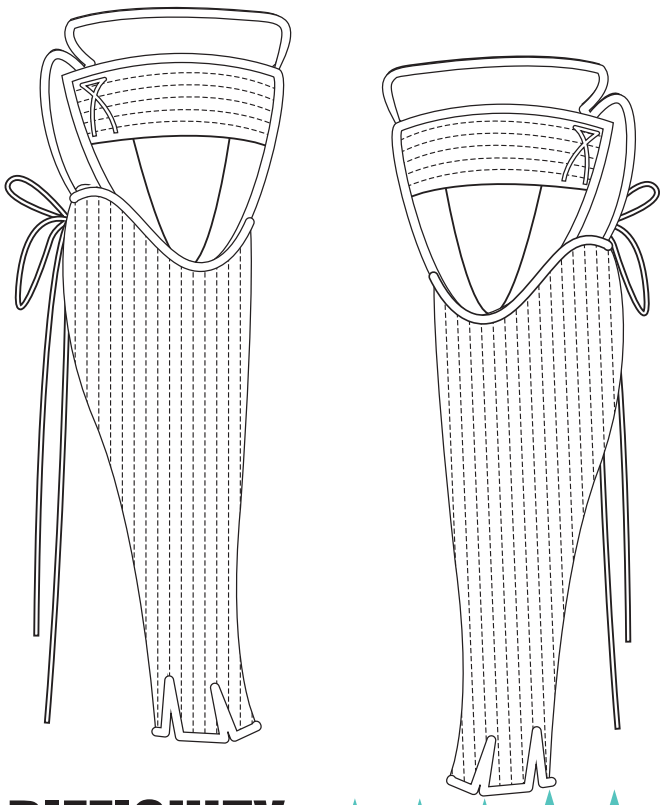
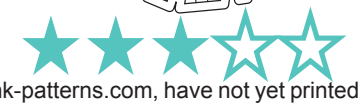
RP010: CORSET GREEVES



DIFFICULTY



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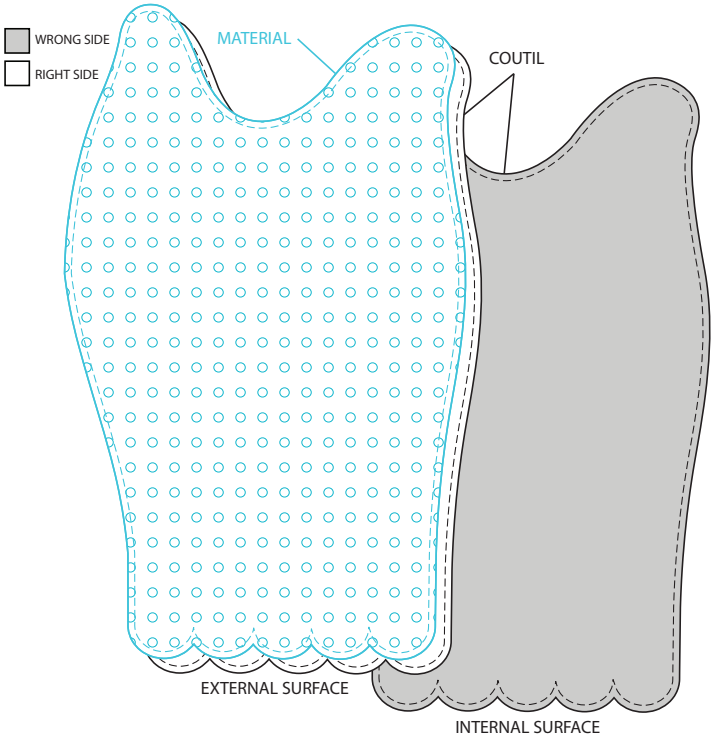
Thank you for choosing www.ralphpink-patterns.com. We hope you enjoy making this pattern.

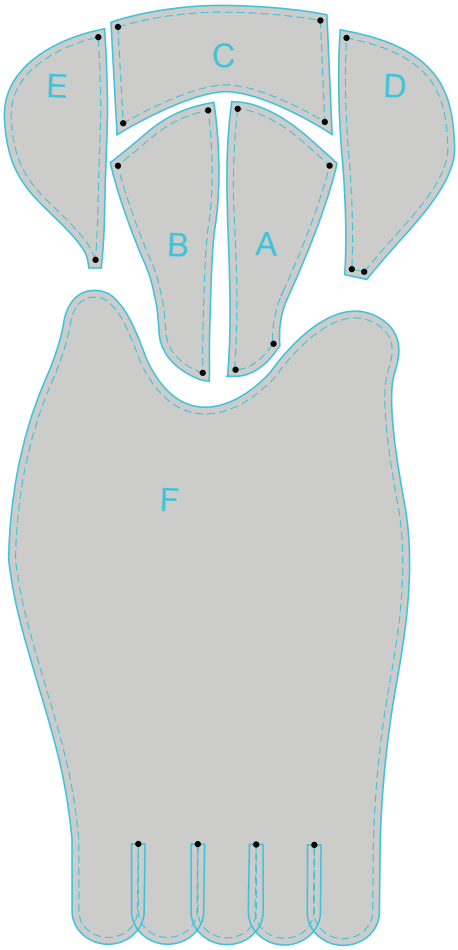
NOTE: LAYERS / INTERIOR EXTERIOR SURFACES

Corset greeves are made in the same way that a corset is made: A thin material layer covers one layer of coutil (external layer). The external layer is then placed on top of the remaining coutil layer. Lines are then stitched securing the exterior and interior layers together. This forms channels which house strips of boning that reinforce the whole structure. The exterior surface simply means the outside face of the greeves (exposed to the wandering eye!). The interior surface refers to the inside face of the greeves (sits next to the skin).



MARKING THE MATERIAL

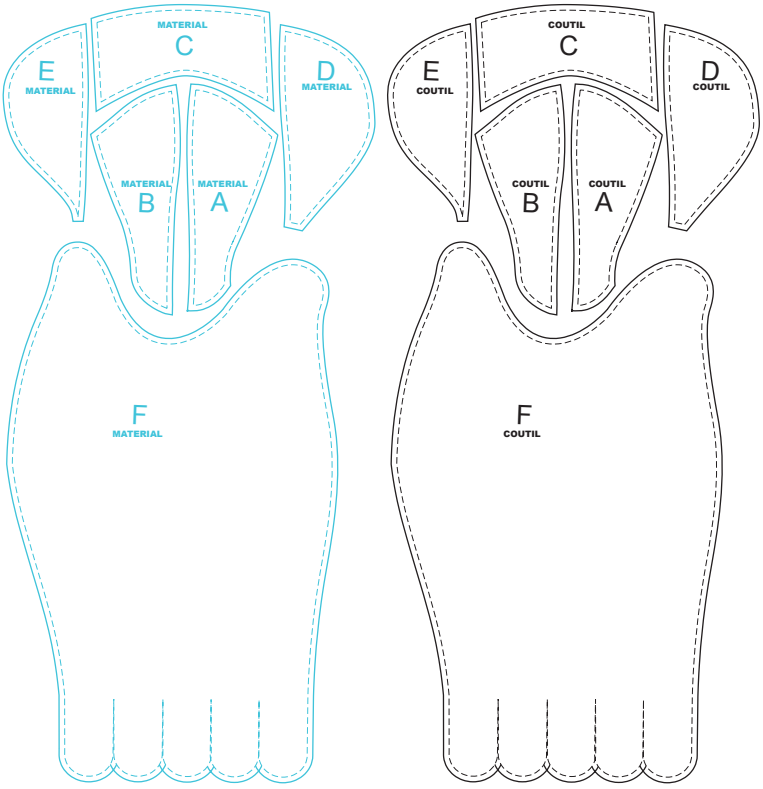
1.1 Once you have cut each pattern piece in the corresponding material, start to mark your corner points. Mark each corner point of ALL your patterns with chalk on the WRONG SIDE of your coutil and material only: **Tip:** *This will allow you to match up your material pattern pieces at a later date. 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.*



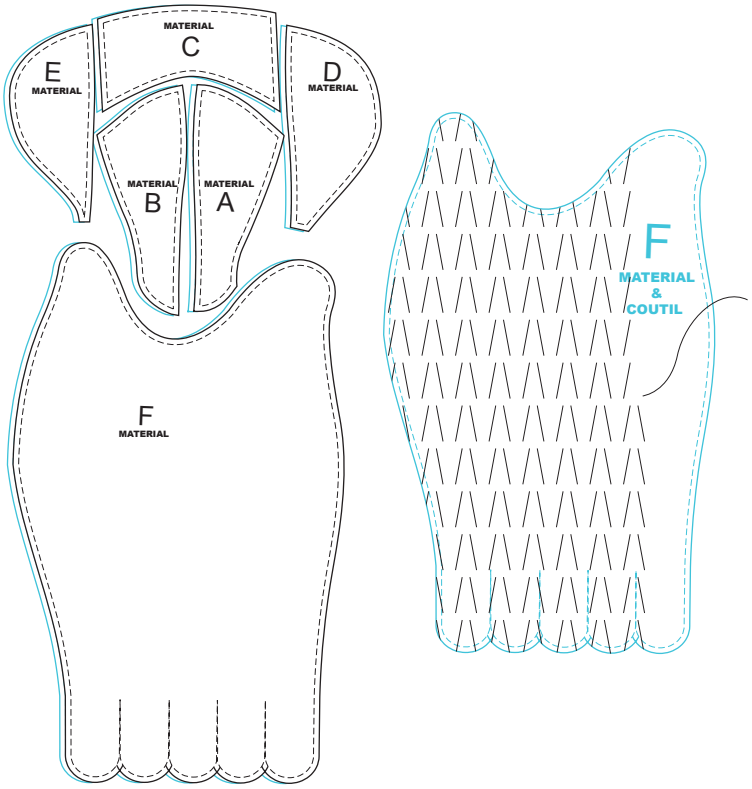
MAKING THE EXTERIOR LAYER (JOINING COUTIL & MATERIAL)

