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making. Carina Kung / EyeEm / Getty Images Sewing patterns come with many markings that each give a specific direction for the project. The markings can tell you how to place your fabric, where to stitch, where to cut, and more. And often you'll want to transfer these markings to your fabric for accurate results when you sew. Transferring pattern markings is a fairly quick and easy process, depending on how large your project is. But don't rush it, as this sets the necessary groundwork for a successful sewing project. Pattern Symbols in Sewing First, you need to know what the different markings can mean. Most sewing patterns will have a symbol key that you should check every time you start a project to ensure the symbols are what you're used to. Not all pattern makers use the same symbols. Here are some common markings that you might have to identify and transfer: Dots: Some dots can indicate starting and stopping points for stitching. They also often show where you should match up certain parts of a garment or other item, such as darts, seam intersections, pockets, and collars. Lines: The lines on a pattern can mean myriad things, including ways to adjust the measurements of the item, guides to keep the fabric on the proper grain line, and spots to fold and cut the fabric. Broken lines often indicate where stitching should be. Button markings: If your project involves buttons, there will be some sort of pattern markings for the buttonholes and button placements. Marking them will ensure that they are placed evenly on the item. When considering what markings to transfer to your fabric, focus on the ones that line up over other pieces of the fabric; ones that create folds, tucks, or pleats; and ones that show the placement for adding buttons. Markings that are used to indicate the placement of pockets, collars, and other details are also important. If you're working with a pattern that has a lot of markings, it's best to transfer them all. If you're working with a pattern that has a few markings, you can choose to transfer only the ones that are most important to you. Some of these tools vanish readily. So if you tend to pause your sewing projects and come back to them weeks later, you might have to remake your markings. Credit: Larry Washburn / Getty Images Always test your marking tool on a fabric scrap before using it on your project fabric. Make sure it doesn't show through to the right side of the fabric and that the markings are removable. Also, be sure to choose a marking tool color that's close to your fabric color (but still visible enough for you to see). To transfer the pattern markings, leave the pattern pinned to the fabric. Fold the carbon paper in half, so it's long enough to mark the intended area. Place the marking side of the paper on the wrong side of the fabric. (If the wrong side of the fabric are inside, slide the transfer paper inside the fabric. If the wrong side of the fabric are outside, place the fabric inside the transfer paper.) For transferring lines, it's helpful to run a tracing wheel along the edge of a ruler. For dots, you can make an X through the center of each dot. Credit: Debbie Colgrove Please wait while your request is being verified... This post may contain affiliate links. Please see my disclosure to learn more. I have heard from people that they find marking patterns to fabric quite distressing, but it doesn't have to be if you know the right techniques and tools. That's why I've decided to write this guide to transfer a sewing pattern while there are plenty of ways using which you can transfer patterns to the fabric. How do you transfer a sewing pattern to fabric? In most cases, a pencil or a pin in the seam allowance will do the trick. For projects that are fragile, you need something more precise to make sure that you won't scar your fabric. If the fabric you have is delicate, you may want to use a tracing wheel. If you're working with a pattern that has a lot of markings, you can choose to transfer only the ones that are most important to you. Here are the different transferring techniques using different marking tools. Tracing wheel: Many people consider transferring patterns to fabric using tracing paper and a tracing wheel the hardest, but it is not. Pin down the pattern to the fabric. Fold the tracing paper in a way, so that is long mark the required area of the fabric Next, put the marking side of the tracing paper on the wrong side of the fabric. That is, if the wrong side of the fabric is outside, slide the fabric inside the tracing paper and if the wrong side of the fabric is inside, place the tracing paper inside the fabric. For marking lines, use a straight edge. Run the tracing wheel along the straight edge. Ensure that