

Reform textile waste, Rethink fashion consumption

改造纺织废物，反思时尚消费

a workshop to foster the change

towards sustainable fashion

in collaboration with Green Initiatives

Thank you for joining the workshop!

If you are interested in Zero Waste Pattern Cutting, here is a short guide that can help you designing Zero Waste Pattern!

The guide is by Holly McQuillan, a famous designer from Australia.

Check out her website and learn more!
<https://hollymcquillan.com/>



Notes from Holly McQuillan

Pattern cutting in this way without the assistance of an experience pattern cutter will be difficult if you do not have a basic understanding of pattern cutting yourself.

The first garment you make in this way will be the hardest.

Designing garments/patterns in this way requires a bit of a shift in focus – from knowing what you want the end result to be and how you will achieve it, to being conscious and thoughtful as you design the pattern/garment in order to meet general goals of fit and aesthetics.

In addition you need to be prepared to let these general goals go if something more exciting turns up in your process.



1

Fabric choice

Determine final width of the fabric used by measuring it.
Although in many designs this has a degree of flexibility: you can move things around a bit and the general design remains pretty much the same.



2

Template set up

I use illustrator, but you can do this by hand - perhaps half scale if you have it might be useful when you start. You only need to mark two lines parallel to each other the width of the fabric you are using apart at this stage and give yourself enough space to extend it out as needed. Maybe start with the width of the fabric and 1.5meters to 2 meters long. You can always make it shorter later.

A large, bold black number '3' is centered on the left side of the page. The background is a solid yellow color with a repeating pattern of small, light-colored icons representing various clothing items: t-shirts, jackets, watches, pants, shoes, and ties.

3

Decide on final design “fixed areas”

What parts of the final garment do you want to fit the body in a traditional standard manner? These form the “foundation” of your design and could be as extensive or minimal as you like - bear in mind though that the more fixed areas you have the harder the process will be.

You could start with the shoulder areas as the only fixed areas for an easier design process.



4

Lay out fixed area on the template

Lay them out on the template so that the 'negative space' forms pleasing shapes. Teardrops and curves work well, or straight sections that you can imagine easily incorporate into other garment parts/functions (pockets, facings etc).



5

Organize the areas

Continue to move the blocks, slash and spread them, create new design/panel lines (extending the length of fabric where required) until you have utilized all the width of fabric and how ever long the length ends up being.

[Learn more in the next pages >](#)

Holly McQuillan says...

“

I try to aim toward utilizing the whole of the fabric in a way that avoids decoration as a means of disposing of the waste. I prefer a "macro" approach to zero-waste pattern cutting, but this depends on your overall design aesthetic – if you like decorative clothing then go for it.

The design can be symmetrical or not - sometimes parts set up as symmetrical and others not can help the overall layout. Think about how the chosen fabric might behave when sewn up in the shapes you make.

Remember that any shape will sew into any void so long as the circumference is the same (Thanks to Julian Roberts)

Remember that fabric is soft and is effected by gravity – it will hang from points on the body (Thanks to Julian Roberts)

Remember to consider seams - particularly for areas such as sleeve crowns/armholes where fit is extremely important. In many areas seam allowances are less important. Use your common sense to work out where it is important (usually where things will fit closely to the figure)

Remember that in zero-waste pattern design every line you design on your pattern has two sides. You are designing both sides of the line and will cut both sides of the scissors when you sew it up.

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6

Use colors



Using color to code the sections can help in the organization of the parts. Try to do sleeves in yellow, body in red etc.



7

Make a test

At this point I often print out the pattern on A4 paper, cut it out and stick it together with tape just to do an initial test of the overall design and to see if everything will fit and be used as I imagine. Make any alterations as needed.



8

Make a toile

Make a toile in half scale if you have a half scale mannequin – using the paper model as a guide. Remember that half scale toile's will not behave exactly as full scale but can be a good indication. Make alterations as needed.



9

Get it done!

Sew up final using the half scale version as a guide.

Let's keep the conversation alive!

This workshop is part of my Master Degree Thesis in Product Service System Design, and I would like to have some feedbacks from you!

Add me on WeChat and tell me more about yourself and your experience with textile waste!

WeChat ID: Annuch_