2.1 Coutil is not the most exciting looking material and it will need to be covered with a more attractive material. We recommend a thin light material that will not add too much bulk to the finished greeves. So, before constructing your greeves, you will need to attach the material layer to one layer of your coutil (all panel pieces). These panels will now form the exterior layer of your greeves:

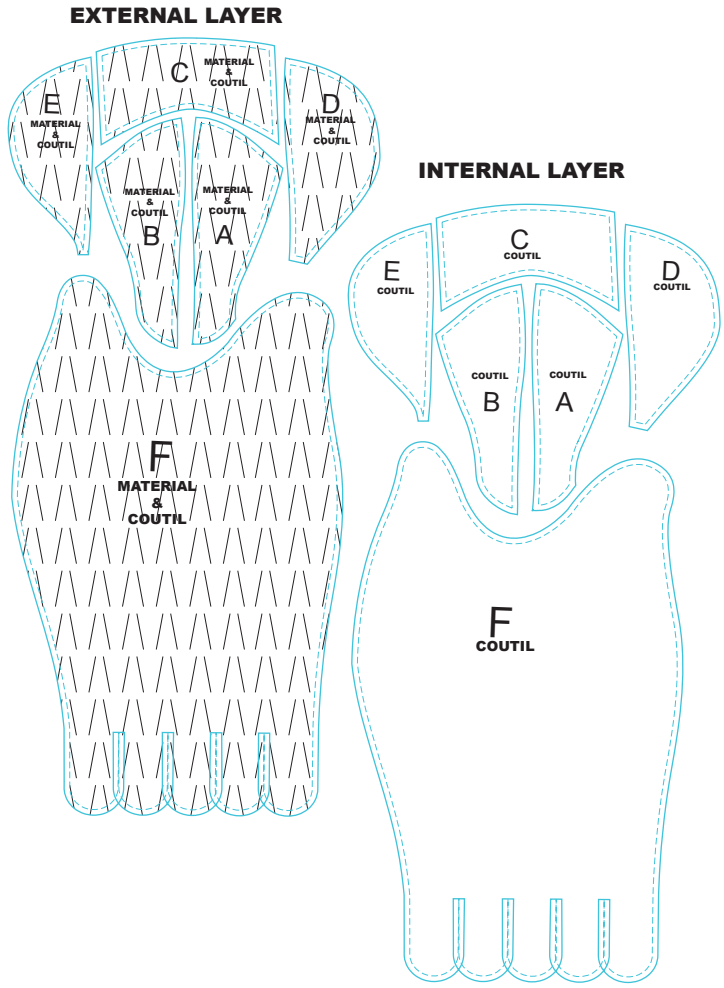
Lay your material panels over the top of the corresponding coutil panels, match seam allowances and corner points.



2.2 Attach material to one layer of coutil by pad stitching the two together. Do this for all pattern pieces on right and left leg.

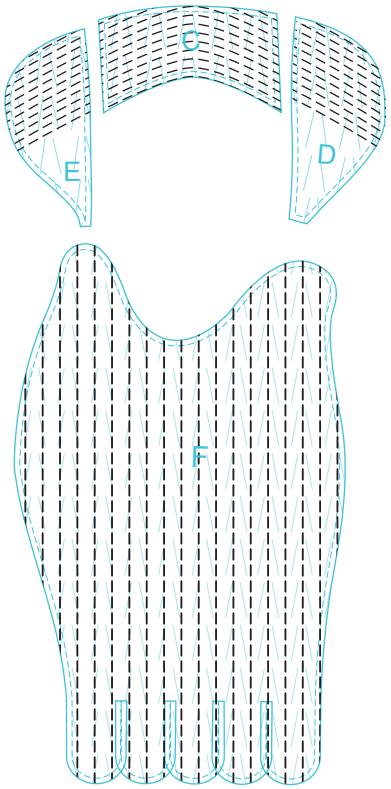


2.3 You should now have the folowing set of panels ready for construction: (BELOW ONLY THE RIGHT LEG IS SHOWN)

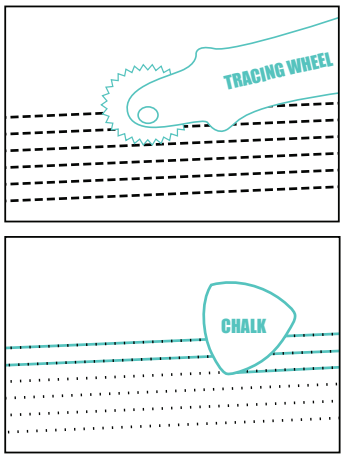


MARKING TOP STITCH LINES *ON NEW EXTERIOR PANELS*

3.1 Transfer the TOP STITCHING lines on your pattern pieces E,C, D and F with chalk. This should be done on the RIGHT SIDE of your exterior layer.

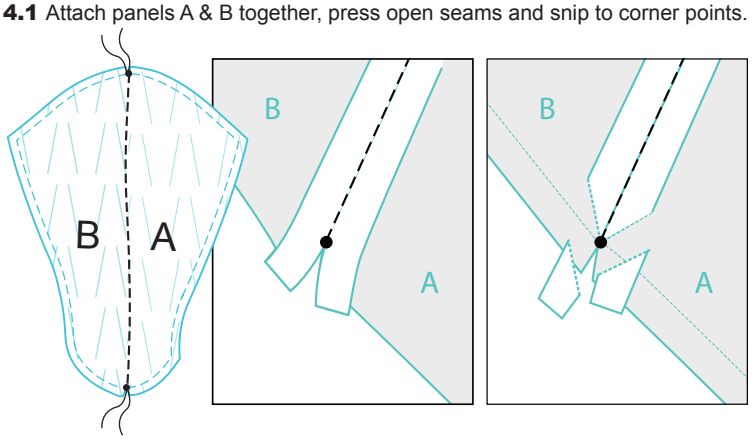


Tip: You can do this by laying the paper pattern pieces on your material and tracing the lines with a TRACING WHEEL. Then, once you have removed the paper pattern, mark the material with chalk along the faint dotted lines left by the tracing wheel.

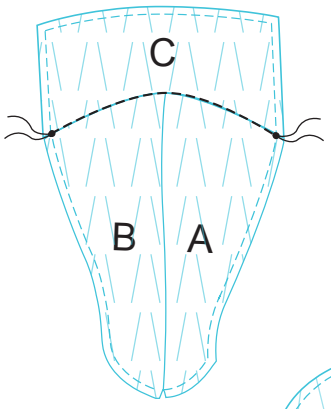


GARMENT CONSTRUCTION - KNEE PAD

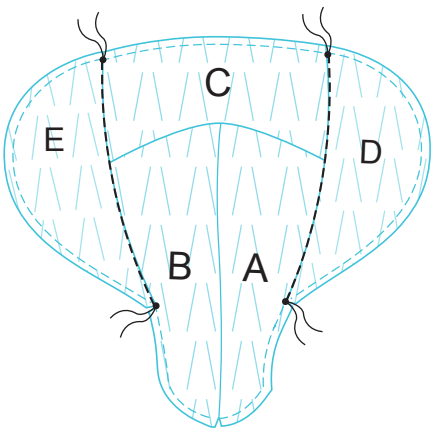
4.1 Attach panels A & B together, press open seams and snip to corner points.



4.2 Attach panels AB to C, press open seams and snip to corner points.

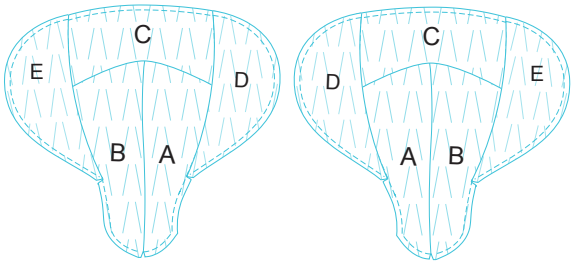


4.3 Attach panels E & D to panel ABC, press open seams and snip to corner points.
You will also need to construct the COUTIL knee pads (these will form the interior surface of the knee pad).