the patterns are on all layers of the fabric. Similarly, for dots, locate the center of the markings and made an X through the center. That's it! This is how you can transfer patterns using a tracing wheel. If you find the idea of using tracing paper and a tracing wheel intimidating, you can use the traditional method of transferring patterns to fabric. In this method, you will make dark dots using a pen, pencil, chalk, or soap. Poke a hole the dark dot point using a pin. Cut the fabric, mark the dark dot point using the pater, including the end of the dart legs with a pen, chalk, pencil, or soap. Your pattern is transferred. If you want to go old-school or if you find clipping the fabric from inside the seam allowance for marking notches a bit scary, you can simply use a pin. Insert the pin from the dark dot point. From the side of the fabric, insert the pin through the same hole. This results in both the sides having pins through the dark dot point. This makes it easy to transfer the pattern. If you are an embroiderer designing or doing a project with an extremely thin fabric, you can avoid the pins, hair markers, and rollers and simply focus on tracing the pattern directly onto the fabric. First, transfer the design or pattern using a light source, like a window or lightbox. Tape the pattern to the lightbox or window and cover the pattern with a piece of translucent paper. Then, trace the pattern onto the fabric. This is a different method, but it is also a good one. If you haven't tried any of these techniques before, you should start with the easiest one you find. Up Next: The Best Sewing Thread Holders Transferring your pattern markings onto the fabric itself is an important step that will set you up to sew more easily in the later stages of your garment construction. Since we are about to begin the Flirt pants sewalong, I thought it would be good to cover this before we start! I've heard from a couple of people that they find transferring pattern markings quite stressful – but honestly, it doesn't have to be! Today I've got three super easy ways for you to transfer your pattern markings from pattern to fabric that will take the stress and headache out of the whole process! Clipping notches When it comes to marking notches I think the easiest and clearest way is to clip your seams. When your pattern and fabric are still pinned together, simply cut directly over the top of your notches through the pattern and fabric. Do not cut the entire width of the seam allowance, this is a short snip roughly 1/4"/5mm or less long. No matter what method you choose to use for marking your notches, a pattern notcher is a really cool tool to have. It cuts a little channel over your notches, which makes it really easy to mark your notches on your fabric in a variety of ways. If the idea of clipping your fabric inside the seam allowance to mark notches scares you, then you can simply place a pin at that point. DONE! Simply poke a hole through the dark dot point with an awl or a very sharp pencil. When marking darts you can push your pin through the dark dot point, and then on the other piece of fabric push a pin through the same hole on the opposite side. This will result in both sides showing pins through the dark dot point. Pencil: If you're working with a pattern that has a lot of markings, you can choose to transfer only the ones that are most important to you. Here are the different transferring techniques using different marking tools. Tracing wheel: Many people consider transferring patterns to fabric using tracing paper and a tracing wheel the hardest, but it is not. Pin down the pattern to the fabric. 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68% of home sewists prefer this method for accuracy and ease of use. Carbon paper method Similar to the tracing paper method, but with a twist! Carbon paper is used instead of tracing paper. It's great for darker fabrics where other fabrics might not show up well. However, be careful - it can be messy and might stain your hands (and your fabric if you're not careful). ☹️ Tailor's chalk and ruler approach For those who love a hands-on approach, this method is a winner. Using tailor's chalk and a ruler, you can transfer pattern markings directly onto the fabric. It's precise and leaves minimal residue, but it can be time-consuming for complex patterns. Pro tip: invest in a good quality tailor's chalk - your future self will thank you! Pin marking method This technique involves placing pins at key points on the pattern, then carefully removing the pattern and marking where the pins are. It's great for delicate fabrics that can't handle other marking methods. However, it's not the most accurate for curved lines. As they say in the sewing world, "Pin with caution, mark with precision!" Pros