DRAFTING A BASIC BODY BLOCK PATTERN

(Step by step instructions)

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Calculating & Recording Your Measurements Step 2

Use your recorded measurements and then calculate using the formulae below this will give the exact measurements required to draft your pattern. Record all measurements in inches. REFER TO THE FINAL MEASUREMENT COLUMN FOR DRAFTING THE PATTERN

BODY PART	Inches	CALCULATE Using the formula below Please note not every measurement needs to be divided or calculated	Final
Shoulder		**Shoulder measurement ÷ 2 =**	
Chest		**Chest measurement ÷ 4 =**	
Waist		**Waist measurement ÷ 4 =**	
Hips		**Hips measurement ÷ 4 =**	
Bottom of shirt width		**Hips measurement ÷ 4 +1=**	
Shirt length			
Shoulder to Waist			
Shoulder to Hip			
Full sleeve			
Half sleeve			
¾ sleeve			
Bicep			
Cuff			
Armhole		**Shoulder ÷ by 2 + chest ÷ 4= ÷ 2=**	

Armhole calculation instructions

Add your shoulder measurement divided by two to your chest measurement divided by four. Once you add both measurements you then divide the total by two that should determine your armhole.

Shoulder measurement ÷ by 2
+ Chest measurement ÷ 4 = Total
Total ÷ 2= armhole measurement

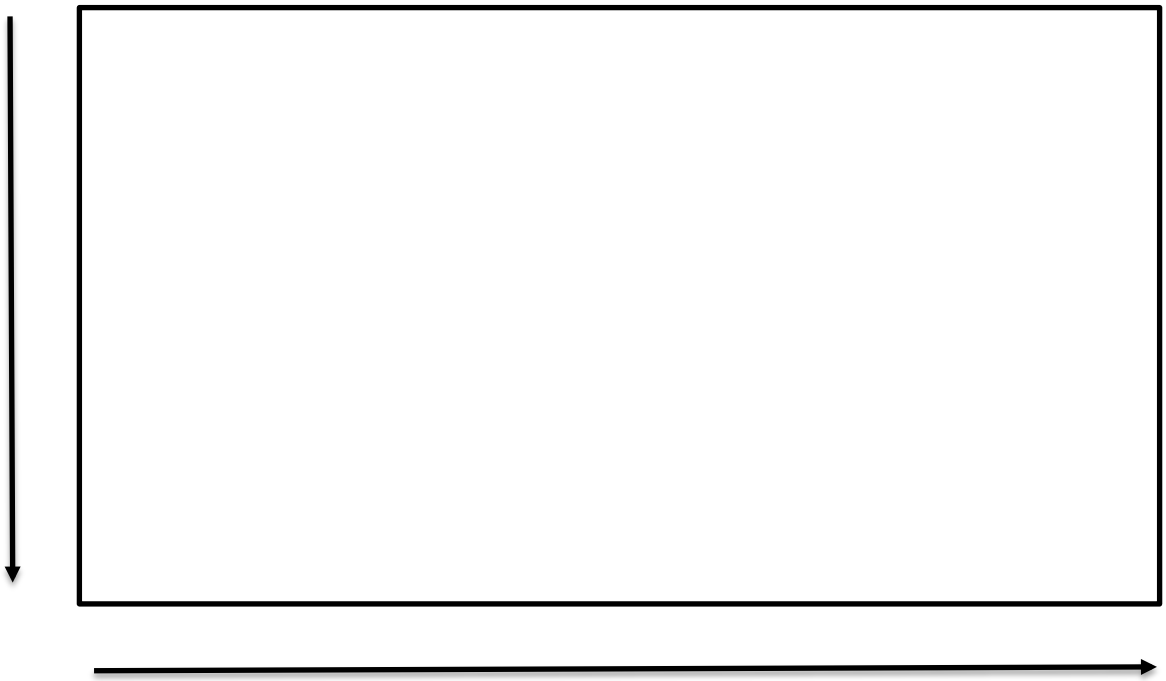
Example
14÷ 2= 7
+38 ÷ 4 = 9.5= 16.5

16.5 ÷ 2= 8.25 (armhole=8.25)

Step 1

Take your pattern paper which should be long enough for the length of your top / dress. e.g. if the length of the dress is 40" the paper should be around 43" the width should be a minimum of 30" before folding.