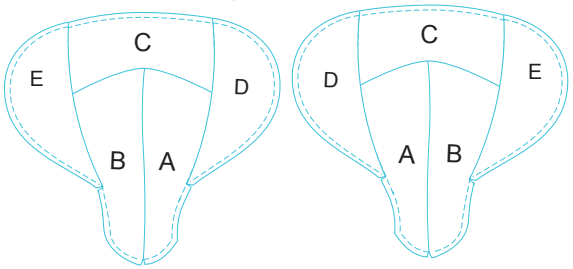


You should now have the following pieces.

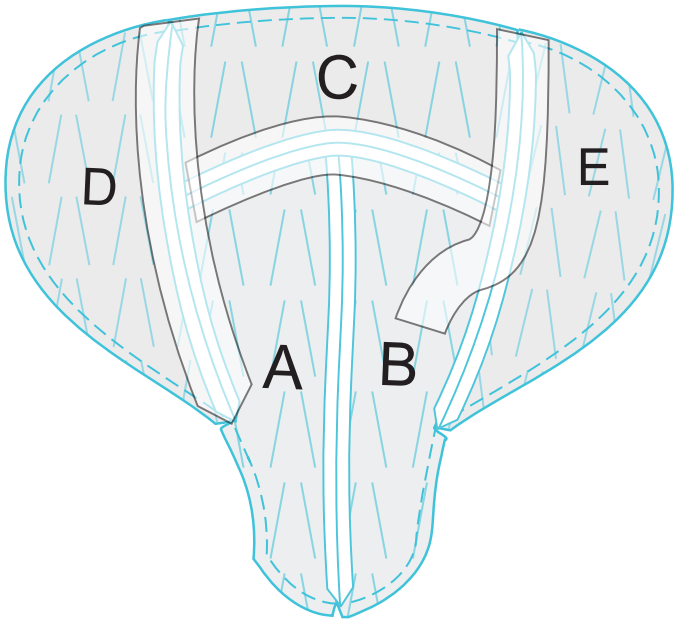
MATERIAL PAD STITCHED TO COUTIL (EXTERNAL LAYER)



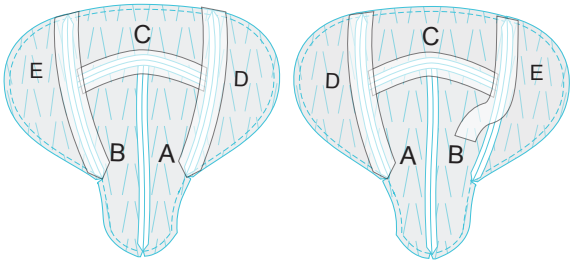
COUTIL (INTERNAL LAYER)



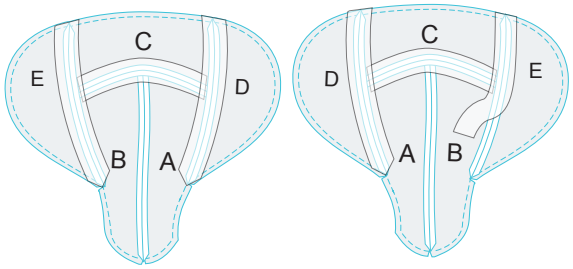
4.4 On the wrong side of all knee panels, cover seams with a strip of iron-on fuseable interfacing, such as Vilene. Make sure no seams are left uncovered, as this will cause problems later when inserting piping between the two sandwiched layers. Once cooled, make sure the Vilene/ interfacing does not peel off.



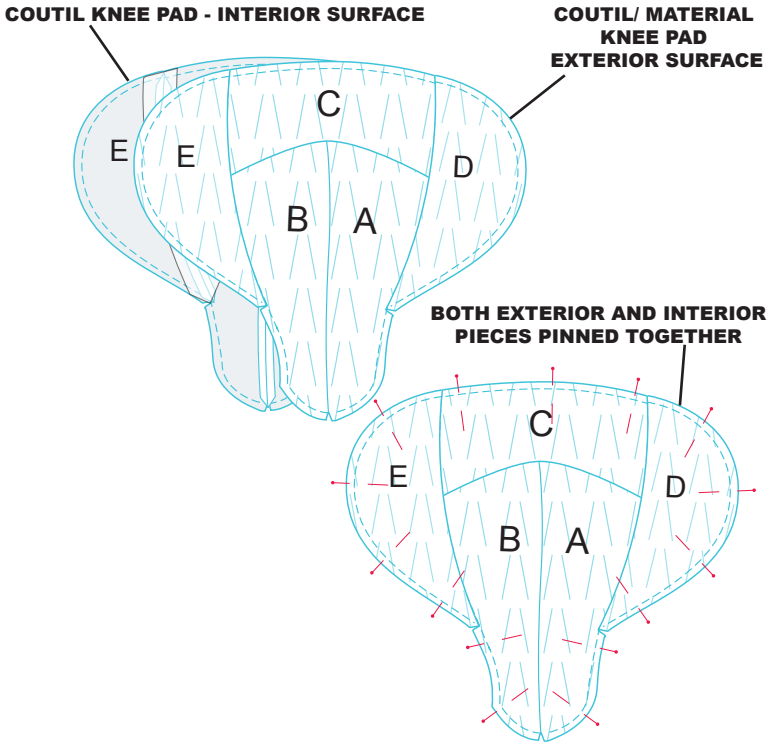
MATERIAL PAD STITCHED TO COUTIL (EXTERNAL LAYER)



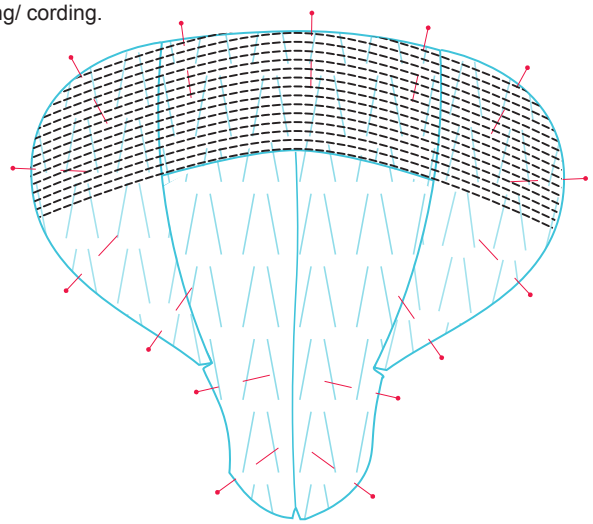
COUTIL (INTERNAL LAYER)



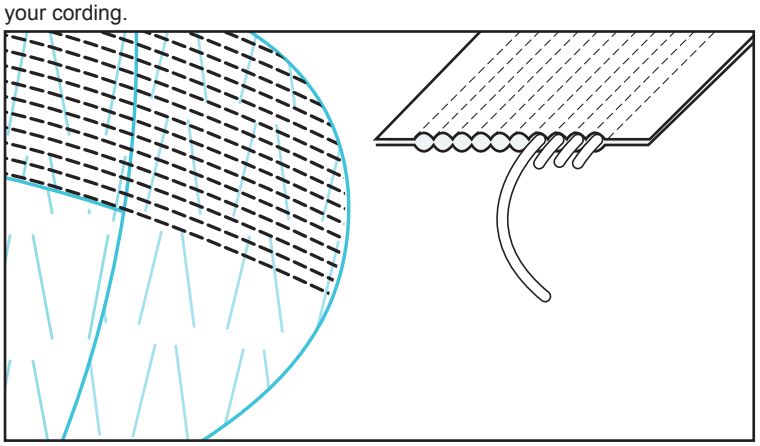
4.5 Take both coutil and material-coutil panels for the left leg and place them together with the wrong sides facing. Match all panels, notches and seams and then pin together around the edge.

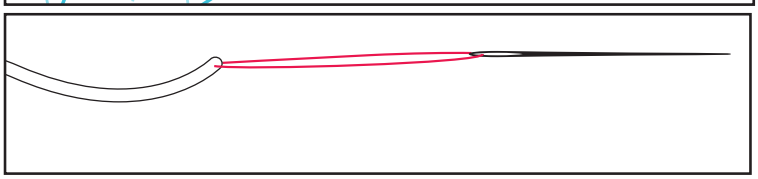


4.6 Start to stitch your previously marked top stitch lines using a decorative thread, permanently sealing the two layers together. This will create channels for your piping/ cording.



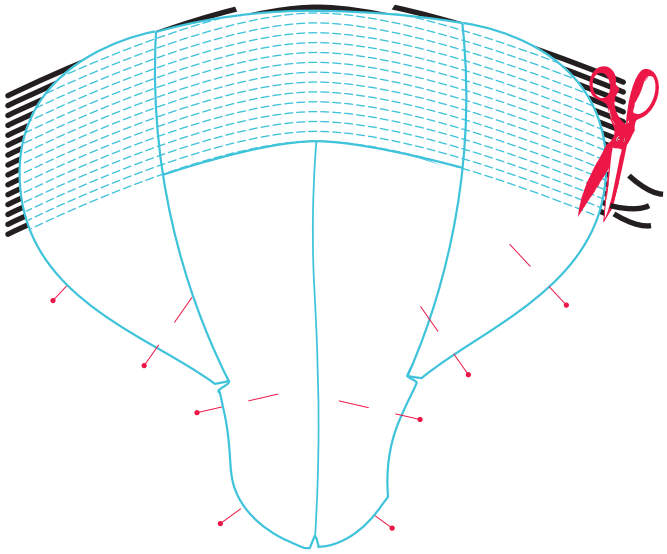
4.7 Insert your piping or cording into the top stitched channels that you have just sewn. You can do this by using a large blunt needle threaded onto the end of your cording.



