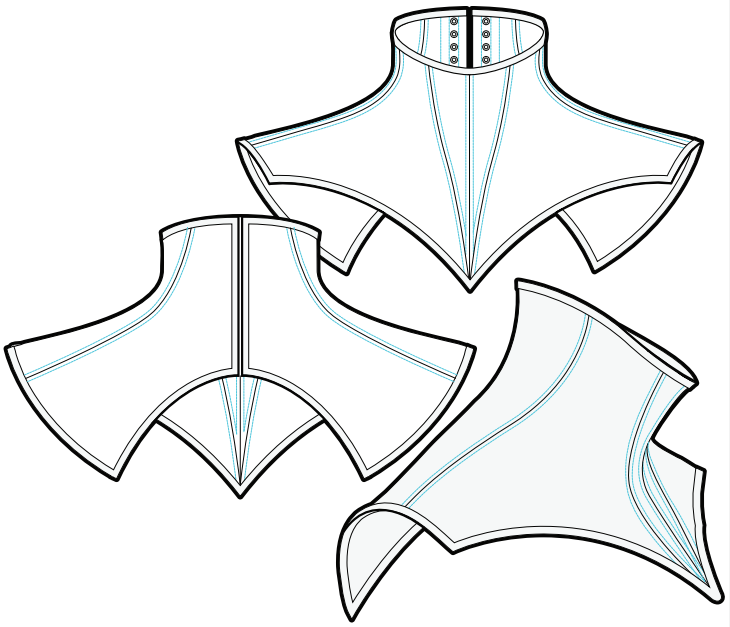
RP011: NECK CORSET



DIFFICULTY

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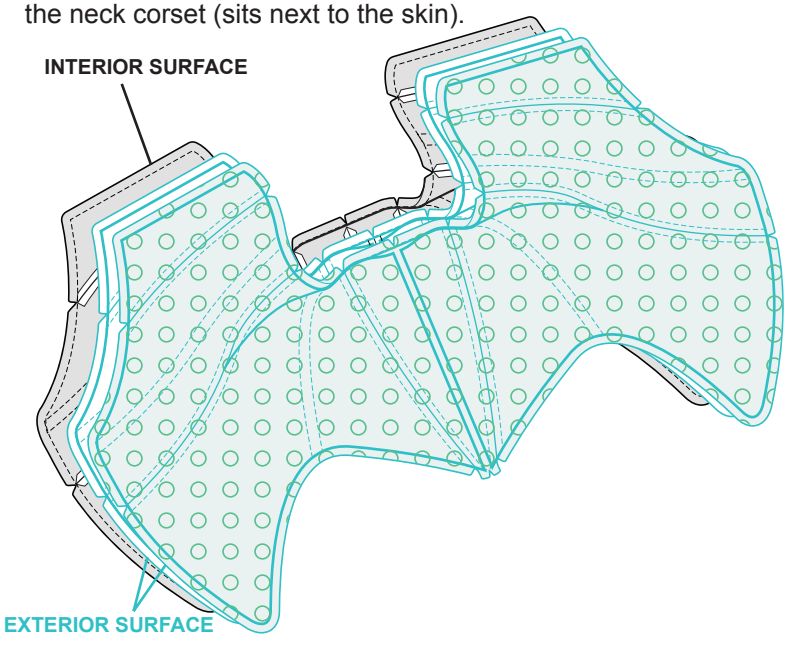
Thank you for choosing www.ralphpink-patterns.com. We hope you enjoy making this pattern.

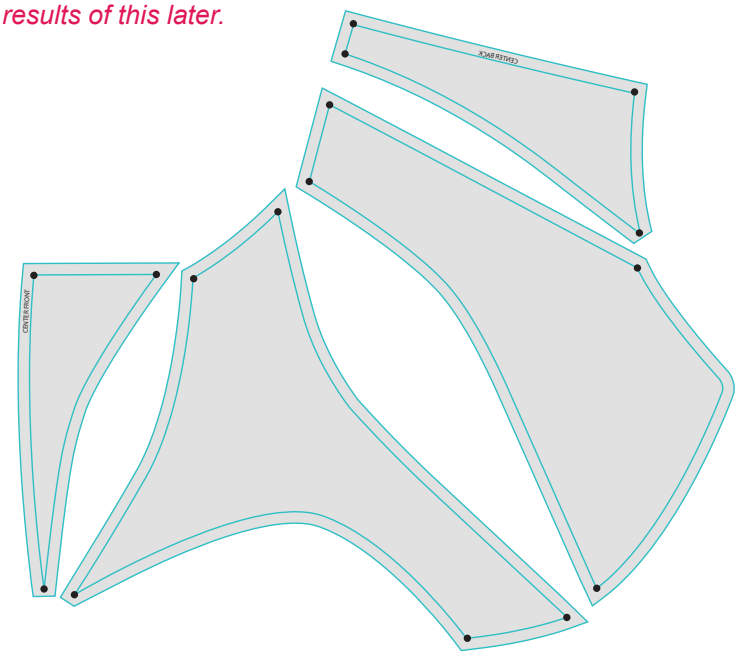
NOTE: INTERIOR & EXTERIOR SURFACES:

The neck corset is made in the same way that a standard corset is made: A thin material layer covers one layer of coutil. This then forms the external layer. The external layer is placed on top of the remaining coutil layer with wrong sides facing. channels are then stitched securing the exterior and interior layers together. Strips of boning are inserted into the channels to reinforce the whole structure. The exterior surface simply means the outside face of the neck corset (exposed to the wandering eye!). The interior surface refers to the inside face of the neck corset (sits next to the skin).