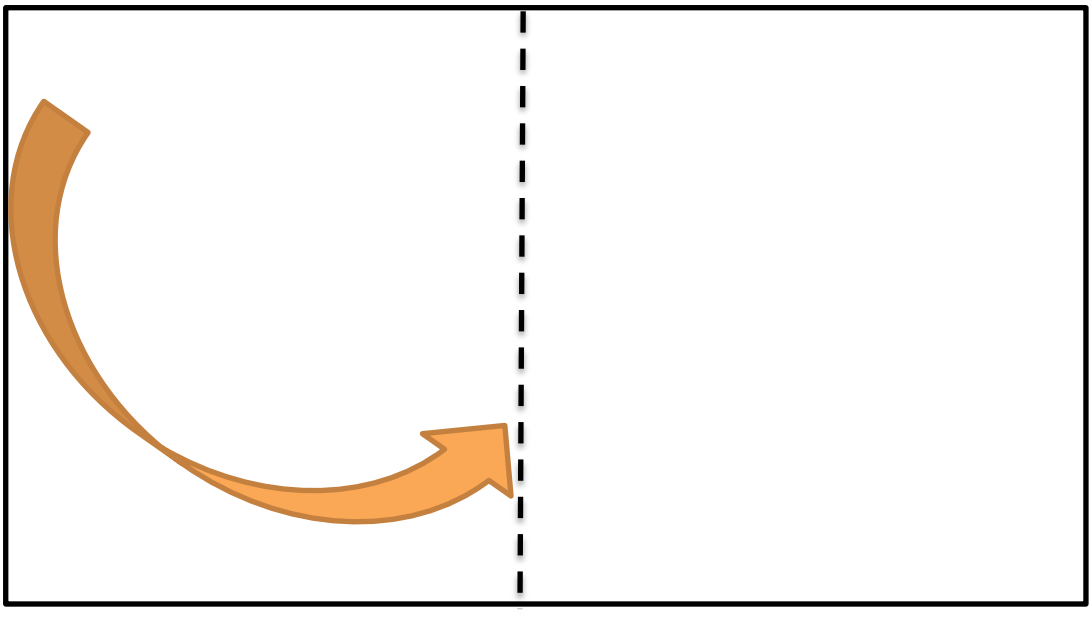
Length



Width of paper before folding in half

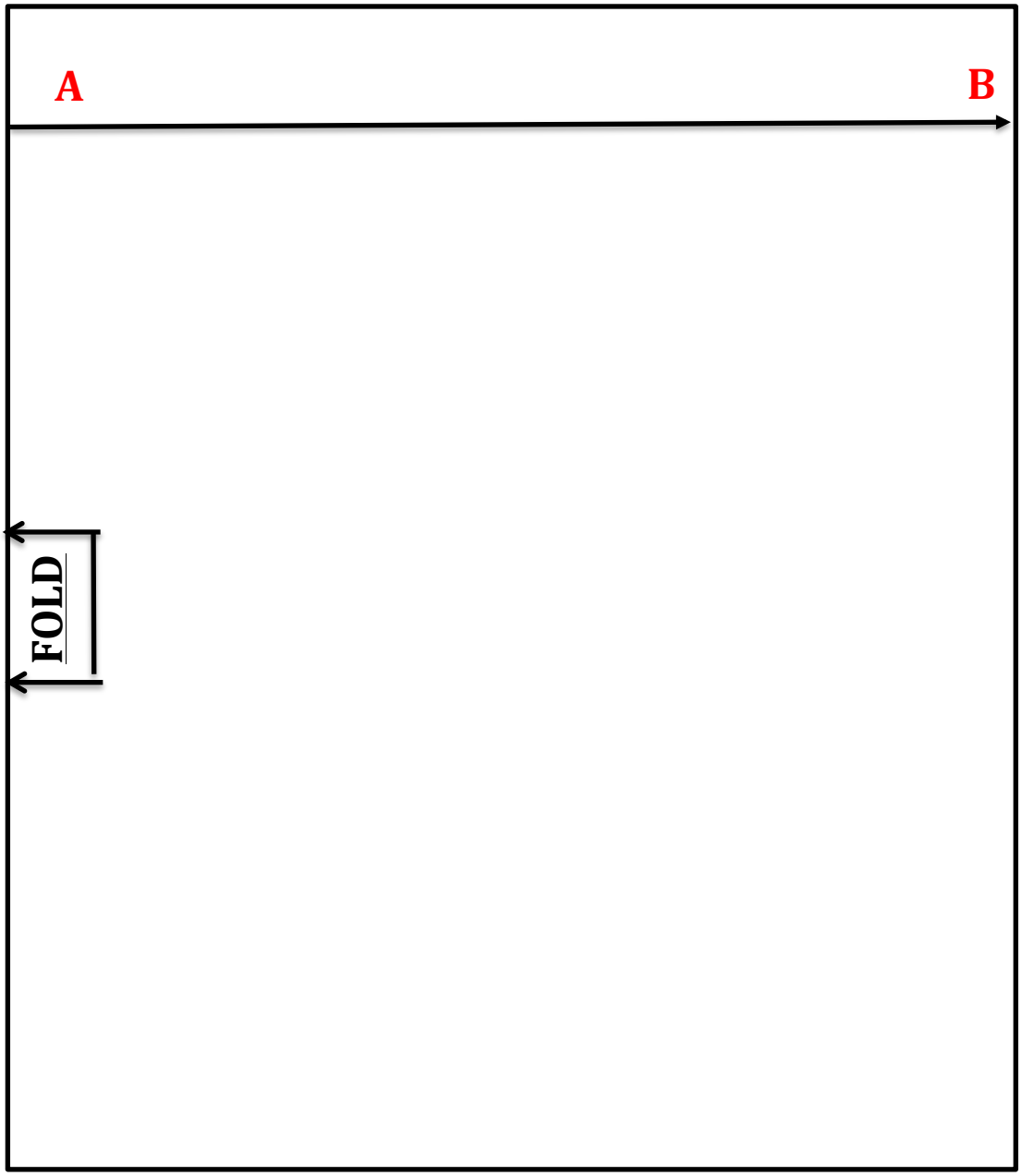
STEP 2

Fold the paper in half as shown in the diagram



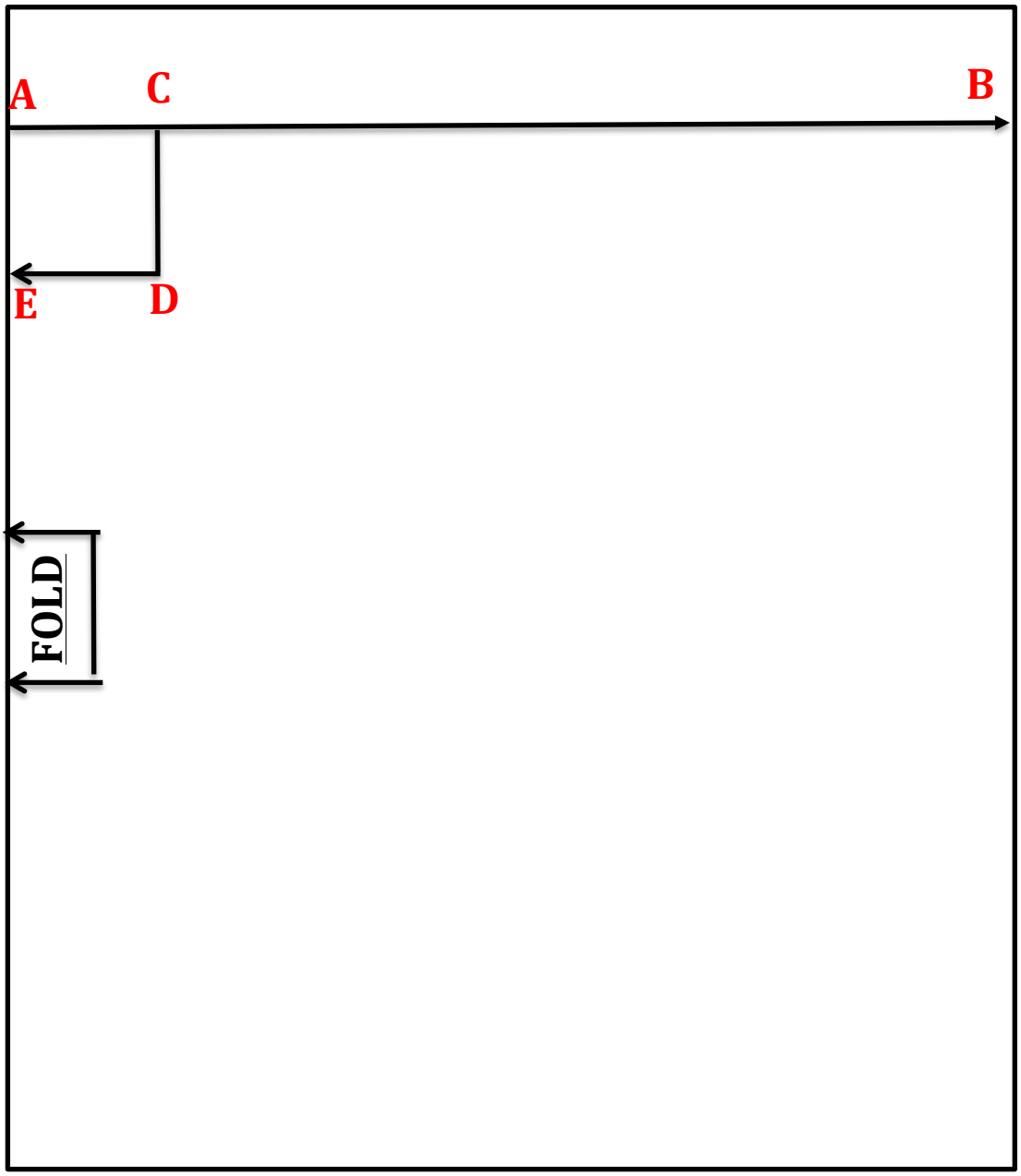
STEP 3

Write fold on the folded side of the paper as a reminder. Now using a long ruler draw a straight line from the folded sided towards the open side of the paper. Label the point on the folded side as **A** and the opposite side as **B**. The straight line from **A** – **B** will be used as a guiding line throughout the pattern drafting stage to ensure the pattern is aligned.



