

Simple Simon and Company

Simple Maxi Skirt Sewing Pattern



*Two girls. Same name. One mission.
Teach the world to sew.*



Simple Maxi Skirt Instructions

This great fitting and comfortable maxi skirt is a perfect project for beginners and experts alike. Not only is it a quick sew but it is a garment that you are sure to love and wear often. With the exposed elastic waistband and subtle A line flare, it will quickly become one of your go-to skirts!

Simple Simon and Company Size Chart

	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Waist	26"	28"	30"	32"	34"	36"
Hip	35"	37"	39"	42"	44"	46"
2" wide elastic	24"	26"	28"	30"	32"	34"

Materials:

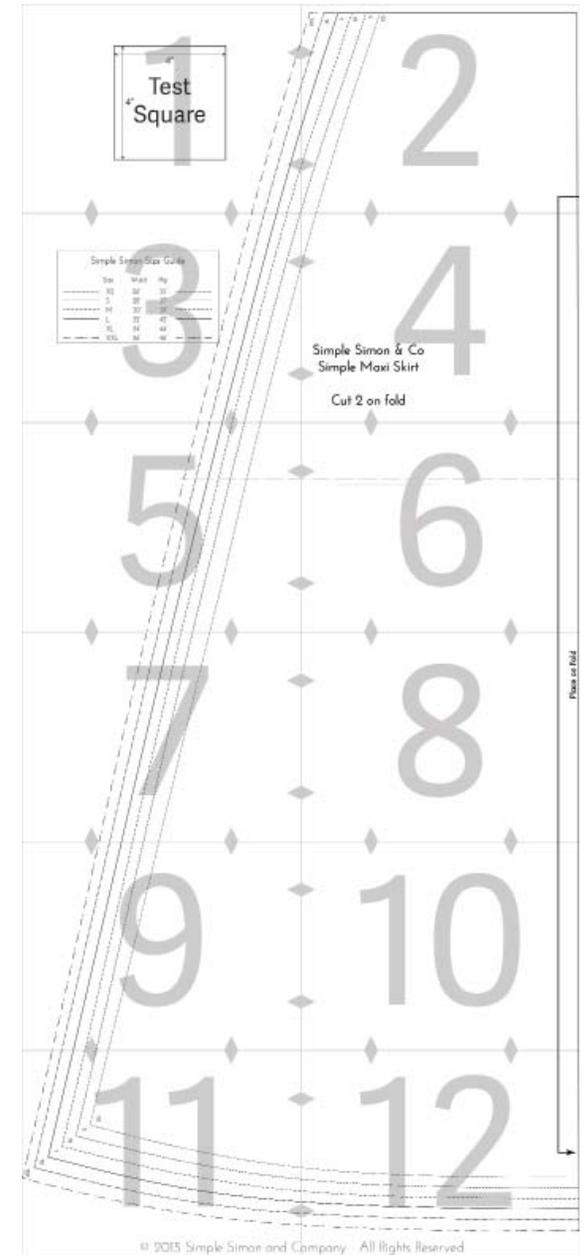
- sewing machine or serger
- sewing scissors
- sewing pins
- thread to match
- 2" elastic according to chart above
- Knit Fabric: 2 1/2 yards **OR** 4-1/2 yards if using a knit directional print

Tools & Notions

Scissors
Universal Sewing needle size 90/14
Thread (preferably that matches your bias tape)
Sewing machine
Iron
Pins

Put It All Together

- Print out pattern page 1 to test your printer. Ensure that you do not scale or resize when you print by measuring the 4"x 4" square. Some printers require the selection "without borders" to get to the proper 100% scale.
- Cut on the solid line that borders the pages 1/2" from the paper edges. A paper cutter will make this process quick and easy. (It's even easier if you cut only the top and right sides of each page.)
- Tape the pages together, matching diamond symbols. There is no overlap inside the borders.
- Trace desired size(s) onto pattern tracing paper, or cut out the appropriate size pattern pieces just as you would a pre-printed pattern.



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Tips for Measuring Yourself:

For this maxi skirt you will need two measurements--your natural waist measurement and a full-hip measurement. To find these two measurements you will need a tape measure and a friend (it's really hard to get accurate measurements just yourself--so find a partner). You will also need to measure yourself in undergarments that you will be wearing with this skirt and not clothing to get the most accurate measurements. Let's start with natural waist first.

Waist Measurement:

- Using the tape measure like a belt, measure the circumference of your waist. To find your natural waist place your hand on your hip and bend to the side. As you do this your hand will naturally move into the part of your body that creases. This creasing part is your natural waist. (Think of the end of the song, "I'm a Little Teapot" and the "tip me over" part--that is the motion described above.) Place the tape measure on that crease and wrap the tape measure snugly (but not tightly) around your waistline keeping the tape measure in a straight horizontal line or as level as you can (having the tape measure "tilted" can alter measurements). Remember not to hold your breath, or "suck in" as this measurement will not be accurate. Record the natural waist measurement.

Hip Measurement:

- Using the tape measure like a belt, measure the circumference of your hips. This hip measurement should be the fullest part of your lower body and is naturally about 7-9" lower than your natural waist, but do not fear if it is not. To find this measurement, place the tape on the fullest part of your hip/seat and wrap the tape snugly (but not tightly) around your waistline keeping the tape measure in a straight horizontal line as level as you can.