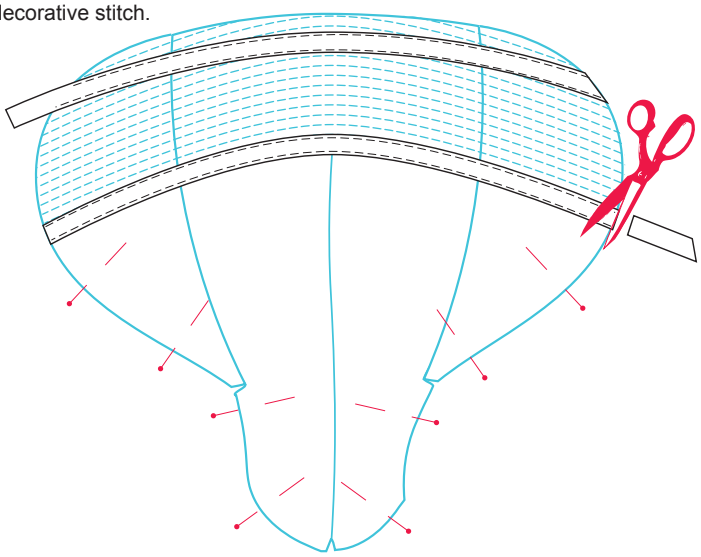


VIDEO TUTORIAL ABOUT PIPING:
http://www.ralphpink.com/archives/1881

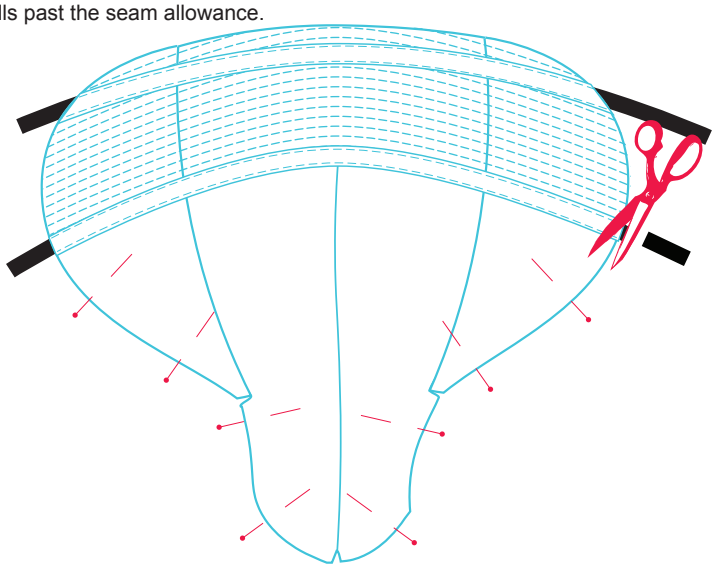
4.8 Once all of your piping has been inserted into the channels, stitch around the outside edge of the knee panel, keeping within the seam allowance roughly 0.2cm from the edge of the knee pad. Trim off excess piping/ cord.



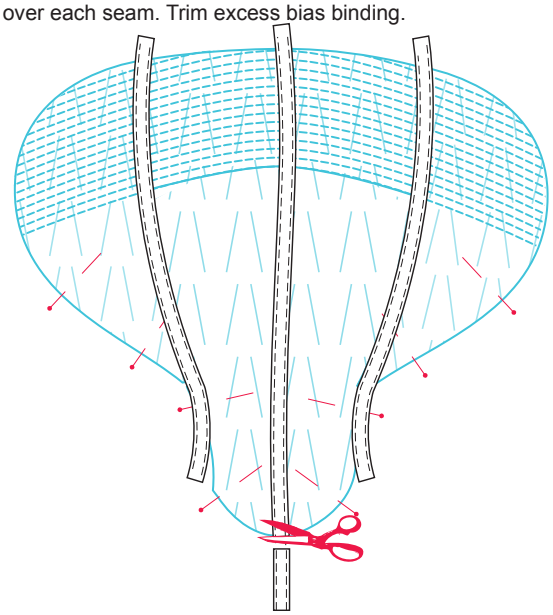
4.9 Attach two strips of bias binding onto the interior surface of the knee pad. Use the piping channels as a guide when positioning bias binding strips. Extend bias binding into the seam allowance and trim excess off the ends. The thread used to attach the two strips should be the same colour as the material and not a decorative stitch.



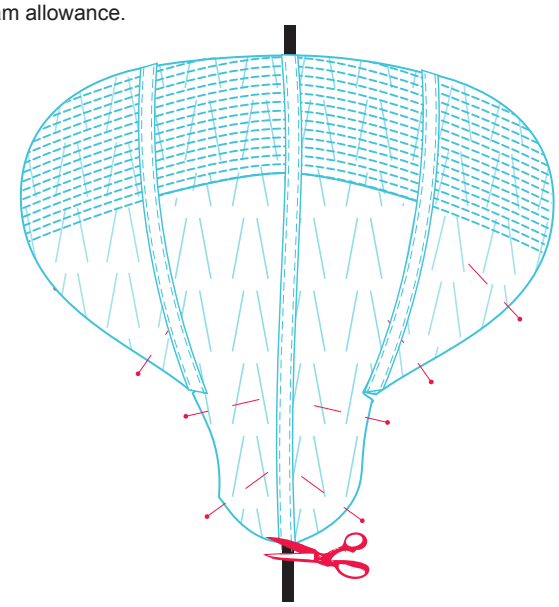
4.10 Insert boning into bias binding chanels and snip off any excess boning that falls past the seam allowance.



4.11 On the exterior surface of the knee pads, attach three strips of bias binding running over each seam. Trim excess bias binding.

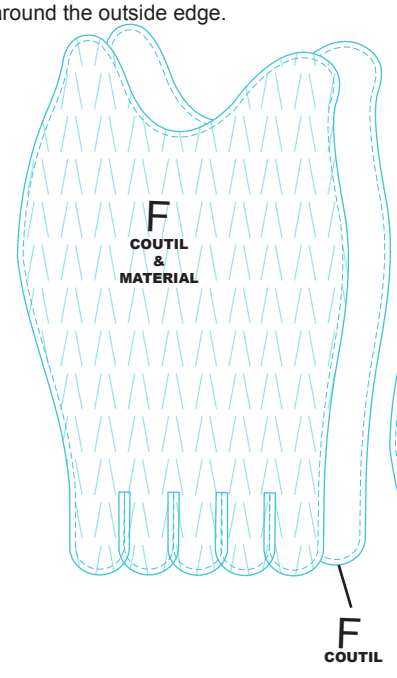


4.12 Insert boning into the bias binding channels, triming excess boning past the seam allowance.

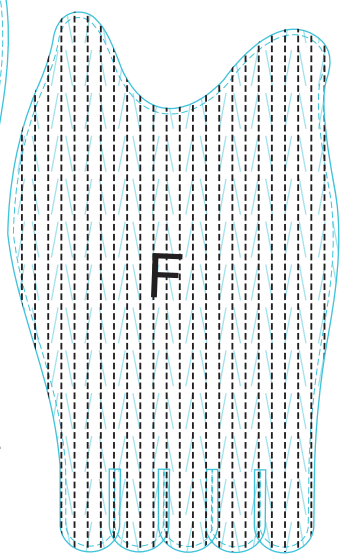


SHIN PAD CONSTRUCTION:

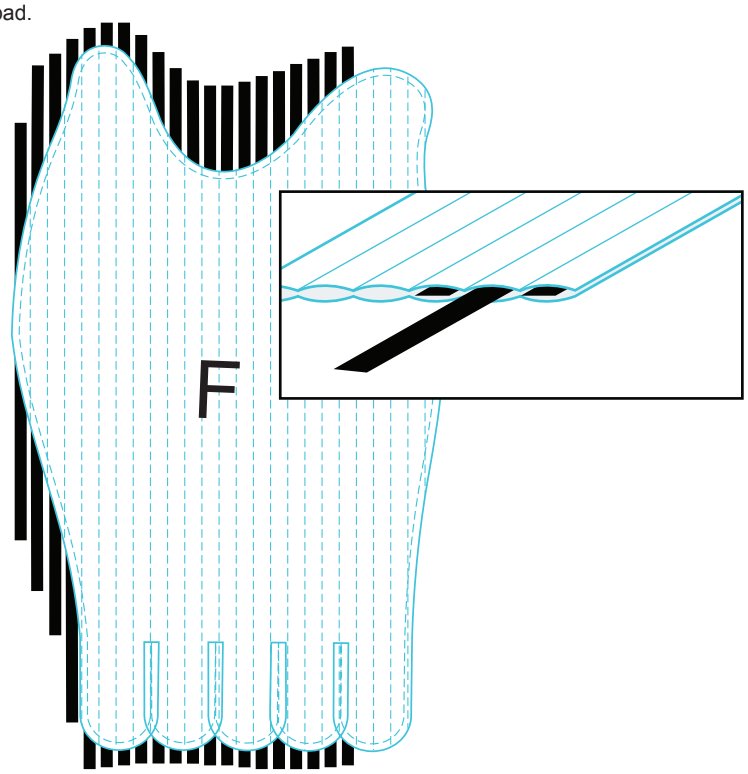
5.1 Lay external panel F over internal panel F with the wrong sides facing. Pin around the outside edge.



