

Free as a **BIRD**

The Tania top is a great way to make a breezy summer blouse and practise your bias binding skills

Project **CLAIRE GARSIDE**



Shopping list

Chaffinch Bough Brushed Cotton Twill – midnight blue, £14.60 per metre, www.holmsown.co.uk



SIZING CHART

	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
BUST	37"	38"	39.5"	40.5"	42.5"	44.5"	46.5"	48.5"	51"
HIP	37"	38"	39.5"	40.5"	42.5"	44.5"	46.5"	48.5"	51"

MATERIALS & TOOLS

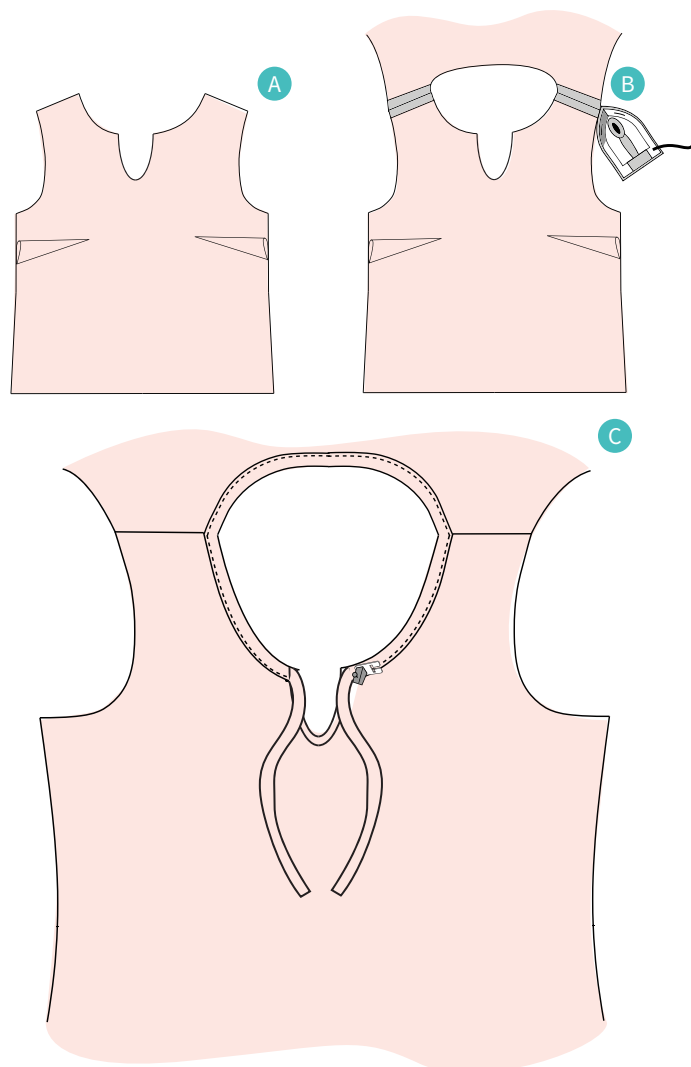
- 1.5m of light or medium-weight fabric
- 50cm-square piece of fabric if making contrast bias
- co-ordinating thread
- templates downloaded from www.lovesewingmag.co.uk

FABRIC SUGGESTIONS

- Light to mid-weight cotton, lawn, viscose, crepe and silk work best. Lace and chiffon can also be suitable if French seam construction is used.
- Allow extra fabric for one-way designs.

HOW TO MAKE:

- 1 Create the bias binding using the masterclass on page 39. You will need approx. 1.6m for the ties and keyhole. You can always make extra if you'd like to bind the armholes instead of using sleeves.
- 2 Sew the bust darts on the bodice front and press downwards. (See Pic A.)
- 3 Place the front and back bodices RST and sew at the shoulder seams. Press the seams open. (See Pic B.) Repeat for the side seams. You might like to try French seams – detailed on page 85!
- 4 On the WS of the keyhole



Claire Garside

Simple Sew patterns offers British-designed sewing patterns in printed and PDF formats. See the full range, take a peek at what the blogger team have been making and find helpful tutorials and tips at www.simplesewpatterns.com



pin the RS of your small bias binding piece around the opening and sew at the first fold. Fold over along the

centre crease to enclose the raw edge and top-stitch on the RS.

5 Mark the centre point of your long bias piece and on the WS of the centre back align the RS of the bias with the raw edge and pin all around. Sew along the first crease; this will leave approximately 40cm unsewn at each end.

6 Fold over the short ends by 1cm then fold over the bias as you did with the keyhole to the RS so it encloses the seam allowance. On the RS, top-stitch the bias around the neckline, down to the ends of the bias binding keeping the ends tucked inside for a

neat finish. (See Pic C.) Note: If making a sleeveless top, sew bias binding around the armholes also.

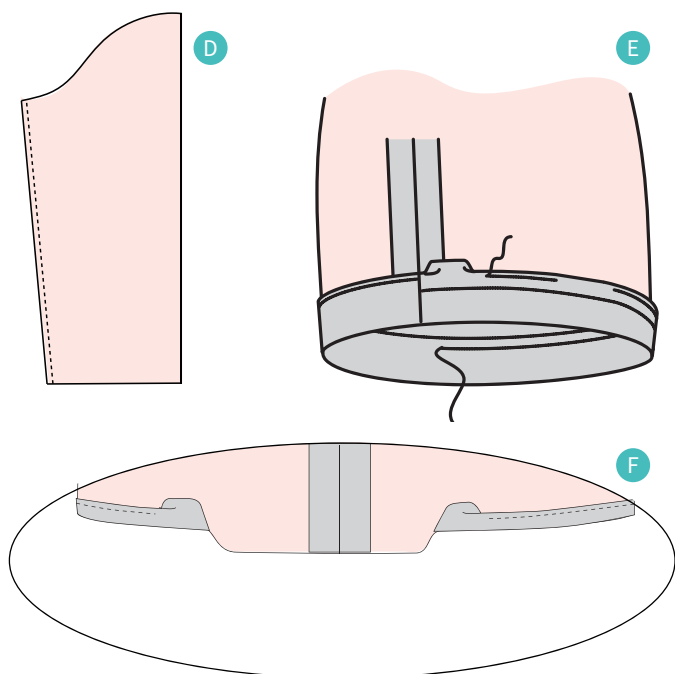
7 With RST fold one sleeve in half, and sew the side seam. (See Pic D.) Press the seam open. Repeat for the other sleeve. Sew the sleeve in place within the armhole by placing them RST

and using gathering stitches to ease the sleeve in if necessary.

8 Turn up the sleeve hem, (you should have overlocked or zigzag-stitched the raw hem edge already as a part of your general preparation) and sew in place. Press with iron. (See Pic E.)

