Ditto: Project Pattern and Cut Fabric with Niasia Pinnock of Ditto

Chapter 1 - Ditto: Project Pattern and Cut Fabric

Overview

(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Niasia Pinnock of Ditto. I'm a designer, pattern maker, sewist, and maker of all things crafty. Let's Ditto together. (upbeat music) I wanna introduce you to the freshest update in the pattern industry in 160 years. Ditto is a pattern projection ecosystem that is made up of the Ditto hardware, the Ditto pattern website, and the Ditto app. Ditto branded patterns are paperless and customizable. With Ditto, you get to the fun of sewing faster. The Ditto system was designed by sewists like you and me. It was created to make the patterning process less frustrating and more exciting. Ditto allows anyone from the home sewist to the fashion designer to create what previously they could only imagine. (upbeat music)

Projecting and cutting basic pattern pieces

- When you're ready to begin creating your garment, we'll begin by projecting and cutting. I wanna give you some tips to set you up for success. I've already set up the beam on the opposite side of the table that I'll be cutting from. I've signed into my Ditto app. I've already connected the app to the projector. As well, I've calibrated using my cutting mat. We're gonna cut our garment fabric. I have that here. I also have a chair at the end of my workstation to drape over any excess yardage. Working with the Abby dress, I'm gonna go straight into my workspace. And once I'm in, we'll see our tally on the right hand side with all of our pattern pieces that we need. And on the top, we have lining fabric. We also have our interfacing fabric. And all the pattern pieces for that, we'll update as well. I'm gonna go back to the garment fabric since that's what we'll be cutting. And what I love about the workspace here is that I can use the reference layout that is given, or I can create my own. I'm gonna create my own today, using a long press and drag. I'm gonna drop the pattern piece in. And I could add as many or as few pieces as I'd like. I think I'm happy with this layout here. And this rectangular box here is representative of our 36 by 24 cutting mat. And once I'm happy with that, I'll press send to projector. My lights are dim, so that I could see my projection lines nice, bright and crisp. And now we're gonna get to the fun part. I'm gonna lay out my garment fabric and begin cutting. I'm working with my fabric double-layered so that I get two cuts of each of the pattern pieces. Being that this piece is a cut on fold, I have my fold line here, and I'm gonna align that to this piece. Smooth it out. Make sure there's no bubbles. And then I'm gonna take my pattern weights and I'm going to place it within the cut lines. I'm gonna use the rotary cutter. I love using this, it's like a pizza cutter for fabric. And then I'm gonna cut on the outside of the line. You can cut from the front part of the table, from both sides, whatever's most comfortable for you. This is just a little bit easier for me to cut it from this side. So I'm gonna go from here. And again, this gives you a really nice edge with the rotary cutter, but I know some are more comfortable with the scissors. I'm gonna use my fabric marking pen to mark my notches. Or you can clip it as well, which I like to do. So this piece is nice and cut. I'm cutting with the right sides together. For this particular crepe, there really isn't a right or a wrong side, but for anything that has a print, or any type of cotton, I usually do right sides together. I'm gonna head over to my second piece. And again, placing my pattern weights within the cutting lines. Feel free to take this piece off since you've cut what you needed to. I'm gonna put a third one on here. There are four pattern weights that are included with your Ditto set. And again, cutting from all four sides of the table is perfectly acceptable. And when you're

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using the rotary cutter, be sure to cut away from your hands and away from your body. And last but not least, I'm gonna mark my notches. When you cut into your notches, you wanna be sure to cut both layers. And I usually cut in about a quarter of an inch so that I don't cut into my seam allowance. And you're all done. I'll continue cutting out the rest of my pattern pieces in the same way.