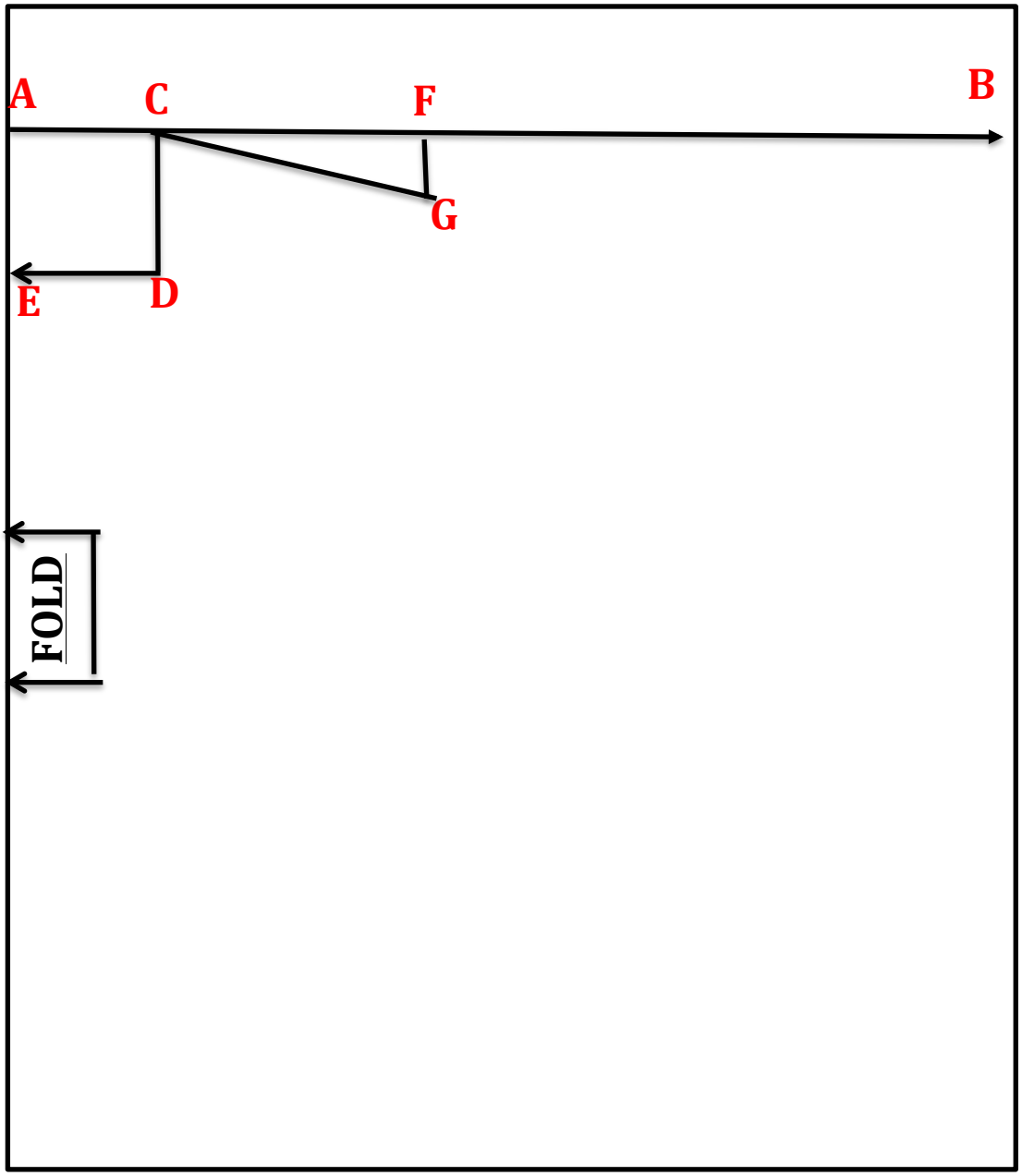
STEP 4

1. From point **A** exactly on the folding line and in the direction of **B** measure3" across with your ruler, mark and label as point **C**.
2. From point **C** Measure 6" down mark and label as point **D**.
3. From point **A** measure 6" down, mark and label as point **E**.
4. Using a ruler draw a line joining **C-D** & point **D-E** which should also measure 3" **A-C-D-E** should look like a rectangle on your pattern as shown in the diagram.



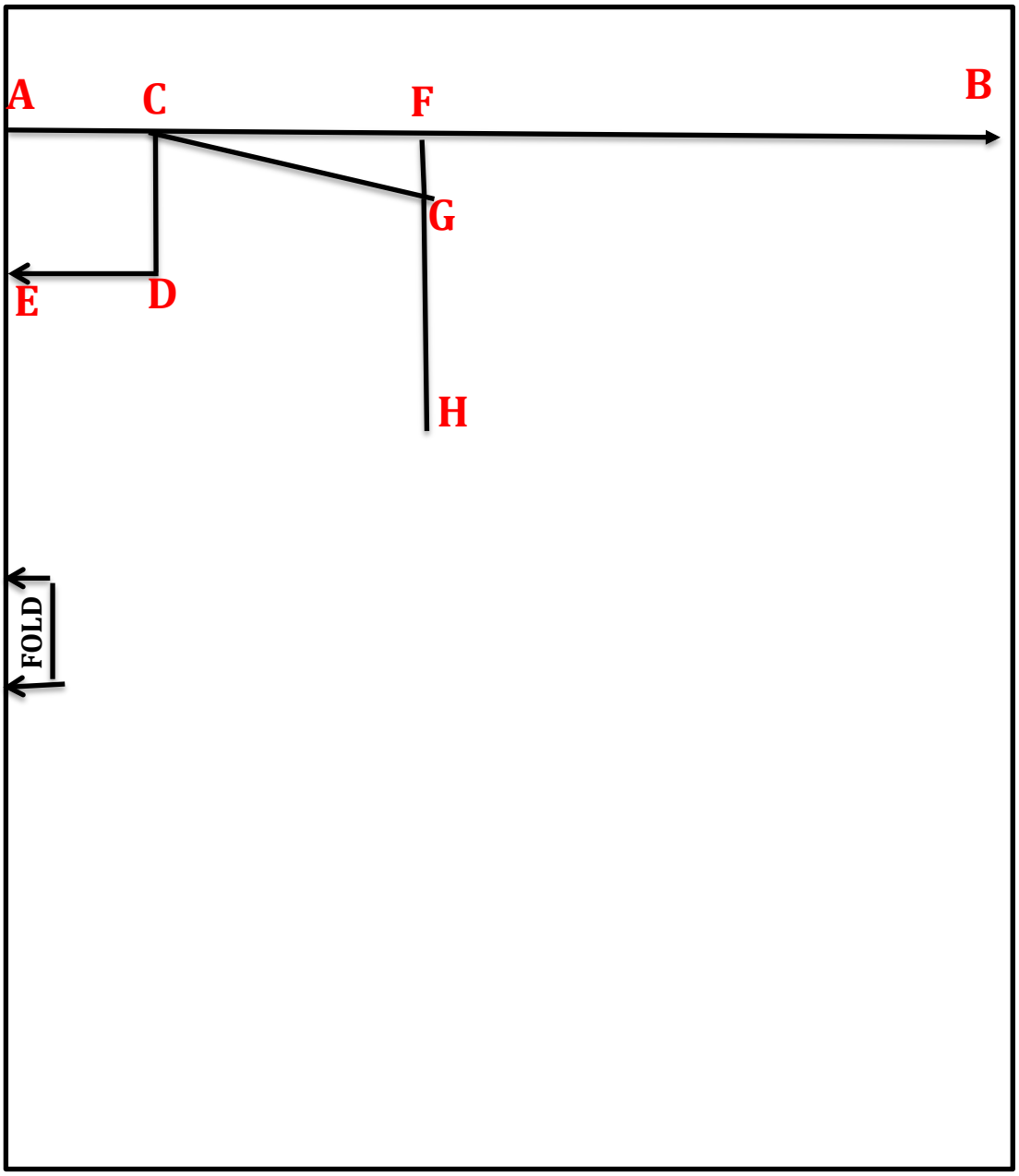
STEP 5

1. From Point **A** towards the direction of **B** use your shoulder final measurement, measure, mark and label as point **F.**
2. From point **F** exactly Measure ½ " down, mark and label as point **G**.
3. Using a ruler draw a line joining point **C** to point **G**. This is the shoulder slope line.



