

Clown Costume Tutorial



This costume was designed by my 6-year-old son, Joseph (pictured below). I am merely putting it to life and sharing it with you! He is the true genius behind it.



Materials Needed

1 to 1.5 yards fabric for pants
5-6 scraps of funky fabrics
1 yard of boning
Hot glue gun

An old trashed shirt in your child's size
1.5 yards fabric for the tie (or two scraps that are 1.5 yards long but not very wide
1 pair of adult pajama pants to use as a template

Sewing Instructions - Clown Shirt

All seam allowances are 1/2" (1.5 cm) unless otherwise noted.



1. For the shirt all you'll need is an old shirt that has holes or stains or you just downright hate and some unmatching fabrics. Bright ones!



2. We'll start by cutting a number of shapes of your choosing. Five or six should be fine. My clown thinks triangles are the funniest shape so that's what we used.



3. Pin a shape on the shirt.



4. Zigzag around the edges. I used a fun variegated thread.



5. Repeat with all your other shapes.

Sewing Instructions - Clown Pants



6. Next we'll make the clown pants. You're going to need a pair of men's pajama pants, about 1.5 yard of fabric, and a package of boning (or 1 yard). Any adult sized pants should do just fine if there aren't any men's ones around. You could also use a sewing pattern for men's pj pants if you have one. Grab your pants fabric and lay the pants down folded in half with the front side showing. Fold up the legs so they look like shorts.



7. Cut round the pants giving yourself about 1/2" seam allowance around ALL the edges. Be sure to cut through two thicknesses of fabric. Mark these pieces so you know they are the front pieces. You don't need to add any extra at the waistband.



8. Fold the pants the other way so the back is showing and cut around it just as before. Now you should have two front pieces and two back pieces.



9. Cut two straps about 2.5" wide and 26" long. This is for my very small 7 year old so you may want to adjust the length for your clown.



10. To begin sewing the pants, take one front piece and lay it on top of one back piece with right sides together. Sew the inseams.



11. Press open.



12. Place the two sets on top of each other with right sides together as shown. Sewn the crotch seam. (the U shaped seam to the left)



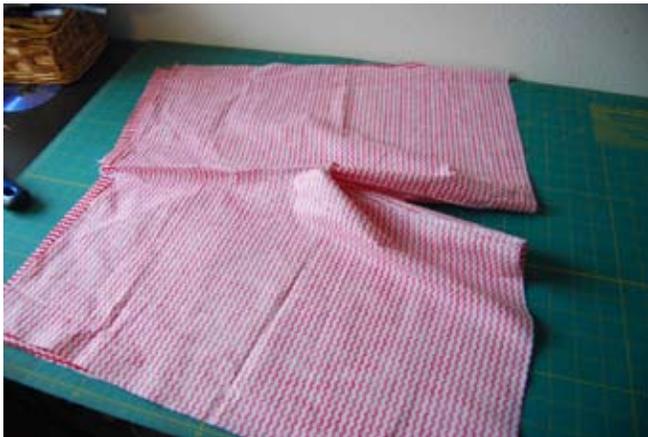
13. Open the seam up and press.



14. This part can be a bit tricky. Grab the waist of the front and pick it up.



15. Pull it over and match it to the waist of the back.



16. Now they look like pants again!



17. Sew the side seams.



18. Take the straps and finish the edges (not shown). I serges the edges but a zigzag will do just fine. I try not to get too fancy with costumes. They're for fun, right?

With the right sides together, pin the straps on the front of the pants matching the waist seams and the end of the straps.



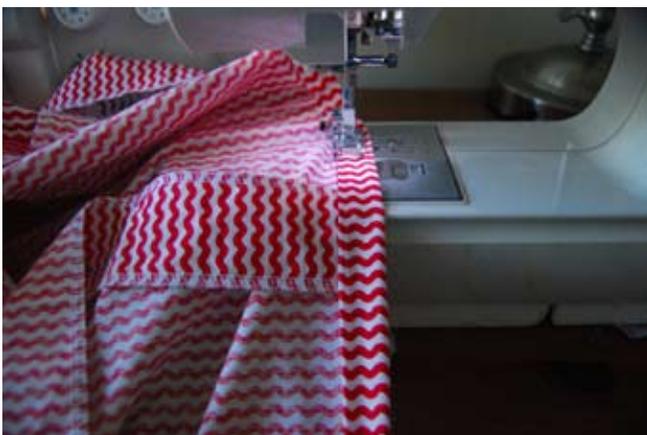
19. Turn the pants over and loop the strap around. Pin the other end to the back of the waist as shown. Baste the straps onto the pants. This is just a fancy way of saying sew them on but don't get too technical about it. It is just temporary until we do the next step. You can use a long straight stitch length if you wish.



20. Now it is time to make the casing for the boning. Start by pressing down 1/4".



21. Press down another 1/2" or so depending on the width of your boning. You want it to fit with some extra wiggle room. Pin.



