



# Bias101

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How to Draft a Bias Top Starting with a Knit Tee is the perfect class to dip your toe into the pool of bias garment sewing! If you love to draft your own patterns, or if you want to give pattern drafting a try, this is a great first project... because we're not starting from scratch. We're going to use a knit tee pattern to design a sleeveless bias top.

We'll start by taking some simple body measurements and comparing them to the pattern to pick out a starting size. Then we'll adjust the front and back pieces to have an appropriate amount of ease for a bias garment. The bias grainline has built-in stretch that we can take advantage of to create a garment that fits and flares. This stretch is different than the stretch that runs along the cross or lengthwise grain of a fabric. I'll show you samples of the same top sewn up in the same fabric – One cut out on the bias & the other cut out on the straight of grain to show you how differently these garments hang from the shoulders. One of the key areas of the pattern that will change significantly is the shape of the armhole. To have enough ease across the high bust, the armhole will be more narrow than a traditional armhole. This in turn will require the armhole to be lengthened. We'll also look at the waistline and hem to make sure you have the right amount of ease in these key areas too.

After the pattern pieces are finished, we're going to take it one step farther. I'll show you how to get rid of the traditional side seams in favor of seams that run along the straight of grain. Seams sewn along the bias grainline can be hard to control. Adding diagonal seam details that run along the straight of grain are easy to sew and hang so much better. Bias is also very forgiving. If your sleeveless top is too snug, you can slash the garment along the straight of grain and insert a triangle shaped godet to add the ease you need! You'll leave class with a sleeveless bias pattern to sew at home.

## Supply List

- Pattern Paper
- Clear Grid 18" Ruler
- Tape Measure
- Pencils
- Paper Scissors
- Scotch Tape