9 Turn up the hem, pin or press in place, then sew to secure. Press to complete. (See Pic F.)

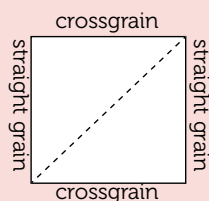
Top tip
Before making your bias binding, spray your square of fabric with starch for greater control



MASTERCLASS SELF-MADE BIAS

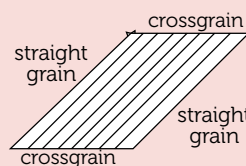
Making your own bias tape is a great technique for a co-ordinating look. We show you how to maximise your fabric.

1 Take a square piece of fabric and cut neatly along the diagonal centre as shown.



2 Sew the two triangles you have created together and press the seam open.

3 Mark parallel rows in water-soluble marker that start 4cm from the edge. Try not to pull the fabric as you mark it as this will distort the bias.



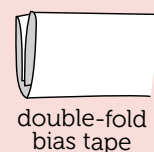
4 Now sew the unsewn edges together to form a loop of fabric, ensuring your marked lines match up as

best as possible. It may help to turn your work WS out to sew it, with your machine foot positioned inside the loop. Press the seam open.



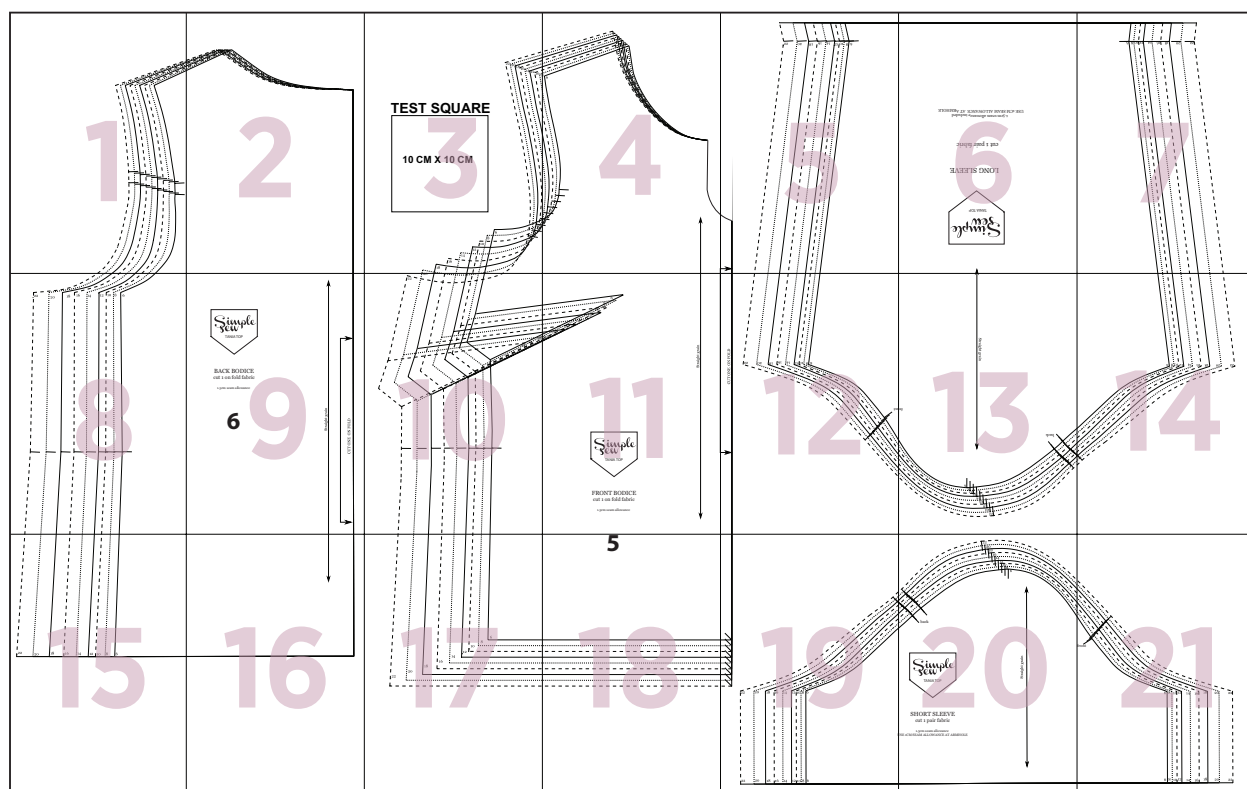
5 Cut along the lines you marked with a small pair of needlework scissors.

6 Press your bias first along the long centre crease, then press each side towards the middle to create double-fold bias tape.



7 Now you can install your bias binding onto your garment.

TANIA TOP



Measurements in inches

UK SIZE	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
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US SIZE	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
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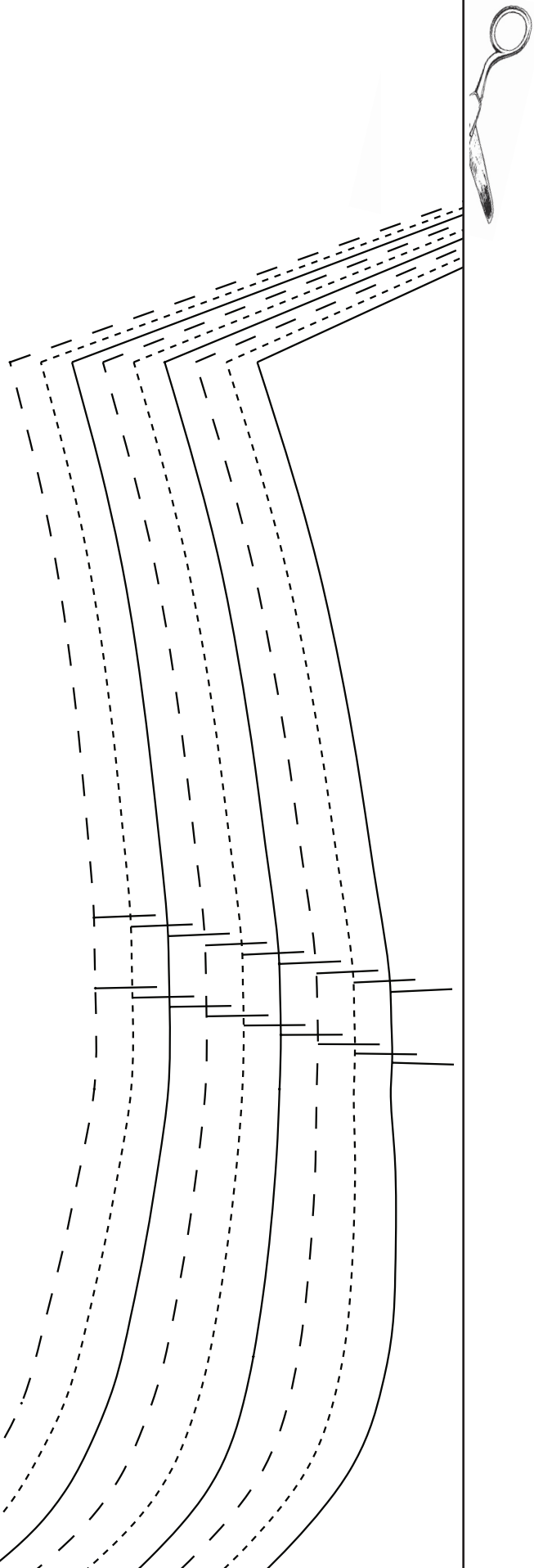
EUROPEAN	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50
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BUST	33	34 ^{1/2}	36	37 ^{3/4}	39 ^{1/2}	41	43 ^{1/4}	45 ^{3/4}
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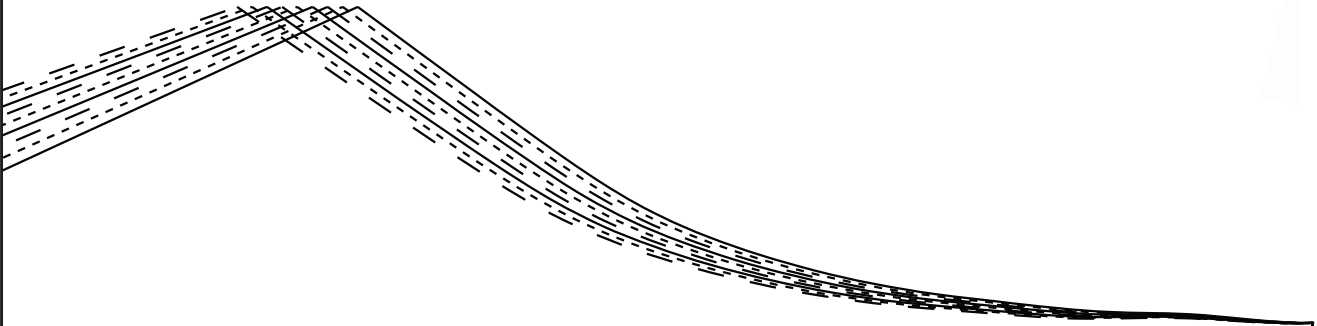
WAIST	26 ^{3/4}	28 ^{1/4}	30	31 ^{1/2}	33	34 ^{1/2}	37	39 ^{1/2}
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HIPS	36 ^{1/4}	37 ^{3/4}	39 ^{1/2}	41	42 ^{1/2}	44	46	48
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1