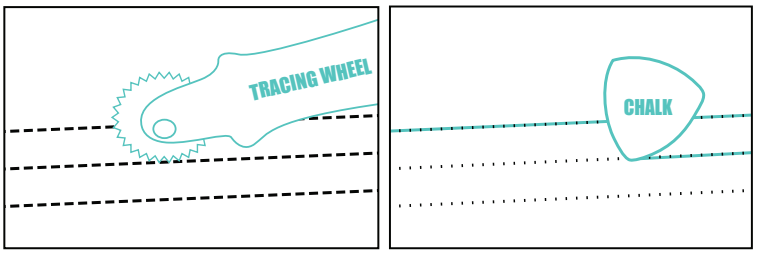


MARKING THE MATERIAL

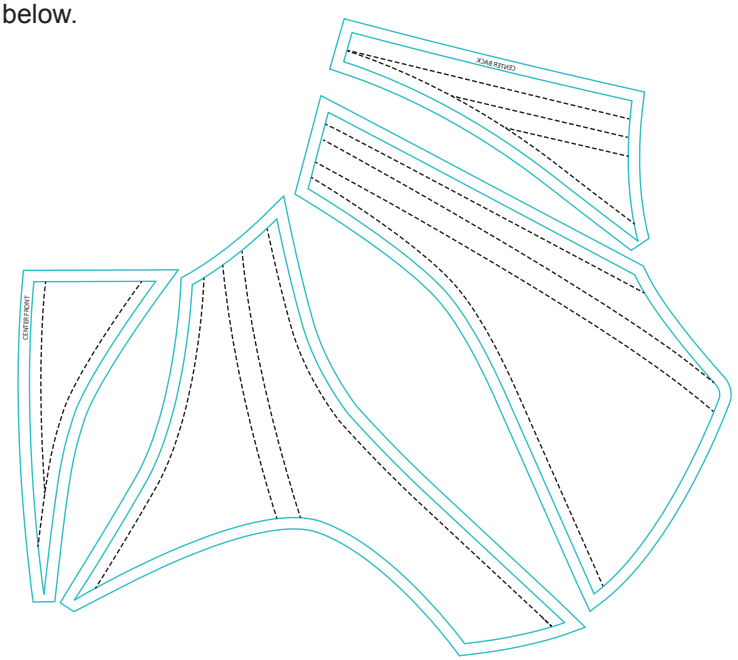
1.1 Once you have cut each pattern piece in the corresponding material, start to mark your corner points. Mark each corner point of all your patterns with chalk, on the WRONG SIDE of your material. **Tip:** *This will allow you to match up your material pattern pieces at a later date. It will also give you a point at which to stop sewing your seams when joining panels together. This produces cleaner more accurate garments, especially when joining multiple or complex seams. You will see the results of this later.*



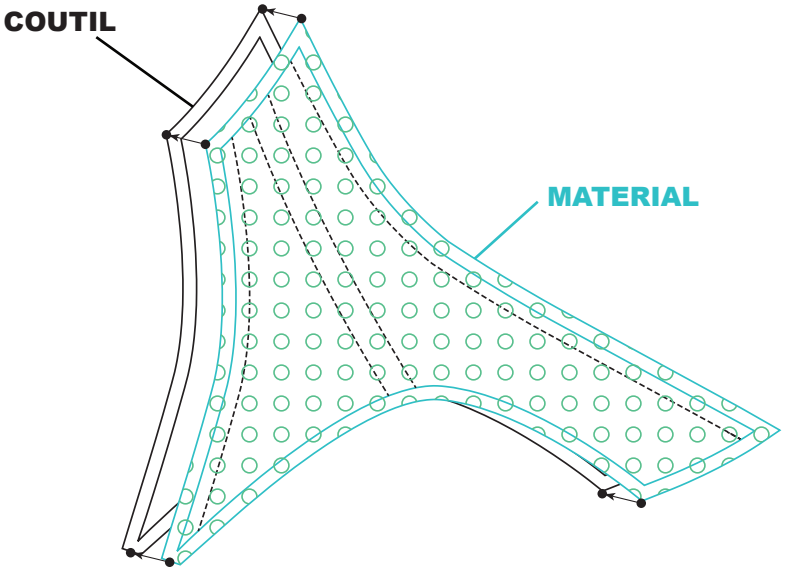
1.2 Transfer the BONING CHANNEL lines on your pattern pieces A, B, C and D with chalk. This should be done on the RIGHT SIDE of your chosen material. Do this for all pattern pieces that indicate BONING CHANNEL lines. **Tip:** *You can do this by laying your paper pattern pieces on your material and tracing the lines with a TRACING WHEEL. Then once you have removed the paper pattern, mark the material with chalk along the faint dotted lines left by the tracing wheel.*



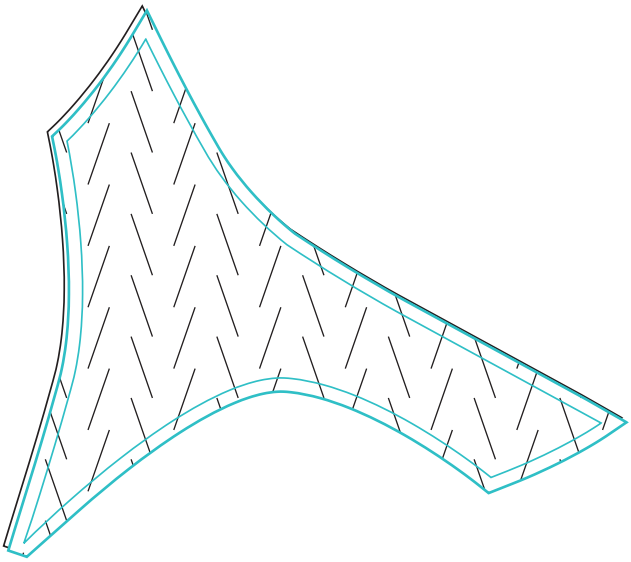
1.3 Your material patterns should now be marked as indicated below.