22. Sew the casing on the lower folded edge as shown. Leave a small opening for inserting the boning.



23. We'll need to sew the straps so they point upward instead of down.



24. Press them up.



25. Sew them very close to the upper folded edge of the casing.



26. Find your small opening.



27. Grab your boning. You'll need to measure how much you need by measuring the circumference of the waist opening on the pants. This isn't rocket science so you have an inch or so of give on the length.



28. Insert the boning into the casing just like you would elastic. Except you won't need a tool or safety pin to get it through.



29. I actually took off that nice fabric cover on my boning because it made it too difficult to push through the casing. Yours might not have a fabric cover at all.



30. Whip out that glue gun.



31. Put a little hot glue on one end.



32. And stick them together.



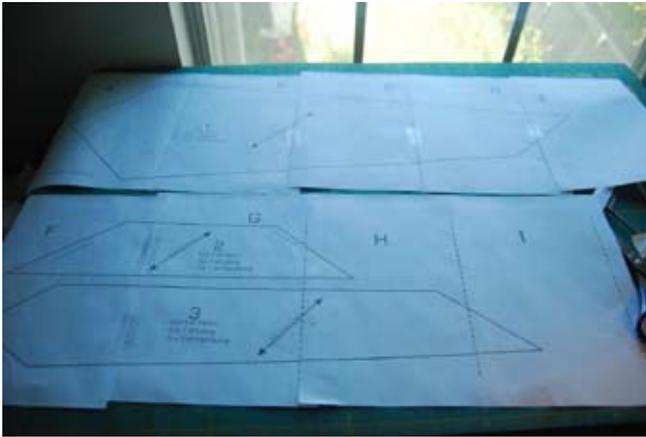
33. Tuck it into the casing and sew it closed.



34. Pants!

All that's left is hemming the pant legs. I serged mine, but you can hem them however you'd like.

Sewing Instructions - Clown Tie



35. Now on to the last element of the costume: The oversized tie! I'm just using a regular tie template that I designed to make my husband custom ties. The instructions for a regular tie (and the pattern again) are available for free on my website: georgialeigh.com

Print and assemble the PDF sewing pattern as shown in the assembly instructions. The pattern is found at the end of the instructions. You may notice more markings on the pattern pieces shown to the left in the photos as compared to the pieces contained in this PDF. These markings were not applicable to the clown tie so I removed them from the pattern pieces. In other words: DON'T FRET. All is well.



36. Because this isn't a fancy tie you don't need to piece it together. If you have a long length of fabric, I find it is easier to tape the three pattern pieces together and THEN cut out the tie. However, if you're short on yardage, then cut the three pieces out separately and then sew them together.



37. I used the same fabric for the front and back on this one, but have done two contrasting fabrics before which is very fun (and very funny according to my 7 yr old). Flowers are also funny, so that's what I'm using for this one.

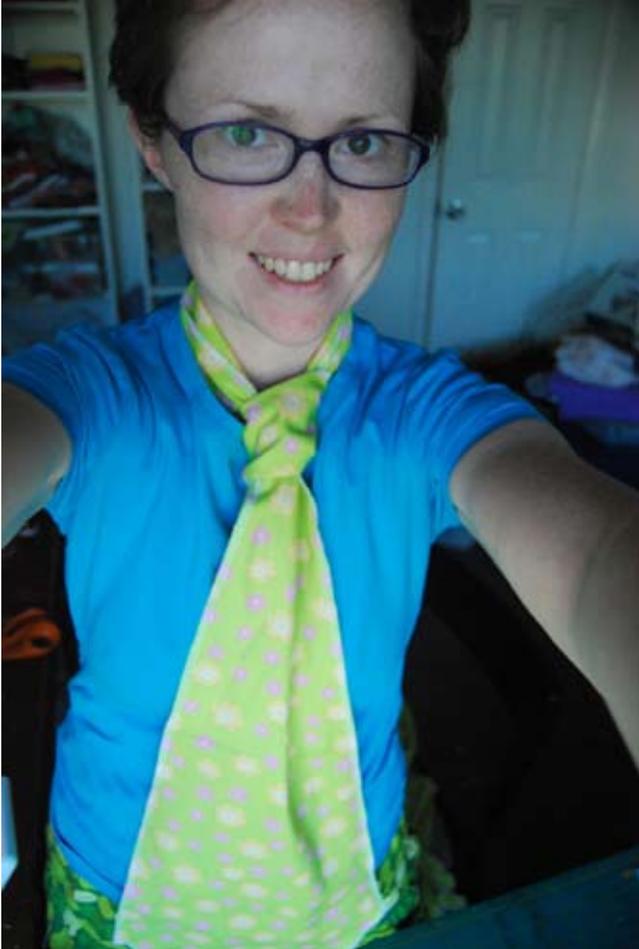
Cut two ties out.



38. Place the two tie pieces together with WRONG sides facing. Pin.



39. Serge or zigzag around the edges. Or it would be really fun to make a ragged edge by just sewing a straight stitch 1/2" from the edges.