Working with Knit Fabrics

Our first piece of advice is do not fear knit fabrics! It is a great fabric to work with because of its ease of wear and its drape. If you have a serger

it will be helpful but you CAN sew knits on a regular sewing machine. This maxi skirt pattern is meant to be a beginner's pattern for working with knits and we will show you all the steps that go into its construction. But, let's first talk about knit fabrics tips that have helped us over the years.

Tips for Working with Knits:

- Pre-wash and dry all knit fabrics. They do have a tendency to shrink up and we don't want your maxi skirt to be a midi length when you wash it the first time.
- Do not stretch the knit while pinning and cutting out your pattern. Lay the knit on a counter or long table and allow the fabric to pull itself back into place. Then lay pattern pieces on top and pin on. Carefully cut not allowing the fabric to stretch. You can use a rotary cutter, mat and ruler to cut out your pattern as well.
- There are two kinds of knit: 2-way stretch and 4-way stretch knit. There are also blends of both kinds of knit fabrics. We recommend any type of knit for this project. But, if you are using strictly 2-way stretch knit, you will want to cut out your skirt so that the width of the skirt is the stretching width-wise (with your body) and not vertically. You can test this by pulling on the fabrics and seeing which way your fabric will stretch.
- We like to use a fusible hem tape or stay tape when sewing hems or other crucial seams with knit fabrics. This tape comes in various widths and has a fusible side that you can iron to the bottom of the skirt before hemming. Then, when the skirt is turned up the knit is stable and is less likely to stretch when sewing.
- Pressing knit hems with steam can help reduce waviness.

Sewing Machine Tips and Tricks for Working with Knits

There are a few tools you will want to invest in when sewing knit fabric. The first is a ball point needle (sometimes called a stretch needle). This needle has a rounded tip and can push between the loops in the knit

fabric instead of putting a hole in it. A twin needle is also helpful but not necessary. This needle mimics the stitches of a coverstitch machine (two rows of stitching) and can make your skirt look more professional. You can also invest in a walking foot, which is a sewing machine foot that allows you to drop the feed dogs (the part of the sewing machine that pulls the fabrics through the machine) and prevents the knits from getting sucked into the machine and getting caught in the feed dogs. We don't use a walking foot when sewing with knits, but some find them extremely helpful!

The most important tip to know when sewing with knit fabrics on a regular machine is that you need to use a zig zag stitch or a "stretch stitch" (check your sewing machine manual). This allows the seam to stretch a bit along with the fabric. You also might want to lengthen (we lengthen to 3 or 3.5 mm) your stitch-length and lower your sewing machine tension a little bit to avoid puckers and waves in the knit fabric. You can test your stitching on a knit scrap to help you get the tension and stitch length correct before beginning the pattern.

Serger Tips and Tricks

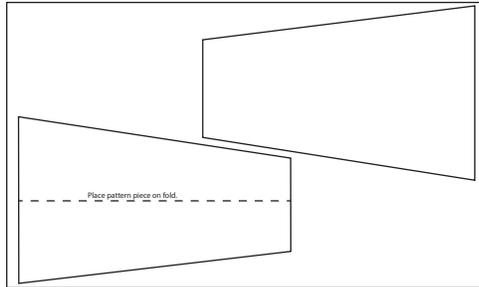
- Stitching knits on a serger (sometimes referred to as an overlock machine) is our preferred method although we have sewn knits on regular machines for years. Sergers provide the seams room to stretch along with the fabrics and also encase these seams for a professional look to your garments.
- As each serger (overlocker) is different our best suggestion is to read your manual or to take a class from a local dealer. These classes can help with things like tension and stitch length for getting great seams on your skirt.



Pattern Construction

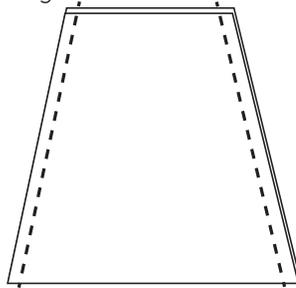
Cutting Instructions

Cut out the pattern according to your size when measuring. You should have one skirt front and one skirt back. If you are between sizes, go with your hip measurement as you can adjust the elastic for your waistband to fit.



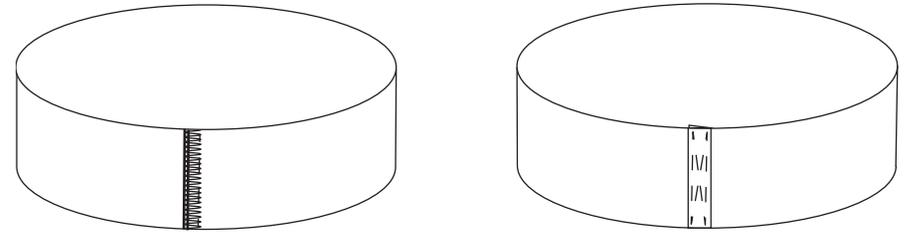
Sewing Instructions

#1. Using a serger (or sewing machine on the stretch stitch), place your skirt front and skirt back right sides together and stitch as the illustration below, using 1/2" seam allowance.

