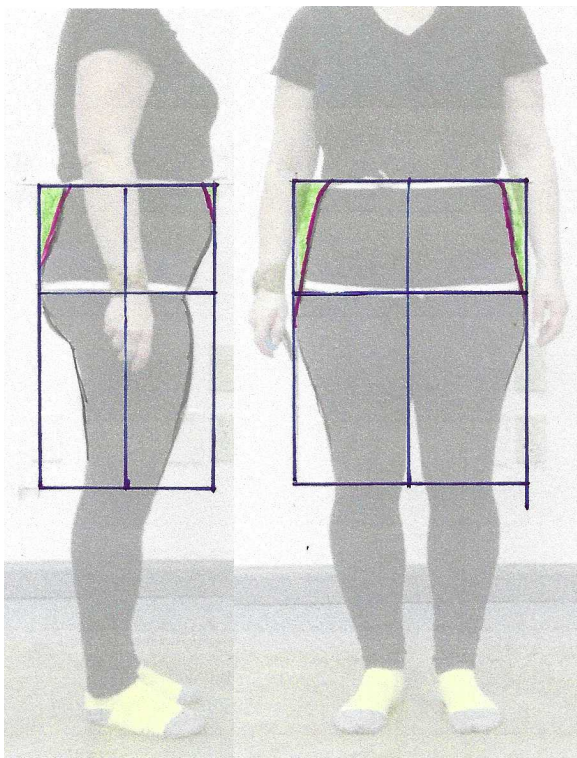


# Fitting Goals & Rules Guide

## for your custom skirt block

While you'll be able to do *whatever you want* when we start making *patterns*, our block is not a pattern. A block is a *tool* that has specific goals.

### Your Photo Tool offers a visual of your block fit goal!



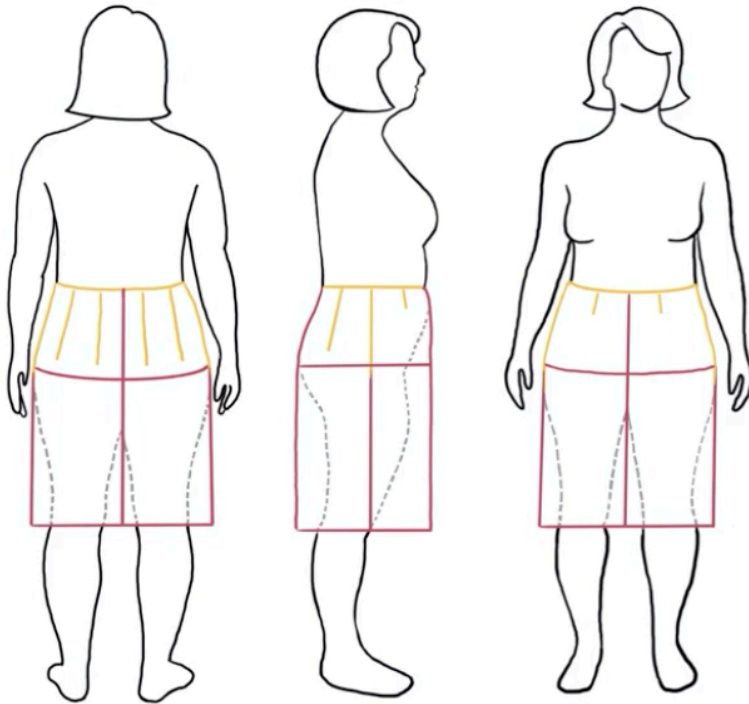
- A block will look block-y.
- A block creates a simple blocky grid of fabric that wraps around the body's cylinder. The fabric of a block stands away from the body below its fullest bits- perpendicular to the floor- without flaring out or cupping in.
- Above the body's fullest bits, the fabric will skim/follow the shaping until it reaches and maps the natural waist.
- If there are any body bumps or dips in the upper follow-the-body portion, you'll mostly be bridging them with fabric.

The goal of the block is to allow the grid of the fabric's grain to work in harmony with gravity while neutrally and comfortably mapping your body's shaping into a flat reusable patternmaking tool.

## Skirt Block Fit Goals

The areas in **pink** will likely appear somewhat similar for everyone.

The areas in **yellow** can look very different on different people.



### PINK AREAS

- Parallel-to-the-floor Hem placed at the middle of the knee.
- Parallel-to-the-floor Hip Line placed in the fullest area of the backside.
- Vertical seams appear straight.
- Vertical seams divide the body evenly, perpendicular to the floor.