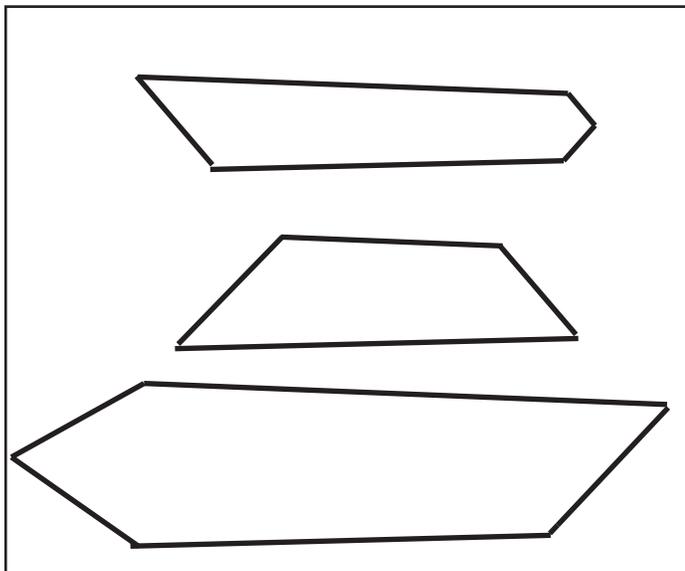
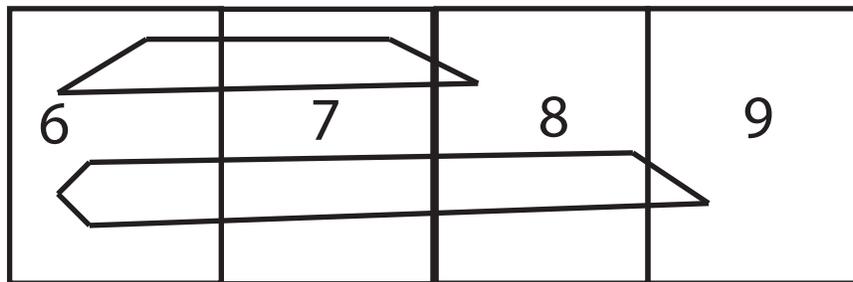
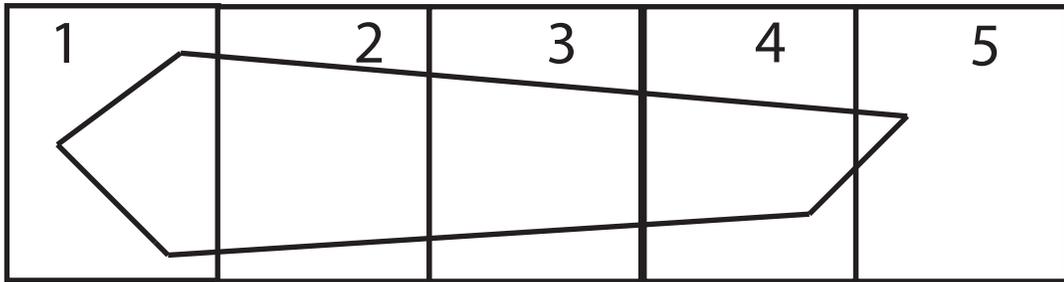
40. Tie it and try it on! I didn't know where any kids were (which is a miracle if you think about it) so I tried it on myself. I think I just started a new fad.

Now you're ready for the life of a clown. After I finished everything my clown requested secret pockets inside his pants so he can pull things out of his pants as part of his routine, so that will have to be an after-market addition.

I hope you have enjoyed this pattern! I have lots of fun, high-quality PDF sewing patterns in my shop including more costumes for your little ones.

<http://georgialeighdesigns.etsy.com>

Assembling the PDF



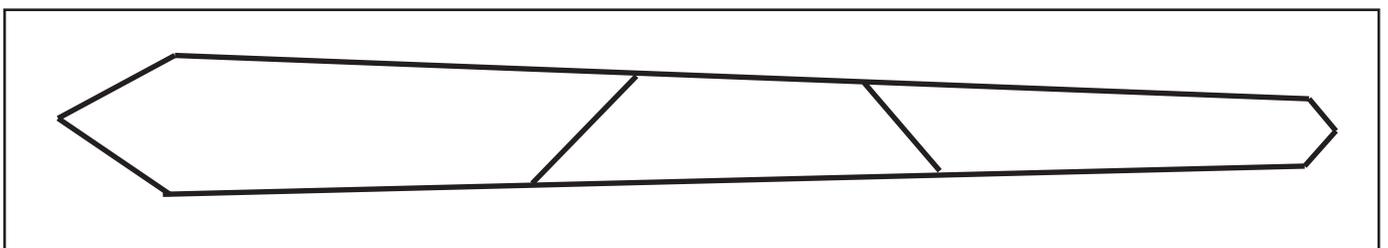
FOLD

Two cutting and assembling options:

1. Cut the pieces separately and sew them together. Do this to make two tie pieces. Use this option if you don't have a lot of yardage.

