Whimsy Couture™

# Ruffle Bolero

This bolero is just what every little girl needs to wear over tanks, dresses--even over long sleeved t-shirts it looks great! The ruffle is part of this style. A front face button is necessary to keep the bolero closed. A snap button can be added to keep the bolero from opening around the bottom .

**List of required materials:**

- Fabric
- Sewing machine
- Serger (optional)
- Straight pins
- Buttonhole attachment for sewing machine
- ¾" – 1" round button
- 1x snap button (optional)

**Suitable fabrics:** quilters cotton, light weight corduroy for bodice, plaids, fleece for bodice, ruffles always in light weight materials.

| Size | Yardage bodice | Yardage sleeve & bodice ruffle | Cut following amount for bodice ruffle in inches (length x width) | Cut 2 pieces measurements for sleeve ruffle in inches |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-3 | 1/3 yd | ¼ yd | 2 strips 3x42 | 3x24 |
| 4-7 | 1/3 yd | ¼ yd | 2 strips 3x42 & 3x42& 1 strip 3x20 | 3x26 |
| 8-12 | ½ yd | 1/3 yd | 2 strips 3.5x42 & 1 strip 3.5x30 | 3.5x28 |

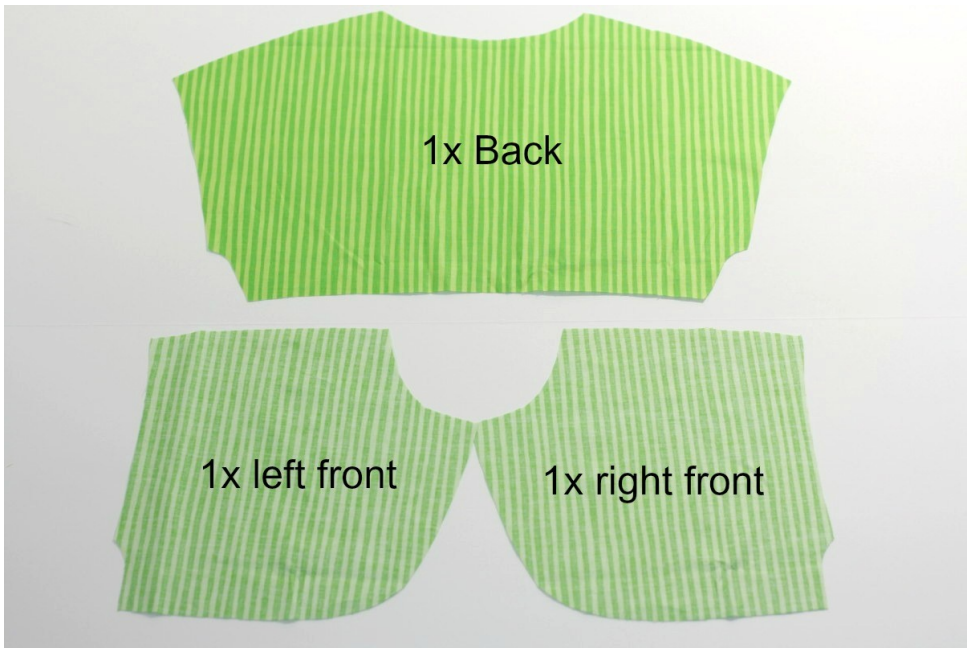
**Seam allowance:** 3/8" unless otherwise stated

**To begin:** print out templates on regular paper and cut around perimeter of each page. Piece templates together, matching the diamonds and the letters A and B. Tape without overlapping or leaving gaps.

2

Fold your fabric over to cut out the back side of the bolero. Cut around the template but do not cut on the fold. Be mindful of directional prints, such as the stripe shown below. Then cut out the two front pieces for the bolero.

Your cut-out pieces should look like this:



3

Line up the cut out pieces, right sides together, as shown.  Sew across the shoulders of the garment, as shown in the photo below by the dashed lines.

