



The strapless fitted bodice pattern

### Draft the strapless fitted bodice pattern

Use the basic dress pattern to create a strapless fitted bodice pattern.

The strapless fitted bodice pattern includes **0 cm** ease for **CG** and **1 cm** ease for **WG**.

The ease must be adjusted on the basis dress pattern. The adjustments depend on the ease you have included in the basic dress pattern.

For example, the basic dress pattern includes:

- 3,5 cm ease for  $\frac{1}{2}$  CG
- 2,5 cm ease for  $\frac{1}{2}$  WG
- Raise the hemline of the basic dress pattern to the waistline.
- Move the side seams of the front and the back panel inwards.
  - Move the side seam at the armhole **1 cm** inwards on the front and the back panel.
  - Calculate: **(ease of  $\frac{1}{2}$  WG - 0,5 cm)/2**  
 In this example:  $(2,5 \text{ cm} - 0,5 \text{ cm})/2 = 1 \text{ cm}$ .  
 Move the side seam at the waistline **1 cm** inwards at the front and the back panel.

In this example:

For CG:  **$3,5 \text{ cm} - 1 \text{ cm} - 1 \text{ cm} = 1,5 \text{ cm}$** . So the remaining ease is  **$2 \times 1,5 \text{ cm} = 3 \text{ cm}$**  at the full **CG**. (

3 cm will be removed from:

- the CB
- optionally / partially at the dart seam of the back panel
- the remaining ease is taken from the dart seam of the front panel.

For WG:  **$0,5 \text{ cm} \times 2 \text{ cm} = 1 \text{ cm}$**  ease remains. We will keep this ease.

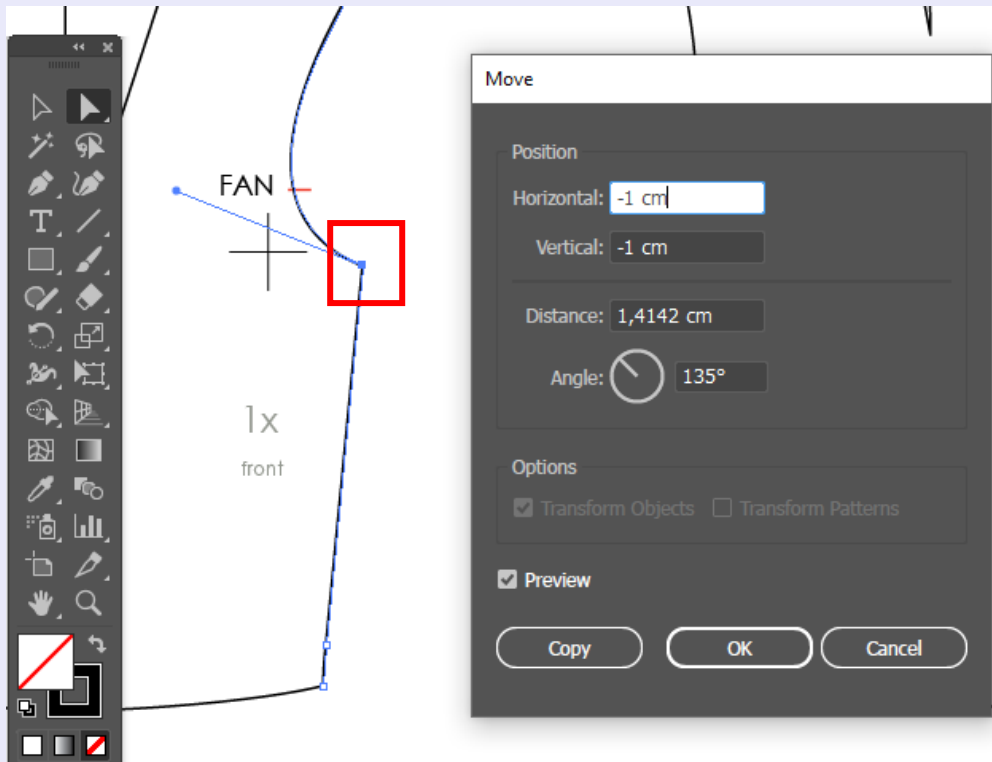
- Raise the armhole at the side seam by 1 cm.

- In the Menu bar, go to **File > Open** to open the file of the basic dress pattern.
- Adjust the basic pattern to the desired length as learned in a previous lesson. In this example the hemline will be raised to the waistline.

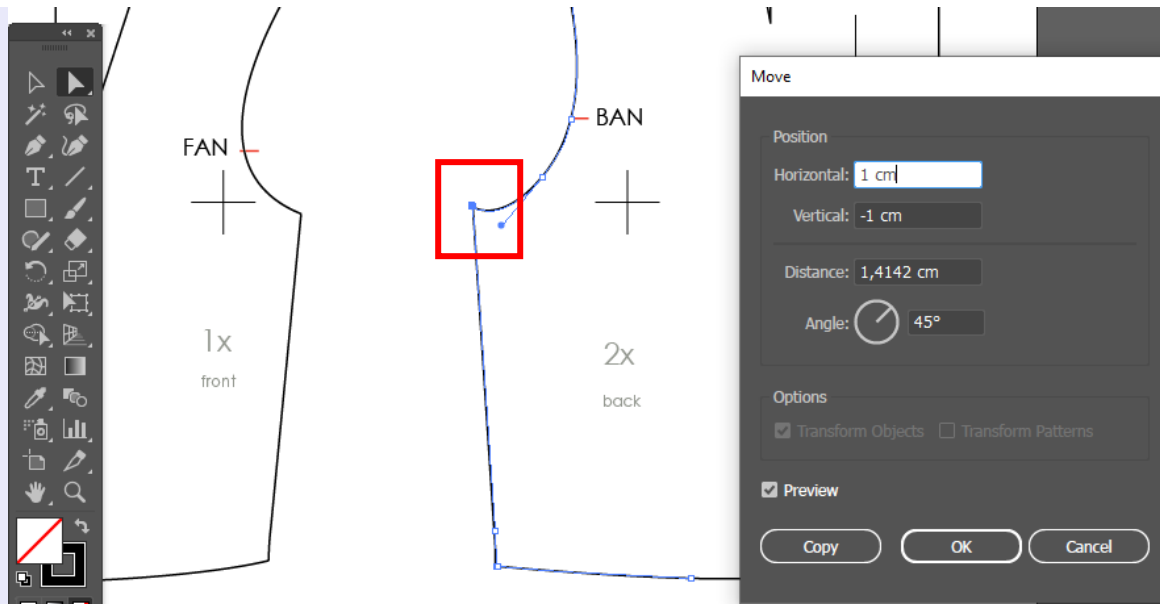
To move the side seam at the armhole inwards and to raise the armhole:



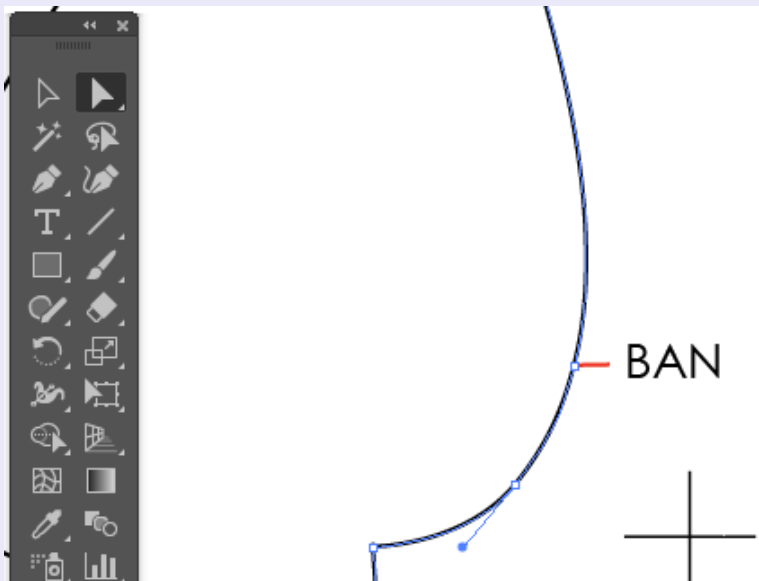
- Select the Direct Selection tool [A] from the Tools panel.
- Drag a 'frame' around the anchor points in the lower corner of the armhole of the front panel to select them.
- Press **Enter** to open the Move panel. For **Horizontal** type: **-1 cm**. For **Vertical** type: **-1 cm**. Click **OK**.



- Drag a 'frame' around the anchor points in the lower corner of the armhole of the back panel to select them.
- Press **Enter** to open the Move panel. For **Horizontal** type: **1 cm**. For **Vertical** type: **-1 cm**. Click **OK**.



- Adjust the shape of the armhole by dragging the handle using the Direct Selection tool [A].



- The distance between the neckline and bustline depends on the body shape. For example, the distance can be 8 - 11 cm. Measure the distance from the bust point upwards.
- Widen the right dart leg by 1 cm to fit it closer to the body. This adjustment is also necessary due to the raised armhole.



- Draw the dart seam (see the image below). Check that both dart legs are the same length. Because the dart seam ends at the waistline, the dart seam has become a panel seam. The pattern pieces are now separated.
- Draw the neckline and armhole for the front and the back panel as desired. The end of the line is perpendicular to CB.
- Reduce the  $\frac{1}{2}$  CG by **1 cm** to remove the remaining ease.
- Draw the dart seam on the back panel to the top of the pattern. Make the dart seam here 1 cm wide.

*Note: This adjustment is optional. Depending on the body shape or fit of the pattern, the adjustment may be ignored or may be as small as 0,5 cm.*

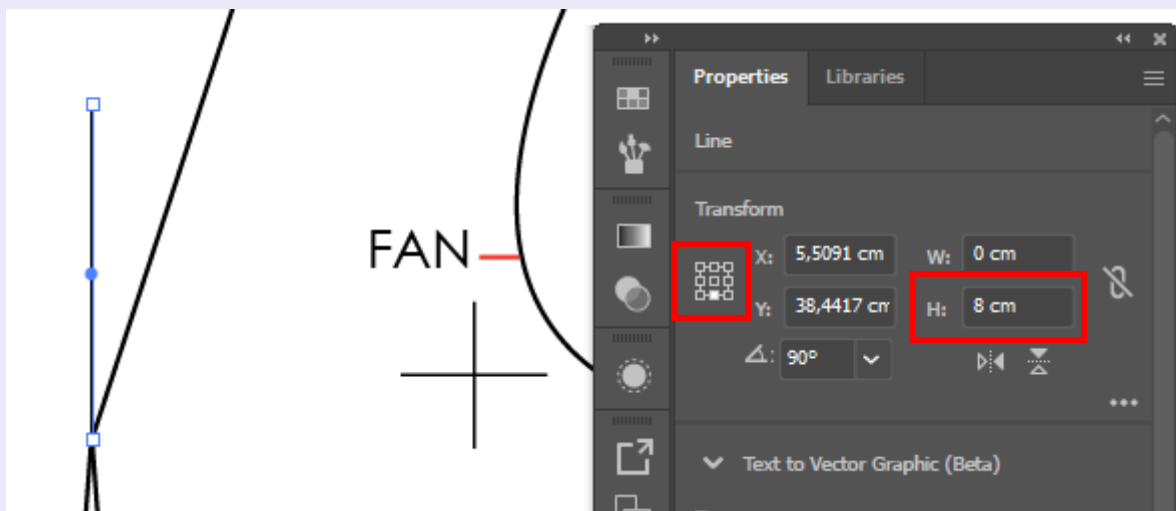
- Draw the dart seams on the back panel.

- Select the Selection tool [V] from the Tools panel.
- Click on the left dart leg of the front panel to select it. The height of the neckline depends on the length of this dart leg.
- In the Properties panel, click on one of the bottom boxes to set the reference point.

**Or...**

In the Menu bar, go to **Window > Transform**. In the Transform panel, click on one of the bottom boxes to set the reference point.

- Under Transform, for Height ("H") type: **the desired distance between the bustline and the neckline**. In this example: 8 cm.





- Select the Direct Selection tool [**A**] from the Tools panel.
- Click on the top anchor point of the right dart leg to select it.