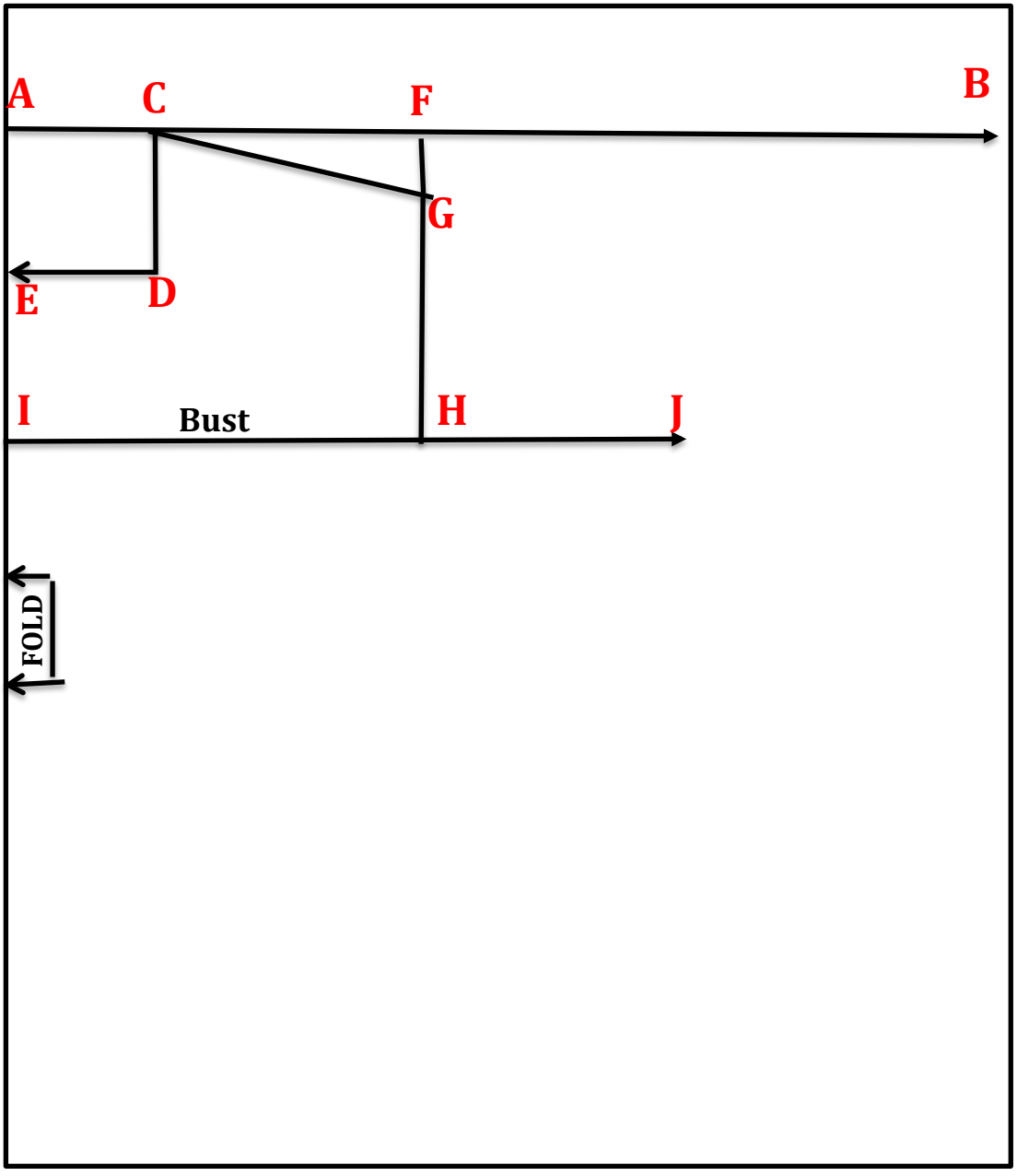
STEP 6

1. Using your final armhole measurement, measure downwards from point **G** in a straight-line, mark and label as point **H**.
2. Using a ruler draw a straight line from point **G – H**.



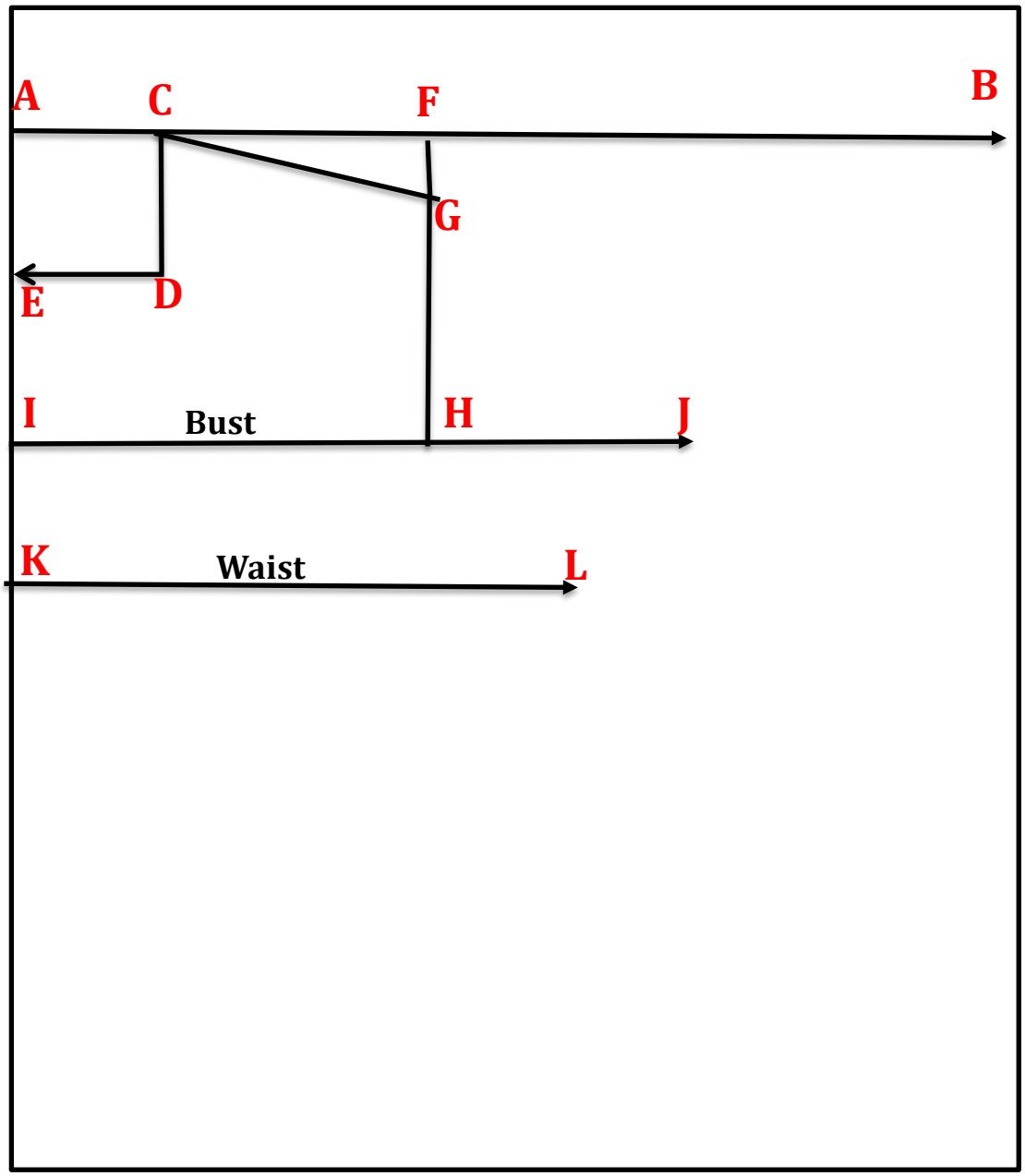
STEP 7

1. To ensure the pattern is to scale. With a ruler measure the distance from point **F-H**
2. From point **A** on the fold, measure the same distance downwards exactly the same distance from **F-H** label as point **I**.
3. From point I on the fold using your final chest measurement, measure across towards H and label as **J**.
4. Using a ruler draw a straight line joining points **I-J** label as chest/bust.