2. Tape the pattern pieces together and cut one long tie piece. Do this to make two tie pieces. Use this option if you have a very long continuous piece of fabric.

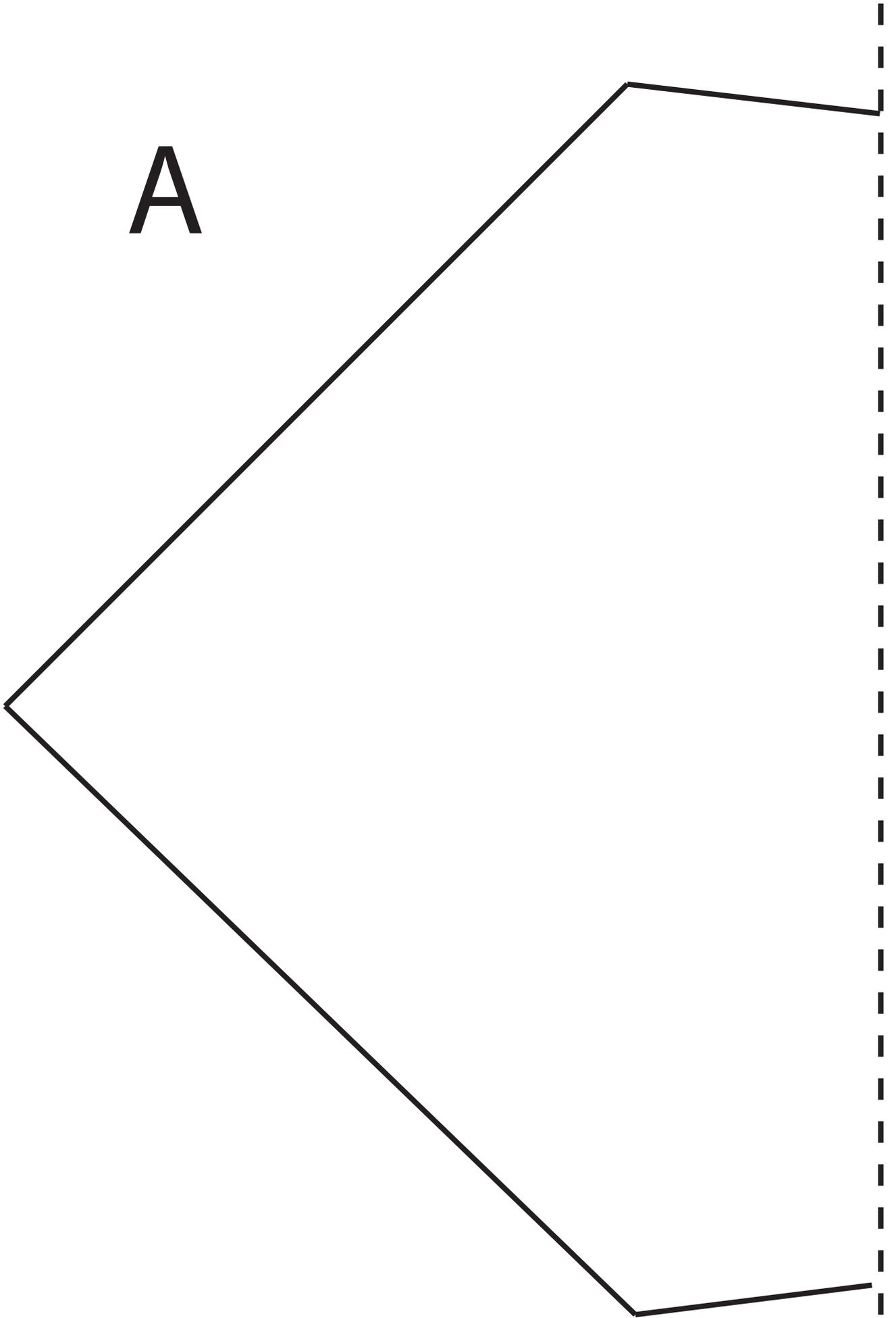
NEXT: Pin the two tie pieces together with **WRONG** sides together. Serge around the edges or zigzag the edges.