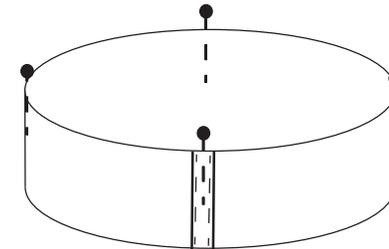


#2. Next take your 2" elastic and stitch into a circle to form the waistband. Some people prefer to stitch with right sides of the elastic together (method #1 left, below) and others prefer to lay one side of the elastic on top of the other and stitch creating a more flat surface (method #2 right, below).

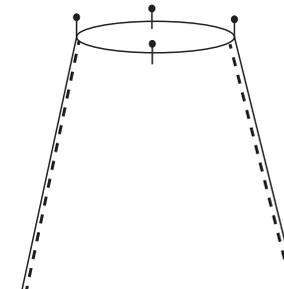
Either method will work for the pattern and this choice depends on personal preference.



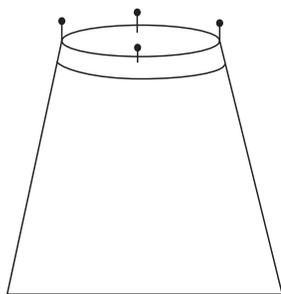
#3. Take your waistband that you stitched in step 3 and divide it into 4 equal quadrants. An easy way to do this is to fold it in half and place one sewing pin in each of these sections. Then, fold the waistband in half the other way and place one pin in each of these sections. Your waistband should look like the illustration below.



#4. Repeat step 4 with your skirt, placing a pin in each of the four sections making sure that you make a mark for the elastic seam in the center back of the skirt.

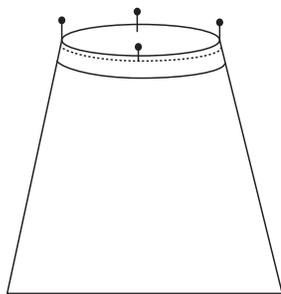


#5. Place your skirt and your waistband right sides together and match up each of the four pins. Since the waistband elastic is smaller than the skirt pattern, you will have some space between the pins. This space is correct and what the skirt and waistband should look like.



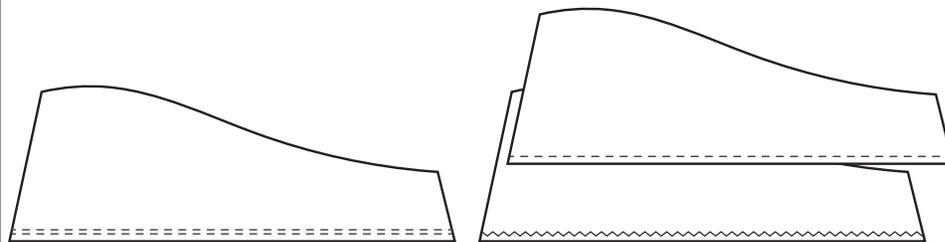
#6. Take your skirt to the sewing machine or serger and stitch around the elastic waistband and skirt stretching the elastic slightly to match the knit skirt (do not stretch the skirt, only the elastic). Continue to stitch or serge around the entire maxi skirt.

#7. Turn the waistband right side out. The top of your maxi skirt is now done.



#8. Now it's time to hem the maxi skirt. Serge or zig zag around the bottom of the skirt. Turn up the skirt 1/2" and press around the hem of the skirt, making sure not to stretch out the skirt as you are pressing. Then hem your skirt using one of three methods

- Method #1
Cover stitch the hem using a serger or coverstitch machine.
- Method #2
Stitch the hem using a twin needle on your regular sewing machine.
- Method #3
Stitch the hem using a regular needle on your sewing machine.

