

Day Dress

VERSION 1.0

Last updated 18 January 2024

REPATTERNING
THE DRESS
COLLECTION
AT AGNES

PATTERNS For All BODIES



Pattern by Carolyn Dowdell,
with dressmaker notes by Jessica Dykins
Commissioned by Agnes Etherington Art Centre as
part of the pilot project *Patterns for All Bodies*

DIGITAL
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CELEBRATING COMPASSION

Day Dress

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Day Dress, Europe or North America, c. 1827-1832, roller printed cotton lawn with a woven stripe. Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Kingston. Gift of the Macdonald Family, 1948 (C48-469.1)

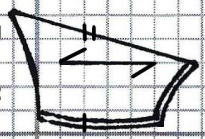
More information about the *Day Dress* can be found in the *Patterns for All Bodies* online exhibition available on Digital Agnes: agnes.queensu.ca/digital-agnes/online-exhibition/patterns-for-all-bodies/



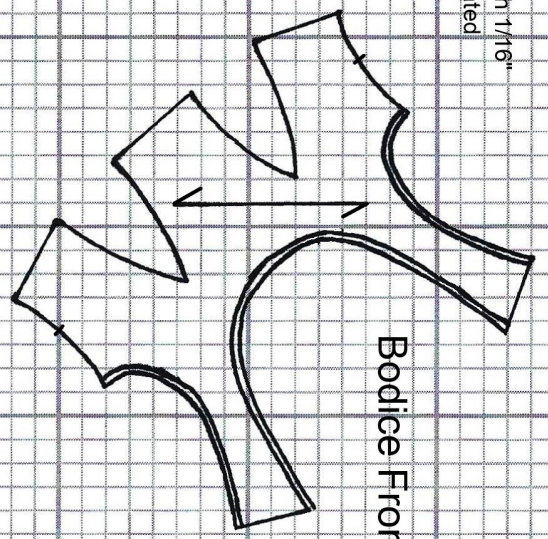
bodice pieces are edged with 1/16" (0.15cm) piping as indicated