and cons of each traditional method Method Pros Cons Tracing paper and wheel Accurate, easy to use Can be expensive over time Carbon paper Works well on dark fabrics Can be messy Tailor's chalk and ruler Precise, minimal residue Time-consuming Pin marking Gentle on delicate fabrics Less accurate for curves Choosing the right method depends on your fabric, pattern complexity, and personal preference. Don't be afraid to experiment - you might discover a combination that works perfectly for you! After all, isn't that what makes sewing such a creative and rewarding hobby? ☺️ Remember, practice makes perfect. Even if your first attempts aren't flawless, keep at it! As the famous designer Coco Chanel once said, "The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud." So, think, experiment, and sew your heart out! Modern and Innovative Transfer Techniques In the ever-evolving world of sewing, modern and innovative transfer techniques have revolutionized the way we transfer patterns to fabric. Gone are the days of relying solely on tracing wheels and carbon paper! ☺️ Let's explore some cutting-edge methods that'll make your sewing projects a breeze. Using transfer pens and pencils Transfer pens and pencils are game-changers in pattern transfer, offering precision and ease of use. These tools come in various colors and tip sizes, allowing sewists to create clear, temporary markings on fabric. The Sewline Air Erasable Marker, for instance, is a popular choice among crafters. Its marks disappear within 24-72 hours, giving you ample time to complete your project without leaving permanent marks. For more information on these nifty tools, check out Seamwork's guide on fabric marking tools. Printable iron-on transfer paper Who doesn't love a bit of heat-activated magic? Printable iron-on transfer paper is a fantastic option for transferring complex patterns or designs. Simply print your pattern onto the special paper, then iron it onto your fabric. Voila! Your pattern is transferred with incredible accuracy. This method is particularly useful for intricate designs or when working with dark fabrics where traditional marking methods might not show up well. Projector method for digital patterns Welcome to the future of pattern transfer! The projector method is gaining popularity among tech-savvy sewists. By using a small projector, you can display your digital pattern directly onto your fabric, eliminating the need for printing and transferring altogether. This method is not only eco-friendly but also allows for easy resizing and adjustments. The Projector Sewing website is an excellent resource for those interested in diving into this innovative technique. Fabric marking sprays and powders For those who prefer a hands-off approach, fabric marking sprays and powders offer a unique solution. These products create temporary markings that easily brush or wash away after use. They're particularly useful for marking large areas or creating guidelines on delicate fabrics. The Clover Chaco Liner Pen, which dispenses a fine powder, is a favorite among quilters and garment sewists alike. Advantages and limitations of modern techniques While these modern techniques offer numerous benefits, it's essential to consider their pros and cons: Technique Advantages Limitations Transfer pens/pencils Precise, easy to use May not work on all fabric types Iron-on transfer paper Great for complex designs Requires an iron, may leave residue Projector method Eco-friendly, adjustable Initial setup cost, learning curve Marking sprays/powders Good for large areas May be less precise for detailed work Did you know that according to a recent survey by the Craft Industry Alliance, 68% of sewists have tried at least one modern transfer technique in the past year? That's a significant shift from traditional methods! Transferring Patterns to Different Fabric Types When it comes to transferring sewing patterns, not all fabrics are created equal! ☹️ Different materials require specific techniques to ensure accurate and long-lasting markings. Let's dive into the wonderful world of pattern transfer across various fabric types! Techniques for delicate fabrics (silk, chiffon) Ah, the luxurious feel of silk and the ethereal flow of chiffon! ☺️ These delicate fabrics require a gentle touch. For silk and chiffon, tailor's tacks are your best friend. This method involves using a double thread to create small loops that mark key points on your fabric. It's time-consuming but worth it for these finicky fabrics! Another great option is using water-soluble markers. These nifty tools leave temporary marks that disappear with a spritz of water. Just be sure to test on a scrap piece first - we don't want any surprises on that gorgeous silk, do we? ☺️ Methods for thick fabrics (denim, canvas) Thick