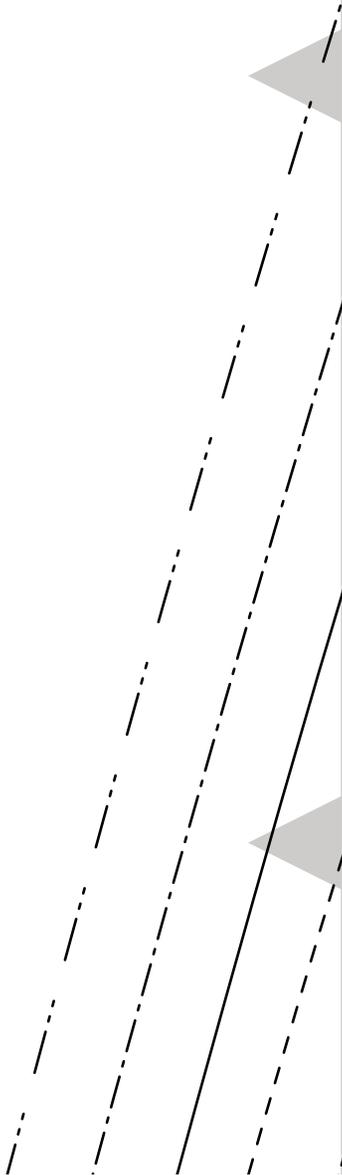
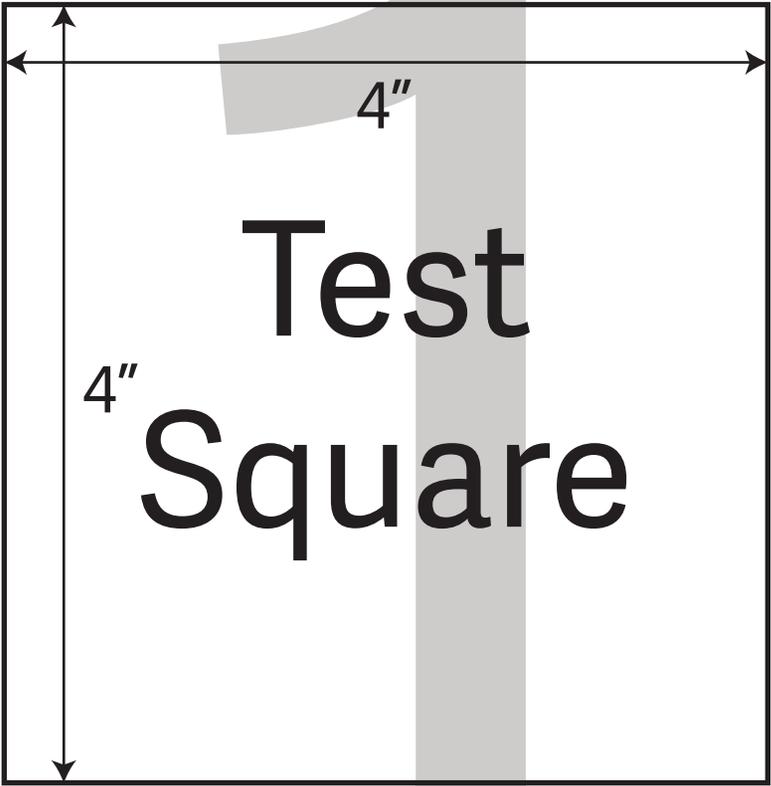


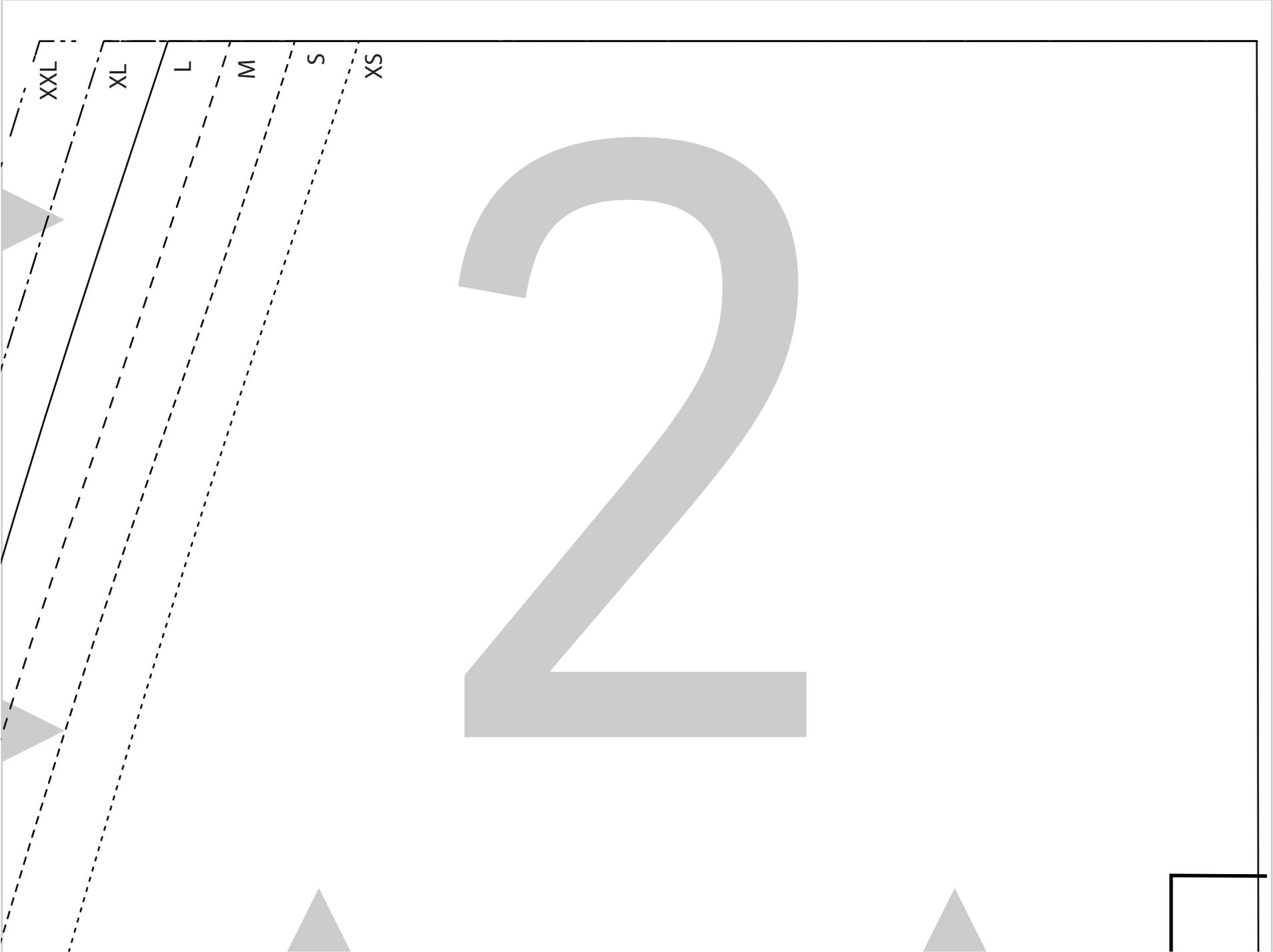
Methods 1 & 2 appear the same - as two straight lines of stitching