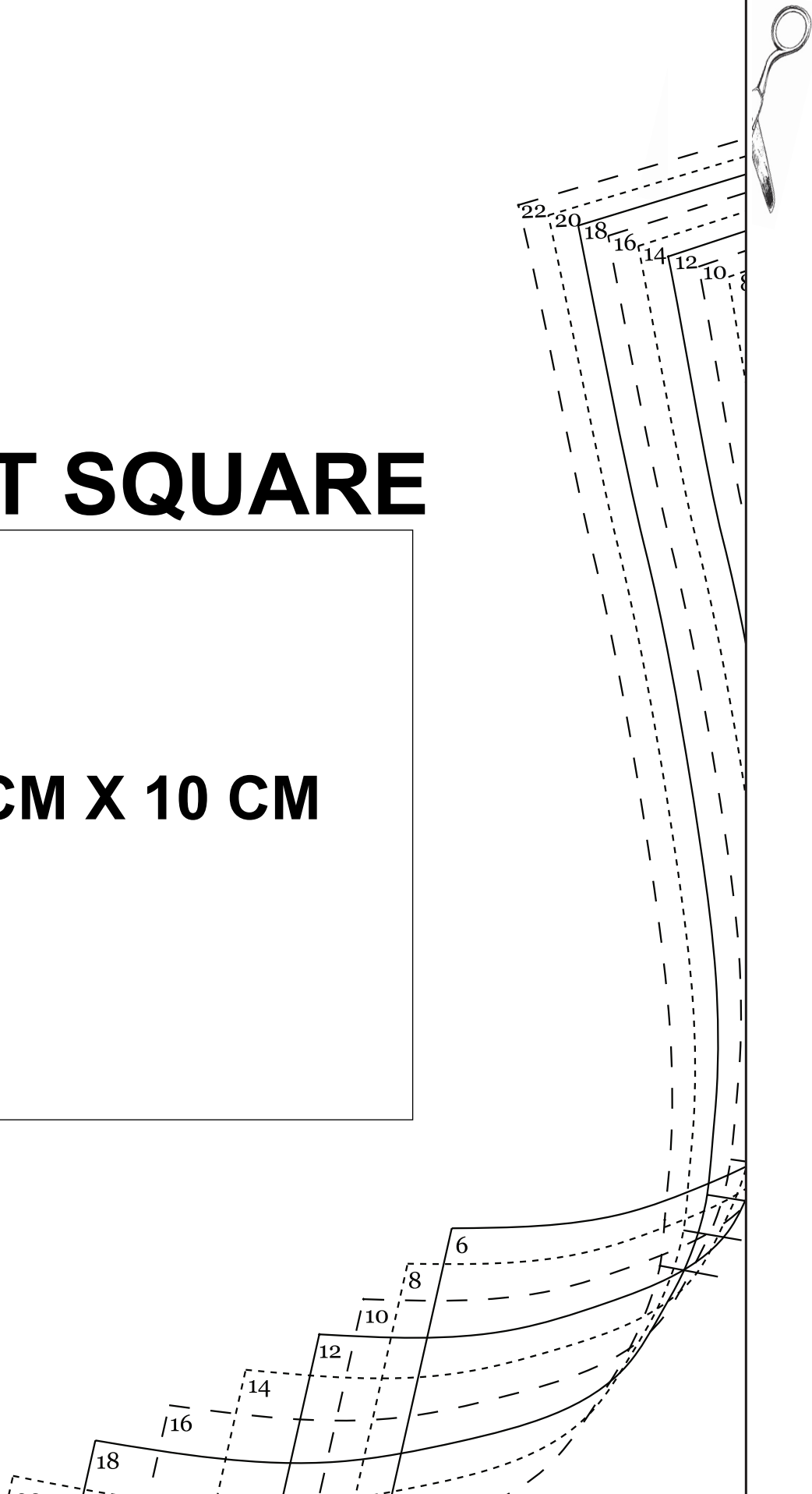


2

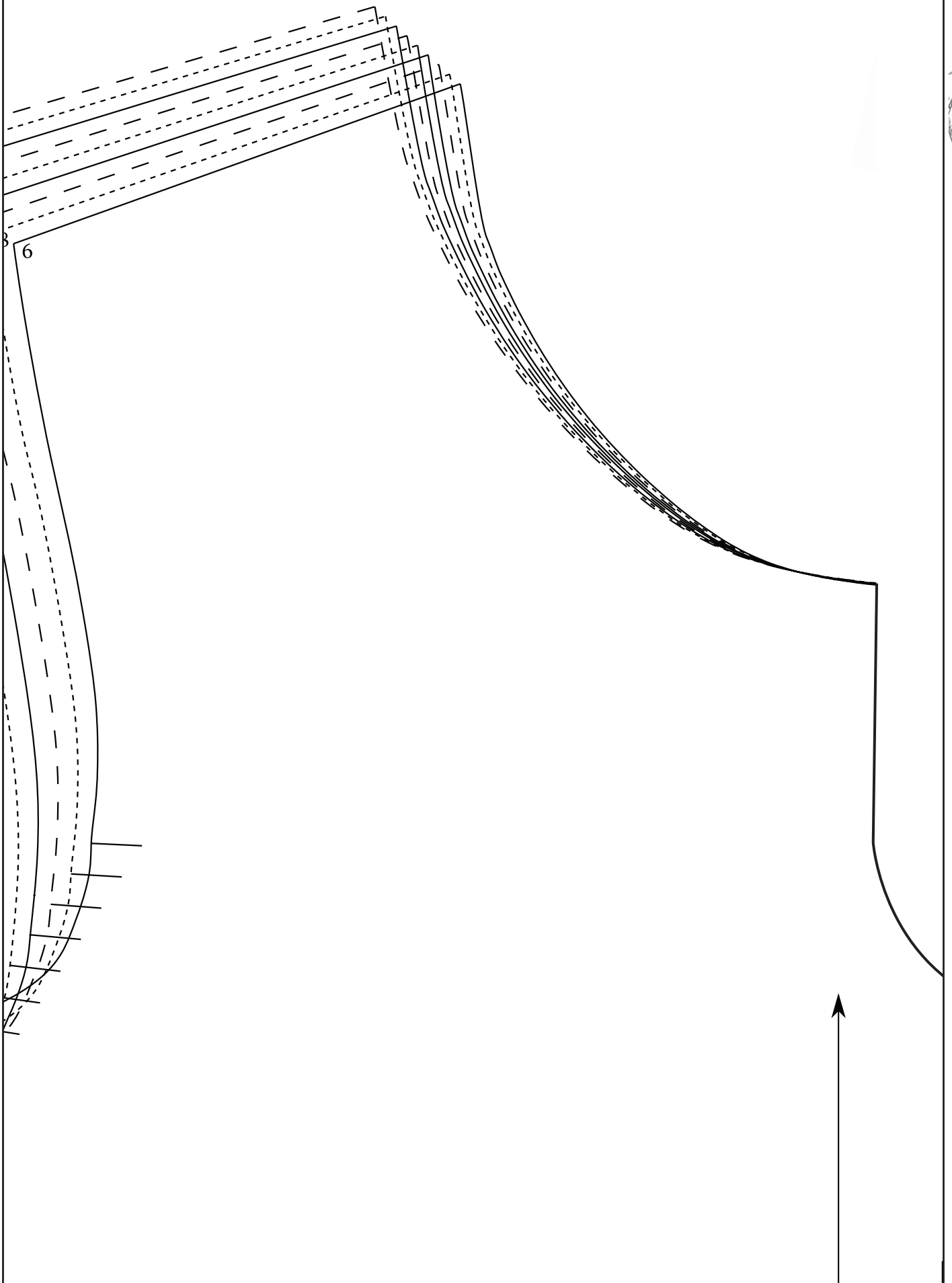


TEST SQUARE