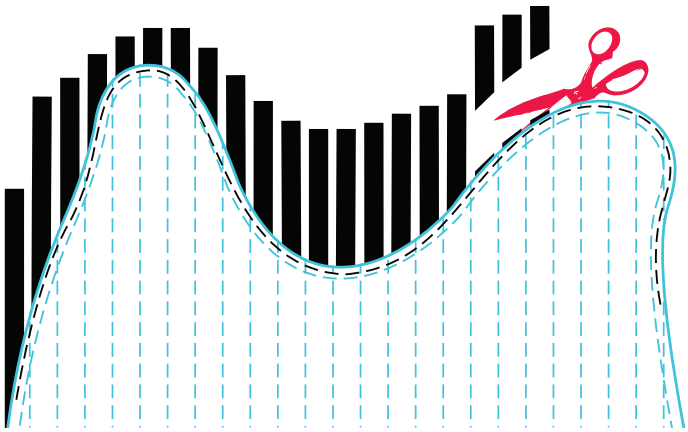
5.2 Top stitch the previously marked lines with decorative thread, securing both interior and exterior layers together. This will also create channels between the two layers for your boning to slide into.



5.3 Insert boning into each previously sewn channel, feeding the boning between the interior and exterior layers, to reinforce and add structure to the shin pad.

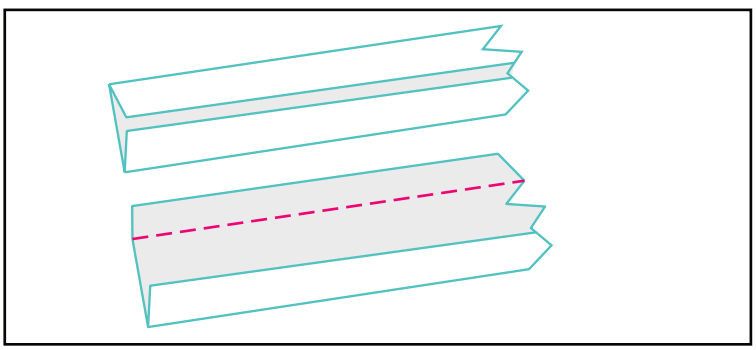


5.4 To secure all inserted boning, stitch around the edge of the shin pad within the seam alowance, roughly 0.2cm from the edge. Cut off any excess boning sticking out from the channels.

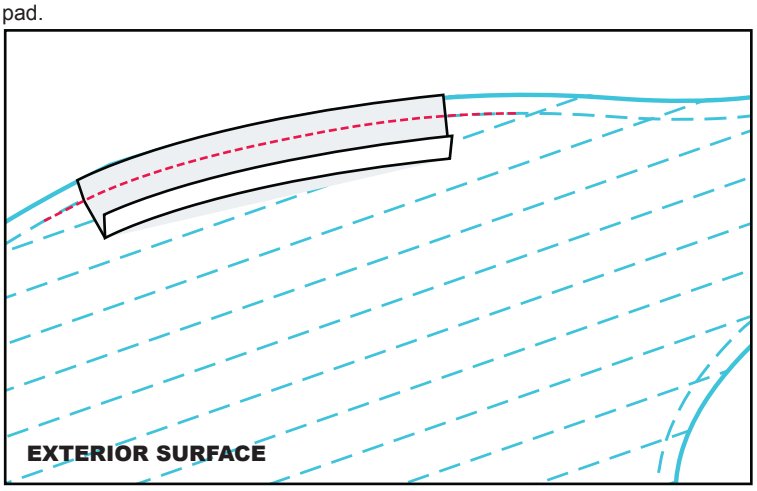


SEALING WITH BIAS BINDING

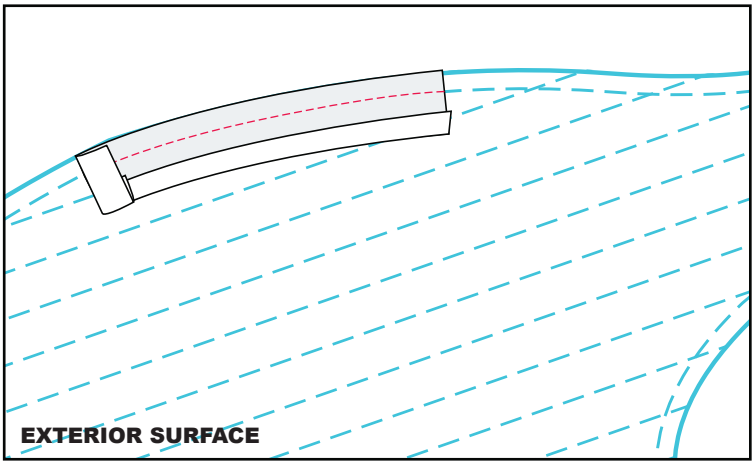
6.1 You will now need to finish the outside edge of both knee and shin pads with bias binding. This will create a beautiful finish and hold your boning in place. **Tip:** *There are plenty of haberdashers that supply pre-made widths of bias binding in a range of colours and finishes. We suggest you find one that matches the material of your greeves 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 greeves. Although, you can use any size you wish.



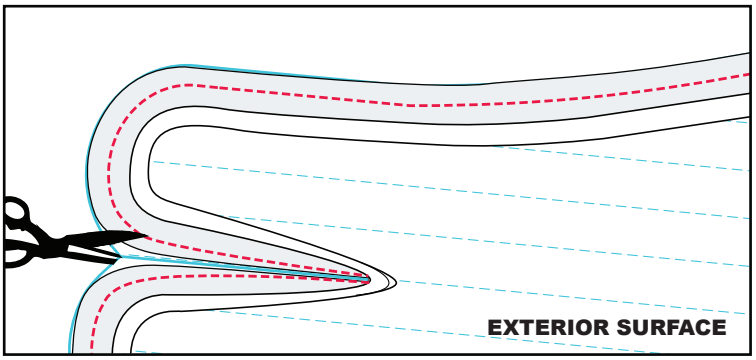
6.2 Top edge of Shin Pad: Unfold your bias binding and place it wrong side up against the edge of your seam allowance (on the EXTERIOR surface of shin pad). Make sure the fold or groove matches up with the seam allowance. This indicates the line you will sew when attaching your bias binding to the shin pad.



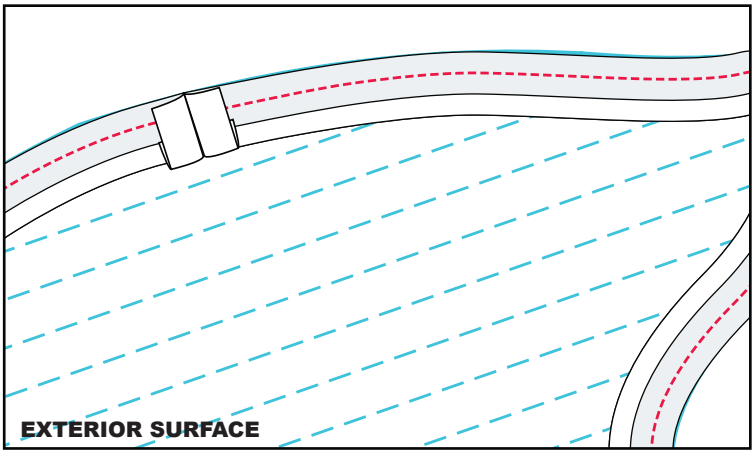
6.3 Before attaching your bias binding to your shin pad, fold over a 1cm section at the starting point. Then, gradually placing the bias binding as you go, stitch all the way around the shin pad.