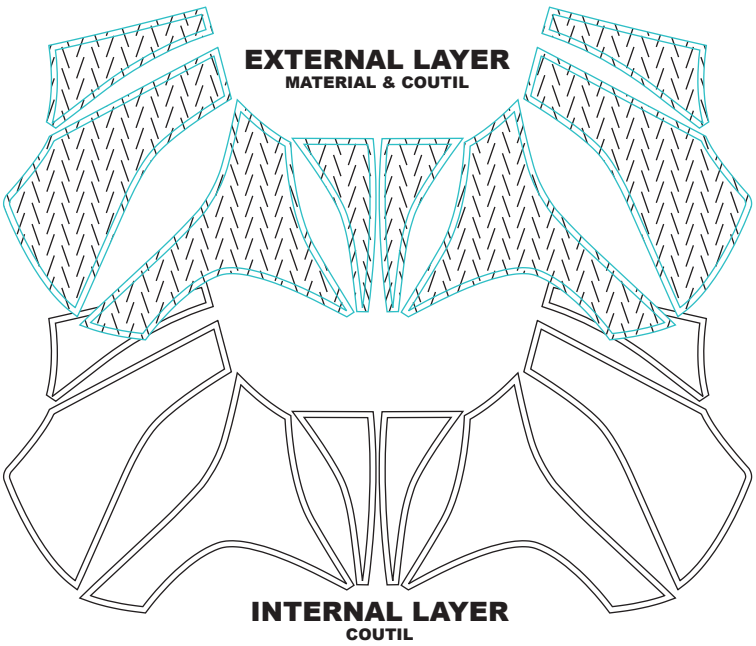
1.4 Place the material pattern pieces over one set of coutil pieces. Match seams, notches and pin around the outside edge of each panel.



1.5 Padstitch material pattern piece to coutil pattern pieces. This will secure the two together making it easier when constructing your neck corset. Tip: If your material is particularly lightweight, padding will help stop puckering and gathering when stitching channels.

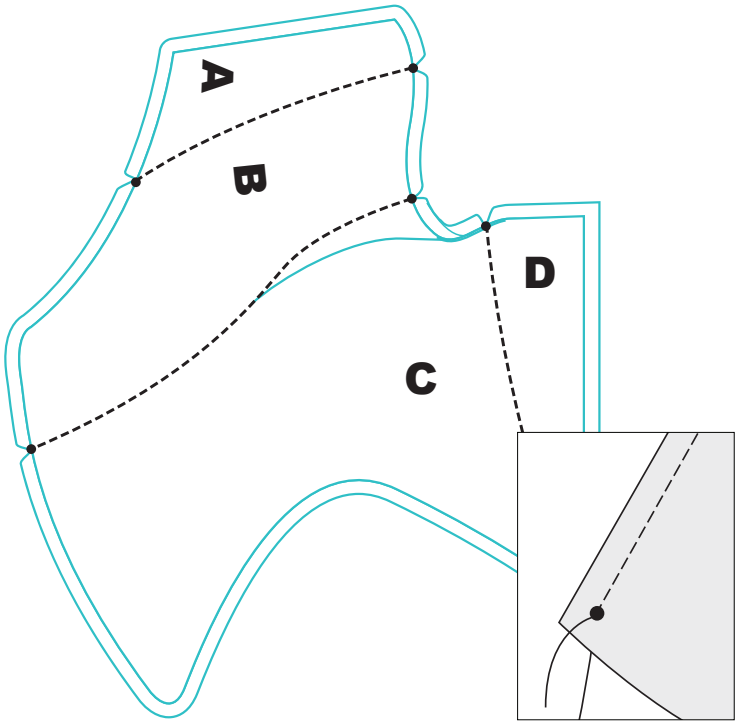


1.6 You should now have:
One set of coutil pattern pieces covered with pad stitched material (external layer);
One set of Coutil not covered with anything (internal layer).

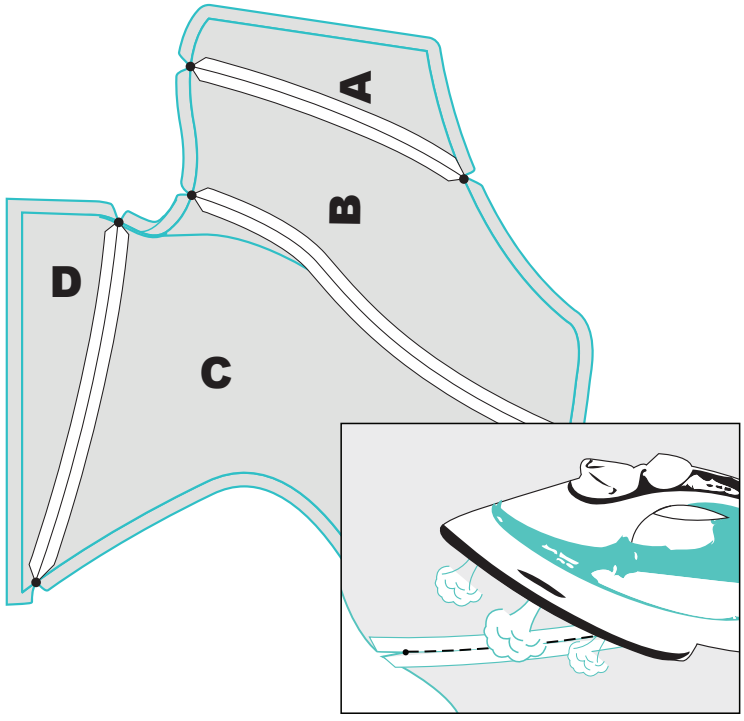


GARMENT CONSTRUCTION

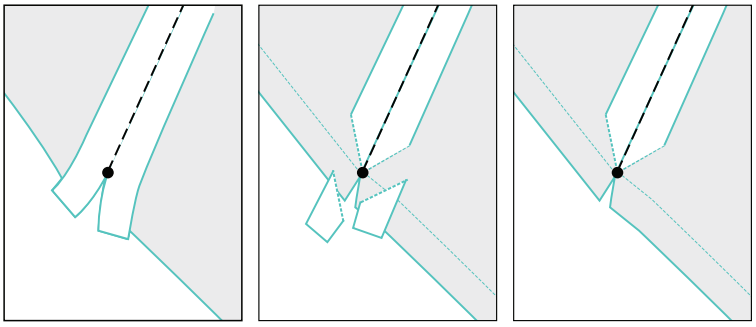
2.1 Join panels A, B, C & D together, using the notches to match each pattern. Do this for both INTERNAL and EXTERNAL surfaces. Make sure the seam allowance is visible on the wrong side of your material. **Tip:** *start sewing from the corner point that you marked previously, back stitching to secure your seam. Do not go past your marked corner point.*



