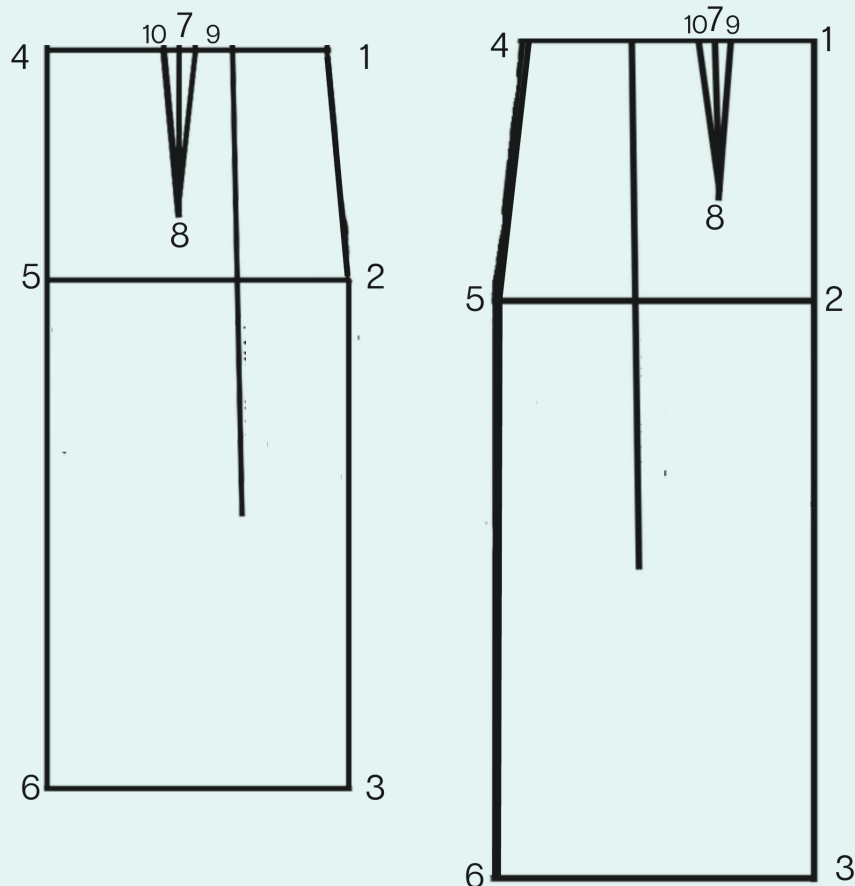


Free guide

The Basic Skirt Block

Draft the front and back step by step, with the international size chart and a worked example for every point



About this guide

The skirt block is the easiest pattern to start with. From it you can develop straight, A-line, flared and circle skirts. You draft the front and the back point by point, with a worked example for size 44 (height 166 cm) next to every point.

Measurements you need (example: size 44)

72

Waist

98

Hip

19

Hip depth

60

Skirt length

19

Bust point distance

Terms

Quarter	Waist or hip $\div$ 4, because you draft a quarter of the skirt (half the front or half the back).
Hip depth	The distance from the waist line down to the fullest part of the hip.
Dart	A stitched triangular fold that shapes the waist. Its standard value here is 3 cm.
Out / down	Horizontally away from the centre line, or vertically downwards.