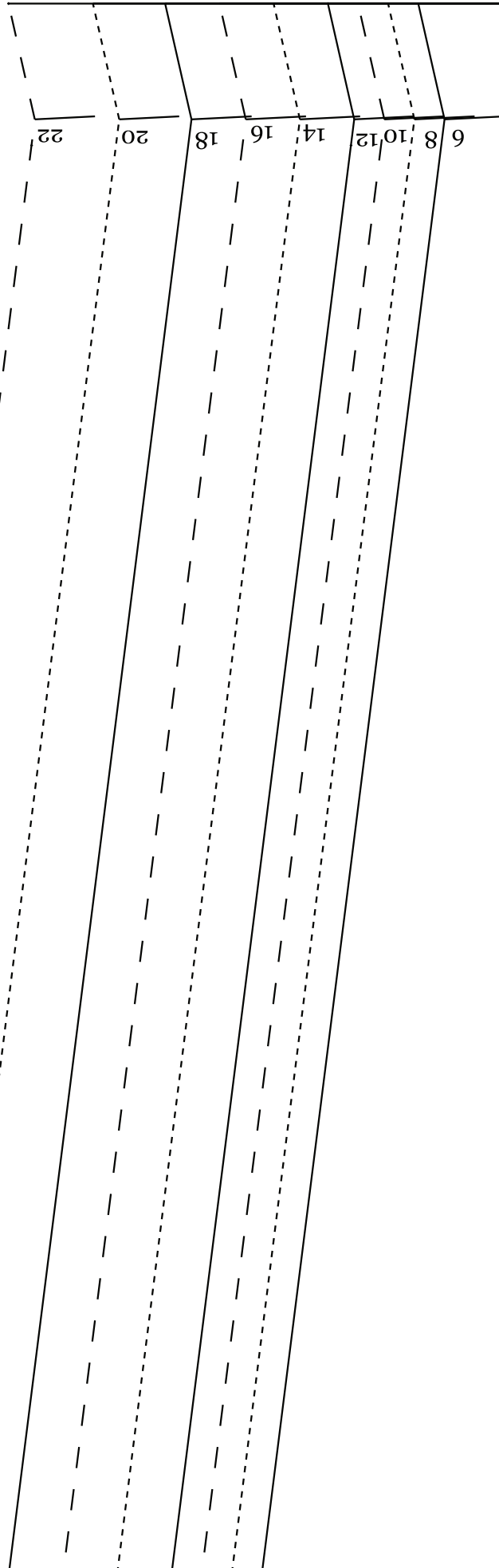
10 CM X 10 CM



4



5



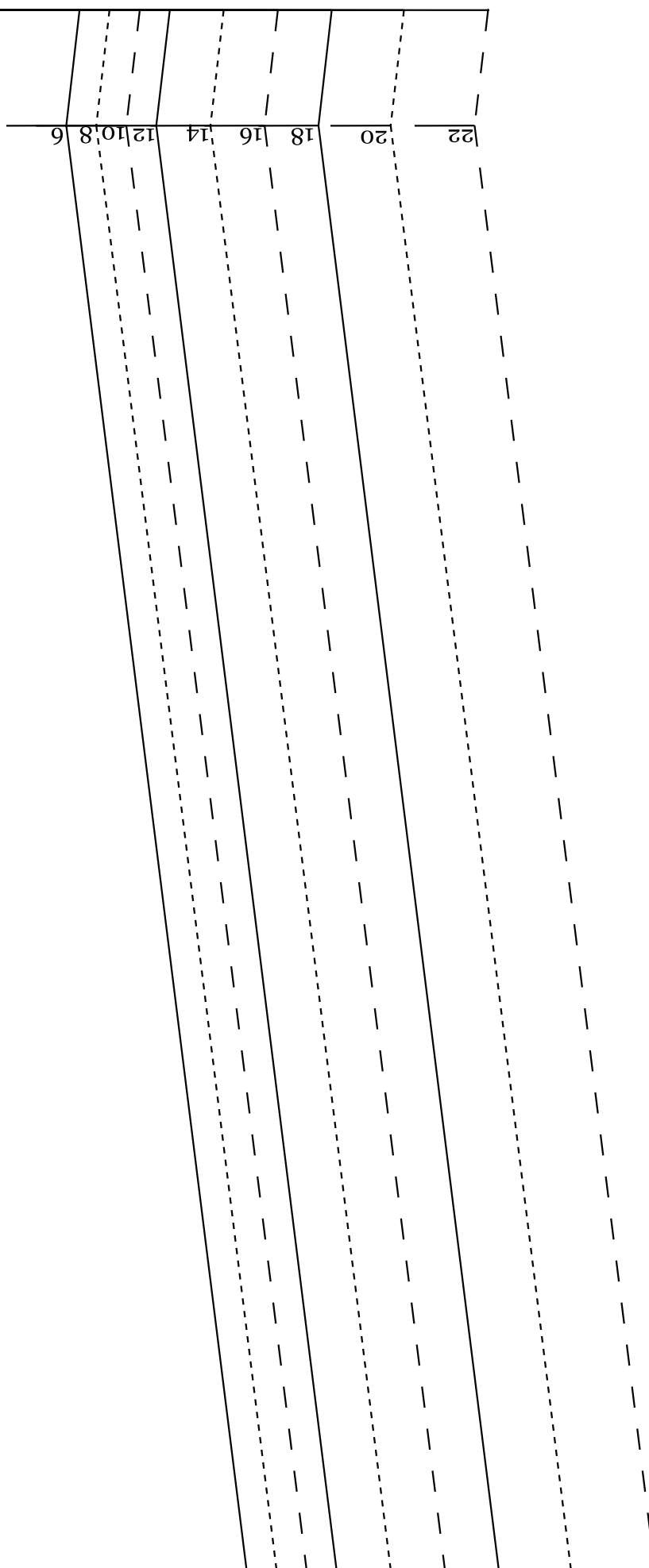