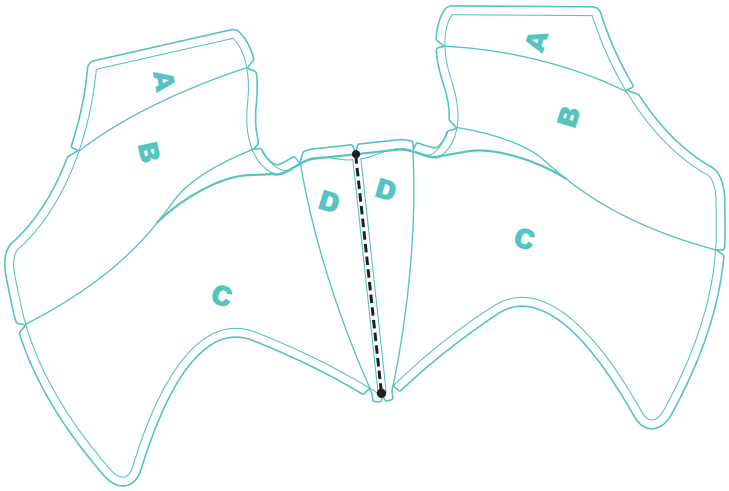
2.2 Iron open all your seams and press with steam both sides of your material to get a crisp seam.



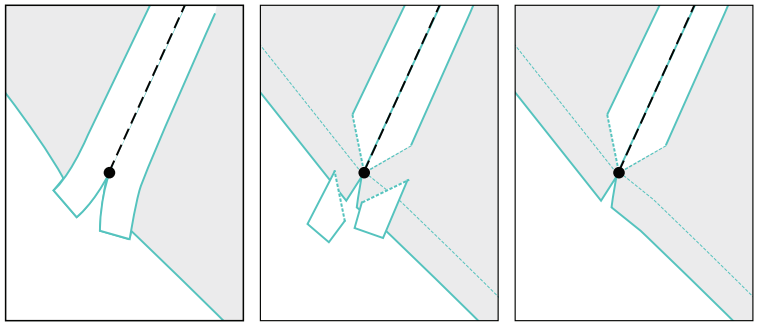
2.3 Trim the tips of your seam allowance off at each end point. Do this for both INTERIOR & EXTERIOR surface panels.



2.4 Panel D forms the CENTRE FRONT of your neck corset. Join the two sides of the corset together at CENTRE FRONT . Do this for both INTERIOR and EXTERIOR surfaces.

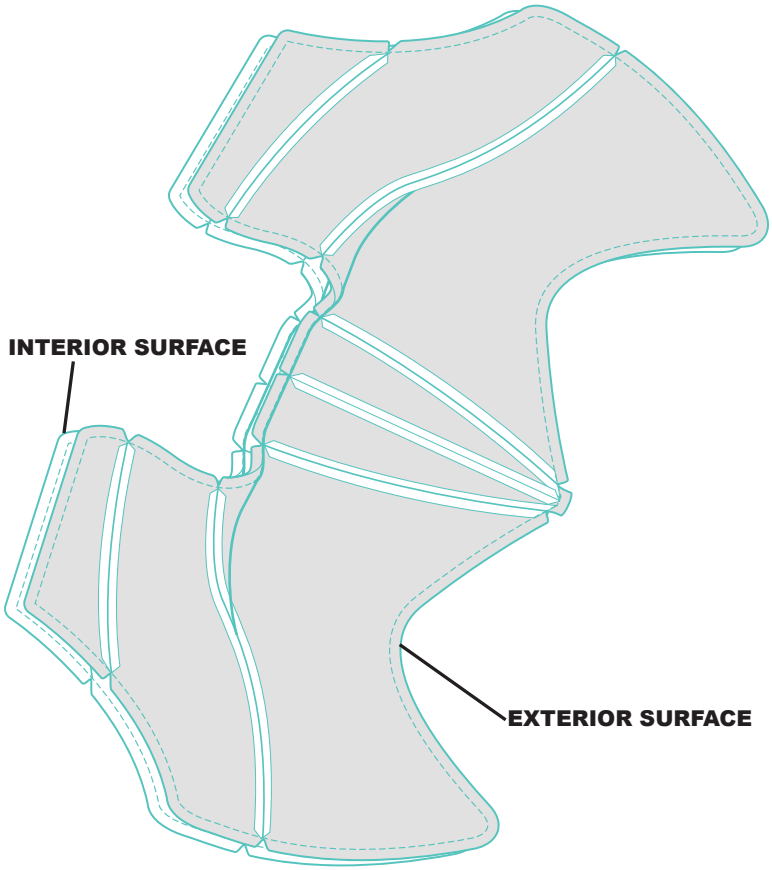


2.5 Press open your seam alowance (wrong side of material) and snip to point and remove seam allowance tips.



ATTACHING INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PANELS (at CENTRE BACK seam)

3.1 Now that your neck corset panel pieces are attached together, you should have two single layer neck corsets with seams exposed (containing panels ABCD). One should form the INTERIOR surface and the other the EXTERIOR surface of your neck corset.