Method 3 can be stitched as a straight stitch or a zig zag

The cover maxi skirt was made with Simple Simon and Company's "Four Corners" fabric line created for Riley Blake Designs and is available at local quilt shops Fall of 2015.

NOTES:





Simple Simon Size Guide

	Size	Waist	Hip	
.....	XS	26"	35"
-----	S	28"	37"	-----
-----	M	30"	39"	-----
—————	L	32"	42"	—————
-----	XL	34"	44"	-----
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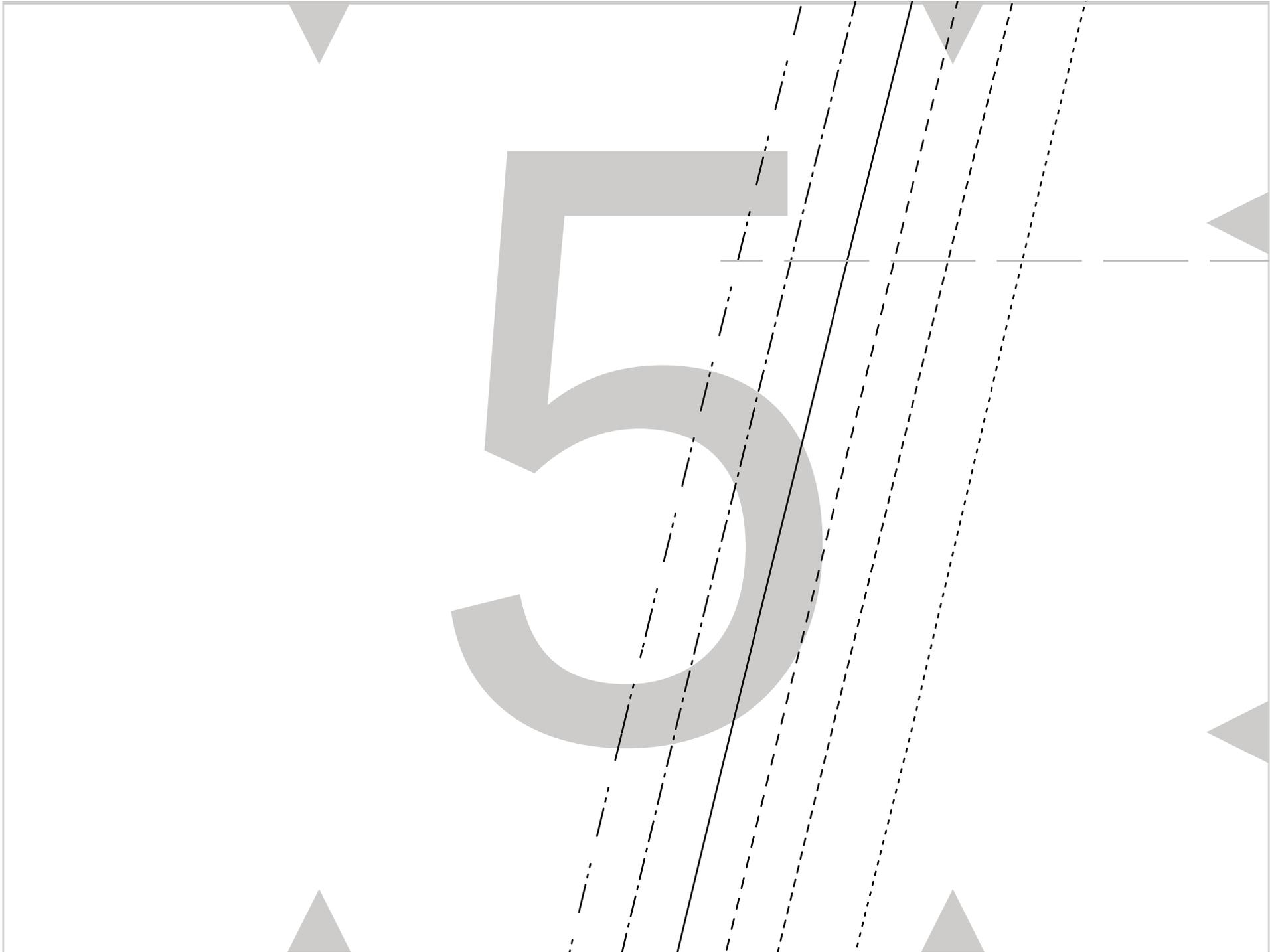