Serge/zig zag stitch raw edges:

4

Next sew the sides underneath the sleeve opening, as shown by the black line in the photo below.

Serge or zig-zag stitch raw edges. It should now look like this:

**To make ruffle strips for perimeter and sleeves:**

Cut out the ruffle strips with a rotary cutter. These should be some of the pieces you have cut out:

Put the 2 strips for bodice together with right sides and sew along dashed line:

Repeat with remaining strips for the bolero.

For the sleeves it's not necessary to sew strips together, they need to be separate.

6

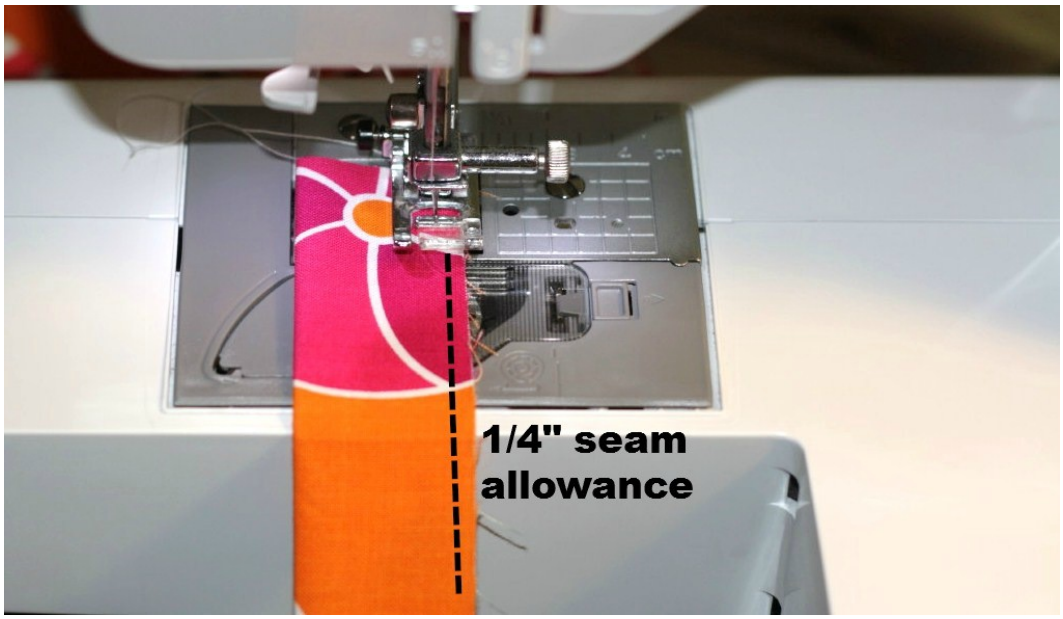
Fold over strips…

…and press.

**To ruffle your fabric:**

Most machines allow to ruffle fabric automatically by setting the tension to the highest number (strongest tension) and stitch length to the highest number (longest stitch). Some machines may have different number indications.

Some machines may allow only hand gathering and in this case you want to set your machine to the lowest number tension (weakest tension) and longest stitch. Then sew as instructed below by placing the fabric with the raw edge to the right. Sew with a ¼" seam allowance all the way around:




This should now be your ruffled fabric:

8

Join the two ends of the ruffle and sew.  Serge/zigzag stitch raw edge.

Take the sleeve ruffle and pin the raw edge of the ruffle onto the raw edge of the sleeve, right sides together.  Adjust the ruffles if necessary for even spacing and a proper fit.

9

Sew ruffle to sleeve, and serge/zigzag stitch raw edges:

10

Take the long ruffle for the bolero and pin to outer perimeter of bolero, starting at one side seam on bottom edge. Distribute the gathers evenly over the entire perimeter:

**NOTE: around the top corners you want to "bunch" up the gathers a bit to allow for smooth fit around the corners!**

Sew to attach ruffle and serge/zigzag stitch raw edges:

11

Topstitch around the entire outside of the garment where the ruffle meets the main fabric, including the sleeves. This will not only help the ruffle to lay nicely on the garment, but also gives the garment a nice polished professional look.