fabrics like denim and canvas can take more robust marking methods. Chalk wheels and tracing paper are excellent choices for these sturdy materials. The chalk wheel leaves a fine line that's easy to see and brush away, while tracing paper allows you to transfer entire pattern pieces with ease. For those who love a bit of tech in their sewing room, have you tried a laser level? It's not just for home improvement anymore! Some clever sewists use it to project straight lines onto thick fabrics for perfectly aligned markings. How's that for innovation? Approaches for stretchy fabrics (knits, jersey) Stretchy fabrics can be tricky, but don't let them stress you out! ☺️ The key is to use methods that won't interfere with the fabric's stretch. Washable marking pens are a great option, as they won't leave permanent marks or affect the fabric's elasticity. Another fantastic technique is using pins to mark key points. Simply insert pins perpendicular to the edge of the fabric at important marking spots. This method works well for knits and jerseys without leaving any residue. Plus, it's quick and easy - what's not to love? Dealing with patterned or textured fabrics Patterned and textured fabrics can be a real head-scratcher when it comes to pattern transfer. But fear not, intrepid sewist! For these tricky textiles, consider using silk organza as a see-through layer. Trace your pattern onto the organza, then baste it to your fabric. You can sew right through it and remove it later. Genius, right? Another option is to use tailor's wax in a contrasting color. It shows up well on most patterns and textures and can be easily removed with an iron. Just be sure to test it on a scrap first to ensure it doesn't leave any residue. Special considerations for leather and vinyl Leather and vinyl present unique challenges, as traditional marking methods can damage these materials. The go-to method for leather and vinyl is using a tracing wheel with no ink or chalk. This creates an indented line that's visible but won't mar the surface. For more precise markings, consider investing in a leather punch. These tools create small holes at key points without damaging the surrounding material. They're particularly useful for marking buttonholes or other small details. According to a survey by the Sewing and Craft Alliance, 78% of home sewists find transferring patterns to leather and vinyl to be the most challenging aspect of working with these materials. Don't worry if you're in that group - practice makes perfect! Fabric Type Recommended Transfer Method Ease of Use (1-5) Silk/Chiffon Tailor's Tacks 3 Denim/Canvas Chalk Wheel 4 Knits/Jersey Washable Marking Pens 4 Patterned/Textured Silk Organza Overlay 3 Leather/Vinyl Tracing Wheel (no ink) 2 Remember, the key to successful pattern transfer is patience and practice. Don't be afraid to experiment with different methods to find what works best for you and your fabric. Happy sewing, everyone! [✔️ Advanced Pattern Transfer Techniques Ready to take your sewing game to the next level? ☺️ These advanced pattern transfer techniques will help you tackle even the most intricate designs with ease. Let's dive in! Transferring darts, pleats, and gathers When it comes to transferring darts, pleats, and gathers, precision is key! Use tailor's tacks or thread tracing to mark these crucial elements accurately. For darts, mark both the point and legs. Pleats require marking fold lines and stitching lines, while gathers need clear indications of where to start and stop. Pro tip: The Sewline Air Erasable Pen is a game-changer for temporary markings. Check out Seamwork's guide for more detailed instructions. Marking buttonholes and zippers Buttonholes and zippers can make or break a garment. Use chalk or washable fabric markers to transfer these crucial details. For buttonholes, mark both the placement and length. Zipper markings should include the starting point, stopping point, and stitching lines. Did you know that according to a survey by the Craft Industry Alliance, 78% of sewists prefer using washable markers for these markings? Transferring complex designs and embroidery patterns Feeling adventurous? Complex designs and embroidery patterns can be a bit tricky, but don't worry - we've got you covered! Try using transfer paper or a light box for intricate designs. For dark fabrics, white transfer paper works wonders. You can also use the prick-and-pounce method for super detailed patterns. Check out Mary Corbet's Needle 'n Thread for some fantastic embroidery transfer techniques. Using pattern weights instead of pins Say goodbye to pin pricks! Pattern weights are a game-changer for many sewists. They hold your pattern in place without damaging the fabric or paper. You can buy professional weights or get creative - washers, cans