Simple Simon & Co
Simple Maxi Skirt

Cut 2 on fold

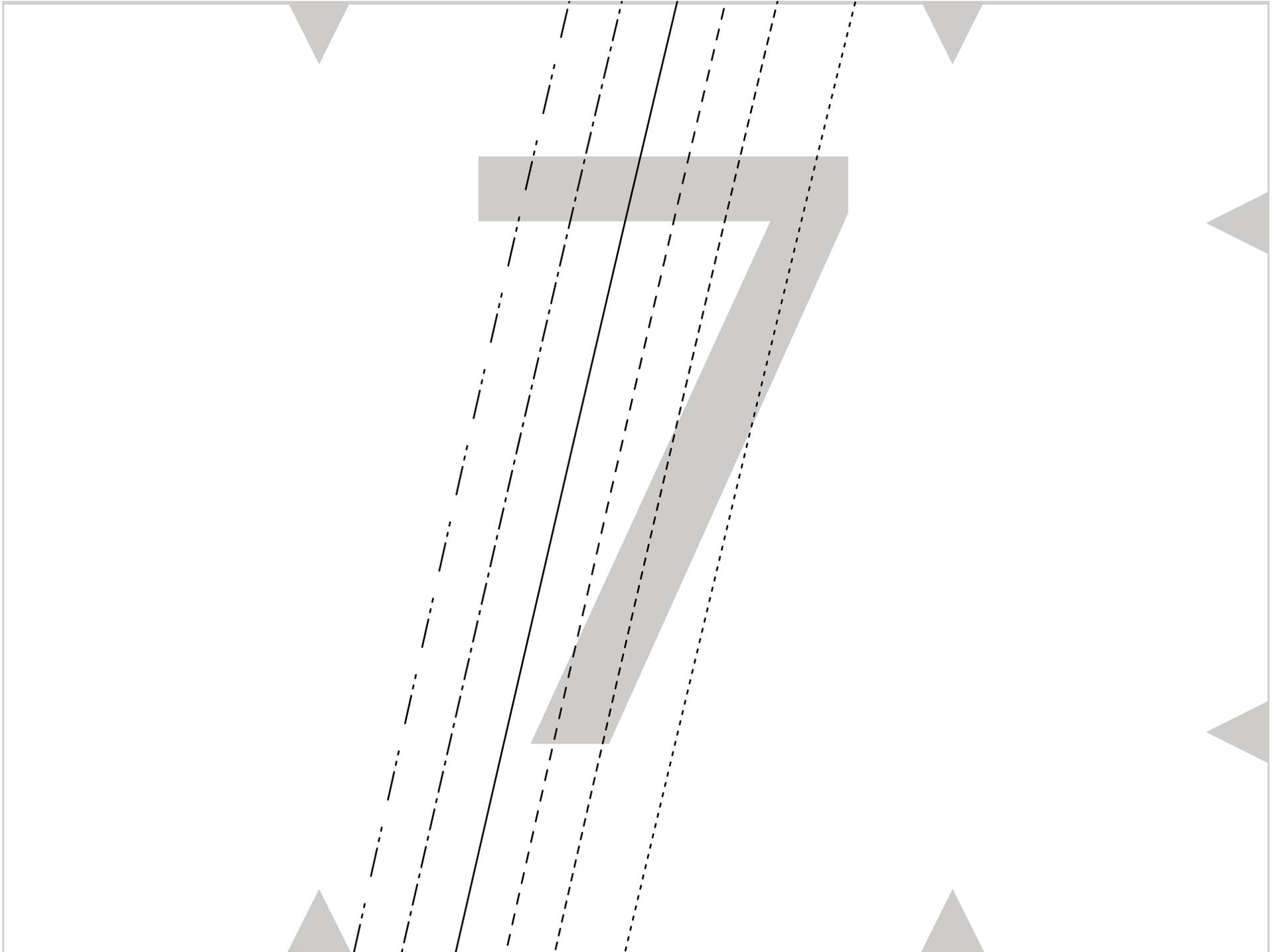