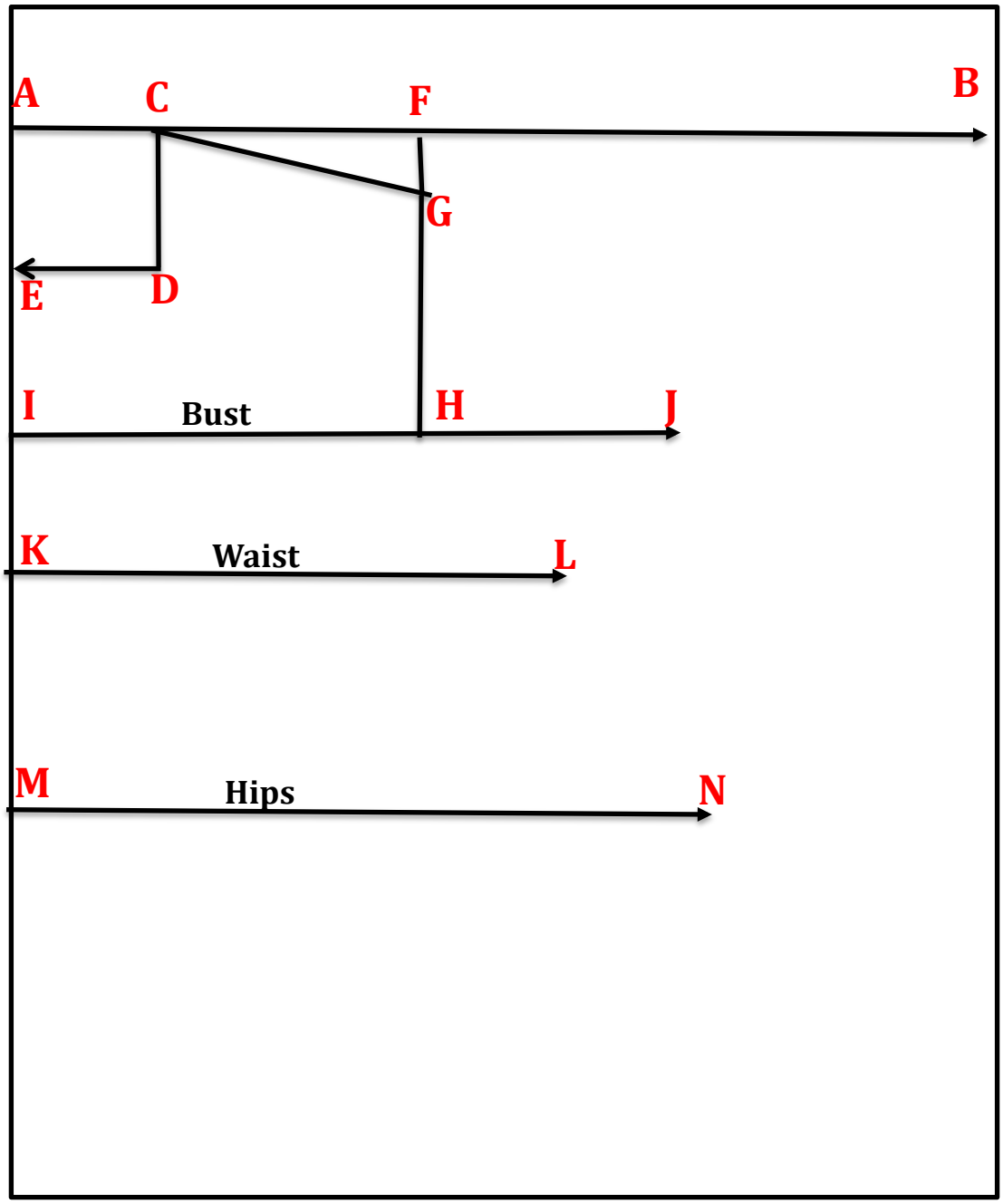
STEP 8

1. From point **A** use shoulder to waist measurement, measure downward in a straight line along the fold, Mark and label as point **K**.
2. Using your final waist measurement from point **K** measure across, mark and label as point **L**.
3. Draw a straight line joining point **K-L**. To check if **K-L** is to scale make sure that from line **AB** to **L** is the same as **A-K** = shoulder to waist measurement.
4. Label as waist.