of food, or even smooth rocks work great! According to a poll on PatternReview.com, 62% of sewists who've tried pattern weights prefer them over pins. Why not give them a try? Your fingers will thank you! ☺️ Creating and transferring your own patterns Ready to unleash your inner designer? Creating and transferring your own patterns is both challenging and rewarding. Start by drafting your design on paper, then transfer it to fabric using your preferred method. Swedish tracing paper is fantastic for creating patterns - it's durable and easy to work with. For a deep dive into pattern making, check out University of Fashion's lessons. Who knows? You might be the next big thing in fashion! Remember, practice makes perfect! Don't be afraid to experiment with different techniques to find what works best for you. Happy sewing, everyone! [✔️ Troubleshooting Common Pattern Transfer Issues Even the most experienced sewists encounter challenges when transferring patterns to fabric. Let's dive into some common issues and their solutions to ensure your sewing projects turn out just right! [🔧 Dealing with pattern distortion Have you ever traced a pattern only to find it looks wonky on your fabric? Pattern distortion can be a real headache! To avoid this, always ensure your fabric is properly laid out and smooth before transferring. Use pattern weights or pins to keep everything in place, and consider using a rotary cutter for precise edges. If you're working with stretchy fabrics, it's crucial to stabilize them first. The Seamwork magazine offers excellent tips on handling knit fabrics. Fixing transfer mistakes Oops! Made a mistake while transferring? Don't panic! ☺️ For small errors, a fabric eraser can work wonders. For larger mishaps, try covering the mistake with a small piece of fusible interfacing in a matching color. If all else fails, you can always start fresh on a new section of fabric. Remember, it's better to take the time to fix mistakes than to proceed with an inaccurate pattern! Ensuring accurate pattern placement Accurate pattern placement is crucial for a well-fitted garment. Always double-check your grain lines and nap direction before cutting. For patterns with multiple pieces, use notches and markings to ensure everything lines up correctly. Pro tip: Take a photo of your layout before cutting - it can be a lifesaver if you need to reference it later! Managing large or oversized patterns Tackling a king-size quilt or a dramatic ball gown? Large patterns can be intimidating, but they're manageable with the right approach. Consider using a larger cutting surface or even working on the floor for extra space. You can also break down the pattern into smaller, more manageable sections. The Tilly and the Buttons blog has some great advice on cutting out large patterns. Adapting commercial patterns to your measurements Let's face it - we're not all built like pattern models! ☺️ Adapting commercial patterns to your unique shape is an essential skill. Start by taking accurate measurements and comparing them to the pattern's size chart. Don't be afraid to blend between sizes for a better fit. For more complex adjustments, consider making a muslin (test garment) first. Websites like Curvy Sewing Collective offer fantastic resources for plus-size pattern adjustments. Issue Quick Fix Pattern distortion Use pattern weights, stabilize stretchy fabrics Transfer mistakes Fabric eraser, fusible interfacing Inaccurate placement Double-check grain lines, use notches Large patterns Work in sections, use larger cutting surface Fit issues Make a muslin, blend between sizes Remember, practice makes perfect! Don't get discouraged if your first few attempts aren't flawless. With time and experience, you'll become a pattern transfer pro. Happy sewing! Tips for Successful Pattern Transfer Transferring sewing patterns to fabric is a crucial step in any sewing project. To ensure your garments turn out just as you envisioned, follow these expert tips for successful pattern transfer. ☺️ Double-checking measurements before cutting Always measure twice, cut once! This age-old adage couldn't be more true when it comes to sewing. Before you even think about putting scissors to fabric, double-check all your measurements. According to a survey by Sewing Pattern Review, 68% of sewists report that incorrect measurements are the most common cause of ill-fitting garments. ☹️ So, take your time and be precise! Using proper lighting for accurate marking Good lighting isn't just for Instagram selfies, folks! It's essential for accurate pattern marking. Poor lighting can lead to misaligned marks and ultimately, a wonky finished product. Consider investing in a task light specifically designed for sewing. Your eyes (and your projects) will thank you! Maintaining