*If the upper part of the dart leg is connected to the lower part of the dart leg, cut it first.*

*To cut the line:*

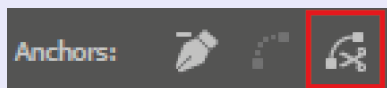
*Click on the anchor point with the Scissors tool [**C**] to cut the line segments.*

**Or...**

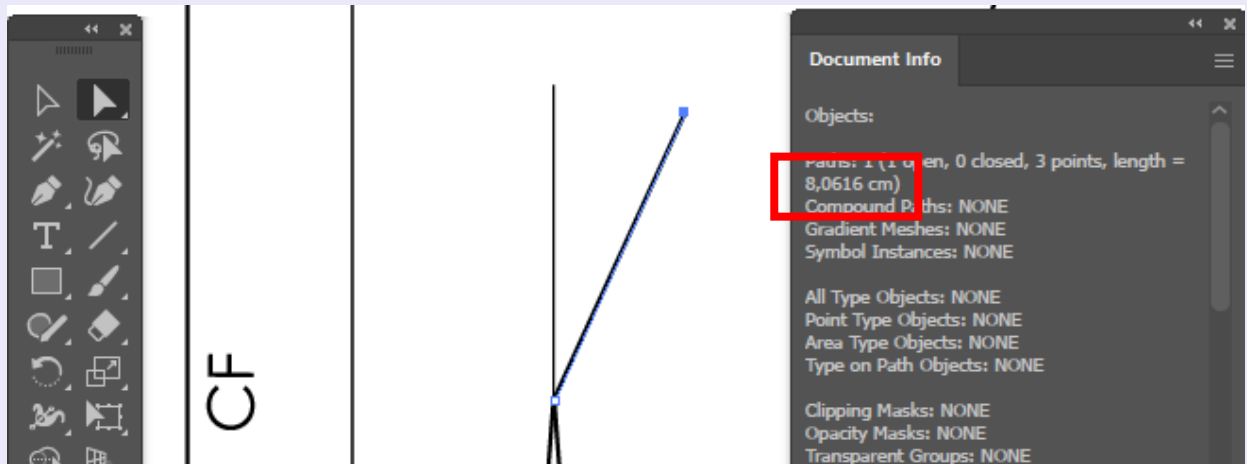
*In the Tools panel, select the Direct Selection tool [**A**].*

*Click on the anchor point to select it.*

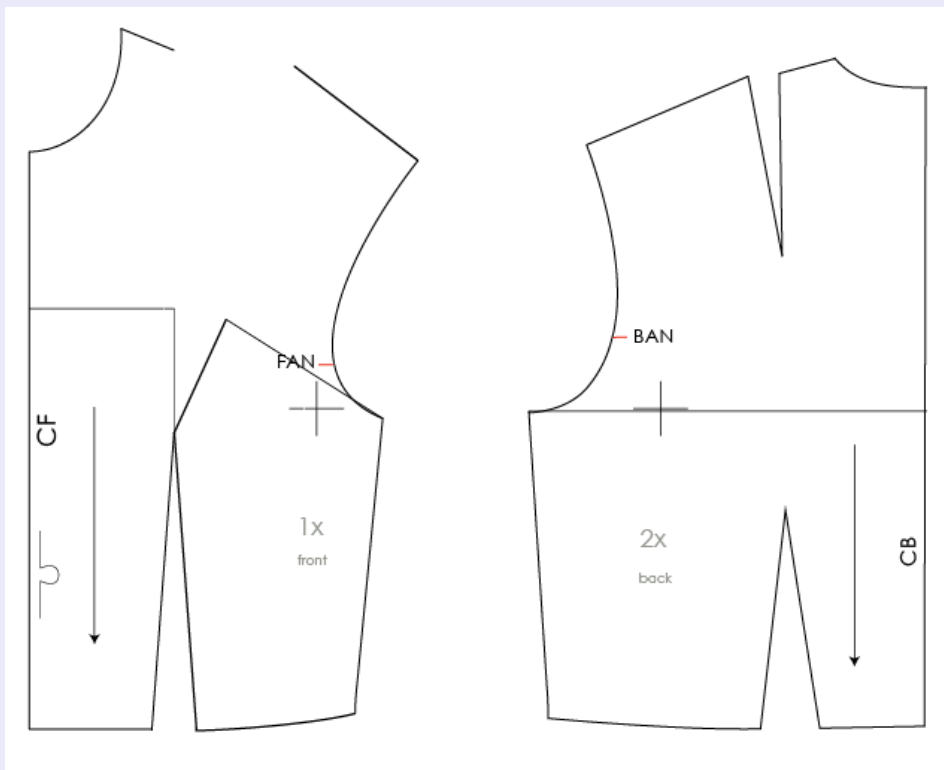
*Then click on the third "Anchors" icon (see image below) in the Options Bar or Properties Panel to cut the line segments.*



- Click and drag it downwards (in the same direction as the dart leg) to shorten the dart leg.
- In the **Document Info panel > extra options > Objects**, check that the length is the same as the left dart leg. In this example: 8 cm. If it is not, adjust the dart leg again.
- Press **Enter** to open the Move panel. For **Horizontal** type: **1 cm**. For **Vertical** type: **0 cm**. Click **OK**.
- Again, adjust the length of the dart leg until it is the same as the left dart leg. In this example: 8 cm.



- Select the Pen tool [P] from the Tools panel.
- Define the shape of the neckline (for example: straight, sweetheart, etc.) To draw the neckline:
  - Click on the top of the left dart leg in the front panel. Click on the CF line. Click the **Esc** key to end the line.
  - Click on the top of the right dart leg in the front panel. Click on the armhole in the front panel. Click the **Esc** key to end the line.
  - Click on the armhole on the back panel. Click on the CB line, hold the left mouse button, hold the **Shift** key and drag to make the line perpendicular to the CB line. Click the **Esc** key to end the line.





- Select the Direct Selection tool [**A**] from the Tools panel.
- Click on the top anchor point of the CB line to select it.