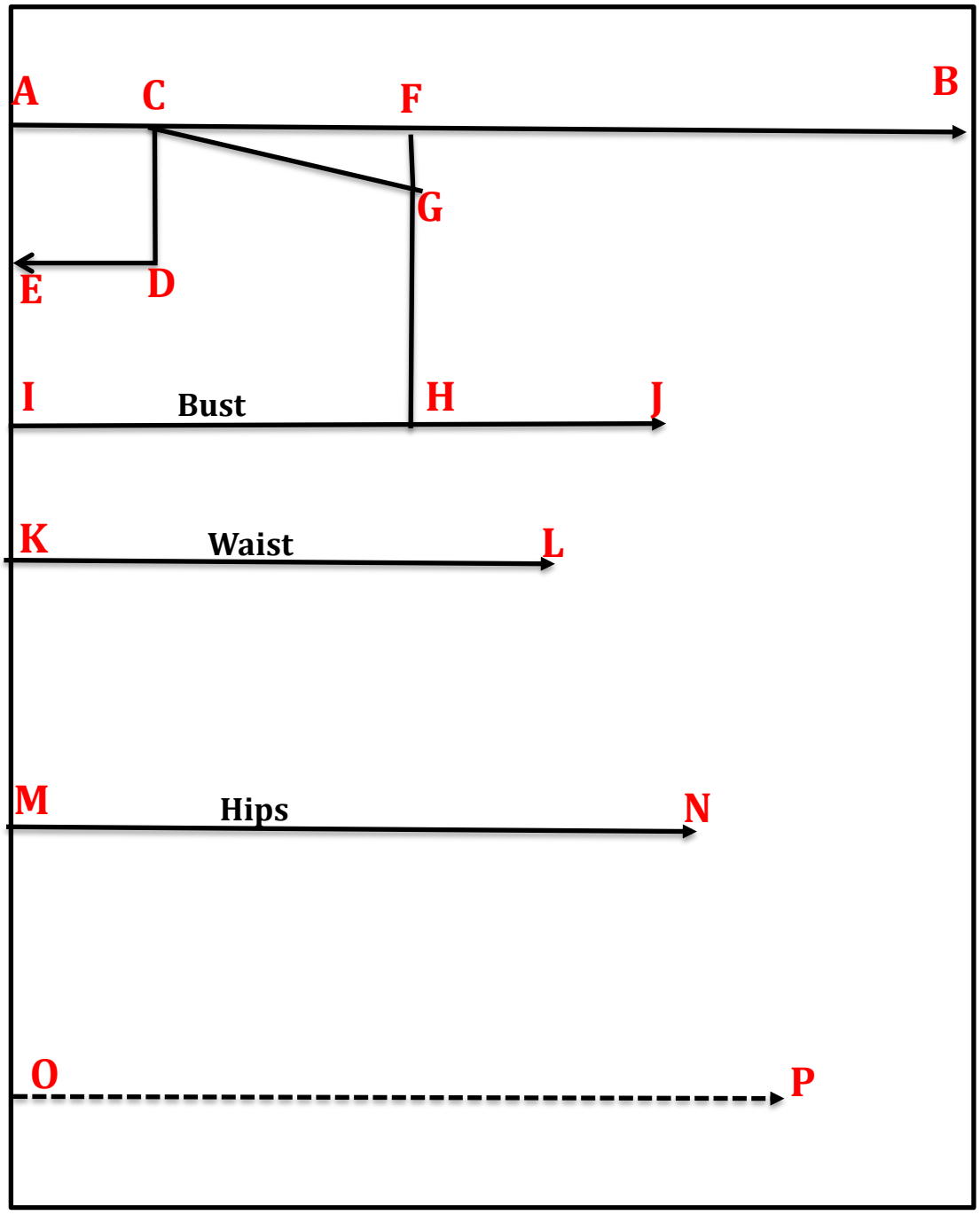
STEP 9

1. From point **A** use shoulder to hip measurement. Mark and label as point **M**.
2. From point **M** use your final hip measurement, measure across, mark and label as point **N.**
3. To check **M-N** is to scale check that **AB-N** is the same as **A-M** =shoulder to hips measurement.
4. Draw a line from point **M** to **N** and label as Hips.



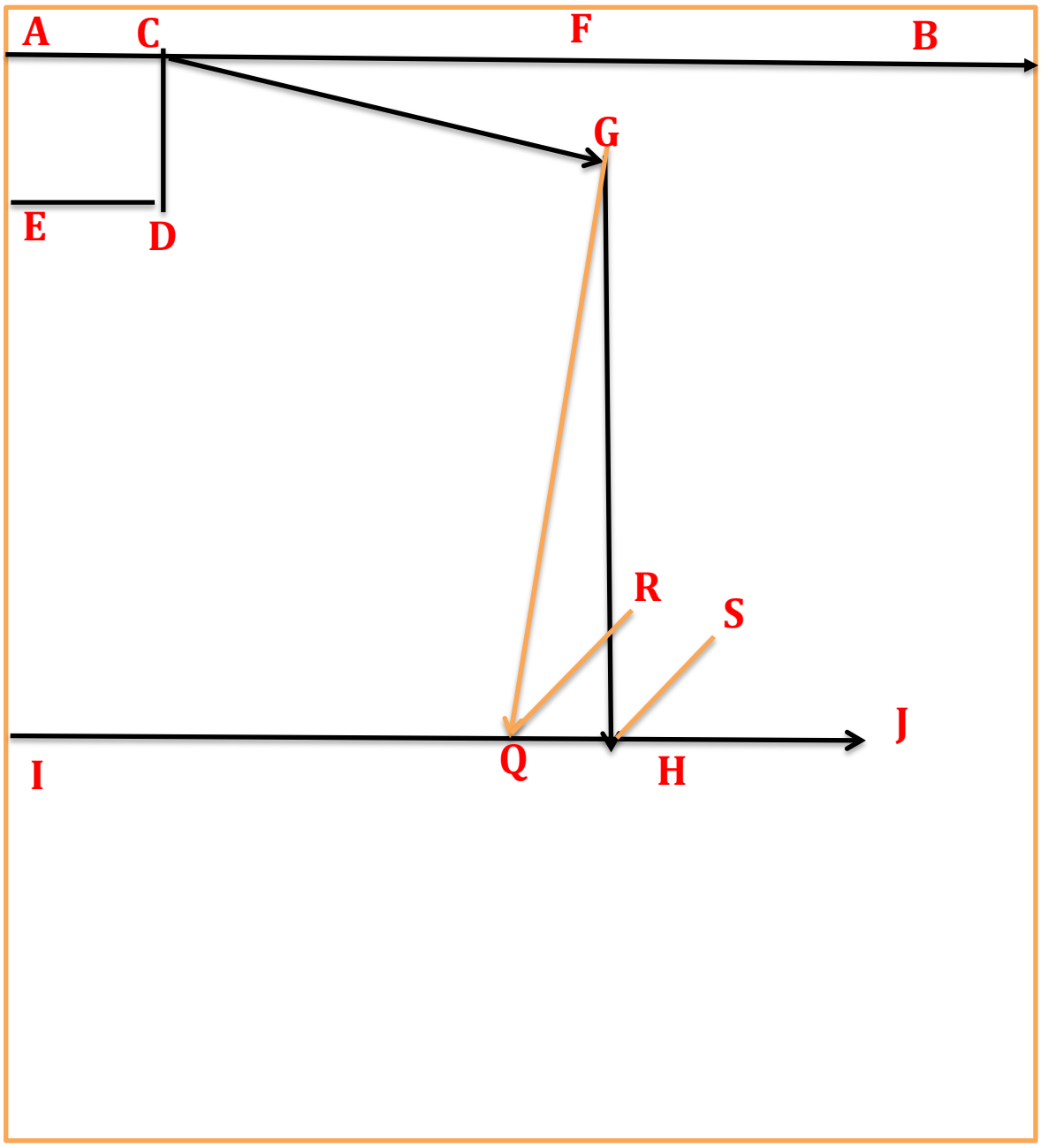
STEP 10

1. From point **A** measure downwards using shirt length measurement, Mark and label as point **O**.
2. From point **O** using the final shirt bottom width measure across, mark and label as point **P**.
3. To check **O-P** is to scale, ensure **AB-P** is the same as **A-O** = shirt length.
4. Draw a dotted line joining **O-P**.



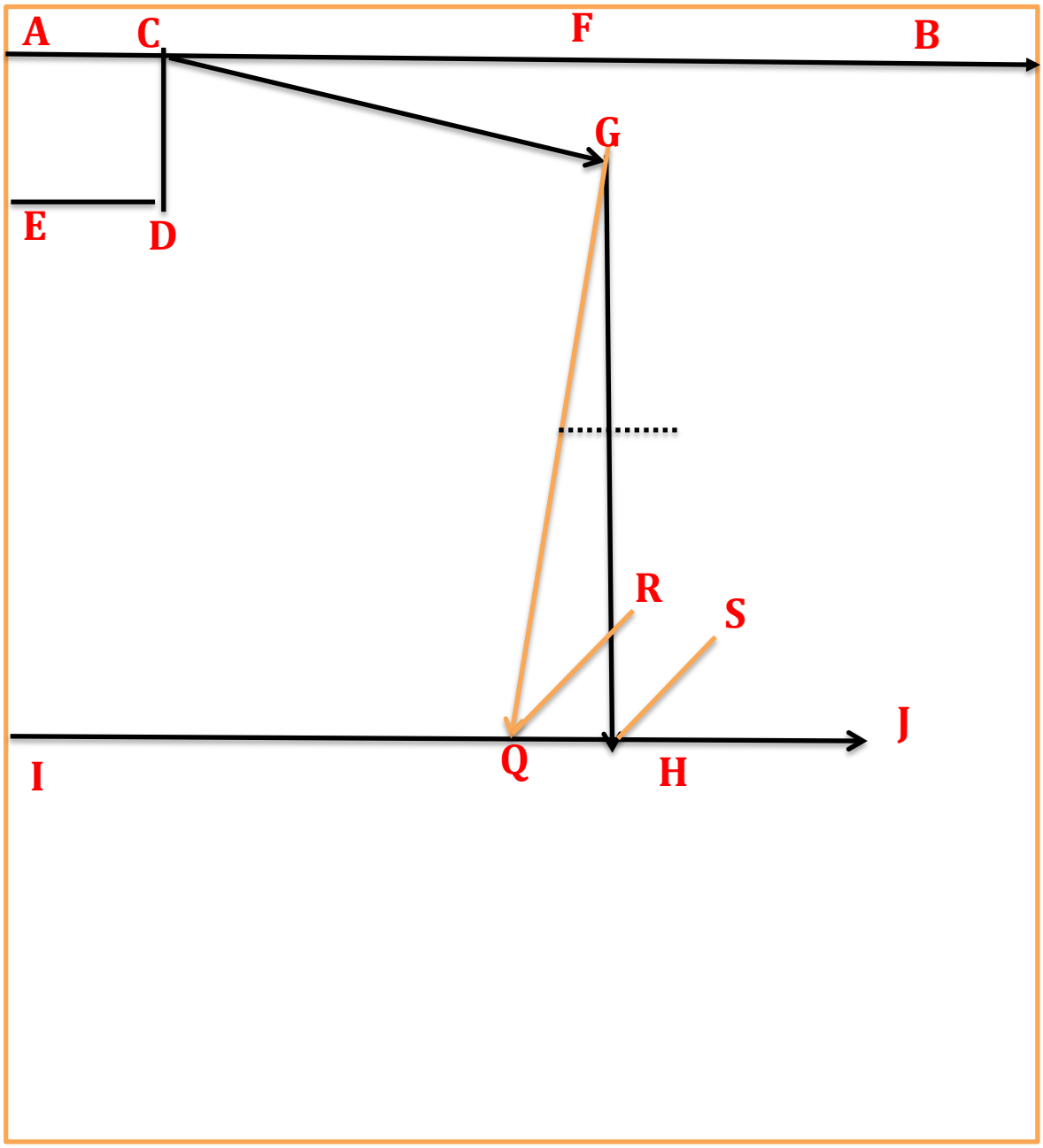
STEP 11 (focus on point G-H for this step)