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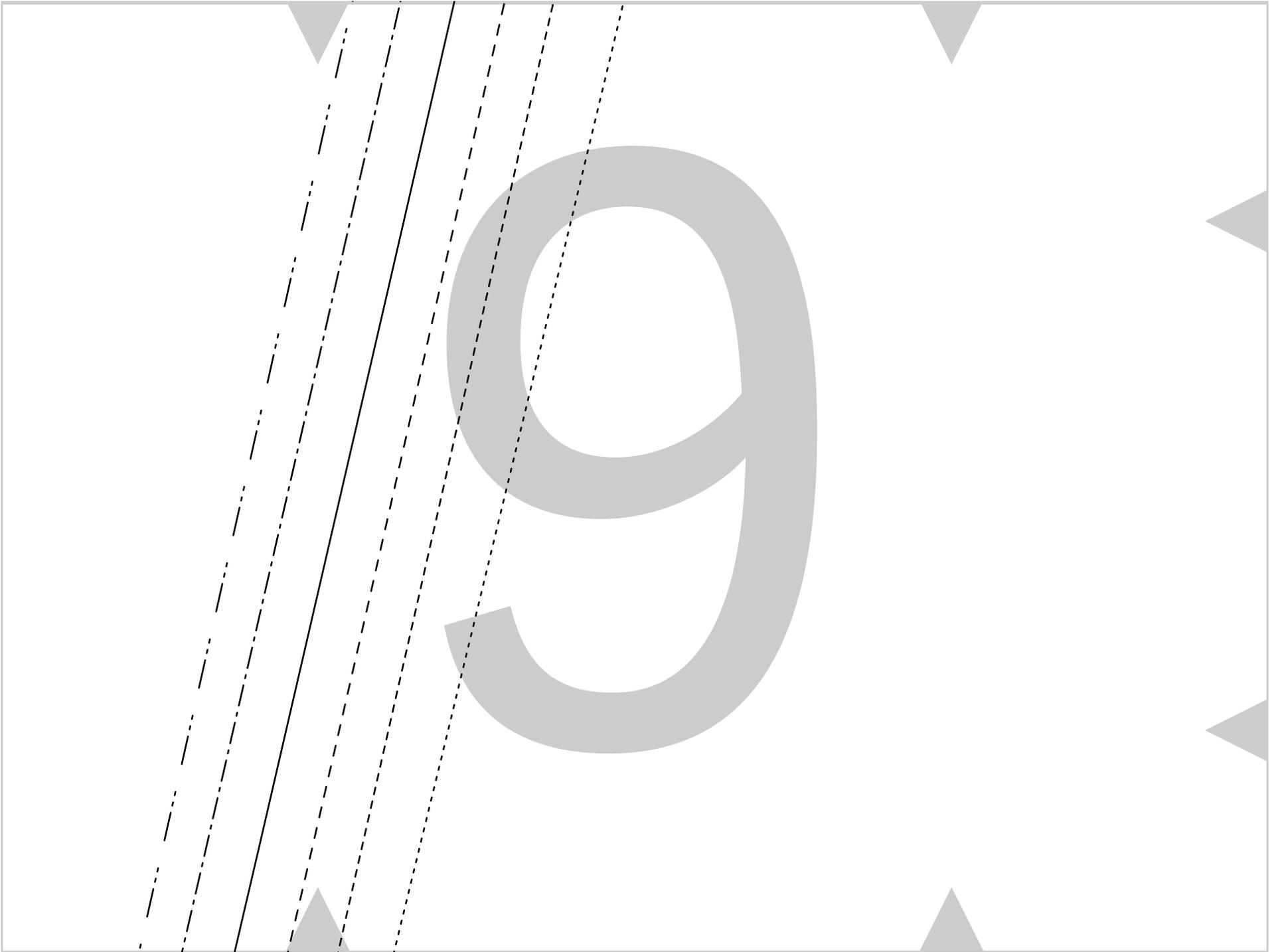