Projecting and cutting spliced pieces
- For pattern pieces larger than the 36 by 24 cutting mat, we have a technique called splicing that you can use. We're still working with the Abby dress and this dress includes two splice pieces. Splicing divides a pattern piece into manageable sections to be cut in portions. Using the target stickers, the areas are linked together by two or more frames. I'll show you how it works. In your workspace tally, you'll see pattern pieces that have red arrows. Those are splice pieces. We're gonna long press, drag, and drop into our workspace, and this notification will pop up, says "Splicing required. This is a splice piece that is too large for the projection area," which is the 36 by 24 cutting mat, "It will be projected across two or more linked sections." We'll click OK. The red circles on the pattern piece represent where the target stickers will go. I'm gonna double click on here to show you the layout map of what will be projected. Everything within the red rectangular box, we'll cut first, and everything outside the box, we'll address next. I'll press send to projector, and there we are. The pattern auto populates with one particular frame first, but you can choose to change which frame you would like to cut first. Since my fabric is laid out on this side of the table, I'd prefer to cut the end. So I'm gonna shift using the red arrow here. I'll send to projector this way, and the end portion is now projected. Again, I'm cutting this on a double layer. I'll smooth out my fabric to make sure that we don't have any wrinkles or bubbles. And I also wanna make sure that we have enough fabric on both ends. The target stickers include both red and white stickers. I use the white stickers for darker fabric and the red stickers for lighter fabric. This one is in the middle, so I could use either one. I'll align my stickers to match the red dots that are projected. Once that's done, I'll lay out my pattern weights. There are actually two techniques that you can use to cut out a splice piece. I can either cut all the frames, frame by frame, or I can trace and cut the entire piece. Right now, I'm just gonna cut frame by frame. I'll use my fabric marker once again to mark my notches, and I'll also clip them as well, both layers. And again, we wanna clip about a quarter of an inch in so that we don't cut into our seam allowance. Okay, so now we're ready for our next step. On the tablet, you have your red arrow here that'll bring you to your next frame. It's shifted in our workspace here, and now we need it to shift on our cutting mat. So I'll press send to projector, wait for that to update in there. It updated. So what we're gonna do, we're gonna match the target stickers to its new position. Realign your pieces. Once you get everything realigned, looks really good to you, we can start adding some pattern weights, and you can begin cutting the next frame. It's pretty remarkable that we were able to cut out this full length dress piece without any commercial patterns or any printed patterns that we had to tape together. It's really clean, efficient, and easy to use the target stickers. Now I'm gonna use my transfer paper to transfer my darts to both sides of the fabric. I'm gonna use my tracing wheel along with my transfer paper to get the darts on both sides. So I'm gonna slip it under. And, actually, the great thing about the projector is that you can see exactly where it's gonna be. I'll use my projection line to let me know that it's in the right position. I'll align my fabric back on top, and then I'm able to fold it over. And again, my projection line shows me that I'm in the right area. So from here, I'll mark. Once I finish marking, I can pull up my paper, and there should be markings on both sides of the fabric. Another way to

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work with the splice piece is by tracing the entire piece first, frame by frame, and then cutting it out. I'm gonna show you how to do that with a second pattern.

Trace and cut a multi-directional piece
- The tracing and cutting technique is used anytime when we're cutting a really large pattern piece or whenever we're using a difficult fabric that easily shifts around on you, such as a silky. Because I'm working with such a large piece of fabric, I have my chair in the front so that the excess fabric can drape over it. This is also the reason why the wanted space between your beam and your workstation is really important so that your fabric can hang down between the two. In addition to doing the tracing and cutting technique I'll also be cutting multi-directional splicing.
Multi-directional splicing is when I shift my pattern piece both horizontally and vertically. I'll show you how to do that now. Here's the Anastasia dress. As you can see, it's a full circle flowing dress, and this is what you would use the multi-directional splicing for. I'm gonna head into our workspace. I'll long press, drag and drop. And our notification comes up letting us know that we need to do multi-directional splicing. So we'll press OK. And we'll get to tracing. So again, we can double click on the layout map and it'll show us which portion of the dress we're gonna cut. So we have this small section here. We can zoom in on it and zoom out. So I'm gonna start by pressing Send to Projector. Wait for that to pop up. We're cutting the bottom left quadrant of our pattern so I'm cutting on the bottom left quadrant of my fabric. My fabric is 60 inches wide, and you can also see here on our layout that I have this 60 inch layout noted here on the top right hand corner. Check that your fabric is in alignment. I'm working with my fabric double layered with right sides together. I can check that my grain is in alignment by double tapping on my fabric layout. And it's aligned. I have my link grain with the grain of the fabric pattern. I'm gonna start by placing my target stickers over my circles. I'll be using my red stickers, being that this is a light colored fabric so I can see it easily. You can always zoom in on your pattern piece to make sure that you get all target stickers covered. I'll use my fabric pen to mark the pattern. This is a disappearing ink marker so this will come out with ironing. Okay, that first section is marked. Now let's move forward. To move to my next frame, I can either go up or right. I'm gonna go to the right and do my right quadrant. I press my red arrow. I'm gonna double tap on my map just to make sure where I am for my own peace of mind. Here I am. I'll X out of that. I'll press Send to Projector. Now I'm gonna align my target stickers with my next frame. Once all my target stickers are aligned I can begin tracing my second frame. Working with a piece this large can take quite a bit of time, but what I love about Ditto is that I don't have to tape together 40 to 50 pieces of paper to create a skirt. You continue tracing and cutting until your pattern piece is complete. For cutting a piece this large, I would add pins every so often just to keep my two double layers together. The Ditto's versatility is boundless. The splicing and calibration technique is unparalleled. Anything that you can imagine you can create with Ditto.

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