking at the wrong side of the fabric).



9 On the right side of the fabric you will hold one corner of the fabric, lift it up, turn the rest of the fabric. Drape the section you are holding while covering the triangular opening. Pick another corner of the fabric and do the same. Continue playing with the fabric, rotating and draping and replacing fabric while covering the opening with drapes. When you are happy with the way it looks you will pin the draped fabric onto the heart that sits underneath. Make sure to pin and stabilize properly.



10 Cut the heart shape and stitch along the edge to fixate the draped fabric in its place. At last you will stitch the heart in the bodice, making sure all the marks match up. Stitch slowly and perhaps section by section to keep most control of your shape. You might need to clip some of the allowance to be able to make the curves of the heart turn.

Et voila! Your heart shaped front panel is finished!

Now you can finish your bodice including the back, adding sleeves, or a collar, skirt or any ideas you have for your design.