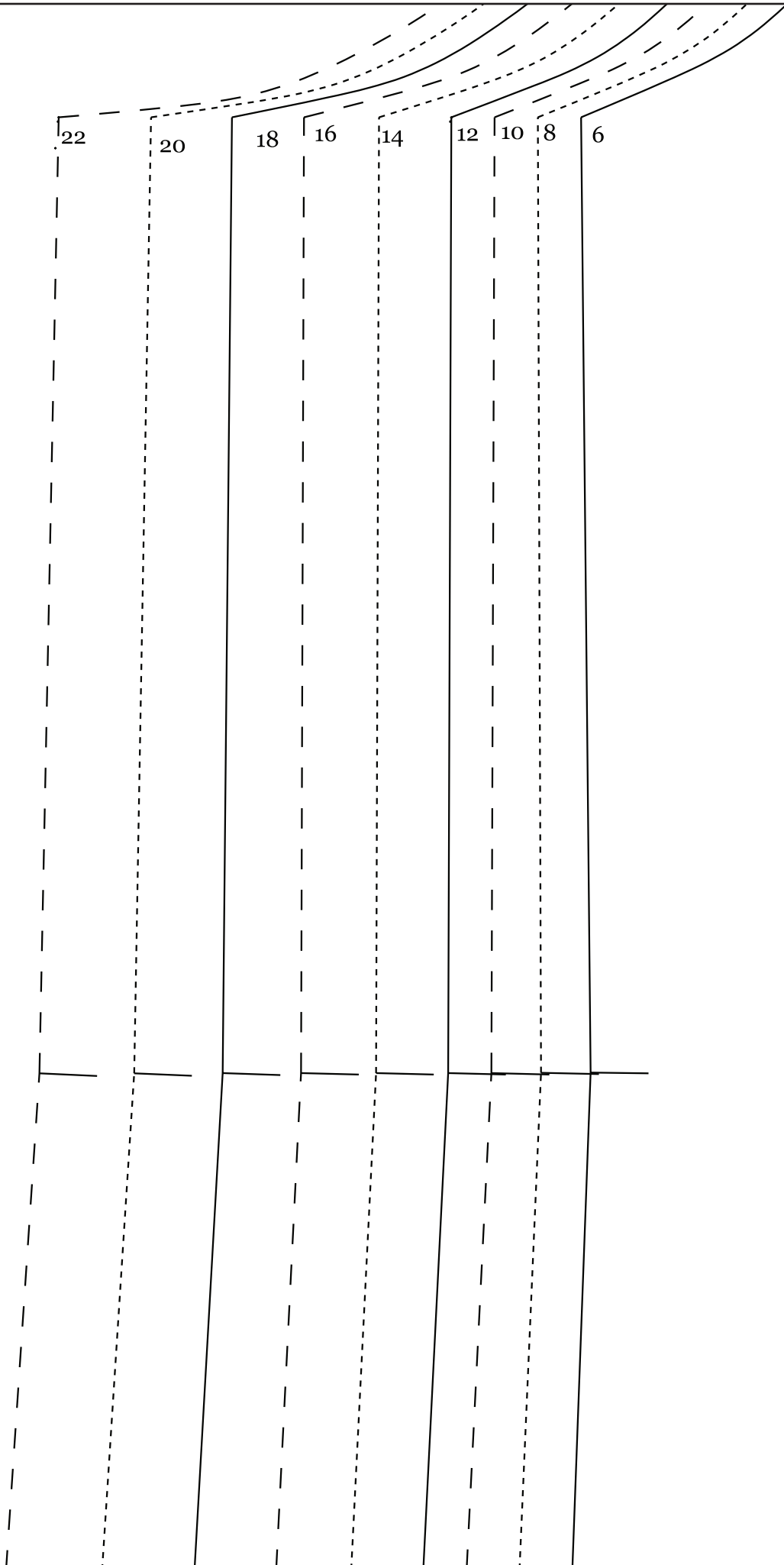
1.5cm seam allowance included
USE 1CM SEAM ALLOWANCE AT ARMHOLE