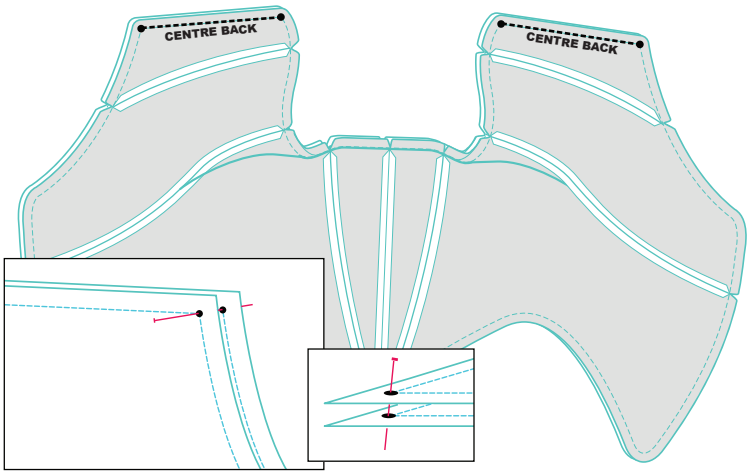


3.2 Place the INTERIOR surface of your neck corset on the ground, RIGHT side facing up.

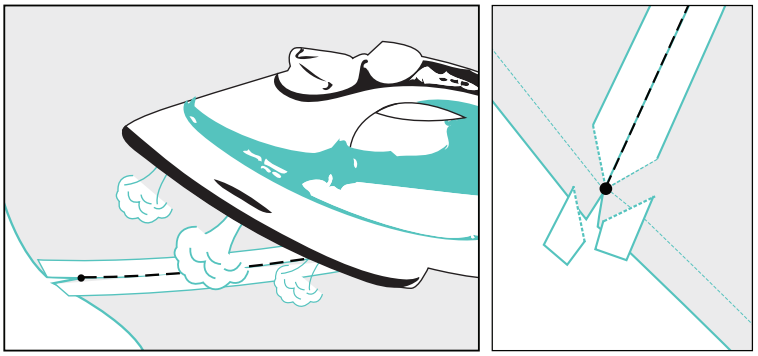
3.3 Then take the EXTERIOR surface of your neck corset and place it on top of the INTERIOR SURFACE, right side facing down.

3.4 Now you should have a complete neck corset with both right sides facing together.

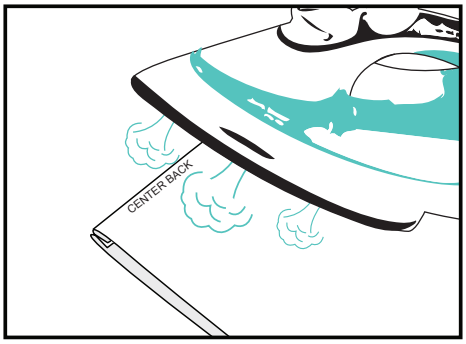
3.5 Pin and sew the CENTRE BACKS together. **Tip:** *Use a pin, to pin point the position of each corner point and notch (if required).*



3.6 Press open both CENTRE BACK seams on both sides of your material to obtain a crisp finish. Snip corners as before.

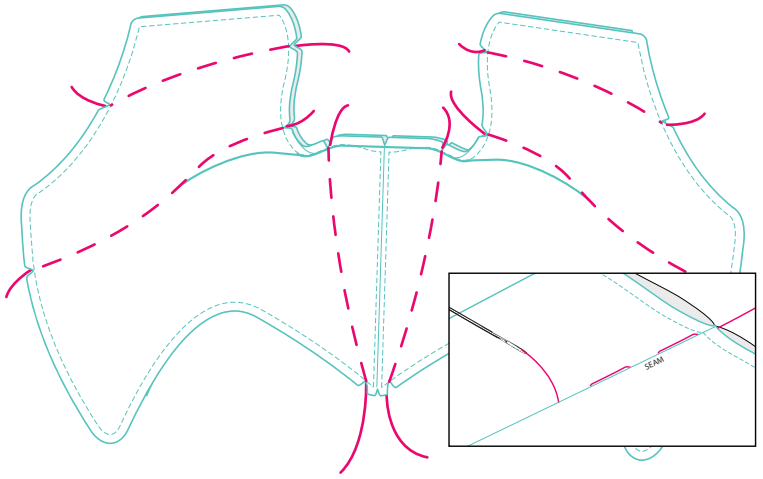


3.7 Turn your neck corset inside out so that both CENTRE BACK seam allowances appear on the inside of your neck corset and press the CENTRE BACK seams flat with an iron.



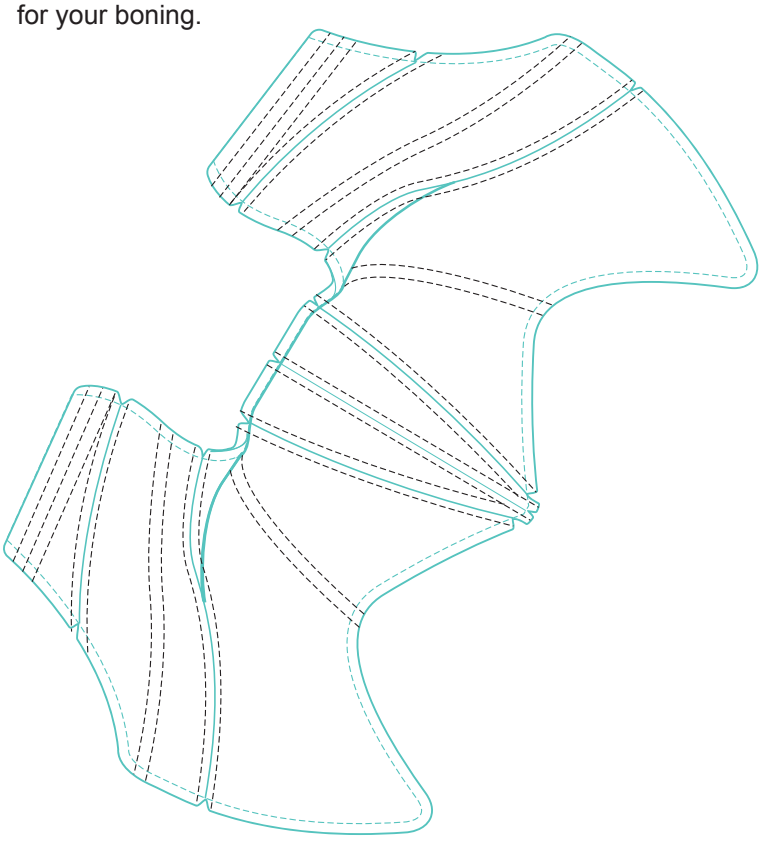
MATCHING INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PANELS TOGETHER

4.1 Start to match each seam on the interior surface of the neck corset to its matching seam on the exterior surface.Tack each seam together using strong colourful thread that will be easy to remove at a later date. **Tip:** *make sure that you push the needle through the centre of each matching seam. You should not have to sew through material, simply link the seams.*