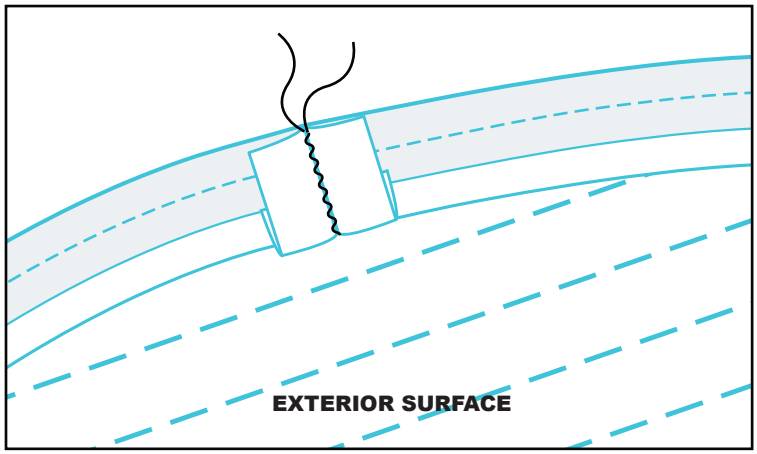
6.4 Continue attaching the bias binding around the bottom edge of the shin, stitching up into each flap. Once attached, snip the shin pad to the points of each flap. Practise on a scrap piece of coutil to perfect this technique.



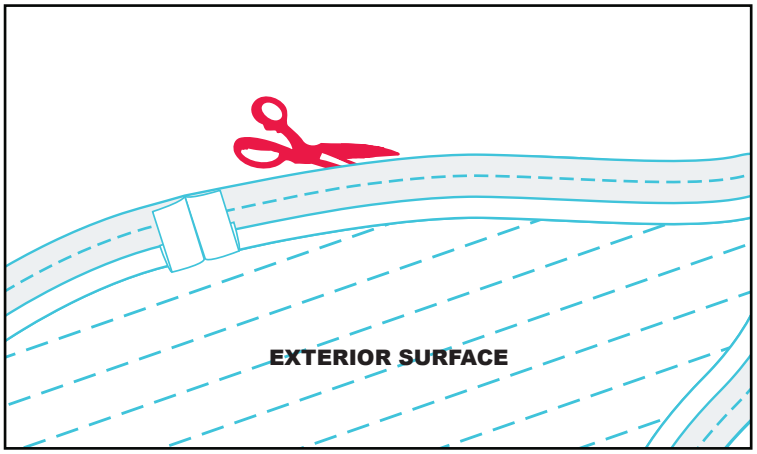
6.5 When you arrive back at your starting point fold the end of the bias binding by 1 cm so the folded edge comfortably meets the first folded edge. Trim any excess bias binding and pin to the shin pad.



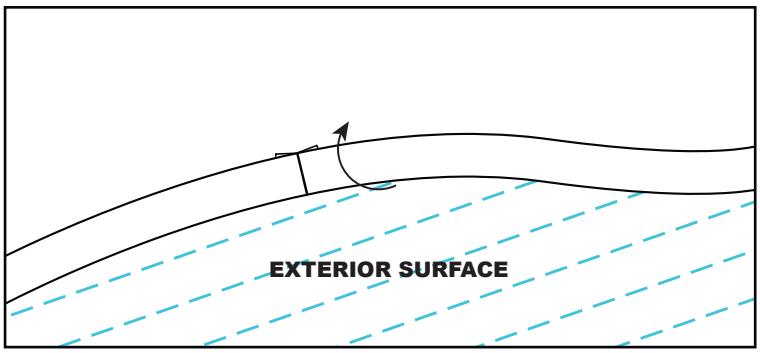
6.6 With a needle and thread,start to sew together the two folded ends of the bias binding.



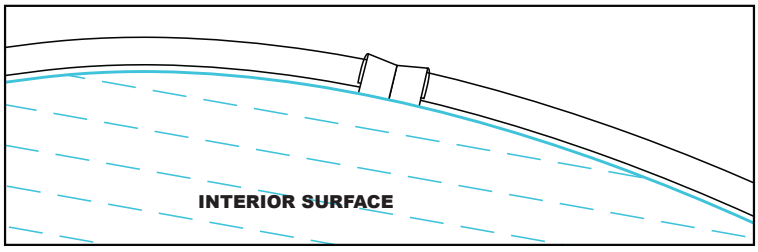
6.7 Once you have finished attaching the bias binding, you must make sure that the edge of your shin pad is smooth, with no sharp or rough edges. It also needs to be trimmed to match the edge of your bias binding. Do this with sharp scissors. Try not to cut the shin pad shorter than the edge of the bias binding.



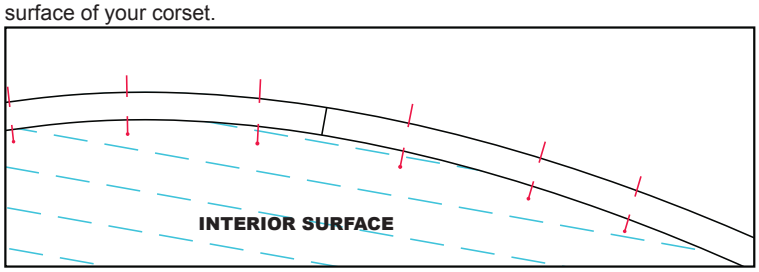
6.8 Now fold the unattached edge of the bias binding towards the seam allowance and press lightly with an iron (no steam). This will help when folding your bias binding over to the INTERIOR surface of your shin pad.



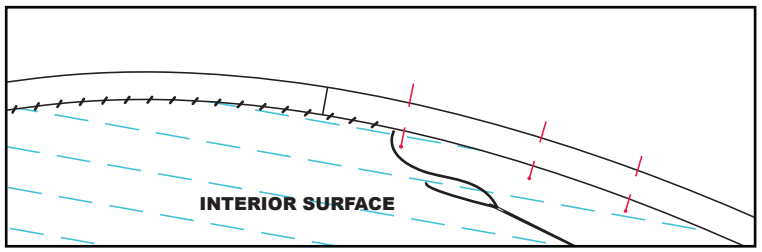
6.9 Fold the bias binding over the seam allowance so it is visible on the INTERIOR surface.



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



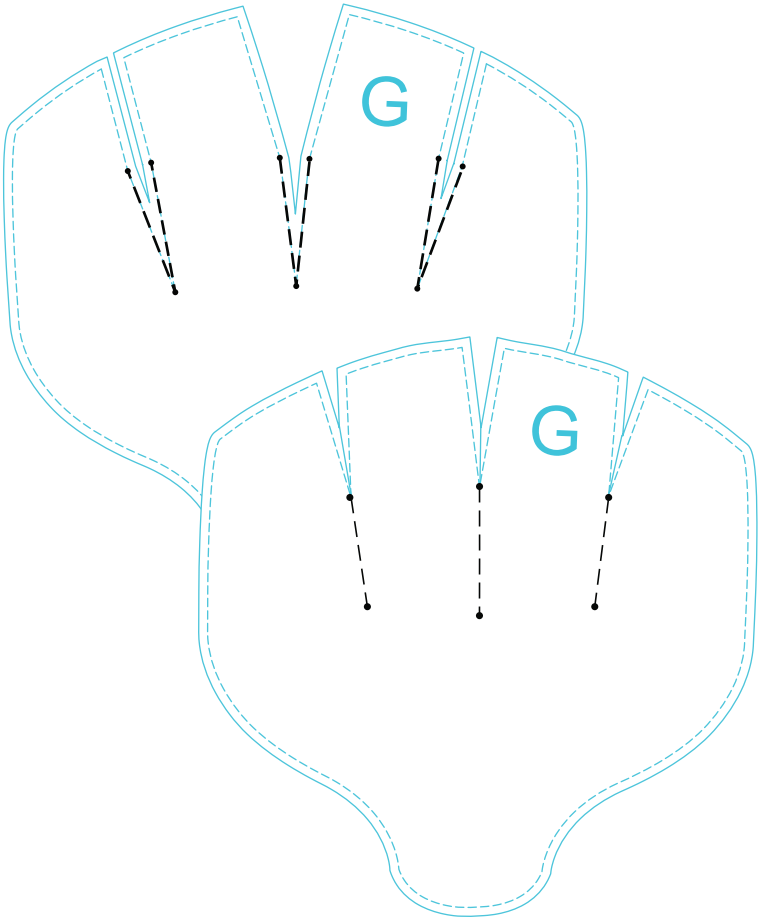
6.11 To finish, fell stitch the pinned edge of your bias binding to the interior surface of your shin pad, all the way around.

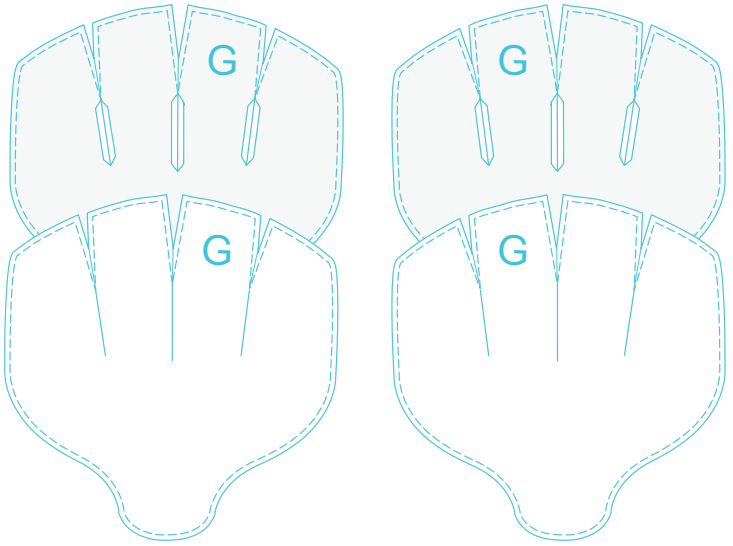


FOLLOW STEPS **6.1 - 7.1** FOR THE KNEE PAD, SEALING THE OUTSIDE EDGE WITH BIAS BINDING ALL THE WAY AROUND.
You should now have two knee pads (left & right) and two shin pads (left & right), both bound with bias binding.