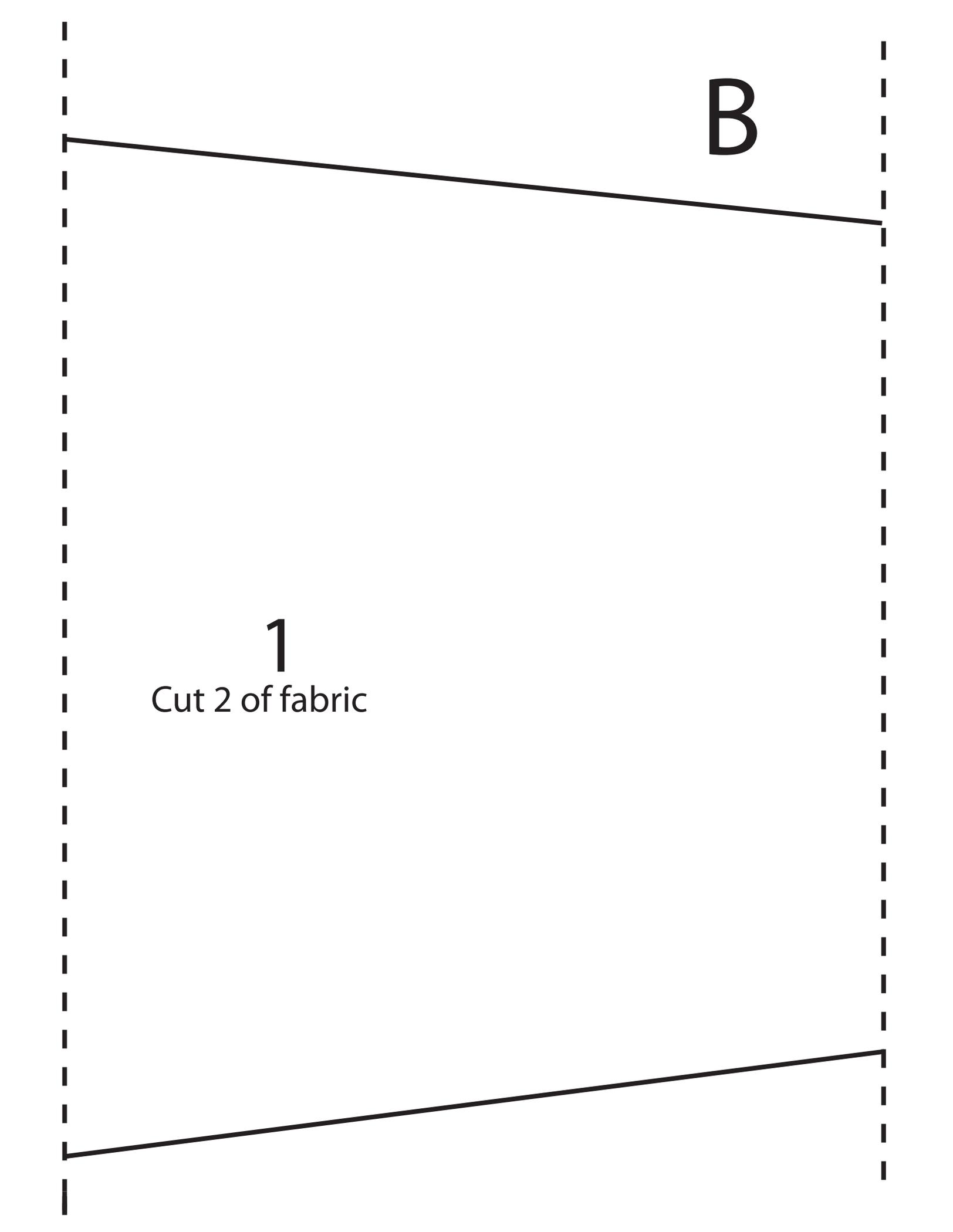


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A



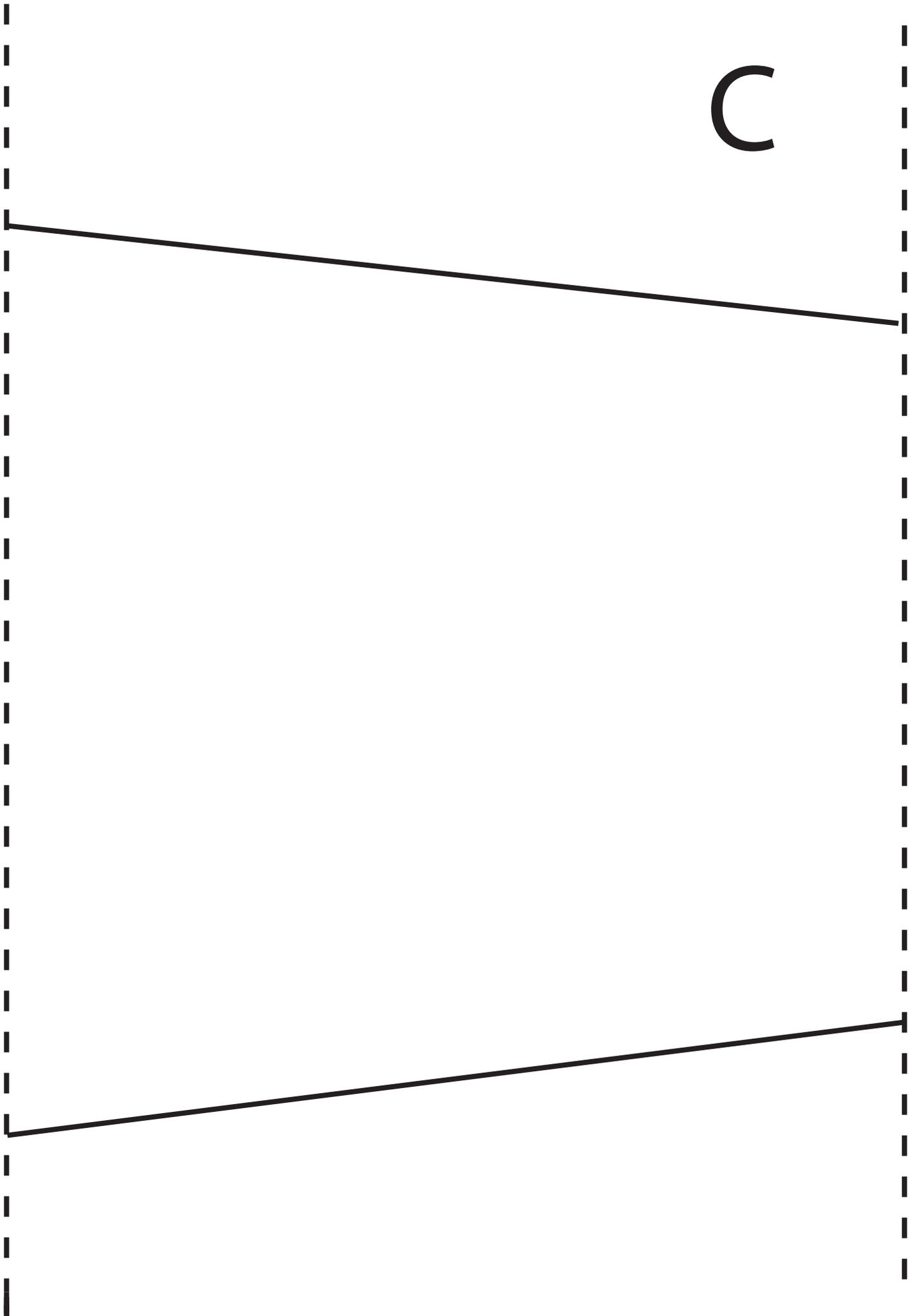


A diagram showing a trapezoidal shape defined by two vertical dashed lines and two solid lines. The top solid line slopes downwards from left to right, and the bottom solid line slopes upwards from left to right. The text '1' and 'Cut 2 of fabric' are located in the lower-left area, and the letter 'B' is in the upper-right area.

