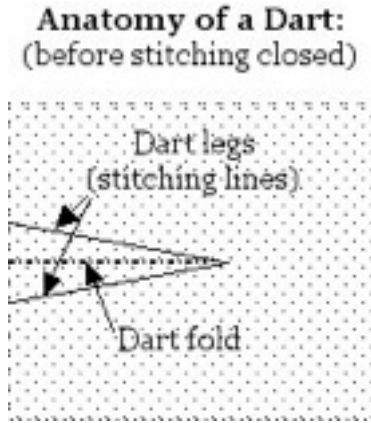
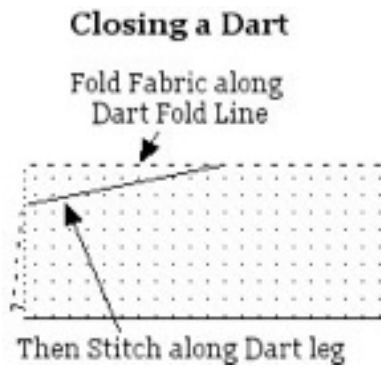


Dart Basics

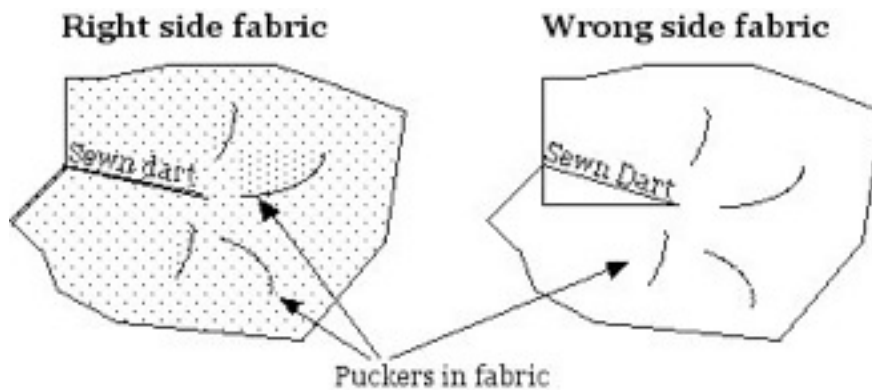
These sketches illustrate how a dart is created, and its effect on the fabric. First, the parts of the dart on the fabric:



Then how the dart is sewn closed:



And what it looks like on right/wrong side of fabric after the fabric is opened out. Notice that the angle of the dart causes the fabric to pucker so that it won't lay flat. But when the garment is worn, these puckers disappear as the fabric drapes over the body's protrusion. Notice also that the dart takes up fabric at its wide end.



Dart Rotation

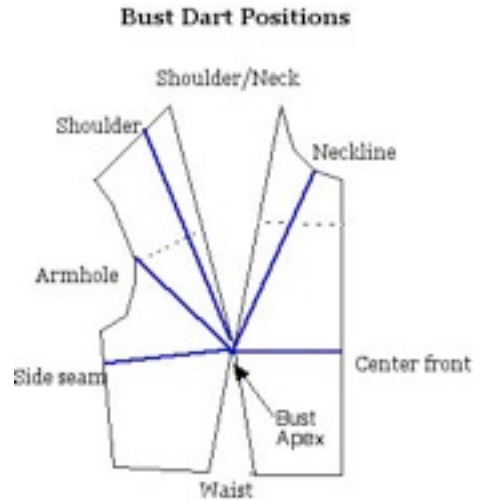
A dart can be moved from its original location to any other location as long as it points to the protrusion for which it was created. In these sketches, I show a bust dart, constructed to allow for a woman's breasts, so that the fabric will lay and drape smoothly without wrinkles or puckers.