**Bodice
Centre Back**



**Bodice
Side Back**

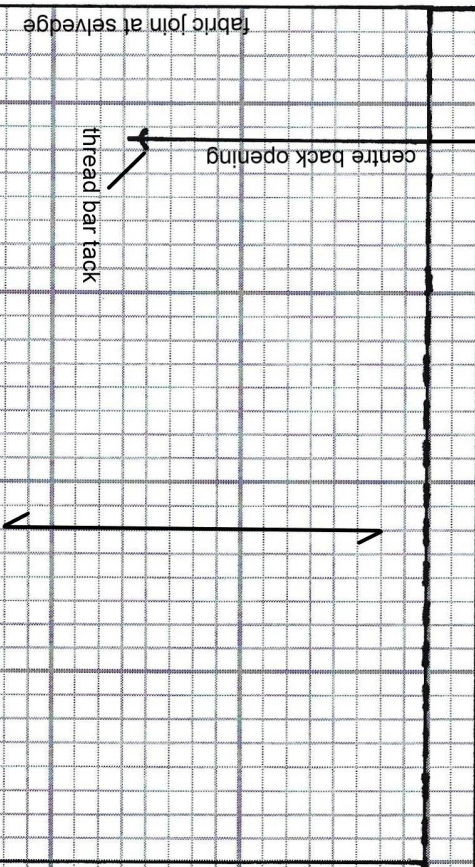


Bodice Front



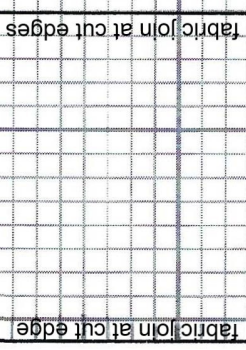
Waistband

Waistband is backed with plain cotton



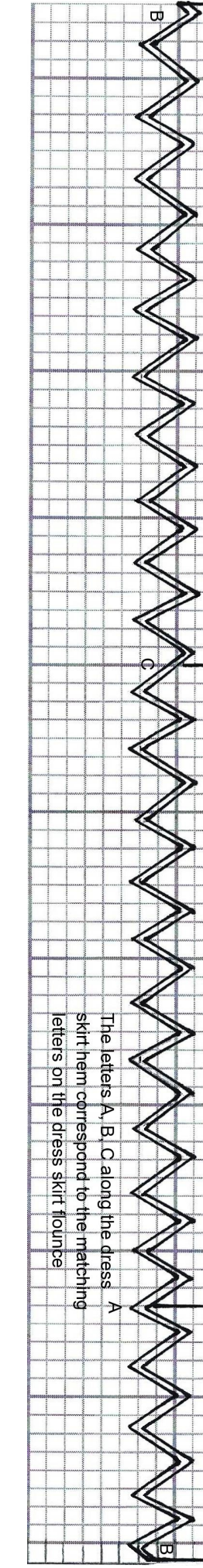
Dress Skirt

fabric is folded under then gathered along this line to fit the waistband; the excess fabric hangs inside the skirt



hem is finished with 1/16" (0.15cm) piping

The letters A, B, C along the dress skirt hem correspond to the matching letters on the dress skirt flounce