Next decide where you would like your button to be. Ideally would be into the corner of the ruffle:

12

Mark a spot for the button hole directly on the ruffle.

Sew button hole into ruffles.

13

Attach button to the corresponding side.

Sew a snap button to the lower part of the bolero to keep it from opening:

14

Tuck in any loose threads on the ruffle, and topstitch to secure as shown:

Design examples:

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For questions please email whimsycouture@hotmail.com

Thank you so much for using this pattern!

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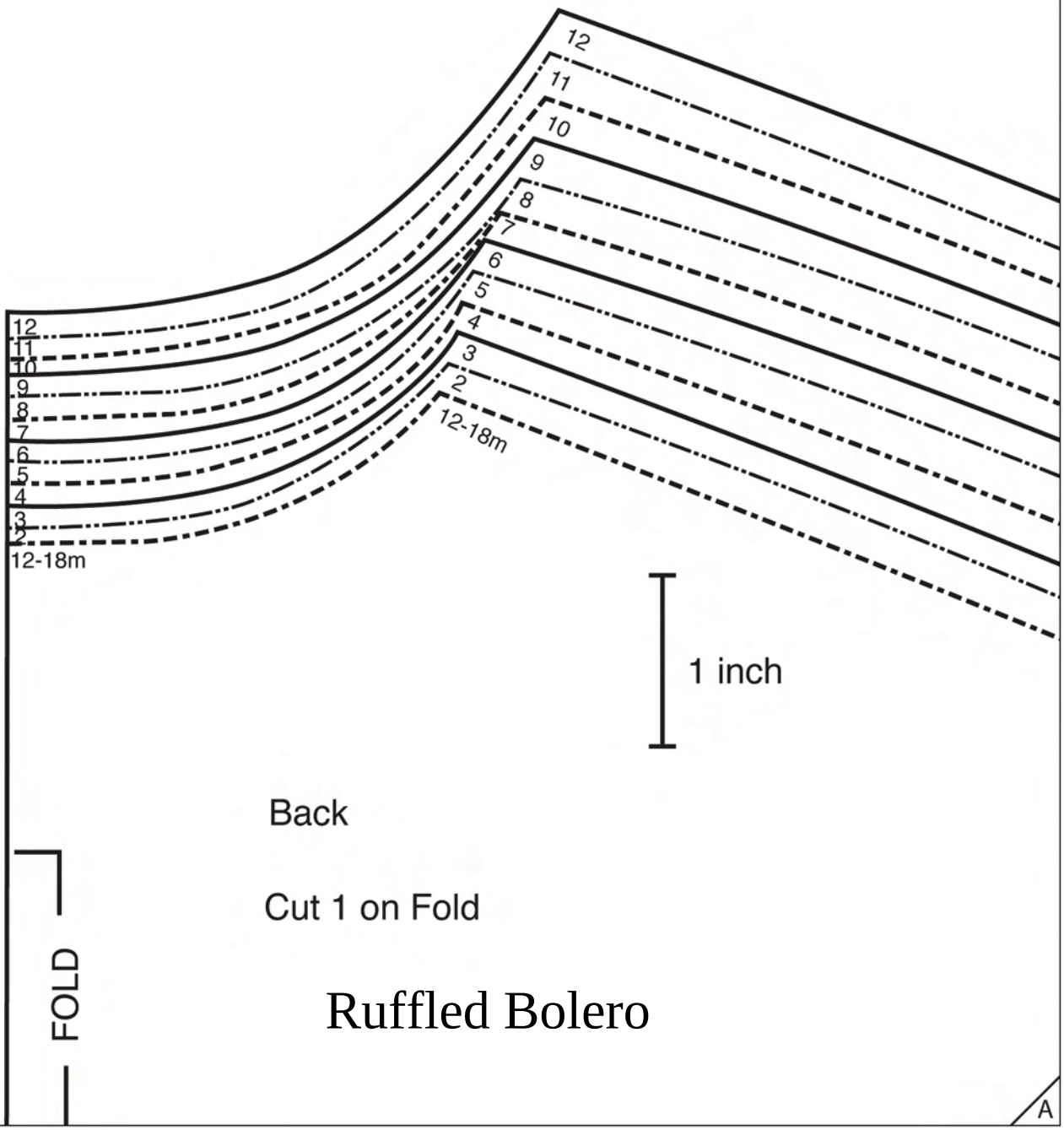