*If the line is connected to another line, cut it first.  
To cut the line:*

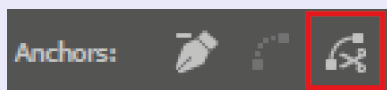
*Click on the anchor point with the Scissors tool [**C**] to cut the line segments.*

**Or...**

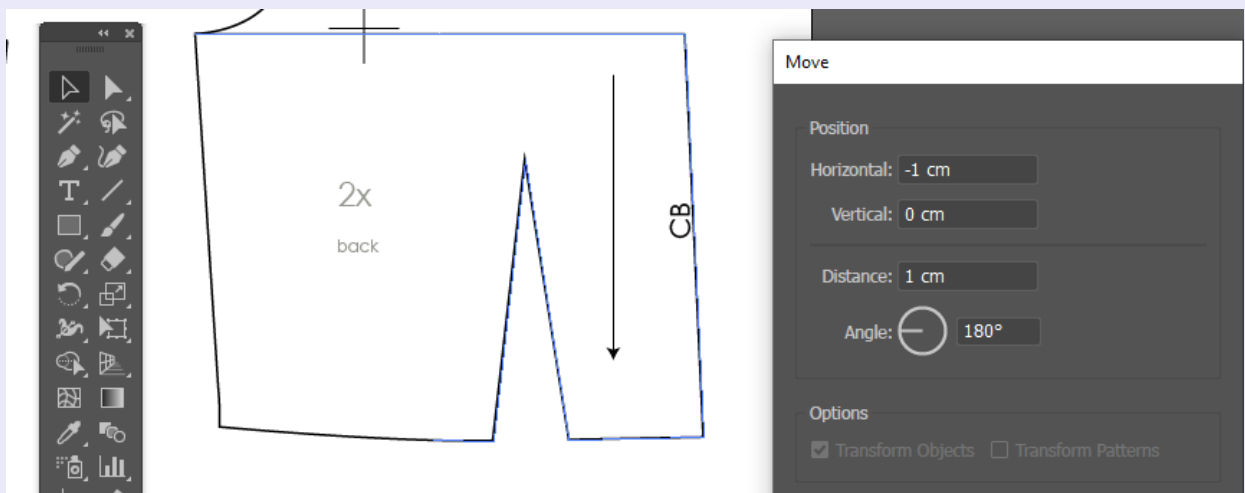
*In the Tools panel, select the Direct Selection tool [**A**].*

*Click on the anchor point to select it.*

*Then click on the third “Anchors” icon (see image below) in the Options Bar or Properties Panel to cut the line segments.*



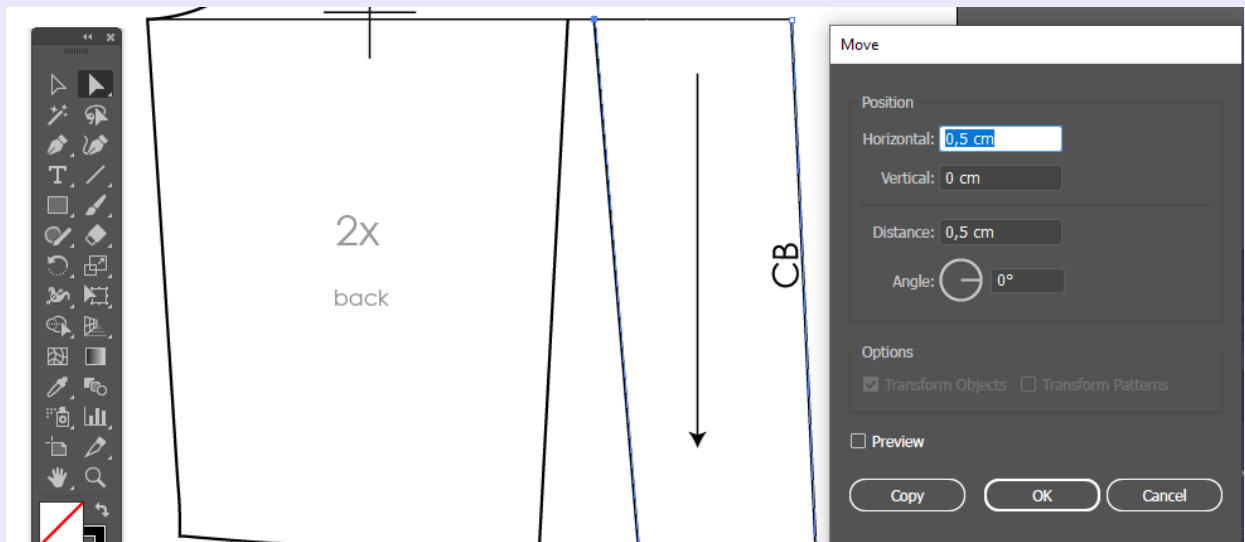
- Click and drag down, while holding the Shift key, until the line is on the bustline.
- Drag a 'frame' around the top of the CB line to select the anchor points at the corner.
- Press **Enter** to open the Move panel. For **Horizontal** type: **-1 cm**. For **Vertical** type: **0 cm**. Click **OK**.



- Drag a 'frame' around the dart point on the back panel to select it.



- Click, hold the left mouse button, hold the **Shift** key and drag the dart point to the bustline.
- Click **Ctrl Shift A** (Mac: Command Shift A) to deselect.
- Click on the top anchor point of the left dart leg to select it. (If the line is connected to another line, cut it first.)
- Press **Enter** to open the Move panel. For **Horizontal** type: **-0,5 cm**. For **Vertical** type: **0 cm**. Click **OK**.
- Click on the top anchor point of the right dart leg to select it.
- Press **Enter** to open the Move panel. For **Horizontal** type: **0,5 cm**. For **Vertical** type: **0 cm**. Click **OK**.



- If the pattern needs to be even more fitted, space must be taken from the waist. In this case: draw a vertical line from BAN to the waistline. On this point at the waistline, remove 1 cm.
- Cut the pattern and put the pattern pieces back together.