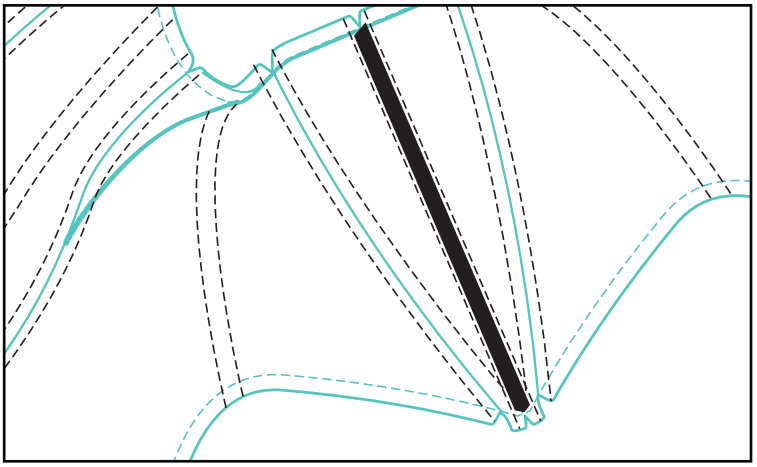
BONING AND TOPSTITCHING

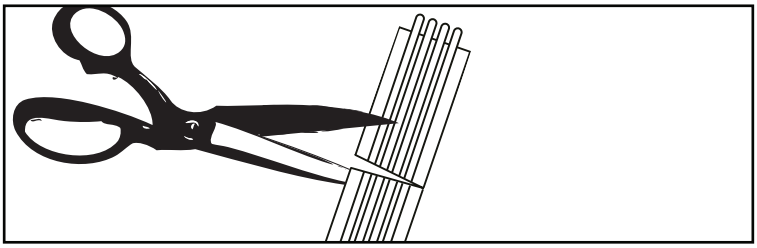
4.1 The BONING CHANNEL lines, that you originally marked on the right side of your neck corset, now need to be stitched through both INTERIOR and EXTERIOR surfaces. This will also secure the two surfaces together and provide the channels for your boning.



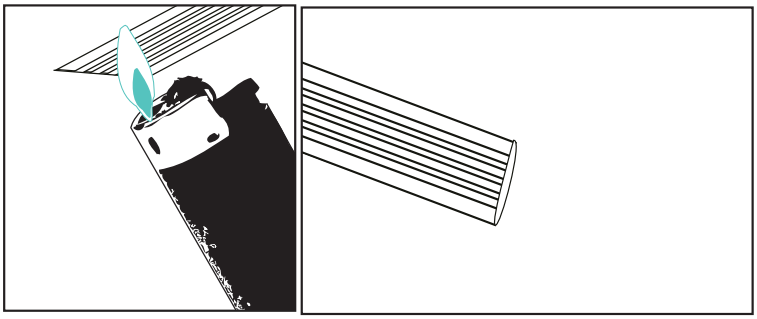
4.2 Rigelene boning: You will now need to measure, cut, seal and insert your boning into the channels on your neck corset.

4.3 Measuring: Lay the boning flat over the boning channel you have created and snip the end with scissors to match the length and shape of your channel. The end of your boning should not extend into the seam allowance. It should finish 0.7 cm away from the edge of your neck corset, just short of the seam allowance. If you prefer, you can use the original paper patterns to measure your boning.

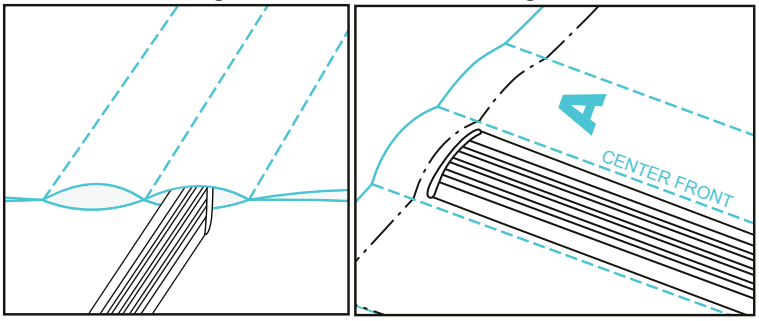




4.4 Sealing: We advise melting or heating the ends of each cut piece of boning to prevent fraying and tearing of the neck corset. This can be done with a lighter, simply by holding the end of your cut boning in the blue part of the flame until it starts to melt. Be careful not to burn the Rigelene. Whilst still hot, smooth the end with your finger or thumb. Be careful not to burn yourself. Practise on a scrap piece of Rigelene.



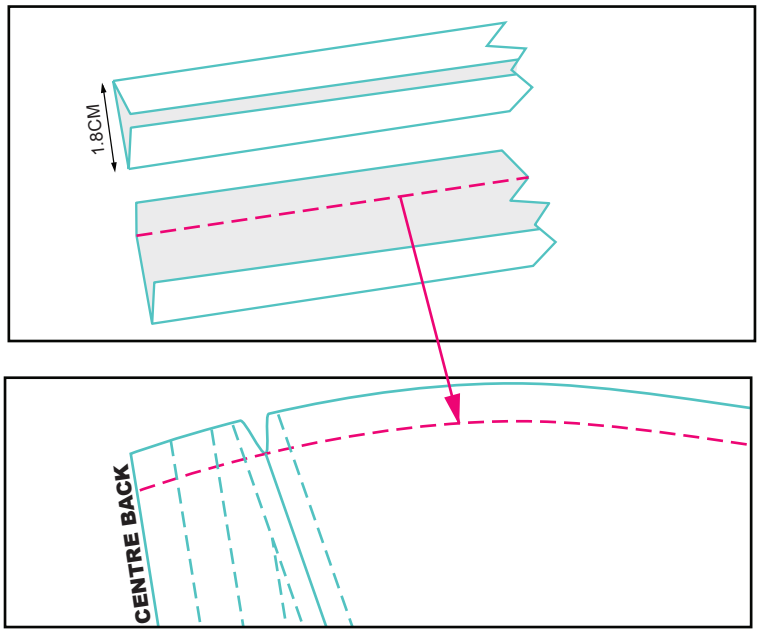
4.5 Inserting: Insert the boning into every channel. Make sure that the boning does not extend past the seam allowance. Do this for all boning and channels. You will also need to remove the tacking stitch from each matching seam.