fabric joint at selvage

centre back opening

thread bar tack

fabric joint at selvages

centre front

fabric joint at cut edges

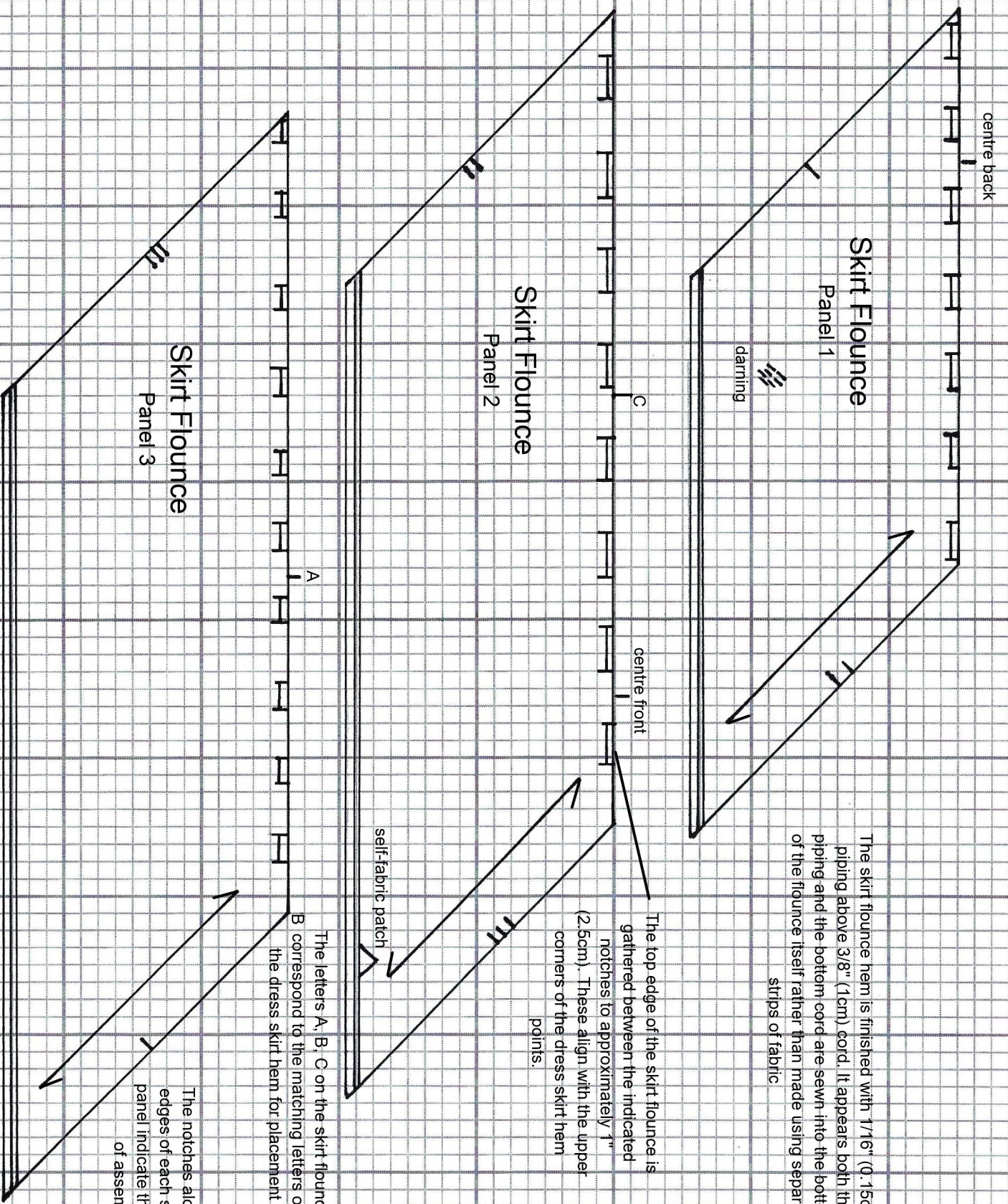
fabric joint at cut edge

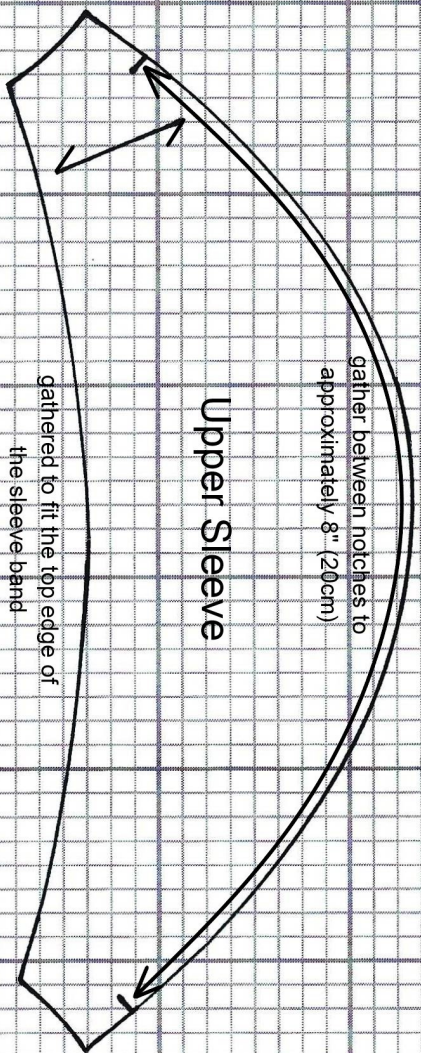
B

C

A

B

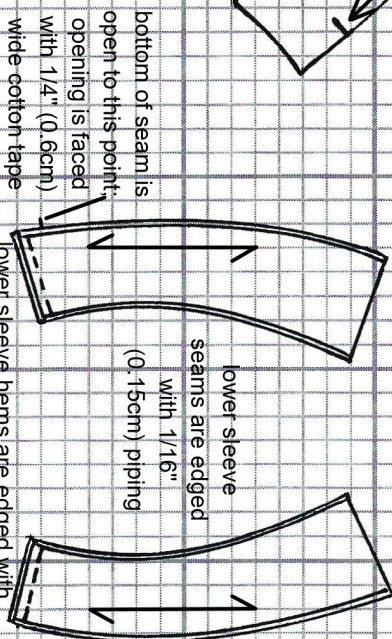




gather between notches to approximately 8" (20cm)

gathered to fit the top edge of the sleeve band

Upper Sleeve



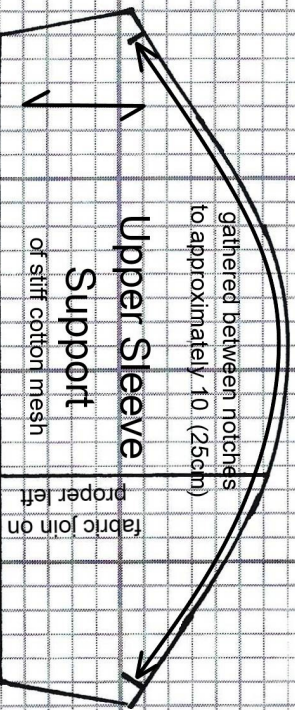
Lower Sleeve **Lower Sleeve**

Front **Back**

bottom of seam is open to this point; opening is faced with 1/4" (0.6cm) wide cotton-tape

lower sleeve hems are edged with 1/16" (0.15cm) piping, which extends 1/2" (1.2cm) inside the sleeve hem to make a facing