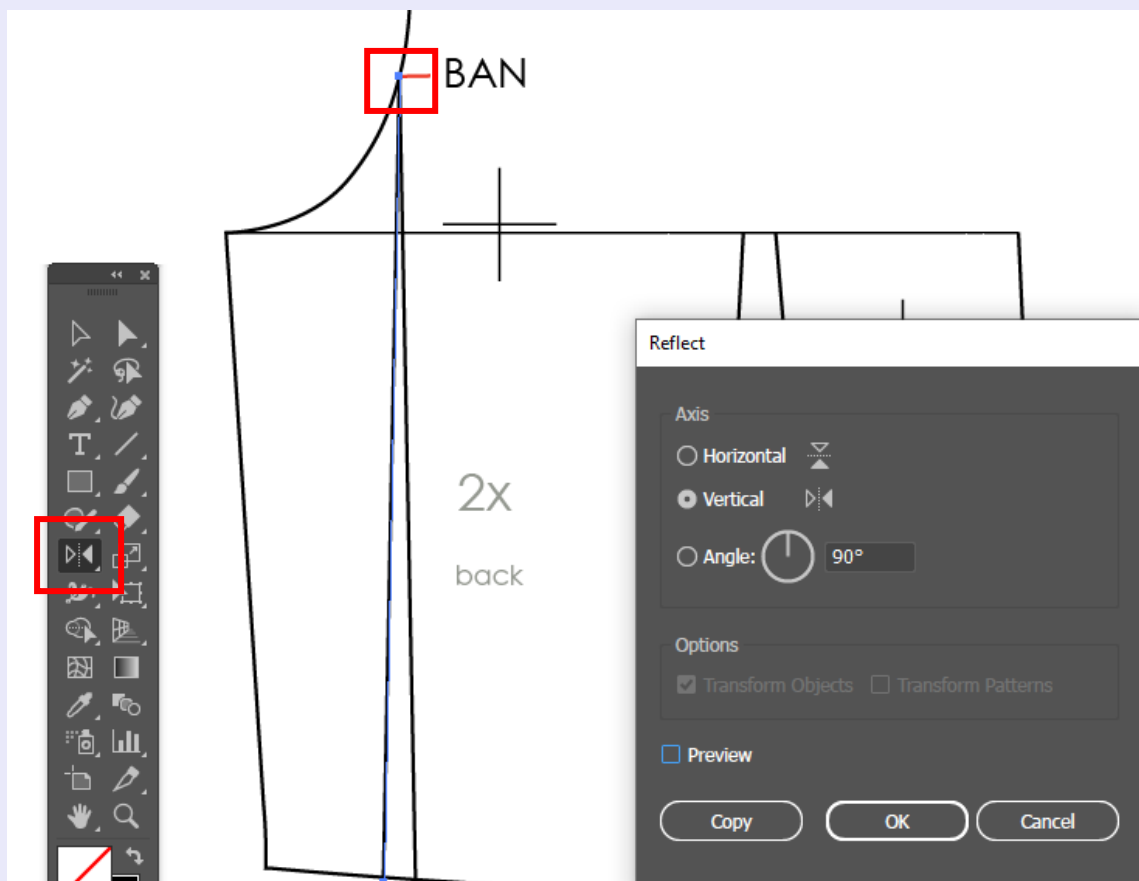
If the pattern needs to be fitted even more:

- Select the Line Segment tool [**\**] from the Tools panel.

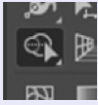




- Click on BAN and drag a line to the waistline.
- Select the Direct Selection tool [**A**] from the Tools panel.
- Click on the bottom anchor point of the line to select it.
- Press **Enter** to open the Move panel. For **Horizontal** type: **0,5 cm**. For **Vertical** type: **0 cm**. Click **OK**.
- Select the Reflect tool [**O**] from the Tools panel. It is located behind the Rotate tool.
- Hold the **Alt** key (Mac: Option) and click on the top anchor point of the line. This will be the mirror line.
- The Reflect window opens.
- In the Reflect window, select **Vertical**. Click **Copy**.

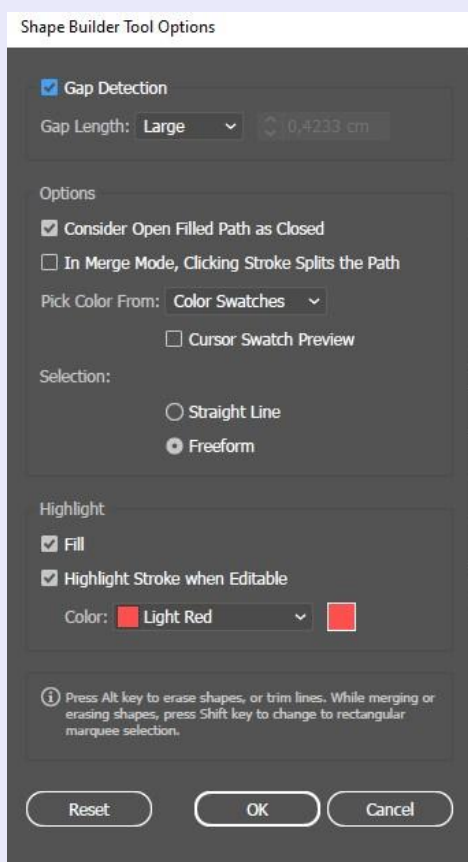


- Select the entire drawing using shortcut **Ctrl A** (Mac: Command A).
- In the Tools panel, select the Shape Builder tool [**Shift M**] (see image below).



First check the settings of the Shape Builder tool [**Shift M**]:

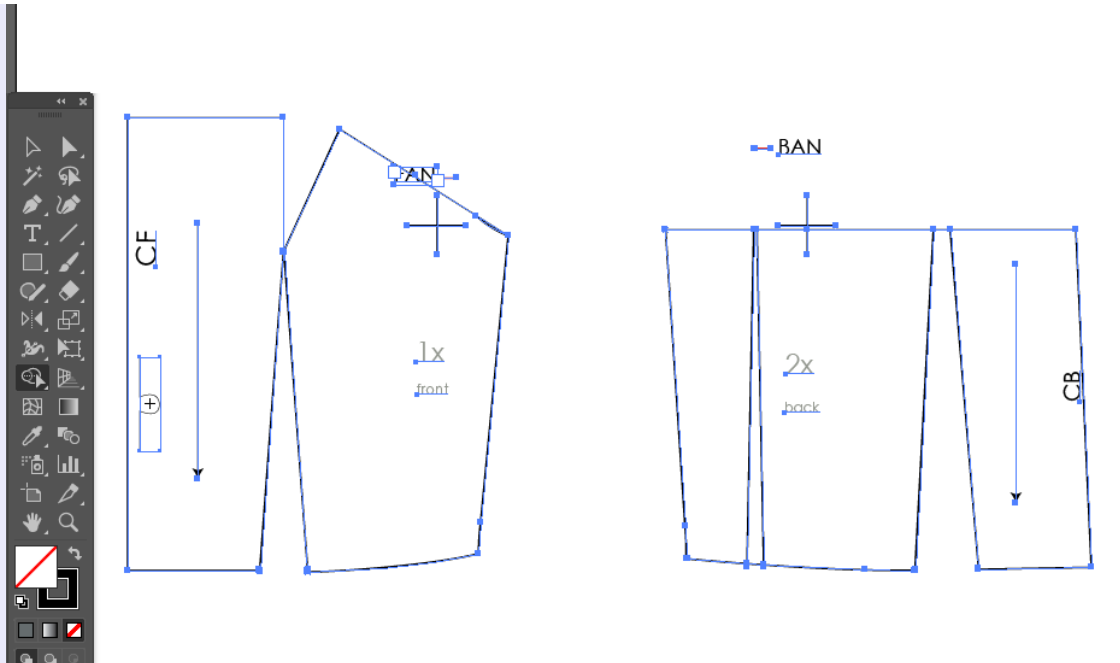
- In the Tools panel, double-click the Shape Builder tool icon to open the Shape Builder Tool Options panel.
- Check that the “Gap Detection” option is enabled and select “Large” for the “Gap Length” option (see the image below). Click OK.



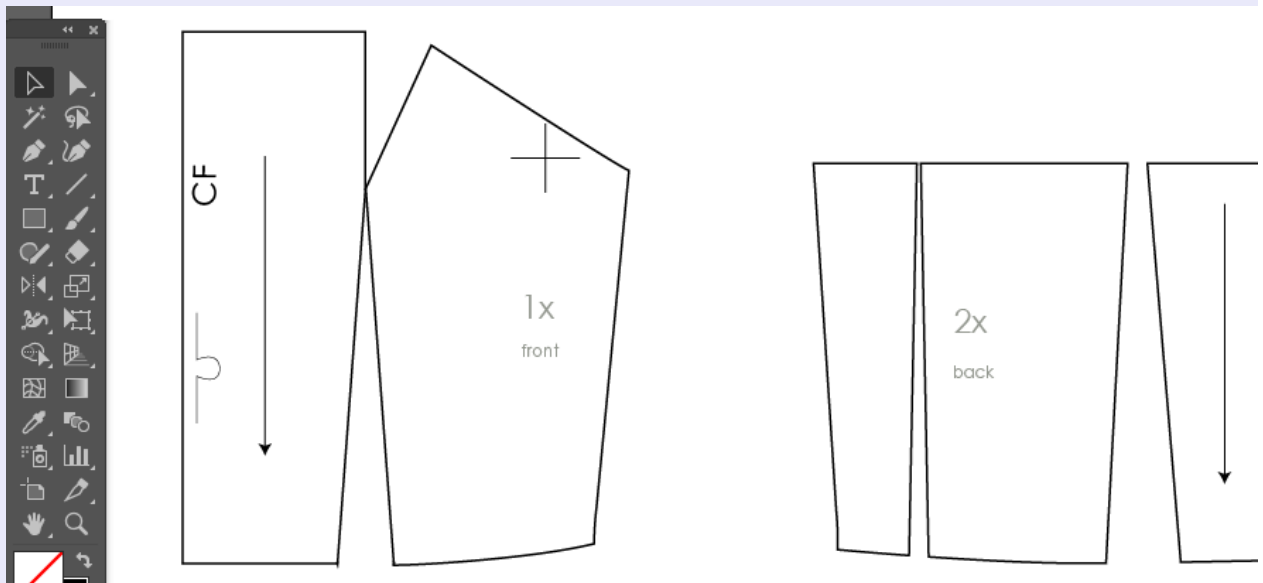
- Hold the **Alt** key (Mac: Option) and click on the pattern lines outside of the bodice pattern to remove them.

**Or...**

Hold the **Alt** key (Mac: Option) and drag over the pattern lines outside of the bodice pattern to remove them (see the image below).



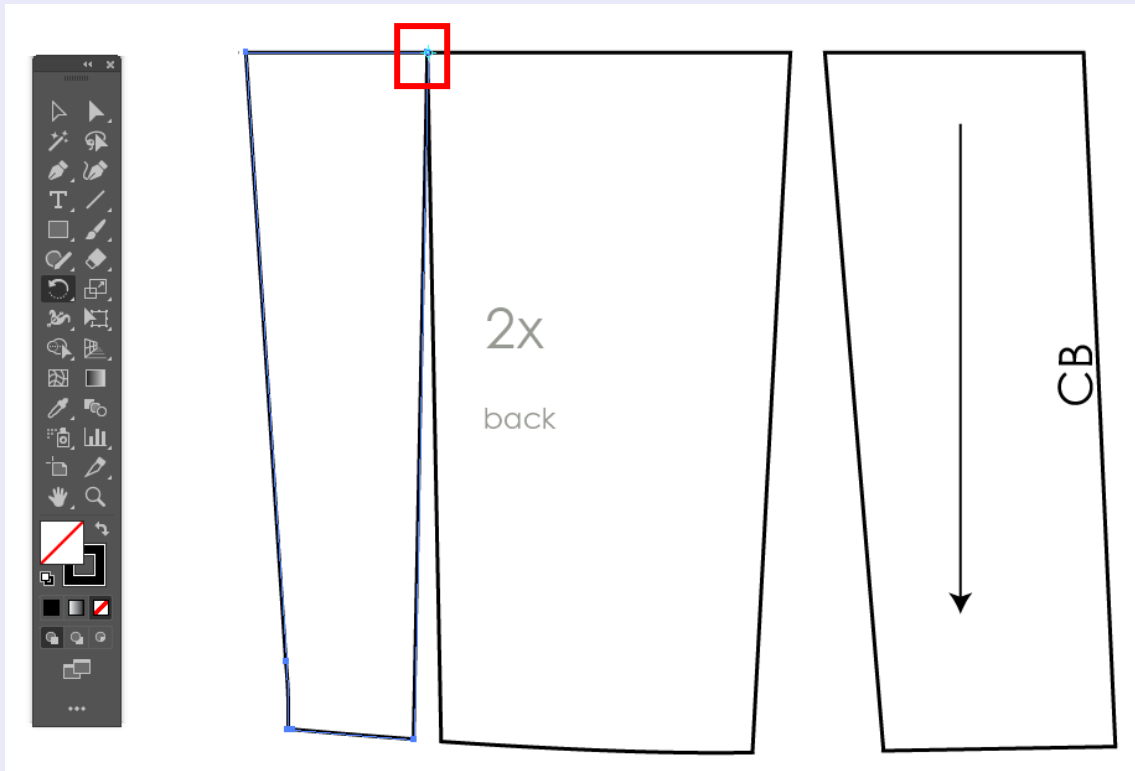
- Release the **Alt** key (Mac: Option). Click in each part of the pattern to divide the pattern into separate pieces.
- Click **Ctrl Shift A** (Mac: Command Shift A) to deselect.
- Click on a symbol outside the pattern using the Selection tool [**V**] to select it.
- Click the **Backspace** or **Delete** key to remove it.
- Repeat for the other symbols and marks outside the pattern.