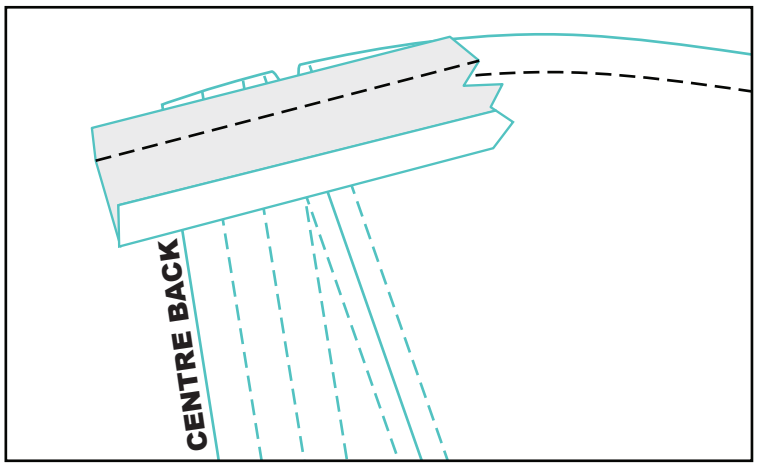
FINISHING WITH BIAS BINDING

You will now need to finish the top and bottom edge of your neck corset with bias binding. This will create a beautiful finish and hold your boning in place. **Tip:** *There are plenty of haberdashers that supply pre-made widths of bias binding in a range of colours and finishes. We suggest that you find one that matches the material of your neck corset as it is far easier to use than homemade bias binding. If you would like to make your own bias binding you will need a BIAS BINDING MAKER. These can also be found at most haberdashers or are available to buy online.*

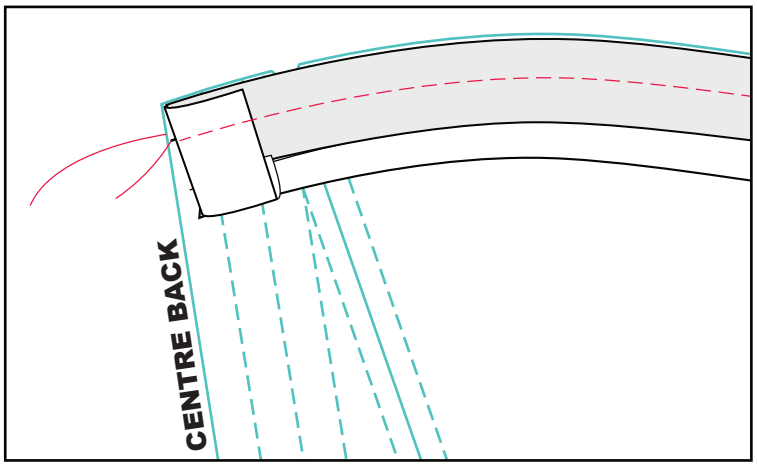
We recommend using a 1.8mm bias binding. Please note that this is the width of the bias binding when folded. The bias binding should measure double this when unfolded. This will give you a bias binding finish of just under 1cm on either side of your neck corset. Although, you can use any size you wish.



5.1 Top edge of neck corset: Unfold your bias binding and place it wrong side up against the edge of your seam allowance (on the EXTERIOR surface of the neck corset only). Make sure that the fold or groove matches up with the top edge seam as this indicates the line that you will sew when attaching your bias binding to the neck corset.



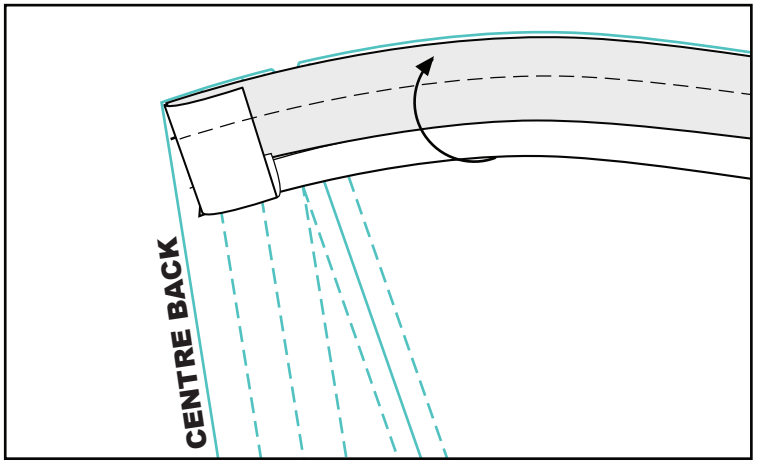
5.2 Before attaching your bias binding to the neck corset, fold over a 1cm section at the edge of the CENTRE BACK. Then pin the bias binding to your neck corset. **Tip:** *this will create a nice smooth edge to your bias binding at the centre back.*



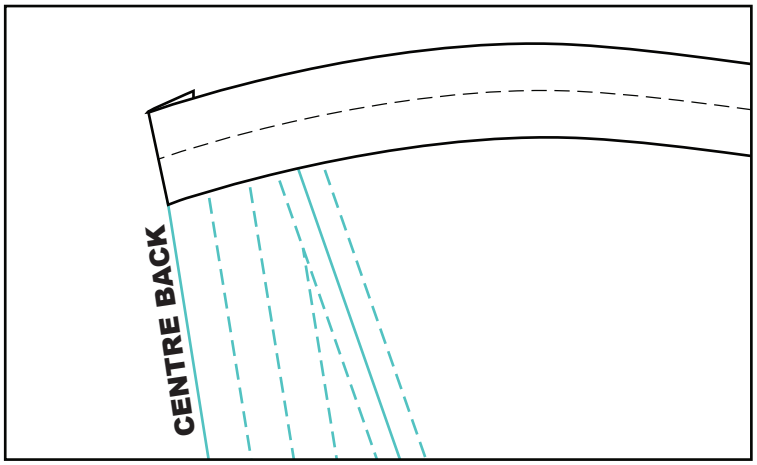
5.3 Stitch from CENTRE BACK to CENTRE BACK, along the top edge of your corset, attaching the bias binding to your neck corset.