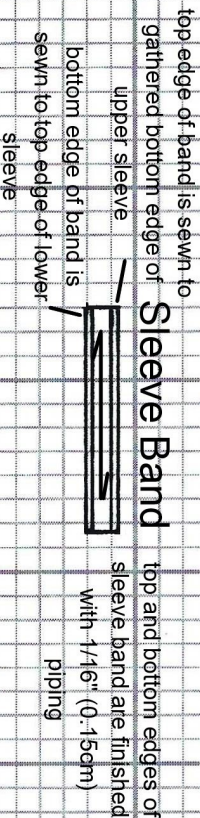
lower sleeve seams are edged with 1/16" (0.15cm) piping



gathered between notches to approximately 10 (25cm)

Upper Sleeve Support

bottom edge of sleeve support is the selvedge of the fabric; loosely gathered to 13" (32.5cm)

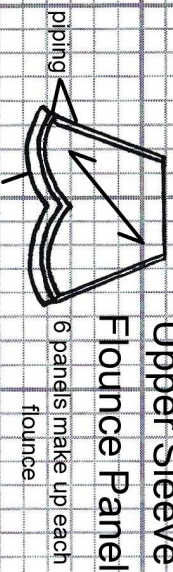


top edge of band is sewn to gathered bottom edge of upper sleeve

bottom edge of band is sewn to top edge of lower sleeve

Sleeve Band

top and bottom edges of sleeve band are finished with 1/16" (0.15cm) piping



Upper Sleeve Flounce Panel

the top edge of the flounce is gathered to 9" (22.5cm) total; 5 panels are gathered, the panel placed at the underarm is left ungathered

the top edge of the flounce is aligned with the top edge of the lower sleeve and sewn with it to the sleeve band

each flounce panel is backed with a corresponding piece of lightweight plainweave cream cotton

1/16" (0.15cm) piping is sewn between each panel seam

panels are sewn together then edged along the bottom with 1/16" (0.15cm) piping then a band of dress fabric to a finished width of 1/2" (1.2cm)

PATTERNMAKER NOTES

Enlarging the Pattern

The pattern is drafted to 1/8 scale: each square on the grid represents 1" of the full-size garment. This means that the pattern will need to be enlarged 8 times, or 800%, in order to get it to full size. There are several ways to enlarge scaled patterns. Three possible methods are given here.

Note that **no seam or hem allowances are included**. These will need to be added after enlarging and (likely) altering the pattern pieces if you wish to make them up.

Also note that the grain of the fabric corresponds to the vertical lines of the pattern grid.

Copy Shop

This is probably the easiest method, although it does incur some cost. If you have a local copy shop or office supply store with copying services, you can take the patterns there and have them enlarged by 800% to make full-sized copies on large format paper. However, this will cause some distortion because all of the lines will also be enlarged by 800%, which can make them less clear and crisp.

Home Computer

If you have image-handling software on your computer (such as Microsoft Paint), you can scale up the pattern to print out at home. Instructions for using specifically Paint are given here. Note that the same issue with enlargement distortion may apply here as it does to the copy shop option.

STEP 1

Download and save the pattern pages/images as a .jpg or other similar file that can be opened in Microsoft Paint.

STEP 2

Open your photo in Microsoft Paint and click on the resize tool. For the percentage, enter in 800. This will resize your image to what's needed for the full-sized pattern.

STEP 3

Go to "Page Setup" under the Print tab to make sure your page prints at the new scale you've sized. Under the "Scaling" option, click on "Fit to" instead of "Adjust to." This should change it to the page layout it needs without resizing your image. You may also wish to click on Horizontal and Vertical centering to make the page taping easier later. The number should likely read higher than 1 x 1 pages—if not, you might want to click on "Adjust to" then back to "Fit to" to sort of reset the setting.

STEP 4

Once your setup is complete, print the pages. Make sure all other print dialog boxes state that the pattern will be printed at the full 100% scale to ensure it does not print smaller or larger than you need it.

STEP 5

When all the pattern sheets are printed, begin assembling them in a grid by lining up the edges and taping them in place. Note that you will have to overlap the margins you set in the page setup back in step 3.