### YELLOW AREAS

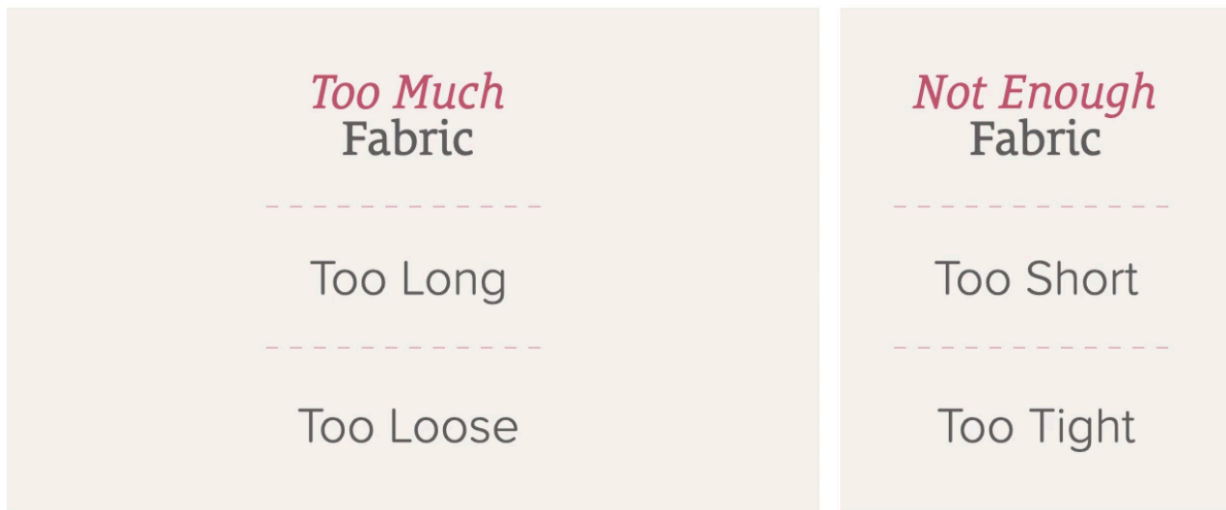
- Darts and shaping elements follow and match the body.
- Waistline follows the circumference and tilt of the natural waist.


With a block tool that reaches all of your neutral fit goals, you'll have a repeatable understandable starting point for creating hundreds of custom-fit designs, including styles more closely fitted and/or with more fullness and flare/flair.

## How will I reach these Goals?

Though fitting is rarely straight-forward... fitting \*theory\* is quite simple.

If there is an area that does not fit well, it will be because it is either too long or short, or it will be too loose or tight. Or just in the wrong place. And it could be a combo!