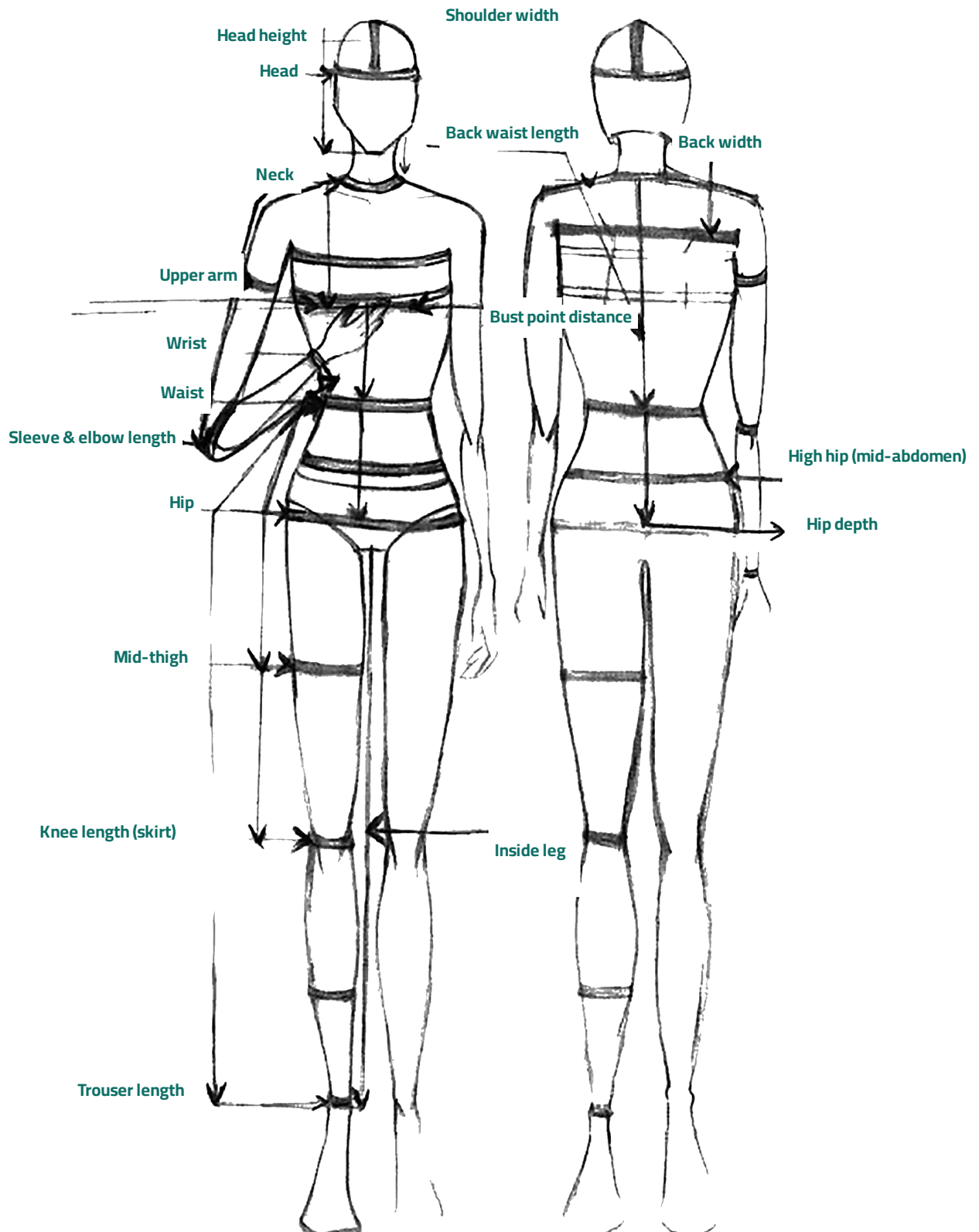
Tools

- Large pattern paper
- Pencil and eraser
- Long ruler and set square
- Curve ruler for the side seam
- Tape measure and calculator

The example measurements come from the size chart. If you are drafting for a particular person, use their own measurements.

Taking body measurements

Where to measure, front and back. Measure over light clothing, with the tape flat and not pulled tight.



International size chart

Italian sizing, all measurements in centimetres. The shaded column is size 44, used in the examples.

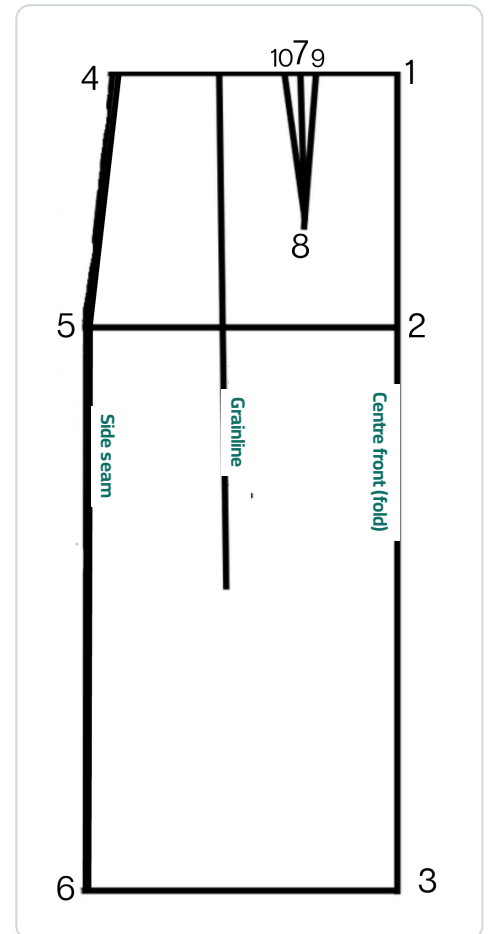
Full height	157	160	163	166	169	172	175	178	179	180	181	182
Size (IT) half underarm circumference	38	40 XS	42 S	44 S/M	46 M	48 L	50 XL	52 XXL	54	56	58	60
UK size (approx.)	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28
Head length	19.6	20	20.3	20.7	21.1	21.5	21.8	22.2	22.4	22.5	22.6	22.6
Back waist length	41.1	41.9	42.7	43.5	44.3	45.1	45.9	46.7	47.5	48.3	49.1	49.1
Front waist length	43.1	43.9	44.7	45.5	46.3	47.1	47.9	48.7	49.5	50.3	51.1	51.1
Hip depth	17.8	18.2	18.6	19	19.5	20	20.5	21	21.5	22	22.5	22.5
Jacket length	66.1	67.4	68.7	70	71.3	72.6	73.9	75.2	76.5	77.8	79.1	80.4
Dress length (to knee)	95	97	99	101	103	105	107	109	111	113	115	117
Skirt length	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
Crotch depth	24.1	24.5	25	25.5	25.9	26.3	26.6	27.1	27.2	27.3	27.5	27.5
Knee length	54.5	55.5	56.5	57.5	58.5	59.5	60.5	61.5	62.5	63.5	64.5	64.5
Trouser length	97	99	101	103	105	107	109	111	113	115	117	119
Elbow length	31.9	32.6	33.3	34	34.7	35.4	36.1	36.8	37.5	38.2	38.9	39
Sleeve length	58.5	59	60	61	62.1	63.2	64.3	65.4	66	66.5	66.9	67.3
Underarm circumference	76	80	84	88	92	96	100	104	108	112	116	120
Bust	80	84	88	92	96	100	104	108	112	116	120	124
Waist	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	100	104
Hip	86	90	94	98	102	106	110	114	118	122	126	130
Neck	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Wrist (cuff)	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Back width	33.9	35.4	36.9	38.4	39.9	41.4	42.9	44.4	45.9	47.4	48.9	49.4
Shoulder width	35.9	37.4	38.9	40.4	41.9	43.4	44.9	46.4	47.9	49.4	50.9	51.4
Upper arm width	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
Bust depth	25.5	26	26.5	27	27.5	28	28.5	29.5	30	30	30.5	30.5
Bust point distance	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	26