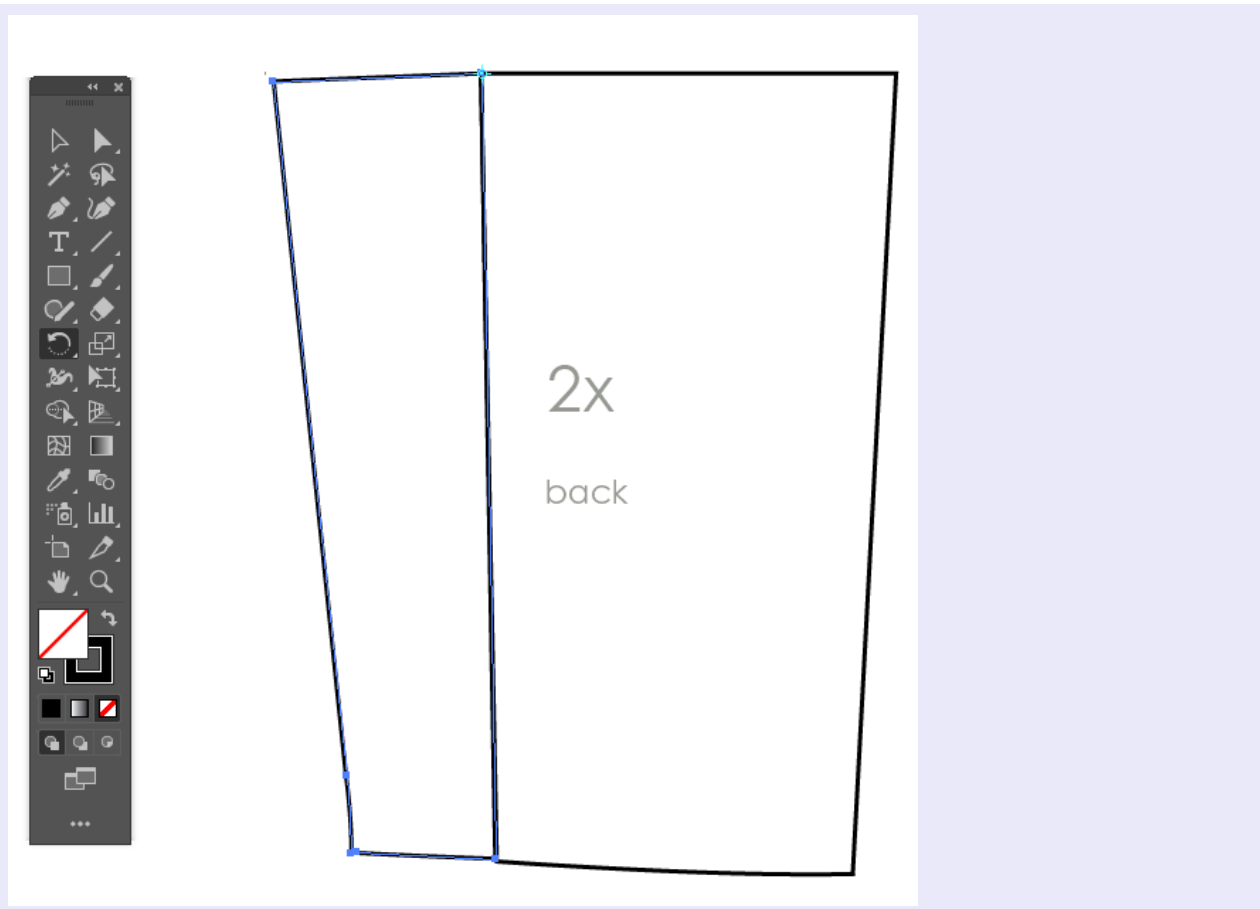
- Click on the back side panel to select it.