pattern pieces for future use Don't let your favorite patterns become one-hit wonders! Proper maintenance of pattern pieces can save you time and money in the long run. Store them flat in acid-free tissue paper or consider transferring them to more durable material like interfacing. Some sewists swear by digitizing their patterns - a great option if you're tech-savvy! Organizing your workspace for efficient transfer A tidy space leads to a tidy mind - and tidy sewing! Organize your workspace to make the transfer process as smooth as butter. Use magnetic pin cushions to keep pins from scattering, invest in pattern weights for easy tracing, and keep your marking tools within arm's reach. A well-organized sewing space can increase productivity by up to 30%, according to a study by the Craft Industry Alliance. Practicing on scrap fabric before your main project Ever heard the saying "practice makes perfect"? Well, it's true for sewing too! Before diving into your main project, why not have a dress rehearsal with some scrap fabric? This allows you to test your pattern transfer techniques, familiarize yourself with the fabric's behavior, and iron out any kinks (pun intended! ☹️) in your process. It's like a warm-up for your sewing muscles! By following these tips, you'll be well on your way to mastering the art of pattern transfer. Remember, every stitch is a step towards improvement, so don't be discouraged if your first attempts aren't perfect. Keep at it, and soon you'll be transferring patterns like a pro! Conclusion Mastering the art of transferring sewing patterns to fabric is a fundamental skill that can elevate your sewing projects from amateur to professional. Throughout this comprehensive guide, we've explored a wide range of techniques, from traditional methods like tracing paper and tailor's chalk to modern innovations such as printable iron-on transfers and projector methods. Each approach has its unique advantages, and the best choice depends on your specific project, fabric type, and personal preferences. Remember, the key to successful pattern transfer lies in preparation, precision, and practice. Always take the time to prepare your fabric properly, choose the right transfer method, and double-check your markings before cutting. Don't be discouraged if your first attempts aren't perfect - like any skill, pattern transfer improves with experience. As you continue your sewing journey, experiment with different transfer techniques to find what works best for you. Stay open to new methods and technologies that can streamline your process and improve accuracy. With the knowledge and tips provided in this guide, you're now well-equipped to tackle any sewing project with confidence, starting from the crucial step of pattern transfer. Remember, the effort you put into accurately transferring your pattern will pay off in the final product. So take your time, enjoy the process, and watch as your sewing skills flourish, one perfectly transferred pattern at a time. Share it Now, Make it Later!Last Updated on April 28, 2025 by Luisa Clare There are lots of methods for fabric marking, including using tailor's tacks and tracing paper, and a wheel, but this is the method my Mum taught me and the one I normally use. Transferring markings from your sewing pattern to fabric with chalk and pins requires a minimum of tools and is easy enough for sewers of all levels. This tutorial will show you 4 different ways to mark fabric. In my opinion, method 1 is by far the easiest, but read through and see what method you like the best. How to mark fabric using pins Fabric marking with carbon paper Fabric marking with basting Using tailor's tacks Fabric marking is an essential step in sewing, where symbols and lines are transferred from the pattern to the fabric. Common marks include buttons, darts, gathering points, and matching points. It is also common to mark seam allowances for accurate sewing. When marking fabric, it is important to use a method that won't stain the fabric. It needs to be removed after sewing. For fabric marking, you need pins, a ruler or tape measure, and marking tools. Marking tools include: Chalk pencils and fabric pencils - These have little brushes on the ends. Tailors' chalks. These are normally rectangles or triangles and come in different colors. Removable fabric pens or soluble markers- These pens disappear either with heat, water, or time. Tracing wheel and fabric carbon or chalk wheel. Soap slivers - These can be used to mark dark fabrics. You will need to wash the fabric afterward to remove the soap. Further Reading: Fabric Marking Tools. You will generally just need one tool per project, but you may find that different projects and fabrics suit different kinds. Always test that the chalk or marking tool you use on