Skirt front

Size 44. Start with a horizontal waist line and a vertical centre-front line meeting at point 1.

Point	How to draft it	Example: size 44
1	Point where a horizontal line (waist) meets a vertical line (centre front).	—
2	From 1, go down the hip depth.	19 cm
3	From 1, go down the skirt length to the knee.	60 cm
4	From 1, go out a quarter of the waist + 3 cm (standard dart value).	21 cm
5	From 2, go out from the centre line a quarter of the hip.	24.5 cm
6	From 3, go out a quarter of the hip.	24.5 cm
Join 4 → 5 → 6 for the front side seam.		
7	From 1, along the waist line: half the bust point distance (dart position).	9.5 cm
8	From 7, go down the front dart length (standard 10 cm).	10 cm
9, 10	From 7, go out 1.5 cm to each side, then join 9 → 8 → 10 for the dart.	1.5 cm

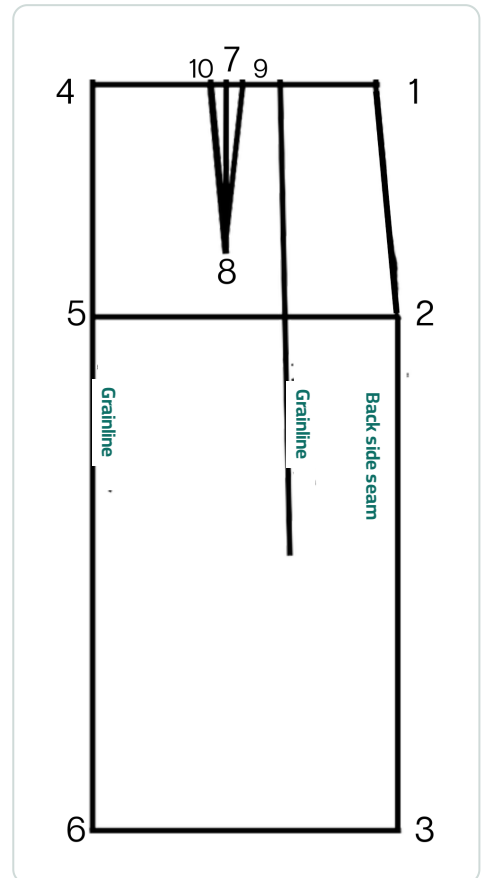
The centre front is cut on the fold, so the whole front comes out in one piece.



Skirt back

Size 44. The back dart is longer than the front dart (12 cm against 10 cm).

Point	How to draft it	Example: size 44
1	Point where a vertical line meets a horizontal line.	—
2	From 1, go down the hip depth.	19 cm
3	From 1, go down the skirt length to the knee.	60 cm
4	From 1, go out a quarter of the waist + 3 cm (standard dart value).	21 cm
5	From 2, go out a quarter of the hip.	24.5 cm
6	From 3, go out a quarter of the hip.	24.5 cm
7	Midpoint between 1 and 4.	10.5 cm
8	From 7, go down the back dart length (standard 12 cm).	12 cm
9, 10	From 7, go out 1.5 cm to each side, then join 9 → 8 → 10 for the dart.	1.5 cm



Your next step

Mastered the skirt block? Part 1 of the series, The Basic Dress Block & Sleeve Block, takes you on to the dress block and sleeve with the full ease chart. From there, the Anna Stella Academy courses take you into evening dresses and classic cuts, online or in person in Manchester.



FASHION
Academy

Website	annastella-academy.com
WhatsApp	+44 7555 243773
Atelier	200 Mauldeth Rd, Manchester M19 1AJ