cut 1 pair fabric

LONG SLEEVE







9



BACK BODICE

cut 1 on fold fabric

1.5cm seam allowance

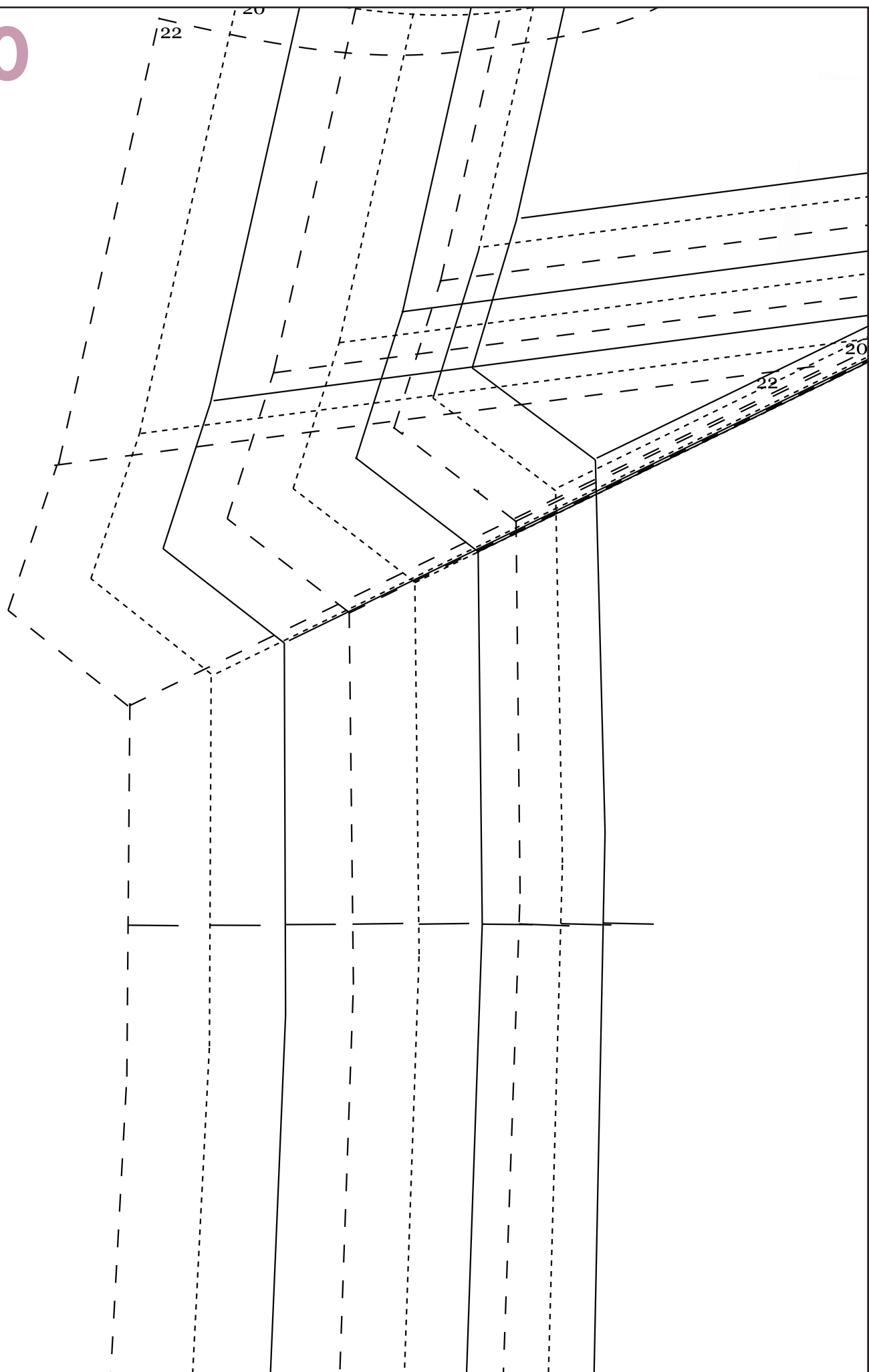
6

Straight grain

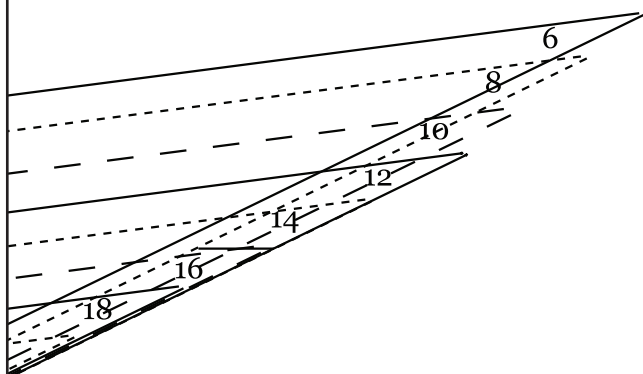
CUT ONE ON FOLD



10



11



FRONT BODICE

cut 1 on fold fabric

1.5cm seam allowance

Straight grain



12

CUT ONE ON FOLD



22/