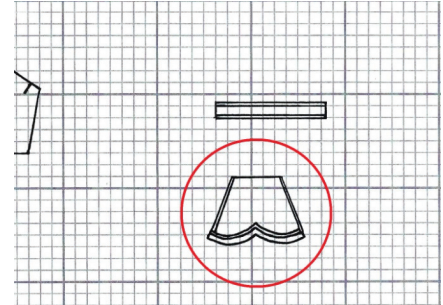
One thing to note with this method and the copy shop option is that the lines of the pattern pieces will get 8x thicker and therefore lose some of their sharpness. With the Microsoft Paint option, the pixels may also get a little blurry.

Enlarging by Hand with a Grid

For this method you will need 1" (2.5cm) grid paper. You can either draw this out yourself on a large roll of craft paper or similar or buy a roll of 1" grid paper at least 24" (60cm) wide.

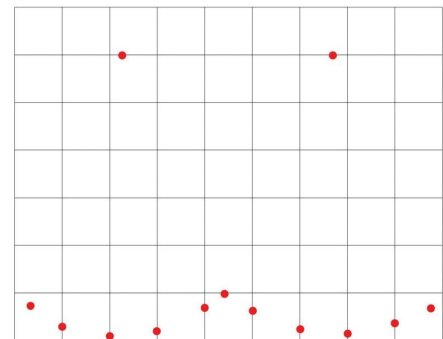
STEP 1

Pick a square on one side of the scaled down pattern. Choose a corresponding larger square on the paper. Note where the pattern lines enter or cross the original pattern square and mark those locations on the larger square.



STEP 2

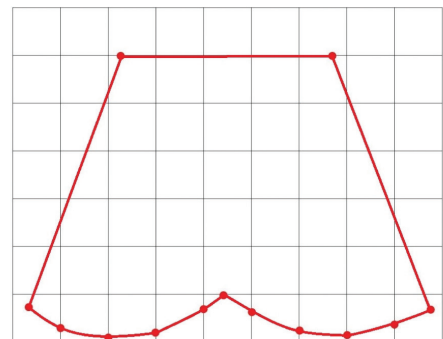
Connect the dots and draw exactly what you see in the original square onto the larger square.



STEP 3

Transfer all the markings from the original pattern.

A tip to make things easier and faster with this method: Many of the pattern pieces comprise or include straight lines. In these instances, simply transfer the start and end points of those lines to the corresponding locations on the larger paper and use a straight ruler to connect.



DRESSMAKER NOTES

Adjusting the Pattern

We have gathered the following references to help you master the art of pattern adjustment whether you are a beginner or an advanced sewist. Each garment will require customized techniques to give you the best fit. These resources will guide you on your sewing journey, making sure every adjustment you make fits perfectly and adds a personal touch to your creations. From tweaking a basic garment pattern to delving into more intricate modifications these tips will help ensure your sewing projects are as rewarding as they are successful. We always recommend testing your patterns by creating a muslin/toile in a cotton or cheaper fabric before cutting into your chosen fabric for the garment.

Helpful links:

This is a comprehensive list of instructions on how to alter a pattern. namedclothing.com/pages/pattern-alterations

Cashmerette is a leading patternmaker who specializes in curvy sewing and fit. Find high quality tutorials on specific fit issues. cashmerette.com/pages/common-fit-adjustments

This is a really great beginner pattern adjustment video (45mins). It covers myths about custom fit adjustments/ sewing; an introduction to custom fit adjustments; a common custom fit adjustments overview; how to know when you need an adjustment; and a grading and height adjusting demo. youtube.com/watch?v=cBq8A59BE4s

Books on how to adjust patterns (at your local library):

How To Make Sewing Patterns, by Donald H. McCunn.
kfpl.ca/c/catalogue/record/1.499881

The Vogue/Butterick Step-By-Step Guide To Sewing Techniques. kfpl.ca/c/catalogue/record/1.110670

Other recommended books:

Singer's The Perfect Fit, Singer Sewing Reference Library.

The Complete Photo Guide to Perfect Fitting, by Sarah Veblen.

Smart Fitting Solutions, by Kenneth King.

Fitting and Pattern Alteration, by Elizabeth Liechty, Judith Rasband and Della Pottberg-Steineckert.

Ahead of the Curve, by Jenny Rushmore.

Fit for Real People, by Marta Alto, Pati Palmer and Barbara Weiland.