1. From point **H** across to point **I** measure ¾ " mark and label as point **Q**.
2. From point **Q** at 90° measure 1" at 45° measure 1" mark and label as point **R**, draw a diagonal line joining point **Q** to **R**.
3. From point **H** at 90° measure 1" at 45° mark and label as point **S** draw a line from point **H** to **S**.



STEP 12 (focus on point G-H for this step)

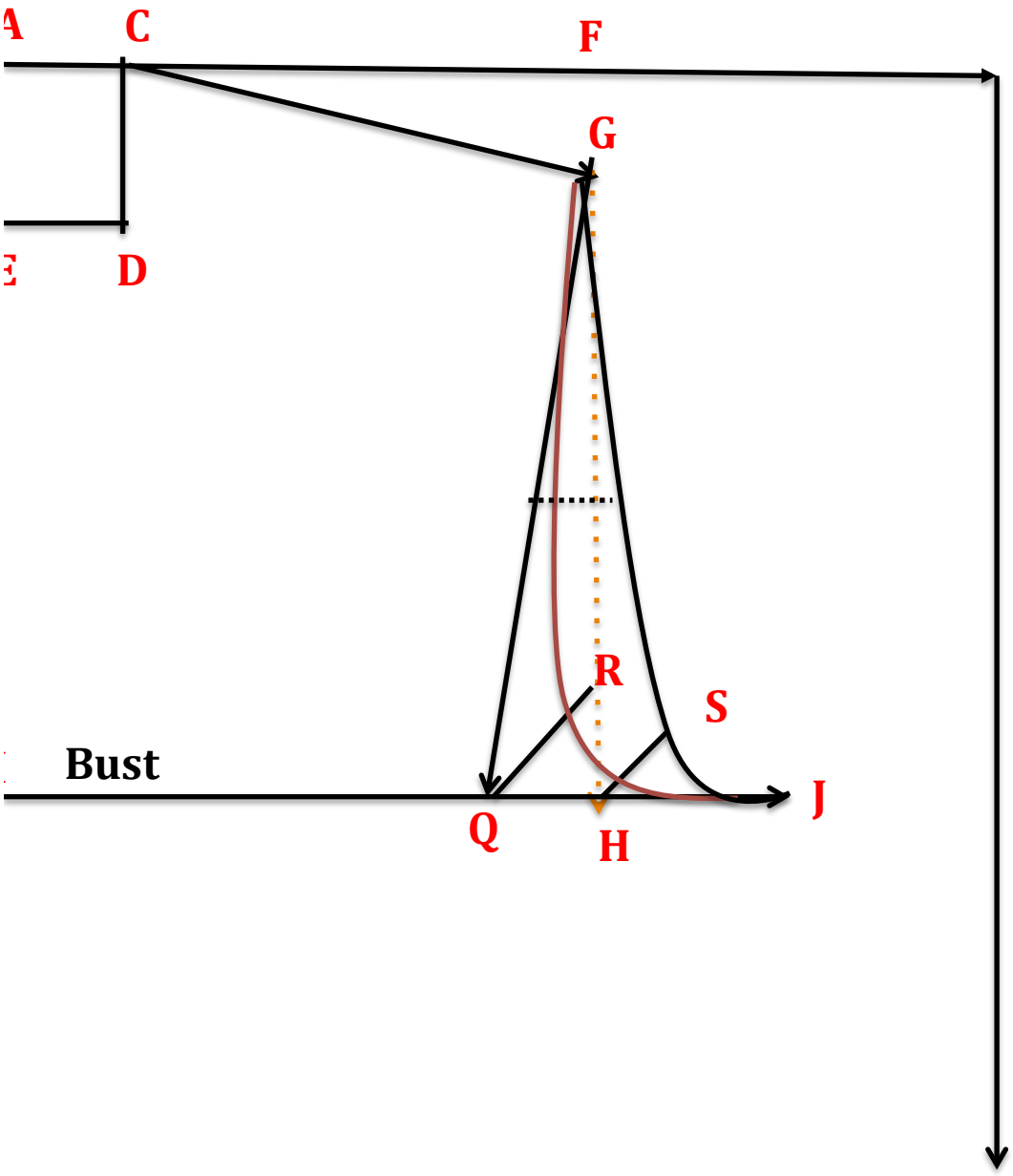
1. Measure half way down from **G-H** and draw a dotted line 0.5" on both sides as shown in the diagram.



STEP 13 (focus on point G-H for this step)