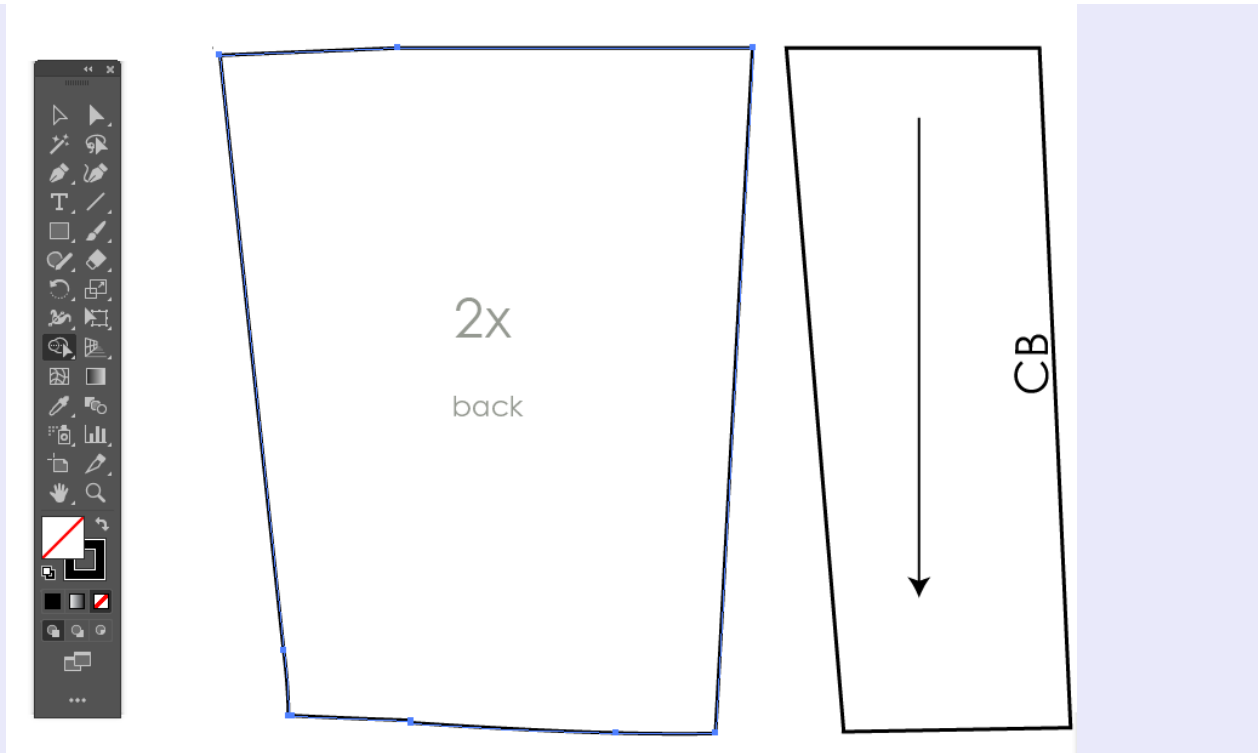
- Drag the top right anchor point onto the top left anchor point of the adjacent panel.



- Select the Rotate tool [R].
- Click on this point. This will be the rotation point.
- Click and drag to close the 2 pattern pieces.



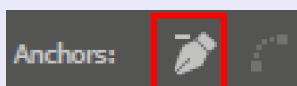
- Select the Selection tool [V] from the Tools panel.
- Drag a 'frame' around the 2 pattern pieces to select them.
- In the Tools panel, select the Shape Builder tool [Shift M].
- Click in one pattern piece and drag to the other pattern piece to combine the two shapes. (If it doesn't work, rotate the left piece a little more.)



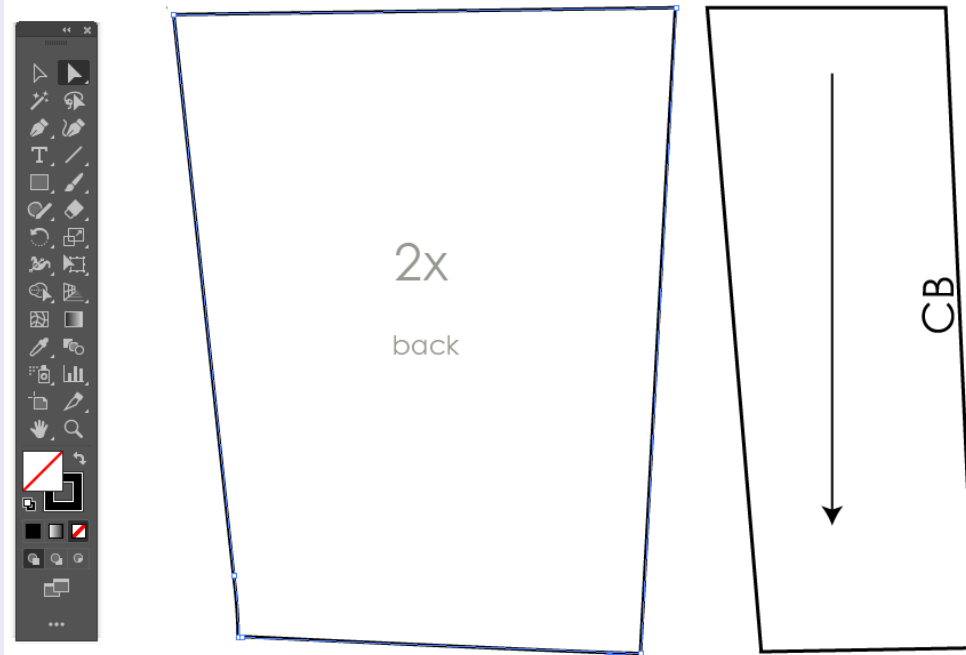
To make the pattern lines smoother:

- In the Tools panel, select the Direct Selection tool [**A**].
- Click on an anchor point on the pattern line to select it.

Then click on the second “Anchors” icon (see image below) in the Options Bar or Properties Panel to cut the line segments.

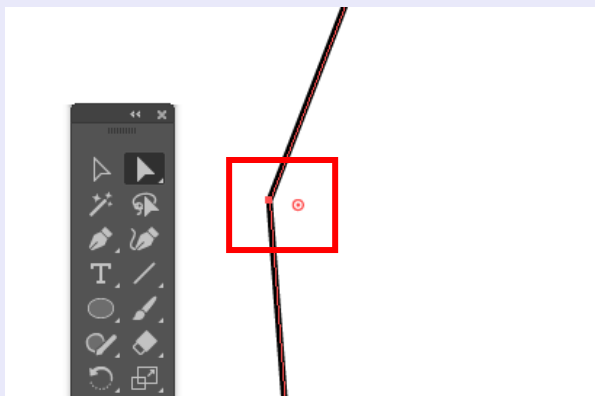


- Repeat for each other anchor point on the pattern line.



To round the sharp angle at the bust:

- Select the Direct Selection tool [**A**] from the Tools panel.
- Drag a 'frame' around the sharp angle to select it.



- Click shortcut **Ctrl J** (Mac: Command J) to connect the selected anchor points.
- A circle appears. Drag the circle to round the sharp angle.

*Note: If the circle does not appear, check that the anchor points of the sharp angle are positioned on top of each other.*



- Add the necessary symbols to mark the 4 pieces of the pattern, i.e: **CF**, **CB**, **Place on Fold**, **grainline**. Name the pattern pieces.

- Add the necessary symbols to mark the pattern, from the Symbols Library panel or the Libraries panel.
- Name the pattern using the Type tool [**T**].