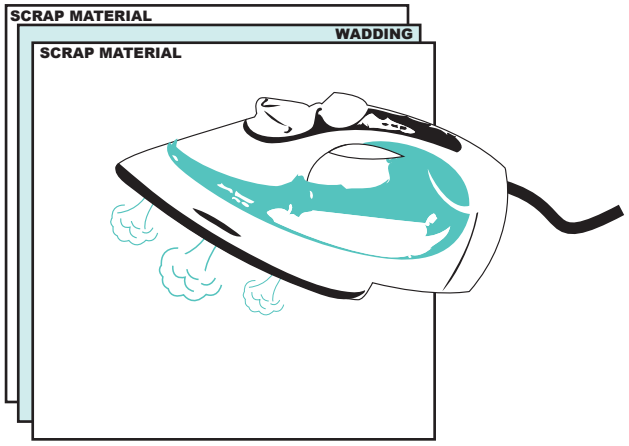
KNEE PADDING CONSTRUCTION:

7.1 We now need to construct the padding that will sit between the greeves and your legs.
Take panels G, close all darts from point to point and press open seams. Be aware that one padding panel is made from two G panels placed wrong sides together with a layer of padding between the two.

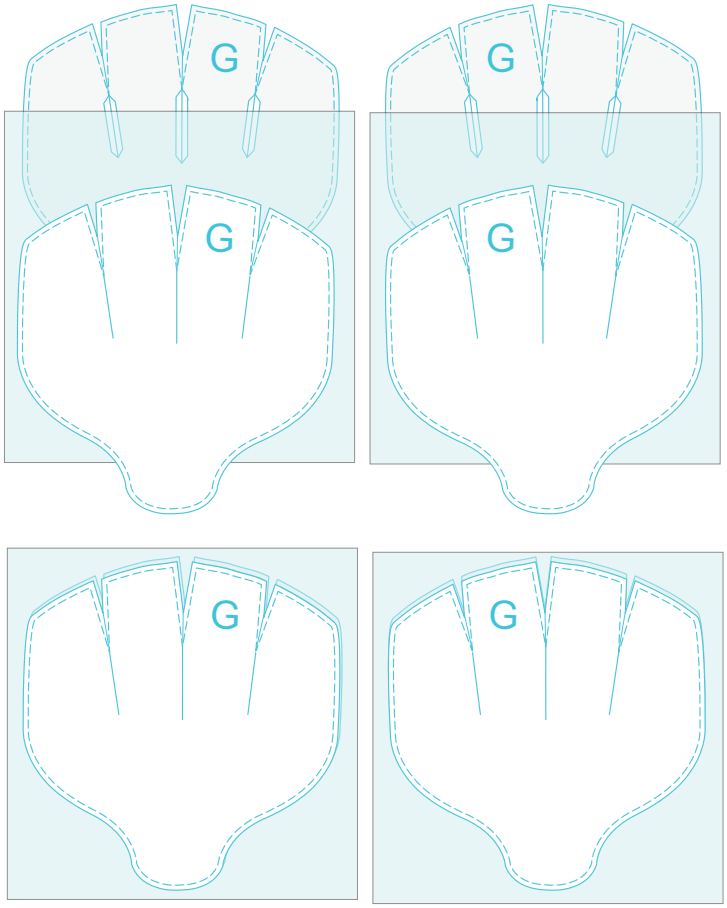




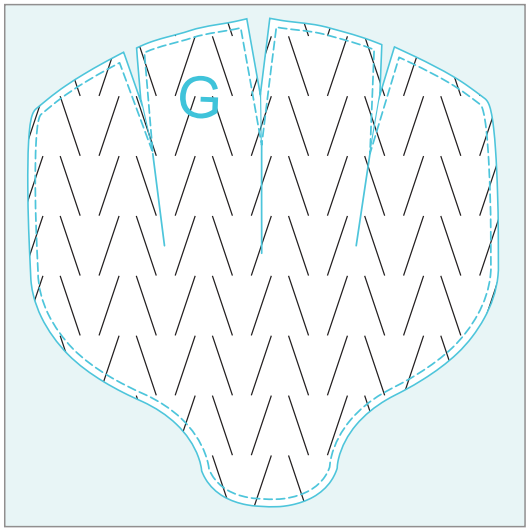
7.2 Place a square of wadding, slightly larger than panel G, between two pieces of scrap material. Press heavily with a steam iron until the wadding has compressed and almost fused together. Apply a lot of steam and pressure. This will make quilting easier.



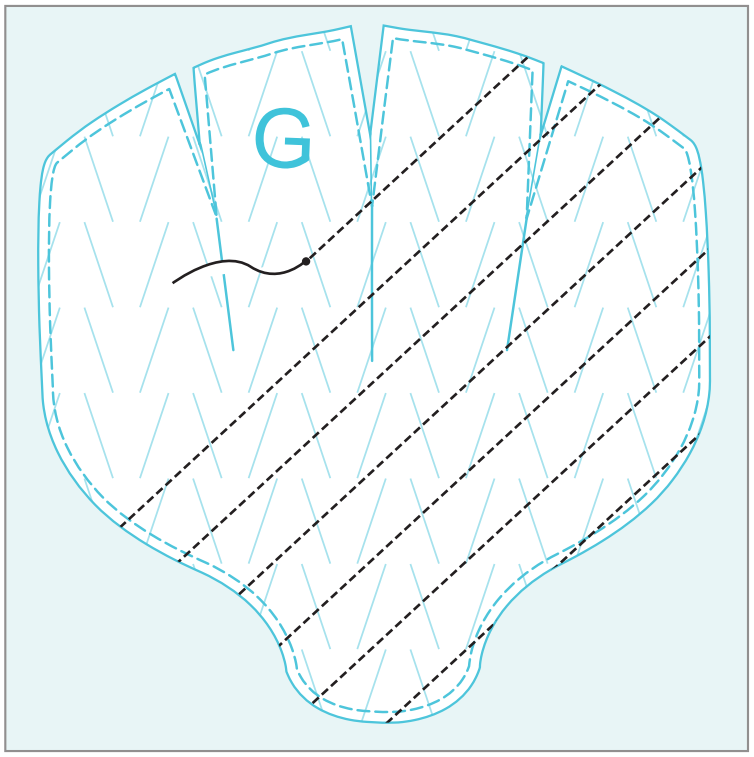
7.3 Place your compressed wadding between the two matching G panels, matching seams and seam allowance. Take you time when doing this as it can be tricky.



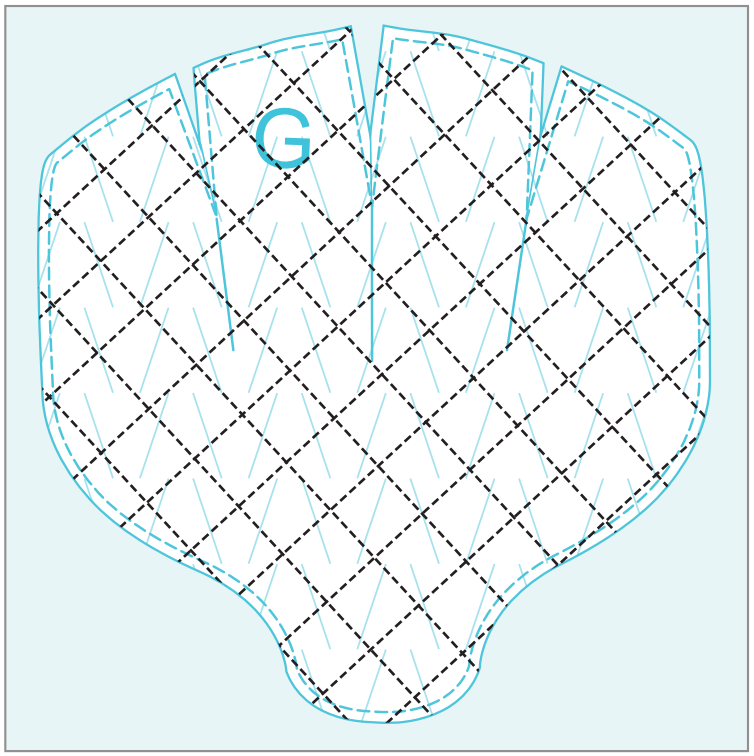
7.4 Baste the three layers together using a padding stitch.
This will hold everything together when it comes to quilting the three layers.