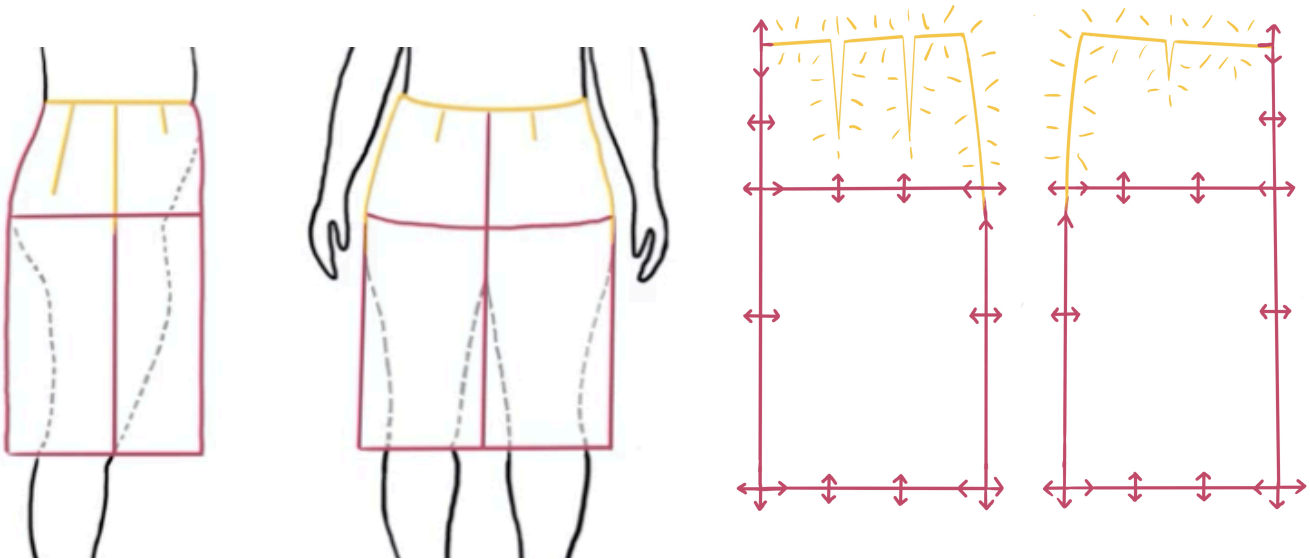


Your job is to figure out **which**,  **where**, and by **how much**  through *investigating clues*, *brainstorming theories*, and *testing*.

To uncover the answers of which, where, and by how much, you are going to sleuth for clues, brainstorm theories, and then give em a test to solve the mysteries of the fit.

## Skirt Block Fit Possibilities & Limitations (*Tools Have Rules*)

Thinking about how the half draft coordinates with the body and our block-fit goals, can be helpful when coming up with theories to test when investigating fitting puzzles.



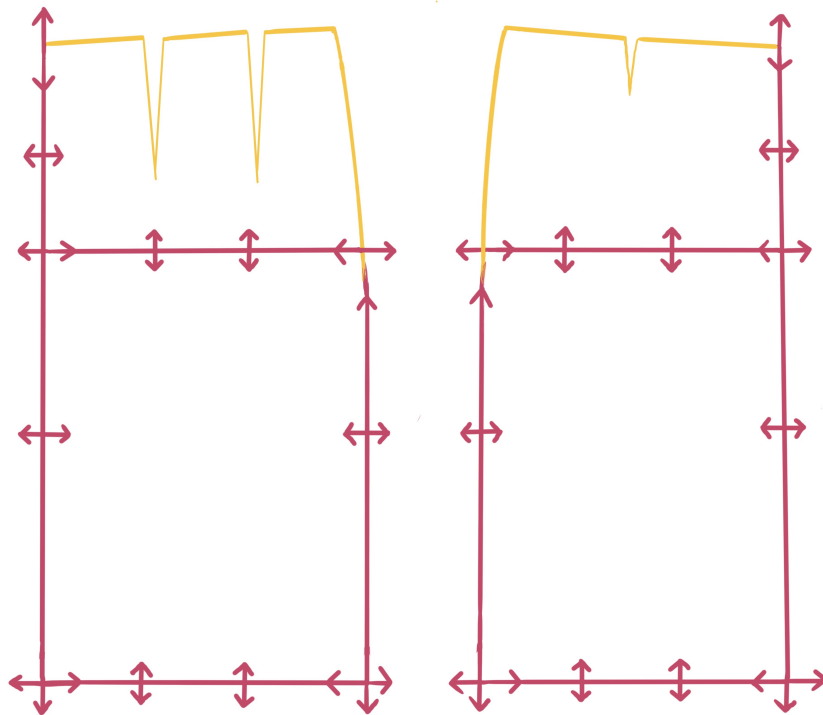
The **pink** foundational areas have rules. The **yellow** shaping areas? Not many.

- The foundation of the block is the cylindrical blocky bottom. These areas have the most rules.
- The shaping elements in the upper portion of the draft are designed to follow the body. These areas allow the most freedom when making changes.

Next, let's get more specific about these possibilities and limitations...