cut here and follow directions to lengthen or shorten

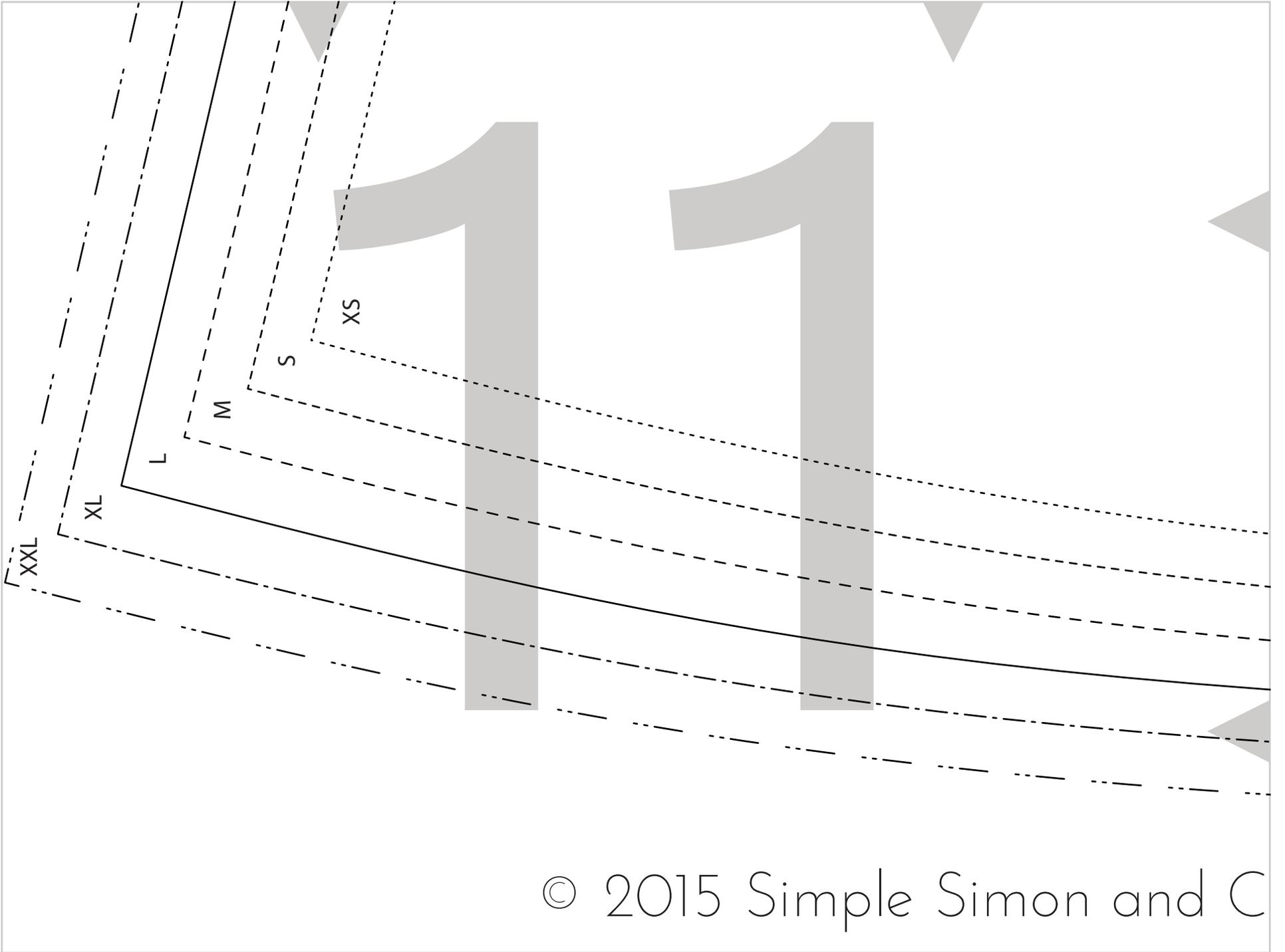


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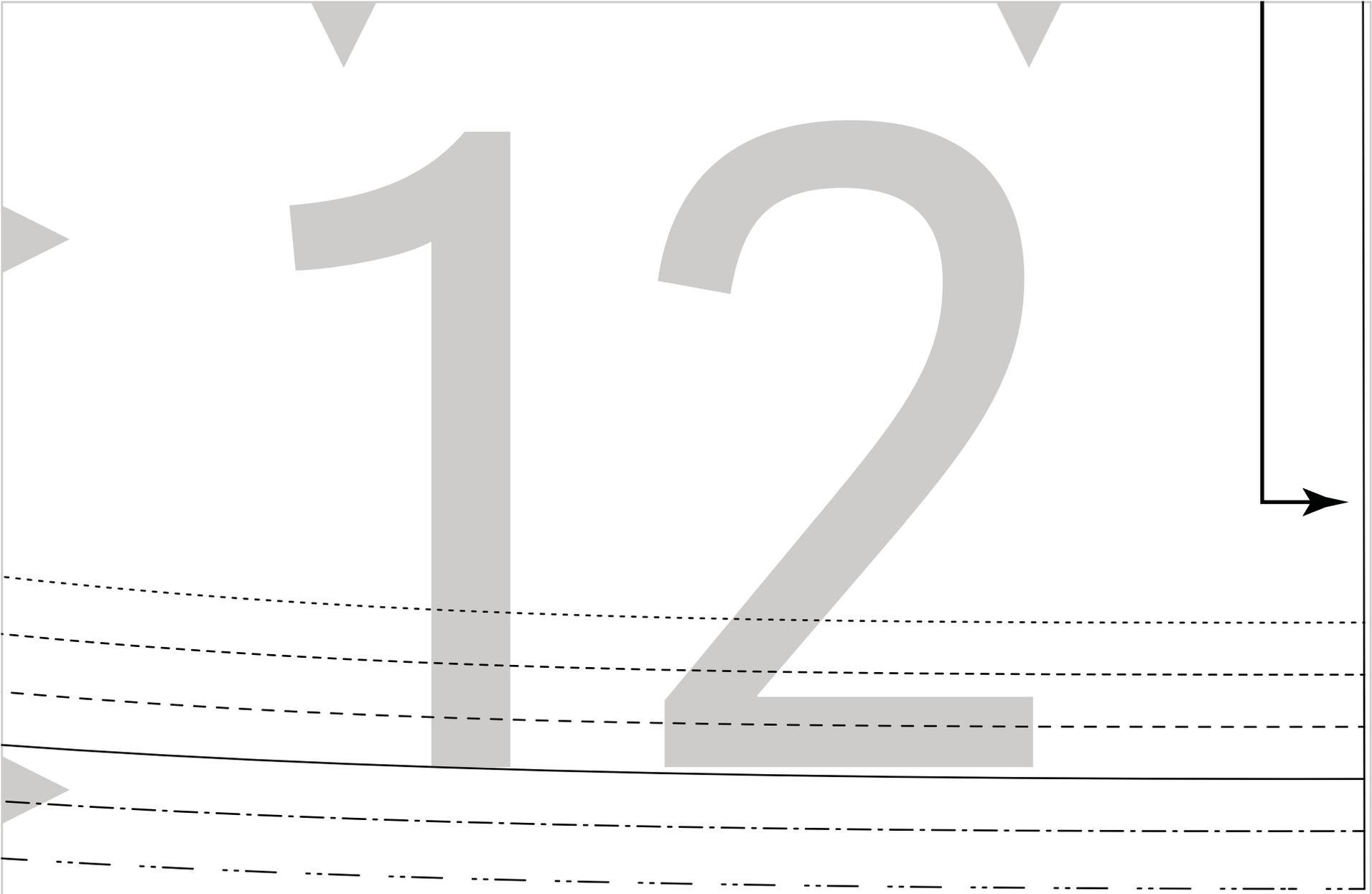
Place on Fold



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