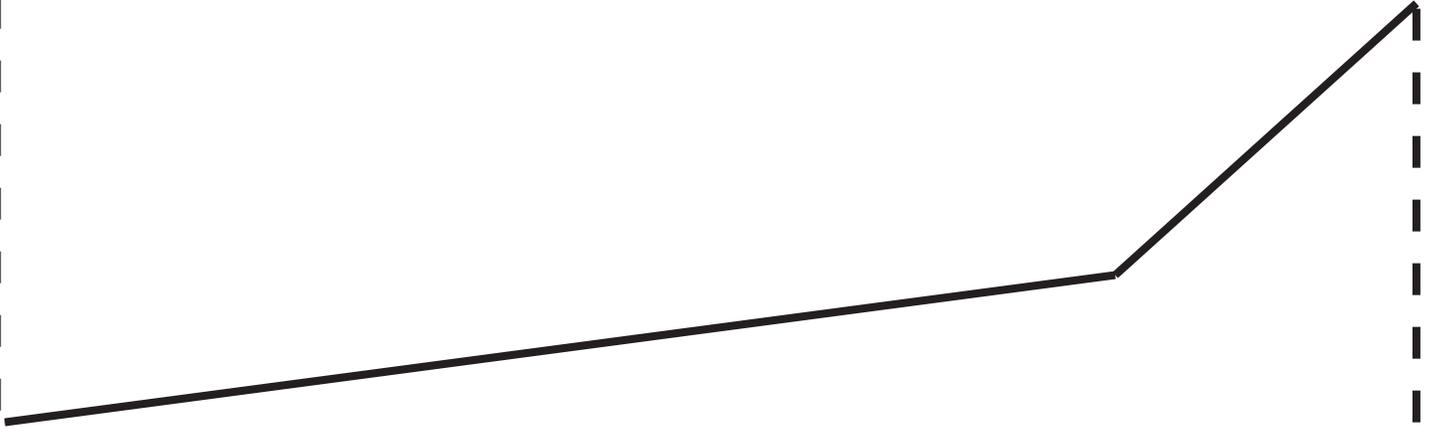
B

1

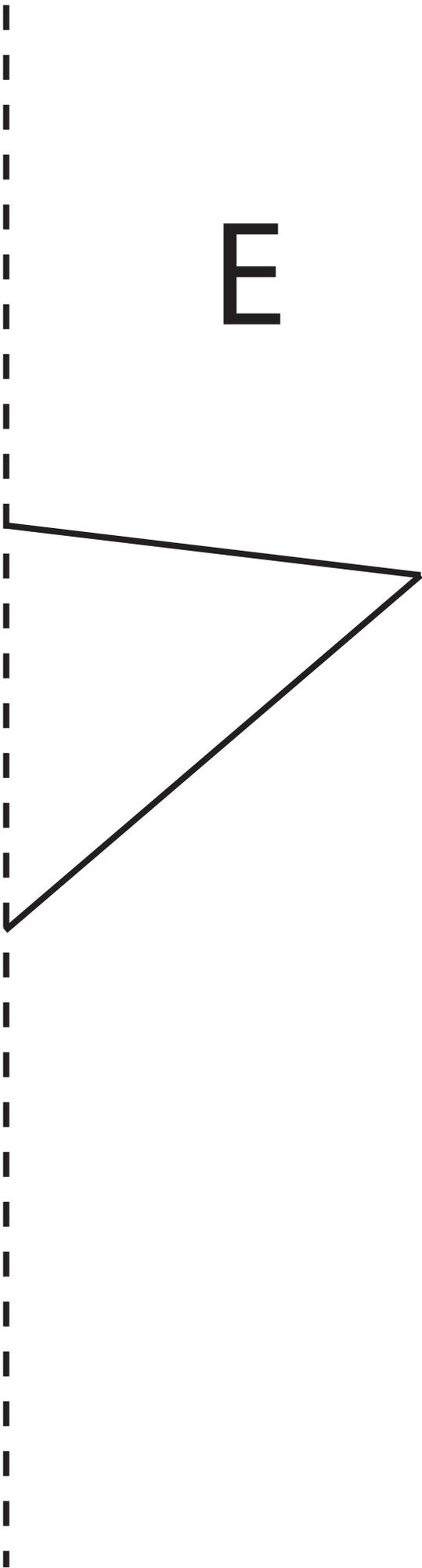
Cut 2 of fabric



D

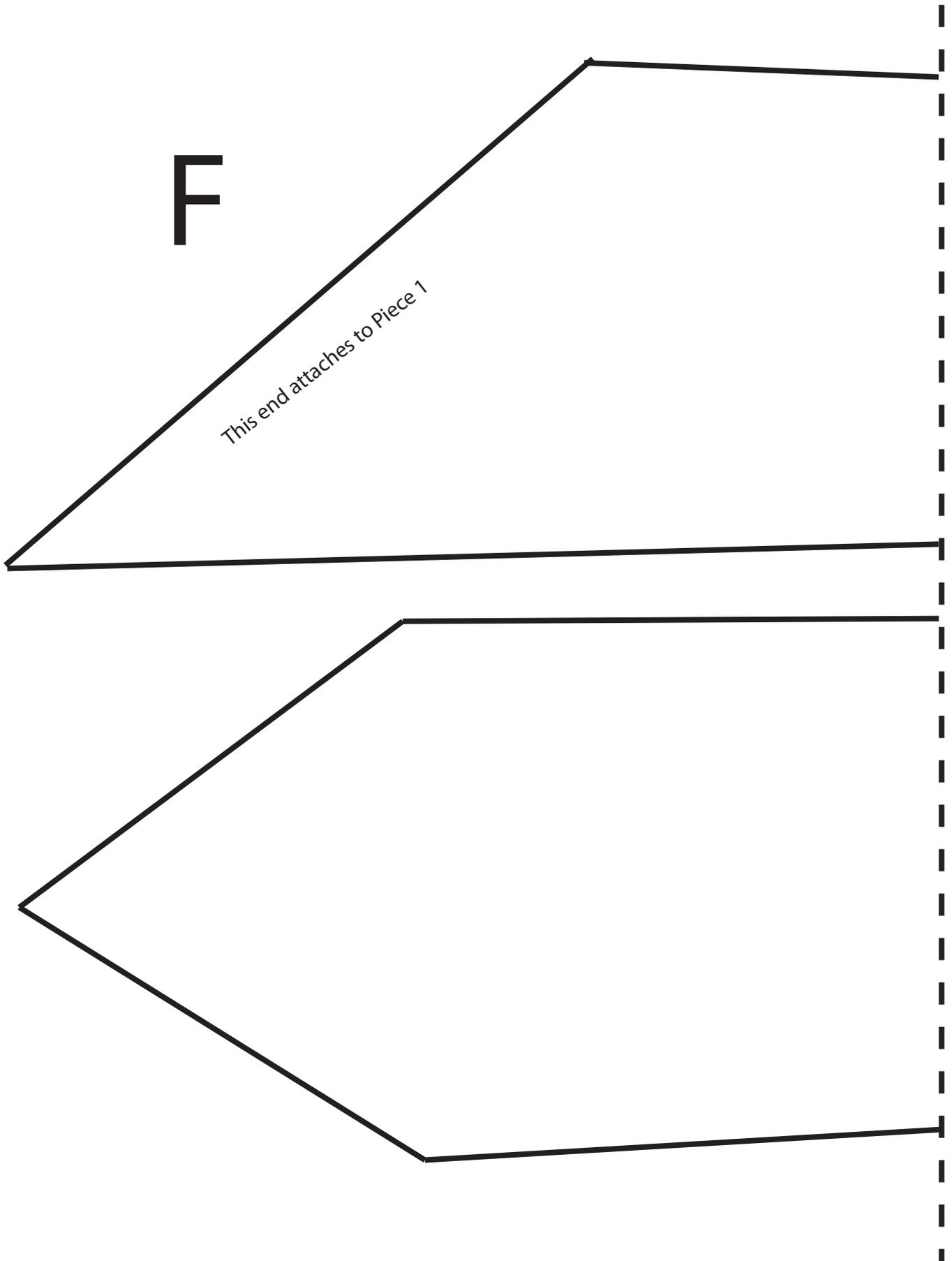


E



F

This end attaches to Piece 1