5.4 With a sharp pair of scissors, trim the top edge seam allowance to around 0.3cm from the seam. This will give you a nice clean edge and non bulky bias binding trim when finished.

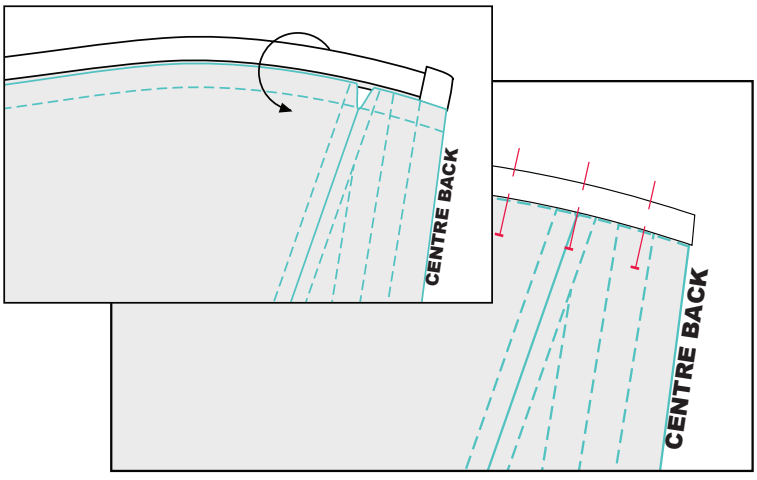
5.5 Fold the unattached edge of the bias binding towards the seam allowance and press lightly with an iron (no steam). This will help when folding your bias binding to the other INTERIOR surface of your neck corset.



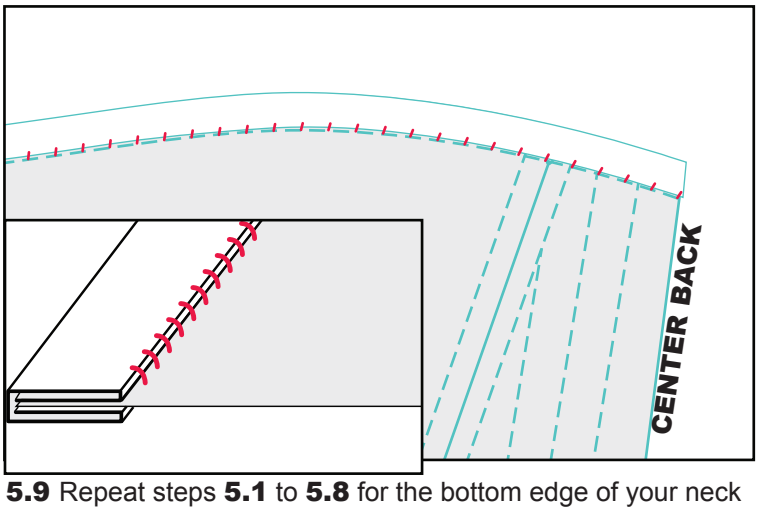
5.6 Fold the bias binding over the seam allowance so that it is visible on the INTERIOR surface.



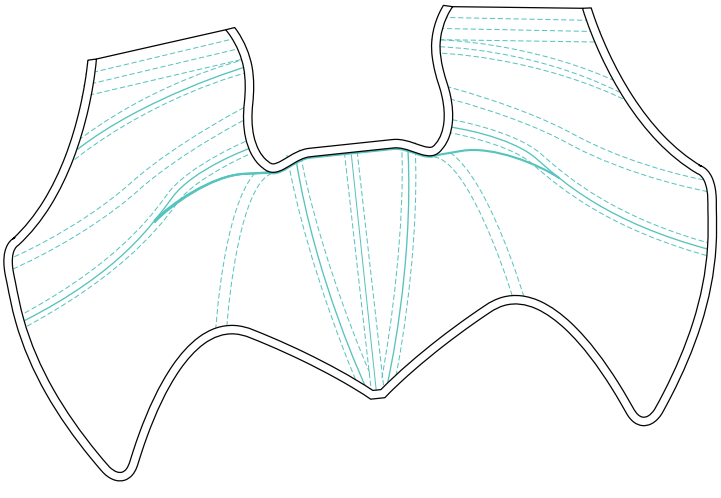
5.7 Using pins, temporarily secure the folded bias binding to the INTERIOR surface of your corset.



5.8 To finish, fell stitch the edge of the bias binding to your neck corset.

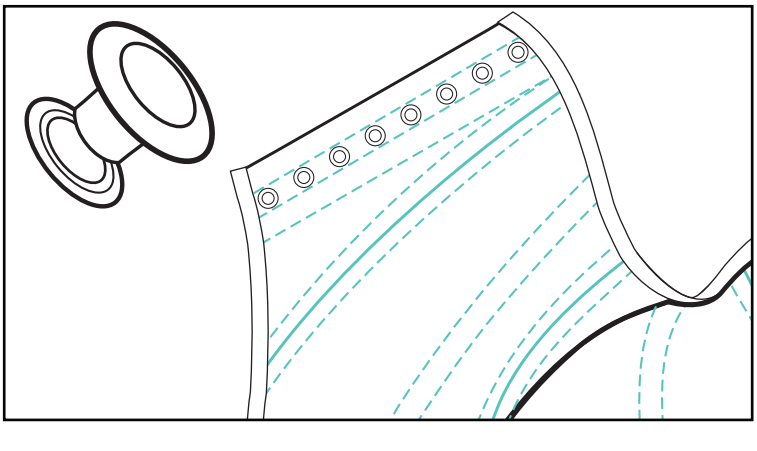


5.9 Repeat steps **5.1** to **5.8** for the bottom edge of your neck corset. Your Neck corset should now look as follows:



INSERTING THE EYELETS:

6.1 Finally, insert eyelets between the two boning channels at the centre back (marked on your paper patterns) using either a press or an eyelet kit.



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