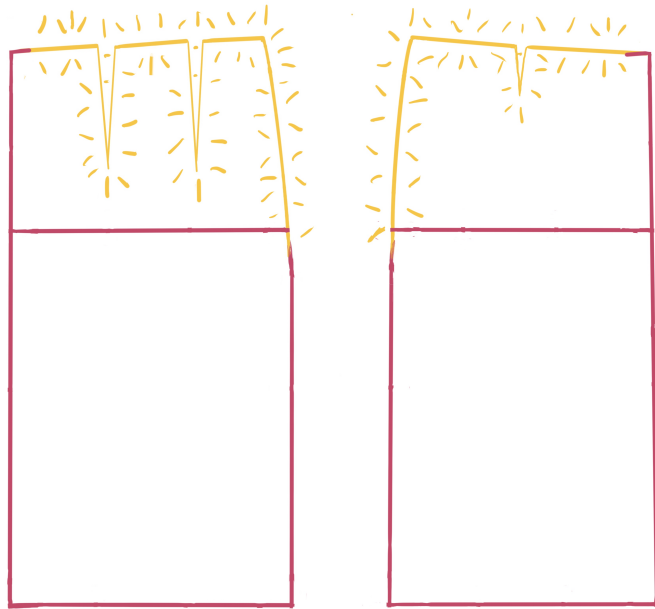
## The Foundational Rules

- A block's **Center Front Seam, Center Back Seam, and the lower portion of the Side Seam, must follow the grain line of the fabric - parallel to each other and perpendicular to the Knee Line and Hip Line.** Each can be separately be raised or shortened, moved outward or inward, as much or as little as needed to match your body and your goals, as long as they follow these blocky rules.
- A block's **Knee Line and Hip Line, must follow the cross-grain of the fabric - parallel to each other and perpendicular to the CF, CB, and lower side seam.** These lines can be widened or narrowed and/or moved straight upwards or downwards as needed, as long as they follow these blocky rules.



## Oh the Possibilities!

But everywhere else, is all about mapping *your specific shaping*. Your darts, your upper side seams, and anywhere along the waistline can separately move in/ out, up / down, and/or create custom curves to match and/or bridge the unique contours of *your body*.

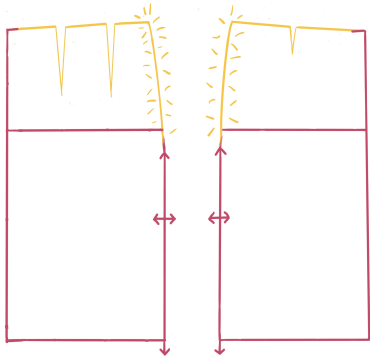


- **The waistline edge will follow your shape with a custom curve to match your body's natural waistline.** The waistline on the mockup can be raised or lowered or reshaped anywhere and everywhere. The vertical lengths of the fabric between the hipline and the waistline are completely customizable- allowing you to tweak your mockup's position or tilt, if it is not reaching the goal of being parallel to the floor.

- **Dart intakes can be taken in or let out** depending on what is needed for the fabric to best match the specific area of the body.
- **Dart lengths can be customized to end where shaping is no longer needed** to match your body's fullness.
- **The curved area of the side seam (above your fullest bit of side shaping) can be lengthened, shortened, let in or let out anywhere** to create any custom curve your body requires.

## Most Versatile Area of Adjustment: The Side Seam

Because it includes a little of the Rules Area and a little of the Freedom Area, **the side seam is often the most versatile place for adjustments.**



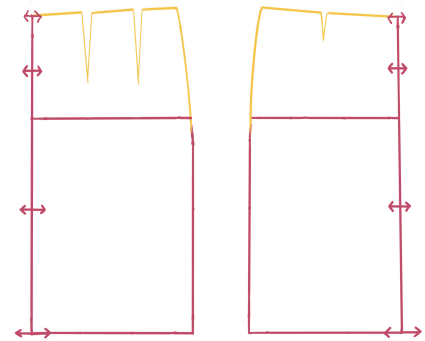
The bottom bit can be shifted inward or outward evenly from the hem up to the fullest bit of your sides- to get everything in the blocky bottom portion falling straight,. Then the upper side seam can take any curve to follow the unique shapes of your sides. The side seam will also often be a great place to adjust the circumference of the waist.

If you aren't sure where to try an adjustment, the side seam could be an excellent place to start.

## Most Limited Area of Adjustment: The CF and CB Seams

Since the whole seam, from waist to hem, must remain straight and perpendicular to the blocky bottom, you will only be able to use these seams as a place of horizontal adjustment IF you require the exact same adjustment both *above and below* your body's fullness.

This limits the use of these lines to instances where the waist AND the hem AND *everything in between* are all a very similar amount of too loose or tight.



Unless your theory of volume adjustment meets these unusual and specific goals, **you may be creating as many puzzles as you solve.**

## Work with the Rules... and play around!

Everything is related, so fixing one thing will often fix another. And just as often, fixing one thing will mess something else up. Through trial and error, you'll look for clues, follow the lead, test your theories. Repeat. Going forward often involves going backwards, as you dance your way through your ideas and puzzles.

Working with the rules and achieving these blank block-fit goals to create your own unique blocky body map will earn you a neutral-fitting tool that will offer a lot of versatility when creating patterns with different designs in your future. Hooray!

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