20/
18/
16/
14/
12/
10/
8/
6

mt





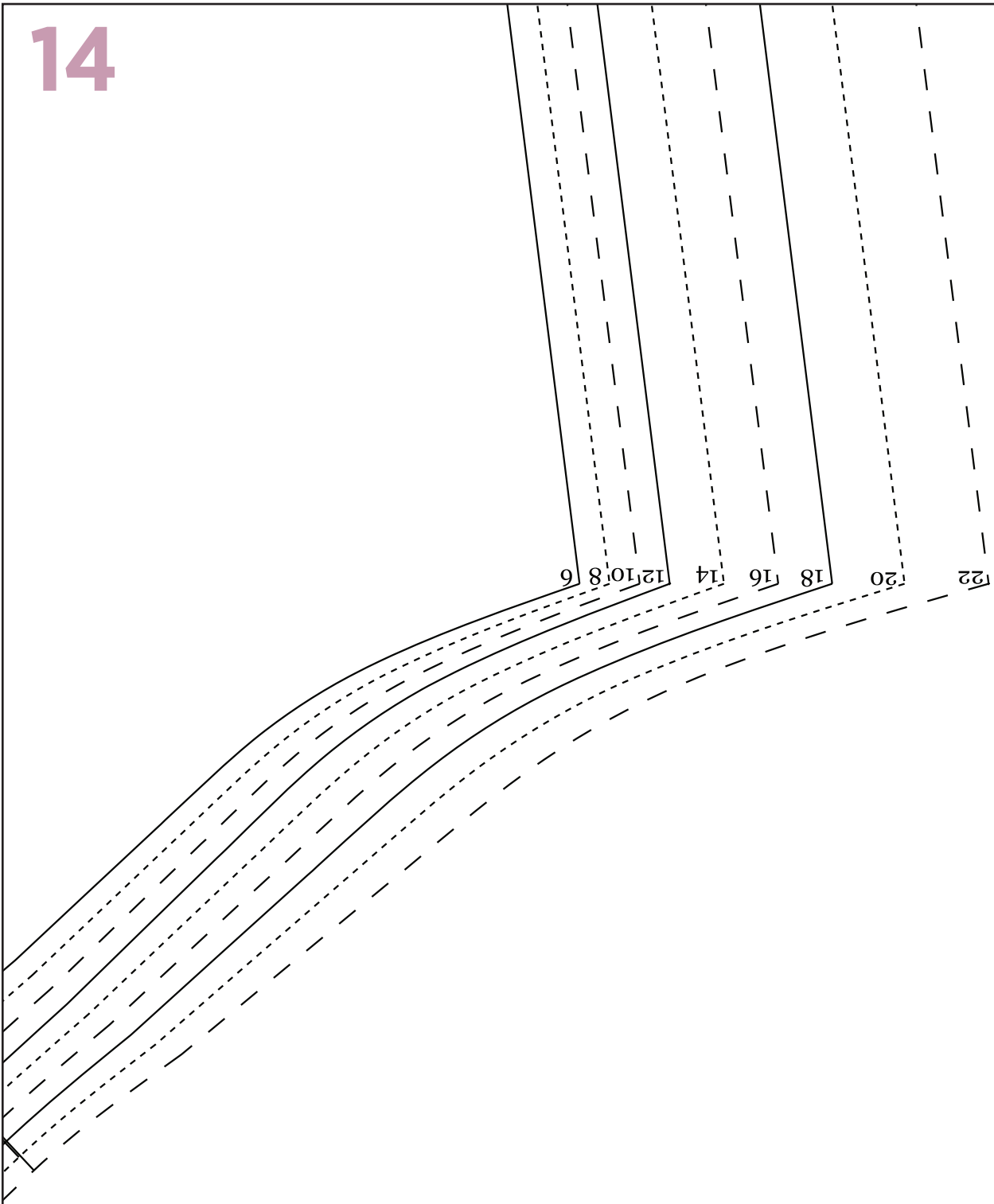
Straight grain

front

back

6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
22

14



15

22

20

18

16

14

12

10

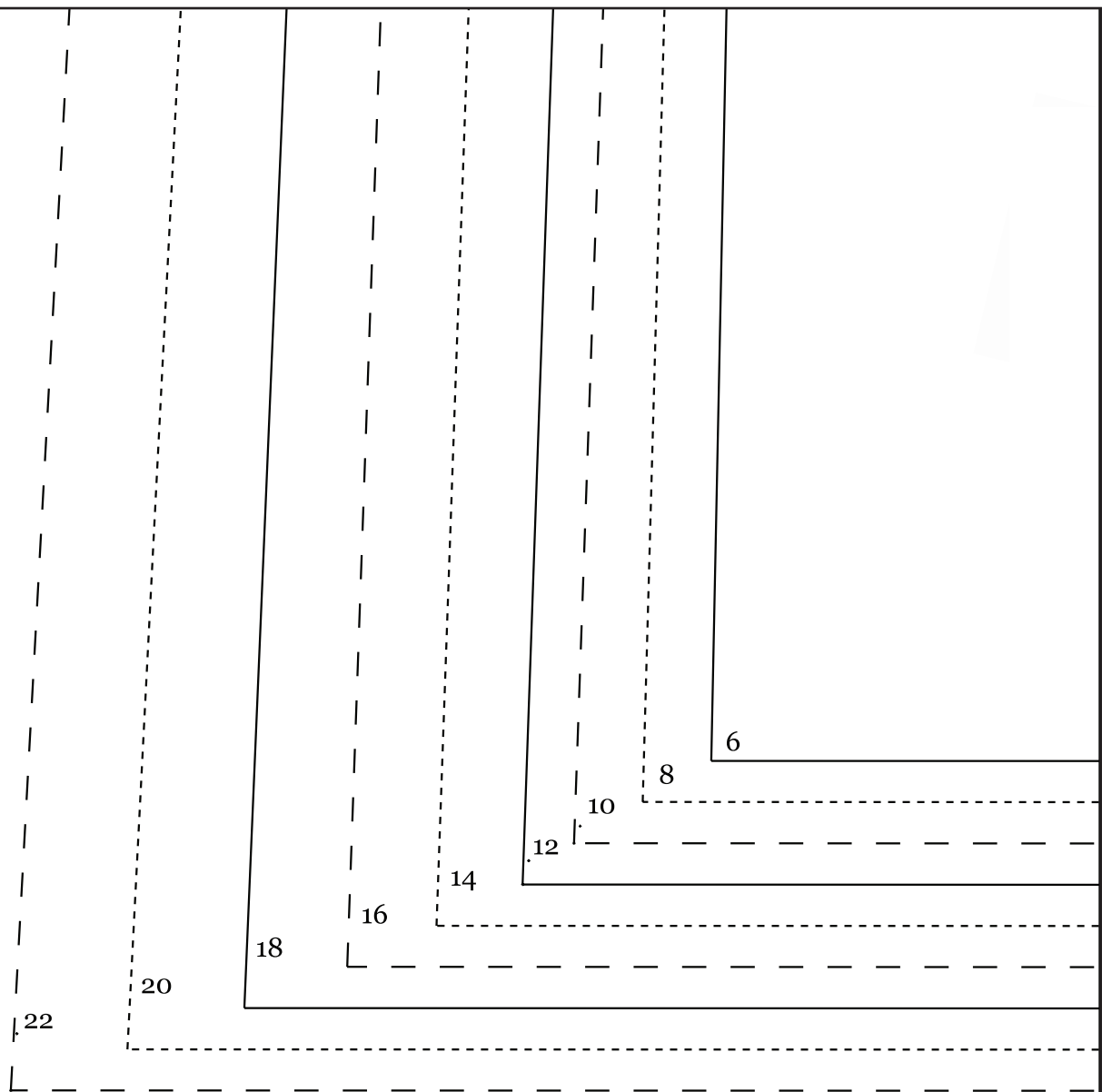
8

6



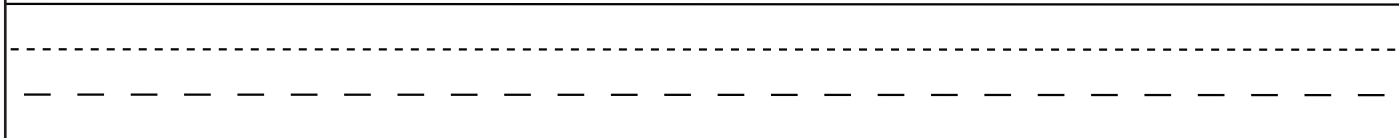
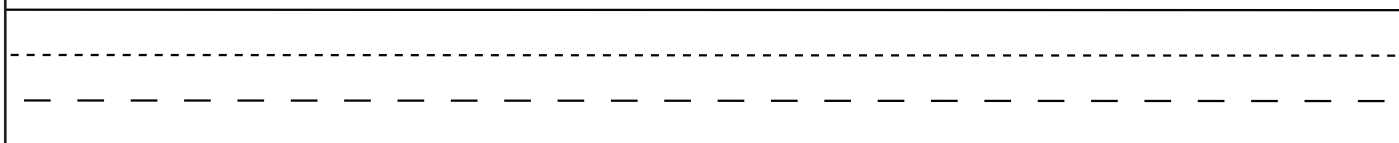