A bodice sloper front starts with the bust dart divided between two positions:

- where the shoulder and neckline meet, and
- at the waist

But as you can see on the sketch, right, these can be moved to several other seams (clockwise from shoulder/neck position):

- neckline,
- center front,
- waist
- side seam
- armhole
- shoulder

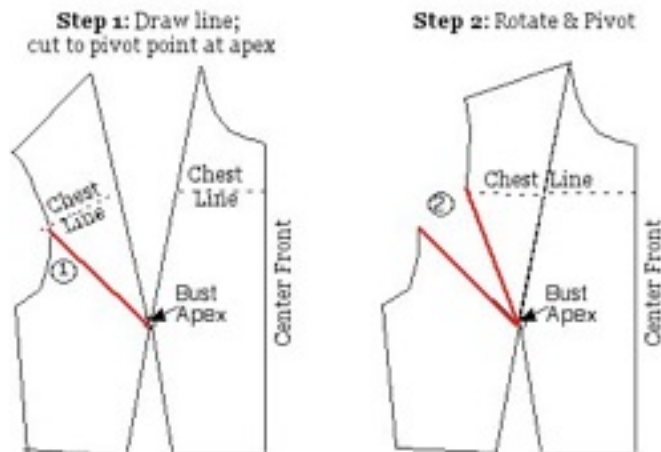


Moving darts is done as follows:

1. Draw line for new dart position (any of the blue lines in the above sketch);
2. Cut along this line from the seam to the point, leaving a tiny bit of paper at the point to keep it attached;
3. Pivoting at the point, move the section between the original dart position & the new position, to close the original dart and open up the new one.

Here, I move the shoulder/neckline dart to the armhole position:

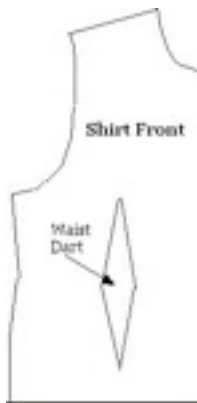
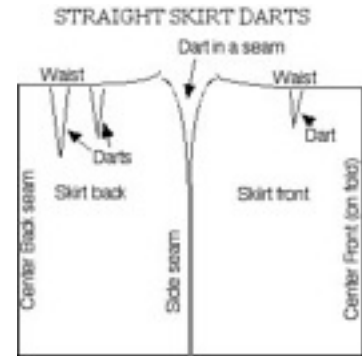
Move shoulder/neck dart to Armhole



Dart Shape

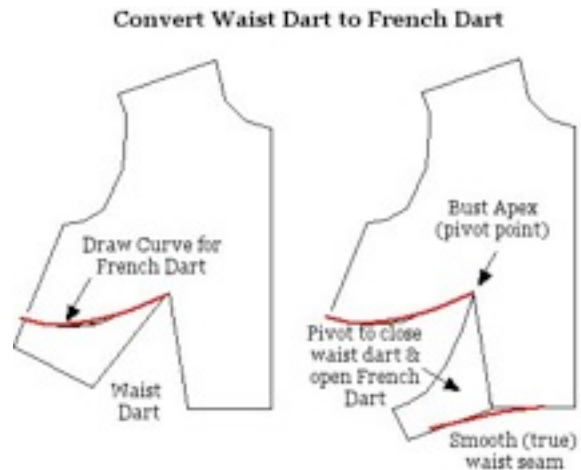
Not all darts are sewn in a straight line; many of these are actually seams that also serve as a dart. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Back yoke seam of skirt or pant;
- Side seam of slim skirt at waist (see sketch, right);
- Side seam of a bodice;
- shoulder seam of a shirt or bodice;
- Front & back princess seams on a bodice or dress
- Underarm seam of a slim-fitting sleeve



Some darts are diamond in shape (actually two darts joined together at the wide end). Waist darts in a shirt or dress are the most common example, as in sketch, left.

Bust darts are sometimes curved for design purposes. The most common of these is the French dart, which curves upward from the side seam near the waist, to just below the apex of the bust, as shown in sketch, right.



Another example of a curved dart is a back yoke for a skirt, as shown, left.