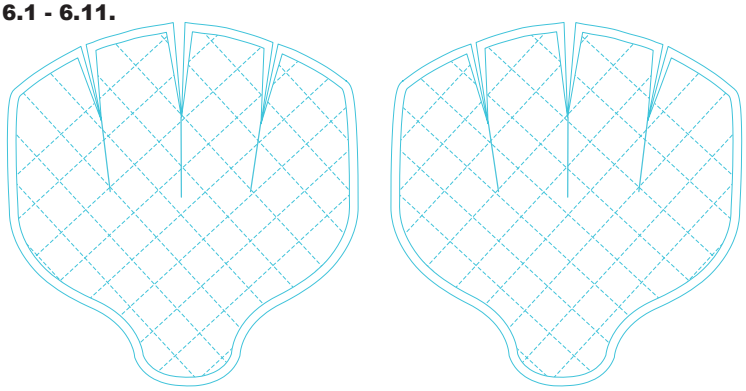
7.5 Using the **BIAS GRAIN**, mark out lines with chalk 3-4cm apart, in parallel across the entire surface of the material-wadding sandwich (on exterior surface). Or simply use the lines marked on your paper pattern pieces. Stitch these lines to secure wadding and material layers together and to start the quilting effect.



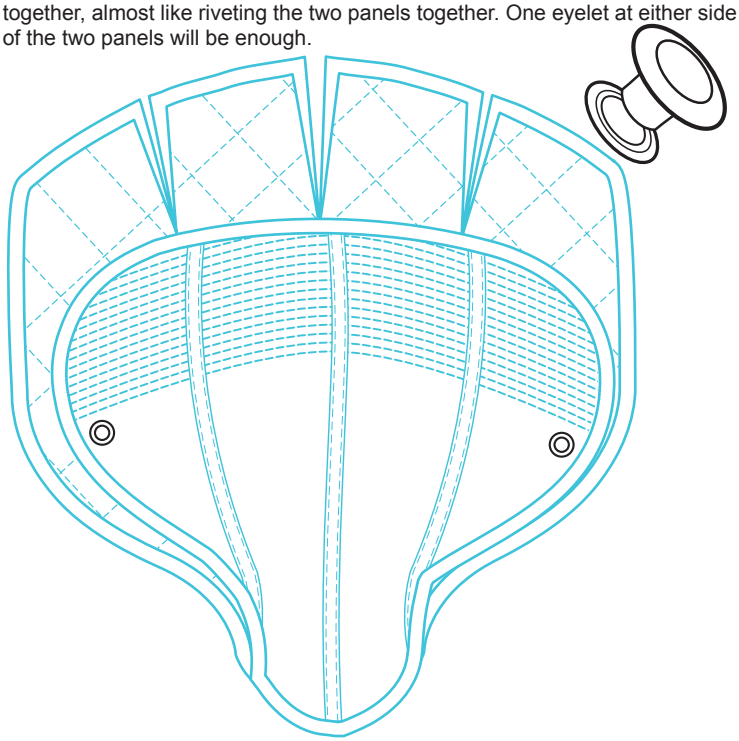
7.6 Do the same in the opposite direction, making sure you follow the BIAS GRAIN.



7.5 Finish each knee padding by trimming any excess wadding around the edge of the knee padding and finishing the edge with bias binding as in **Sec 6.1 - 6.11.**



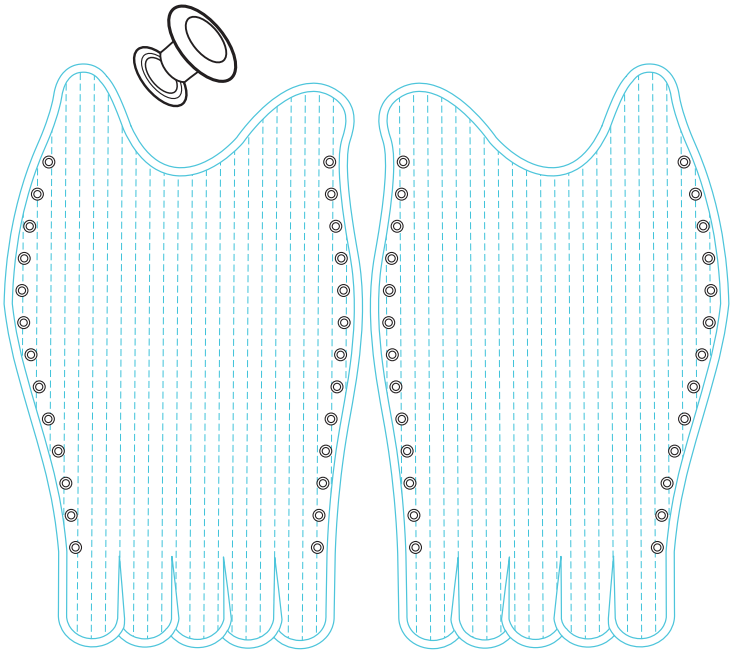
7.6 Position the right knee pad over the top of the finished right knee padding. Adjust positioning for best fit and pin together on the edges to temporarily secure the two together. When you are happy with the positioning, insert an eyelet through both knee pad and knee padding to permanently secure the two together, almost like riveting the two panels together. One eyelet at either side of the two panels will be enough.



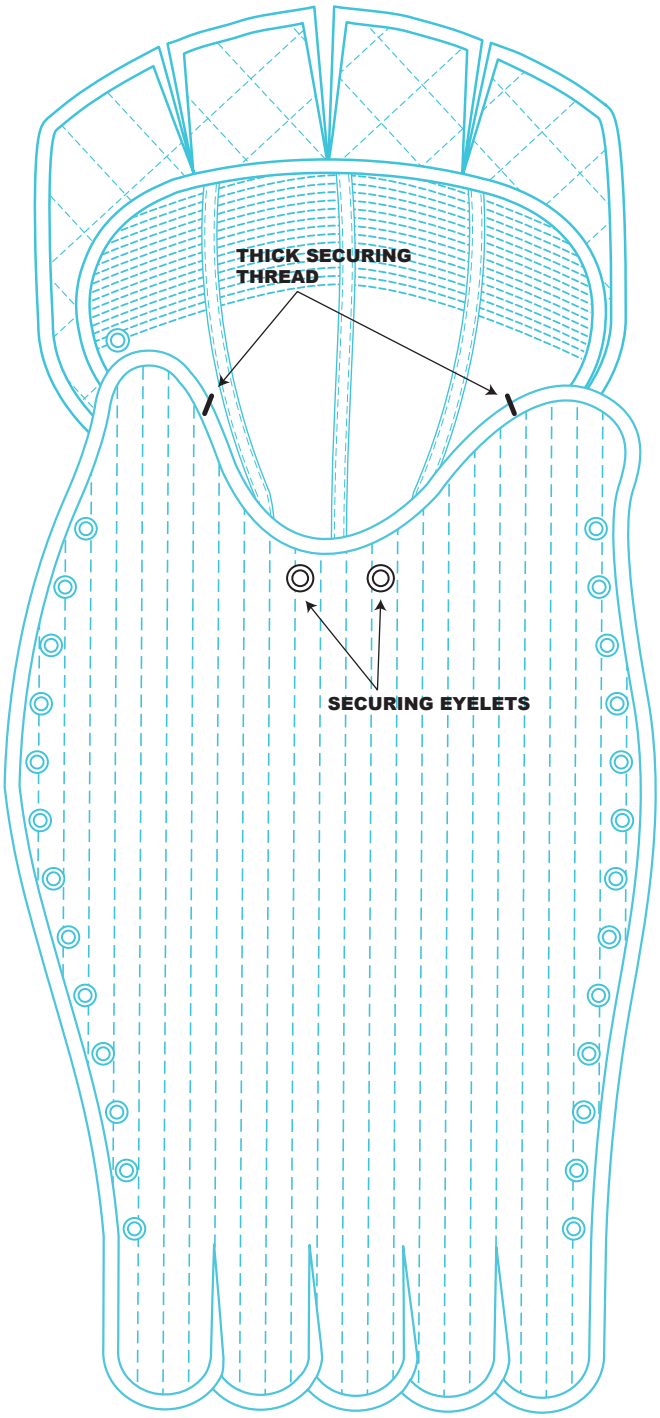
7.7 Do the same for the left knee pad and padding.

SHIN PAD - ADDING EYELETS:

8.1 Add eyelets to each edge of your shin pads. Because the entirity of your shin pads are boned with Rigelene, you will find it difficult to pierce a hole through the shin pad. An easy way of dealing with this is to use a hole punch and hammer that fits the diameter of your eyelets. Or, if you do not have this tool, you can buy an eyelet kit from most haberdashers. Most kits come with a small hole punch. Use this with a hammer to cut through the Rigelene boning and insert your eyelets.



8.2 To finish your Corset Greeves, attach the finished right knee section to the finished right shin section. You can do this by lacing the shin section to your leg and sliding the knee section down behind the shin pads top edge. Adjust for best fit and positioning. Pin the shin pad and knee section together. Remove from your leg and secure the knee section and shin pad together with two eyelets (see sec 7.6). It is a good idea to give additional support by joining the knee and shin together with a couple of stitches near the top edge of the shin pad.



Do this for both Corseted Greeves.

FIN