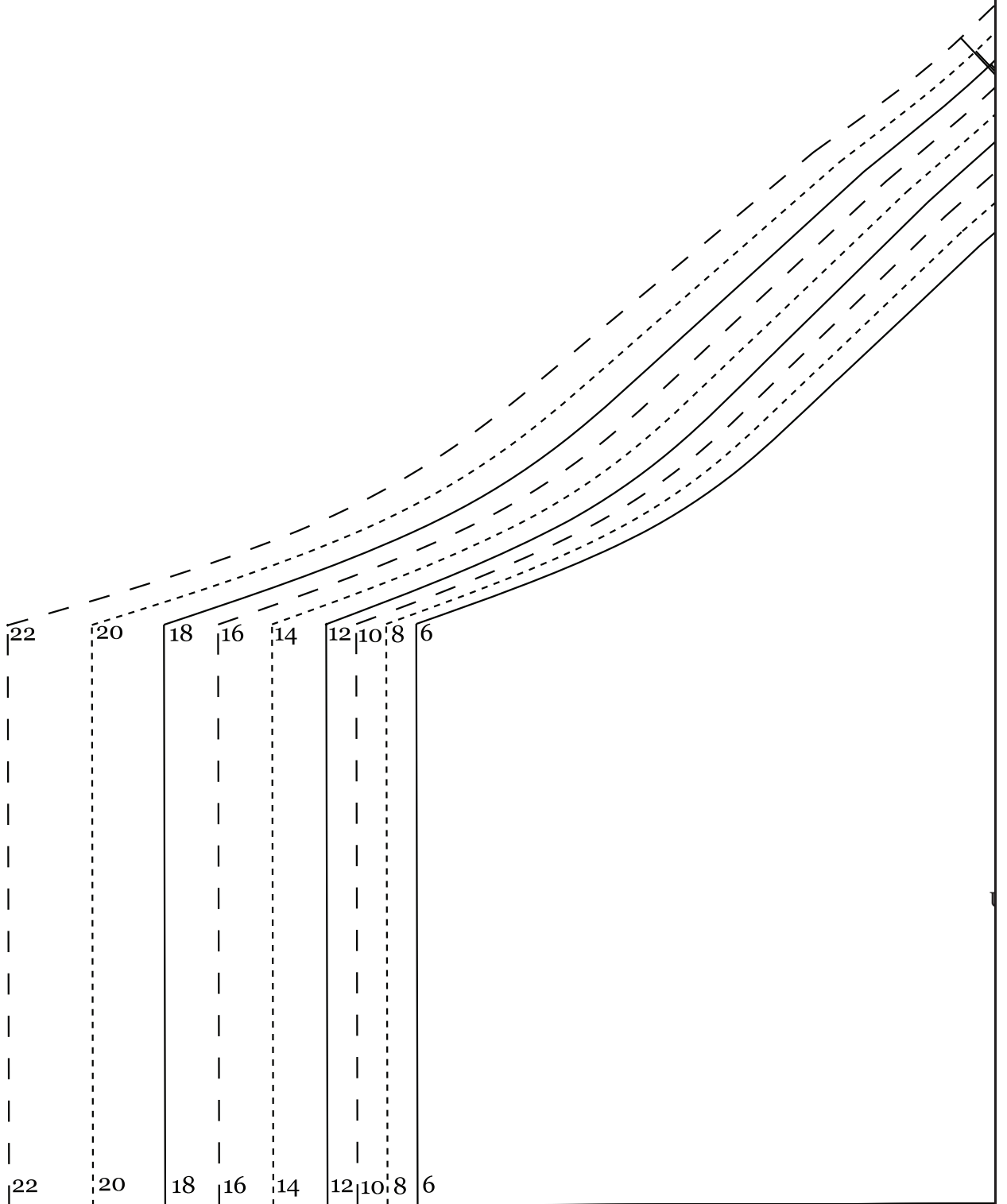
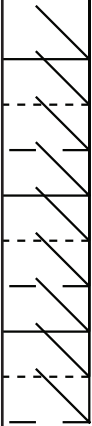
17



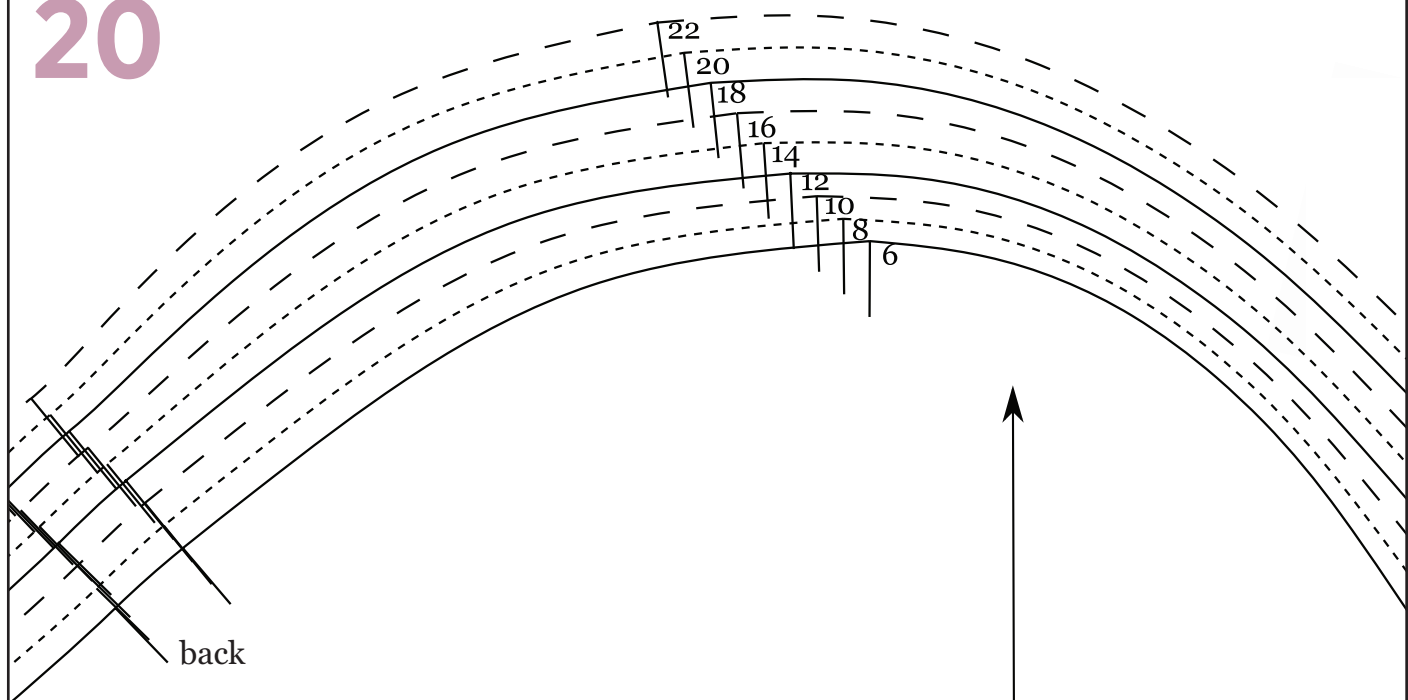
18

5





20



SHORT SLEEVE

cut 1 pair fabric

1.5cm seam allowance

USE 1CM SEAM ALLOWANCE AT ARMHOLE