G

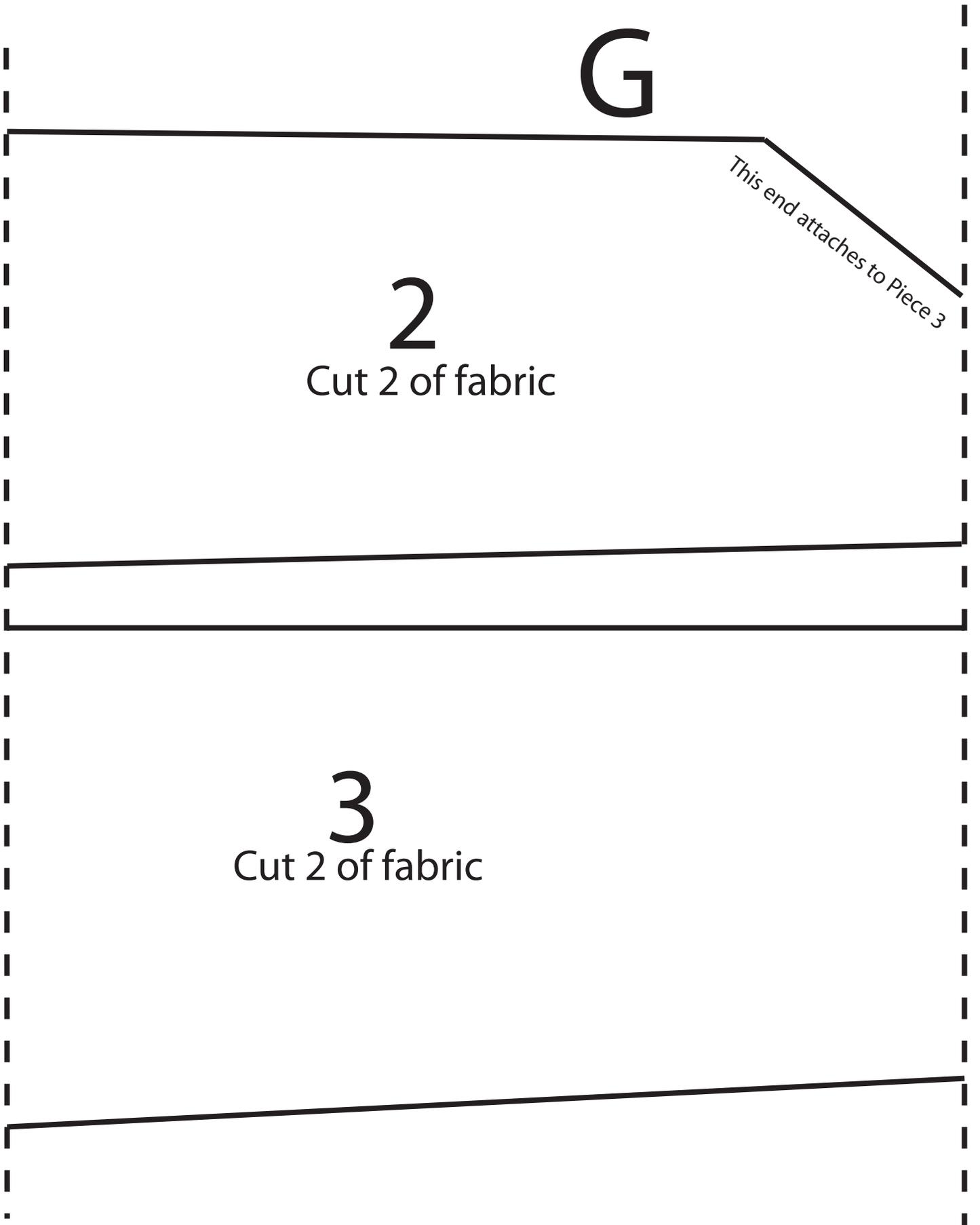
This end attaches to Piece 3

2

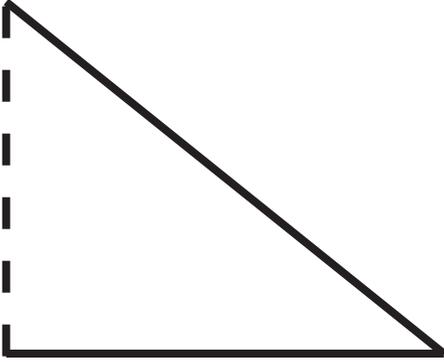
Cut 2 of fabric

3

Cut 2 of fabric



H



I