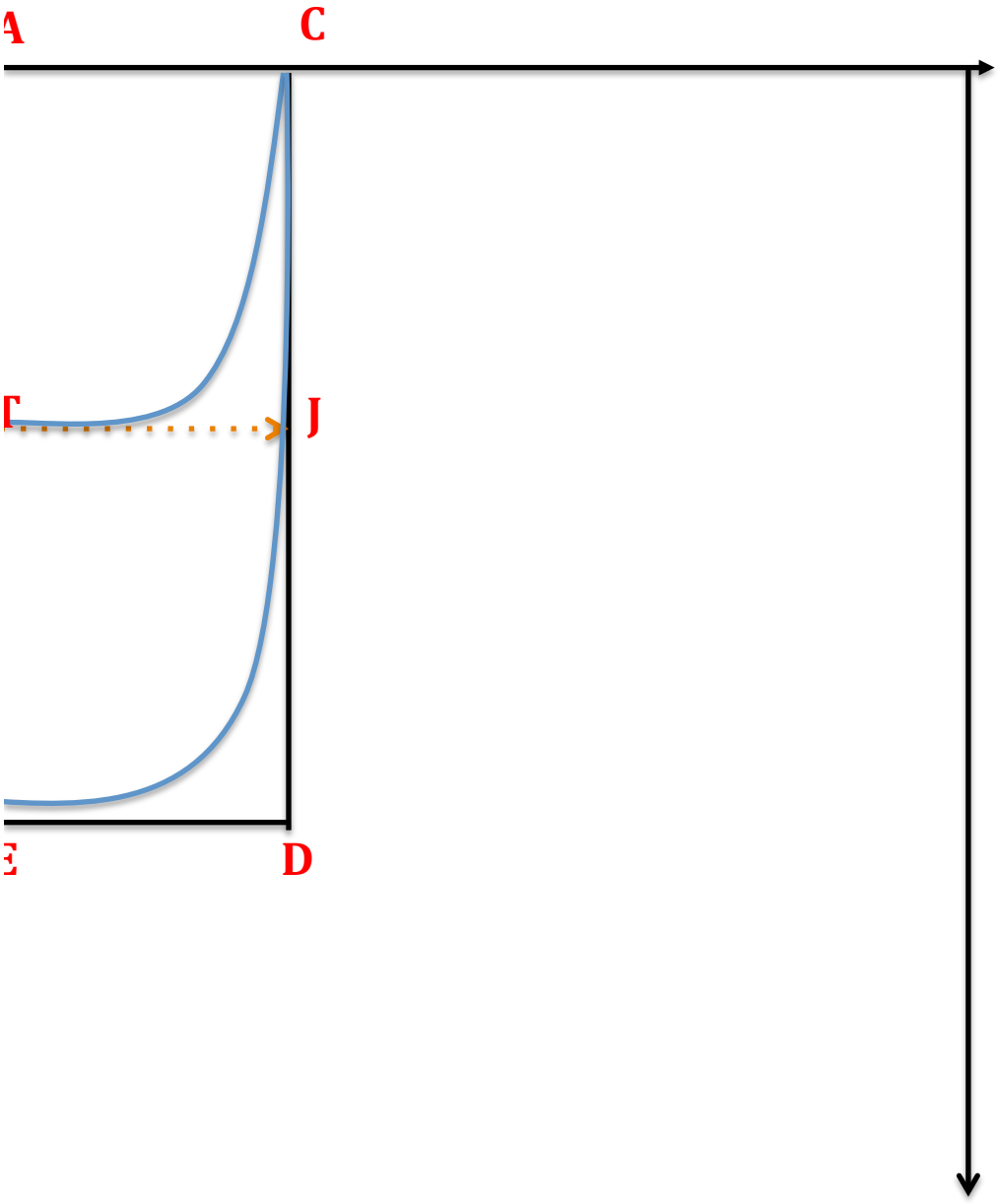
1. Using a French curve or join points **G, R-J** draw a curve. Ensure the curve does not cross the dotted line half way down **G-F**. This is the inner arm at the front of the pattern.
2. Using a French curve join points **G, S-J** draw a curve. This is the armhole line at the back of the pattern.

THIS DIAGRAM IS NOT TO SCALE ENSURE YOUR CURVE IS TO SCALE



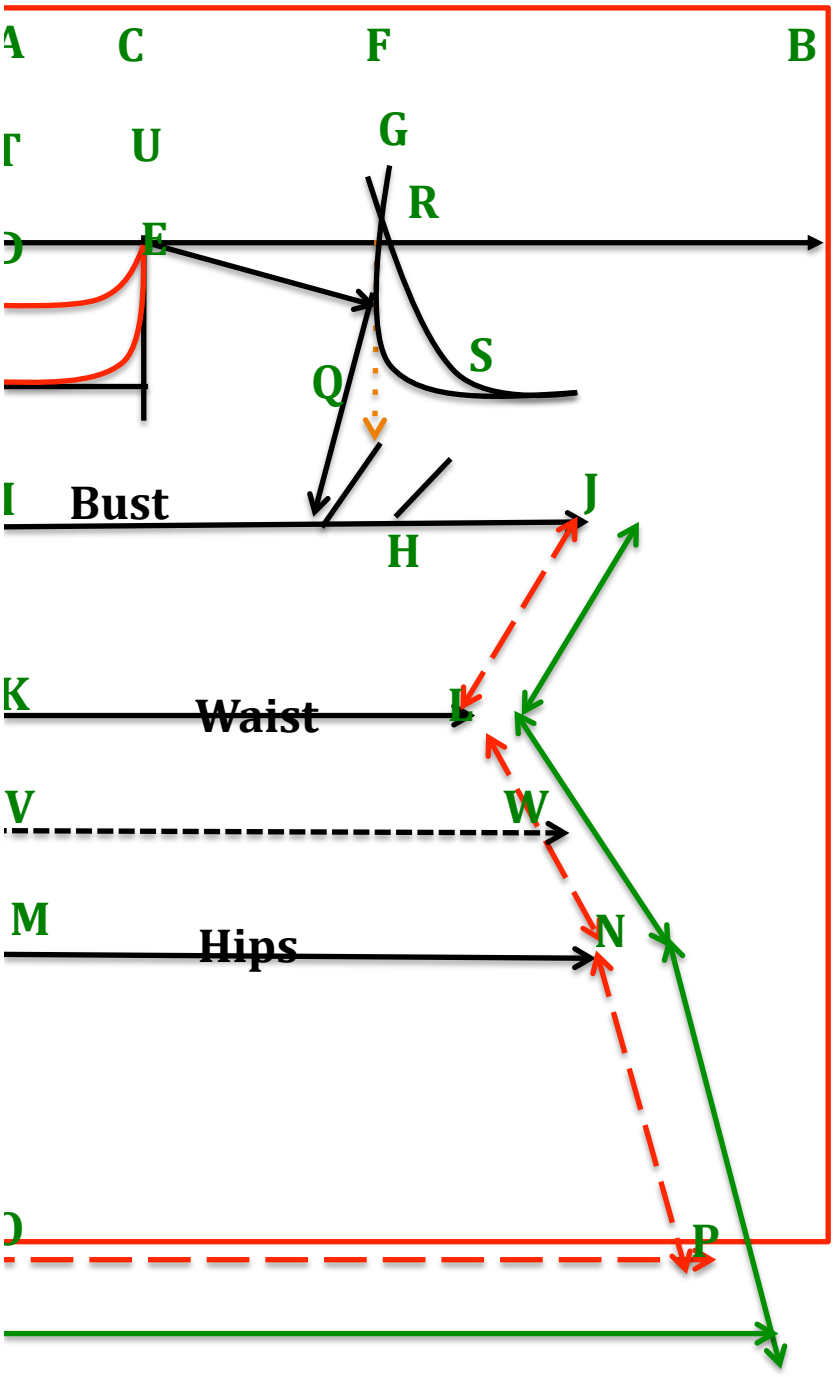
STEP 14 (focus on point A,C,D,E for this step)

1. Measure 2.5” down from point **A-E** mark and label as point **T**.
2. Measure 2.5” down from point **C-D** mark and label as point **U**.
3. Using a French curve ruler, join point’s **C -T** and draw a curve. This is the back neckline.
4. Using a French curve ruler, join points **C, U-E** and draw a curve. This is the back neckline.



STEP 15

1. Measure 3” below the waistline **K-L** and draw another line using your hip measurement. Label this as **V-W.** This is to prevent the shirt feeling tight at the waist to hip.
2. Using a ruler draw a dotted line joining points **J, L, N, P**
3. Measure 1” for seam allowance from **J, L, N-P** and from **O- P.**
4. Cut along the seam allowance and your pattern is your basic body block pattern is complete.



A-B = Straight line across paper as guide
A-C = neck width
C-D = neck depth
D-E = neck width
F-G = ½ INCH
C-G = shoulder slope
G-H= Armhole depth
I-J= Bust measurement
K-L= Waist Measurement
M-N=Hips measurement
O-P= Bottom of shirt width
J-Q= ¾ inch
Q-R= 1 inch from 90°
H-S= 1 inch from 90°
G-R-J= Front armhole
G-S-J=Back armhole
T-U= back neckline
V-W= Upper hip line (optional)
Dotted line= Fitting line
Outer line= 1 inch seam allowance