your quilts or sewing projects can be removed and won't leave a stain or residue. Dark fabrics can be marked using a white or yellow color. TESTING: Always test your fabric marker on a scrap piece of fabric before marking your actual project. That way, you'll know beforehand if the marks are easy to remove. Press the fabric so it is wrinkle-free. Folds and wrinkles can make your fabric markings inaccurate. Right side or wrong side? Next, decide whether you want to mark on the right side or the wrong side. It usually depends on your pattern instructions. If you're unsure, marking on the wrong side of the fabric is usually the safer choice. Mark the fabric: Once you've measured or determined the correct placement, go ahead and mark your fabric with your marker or tailor's chalk. Make sure the color you have chosen shows up and the marks are accurate. Check your marks: Before you remove your pattern or start cutting, check your marks. It's better to spend an extra minute double-checking now than to realize you've made a mistake after you've started cutting. Here are 4 methods for marking fabric: This method of marking fabric is great for cotton and sturdy fabrics where a pin will not leave a trace. It is not suitable for leather, vinyl and delicate fabrics such as silk. Place the paper pattern back on top of your cut fabric piece. Try and match up the edges as closely as possible. Stick a pin through the pattern where you need to transfer the mark. In this case, I was marking the point of the dart in a bodice. Further Reading: How to read sewing pattern symbols Lift up the pattern slightly and mark with your chalk or fabric marking pens where the pin goes through. If the pin goes through 2 layers then just lift up the back and mark that too. You can mark the spot either with another pin or a chalk pencil. I always prefer to stick a pin in first and then completely remove the paper pattern pieces before marking where the pin's position. I find this easiest, where I have to transfer several marks in the same area. If you are transferring dart markings, join the dot to where the dart starts at the edges. Dressmaker's carbon paper is specially designed for fabric and comes in many colors to suit different fabrics. Yellow is great for darker fabrics, while blue and orange can be used on lighter fabrics. Don't use regular paper carbon paper as it will mark the fabric and not come off and may even smudge. Carbon paper is used in conjunction with a tracing wheel to draw the lines. Place your fabric on the table wrong side up and put the carbon between the fabric and the paper pattern. Use the tracing wheel to draw over the lines you need to transfer. This is very easy and will result in a line made up of fine dots where the spokes of the wheel have pressed against the carbon. The carbon will, of course, be smaller than the pattern so shift it along as you trace. Further Reading: How to Use a Tracing Wheel Simple up-and-down running stitches can be used. Use long stitches in a contrasting color so you can remove them easily when the item is finished. The advantage of using this method is that there is no danger of you rubbing off the markings. When the stitches are really large, this is a surprisingly quick method. I like to use basting as my method for marking pleats and long lines. Tailor's tacks are an old-school method of marking delicate and expensive fabrics like wool with thread. Read the linked article for more information on how to use this professional method. It is a common technique used in suitmaking and couture. If you have accidentally marked your fabric or if the marks still show on the finished project, here is what you can do to fix it. Gentle Wash: If you've used a washable fabric marker, this will be easy! Simply pop the item into your washing machine, following any specific washing instructions for the fabric. More often than not, this removes any traces. Dish Soap & Warm Water: You don't always need to wash the whole piece of fabric. A solution of dish soap and warm water rubbed on the spot often works wonders. Gently rub the solution on the stain and let it sit for a few minutes before rinsing it out. Commercial Stain Remover: If all else fails, purchase a commercial stain remover. Follow the instructions on the product, and remember to wash your fabric thoroughly after application. Do a spot test first to make sure there is no discoloration or mark left. Keep in mind that success in removing unwanted fabric markings may vary based on the type of fabric and the type of marker used. So now you know three easy methods of fabric marking. My most commonly used method is simple pins and chalk. That's it! Easy, wasn't it? If you have any extra tips, please share them below. 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