# Ruffled Bolero

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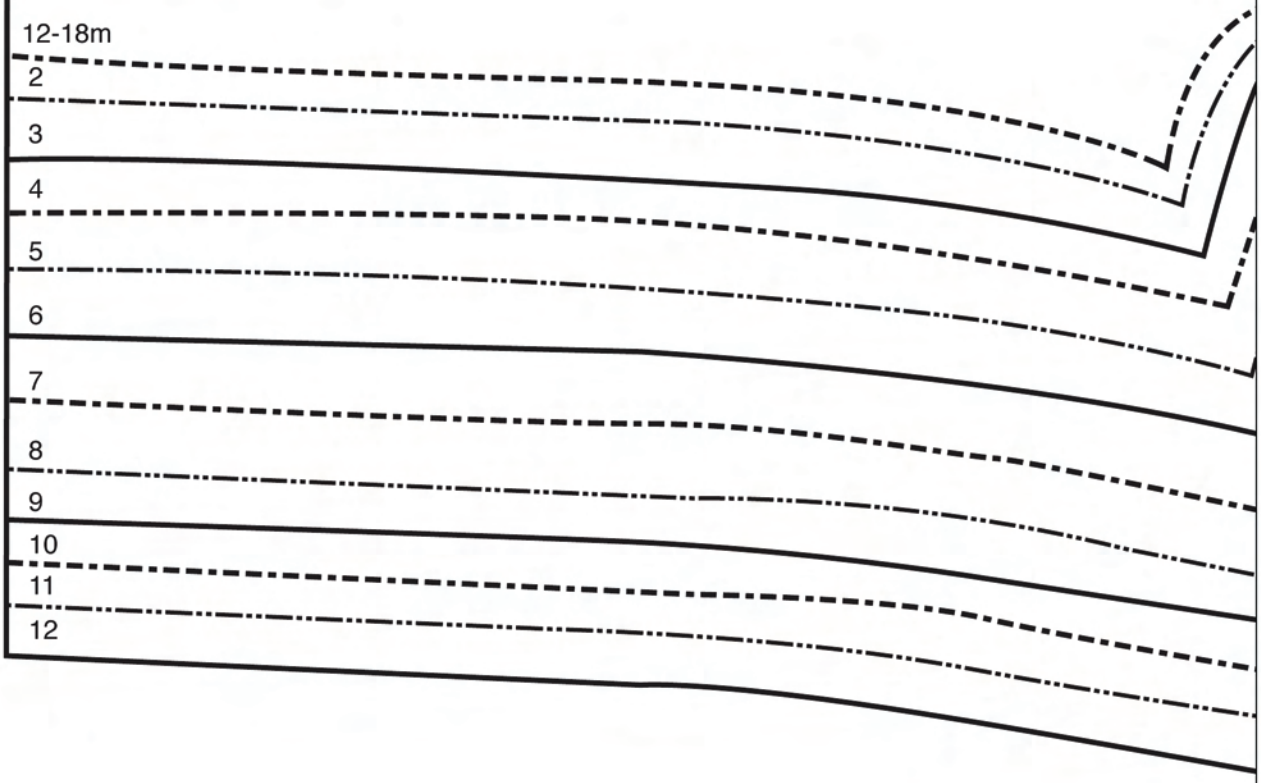

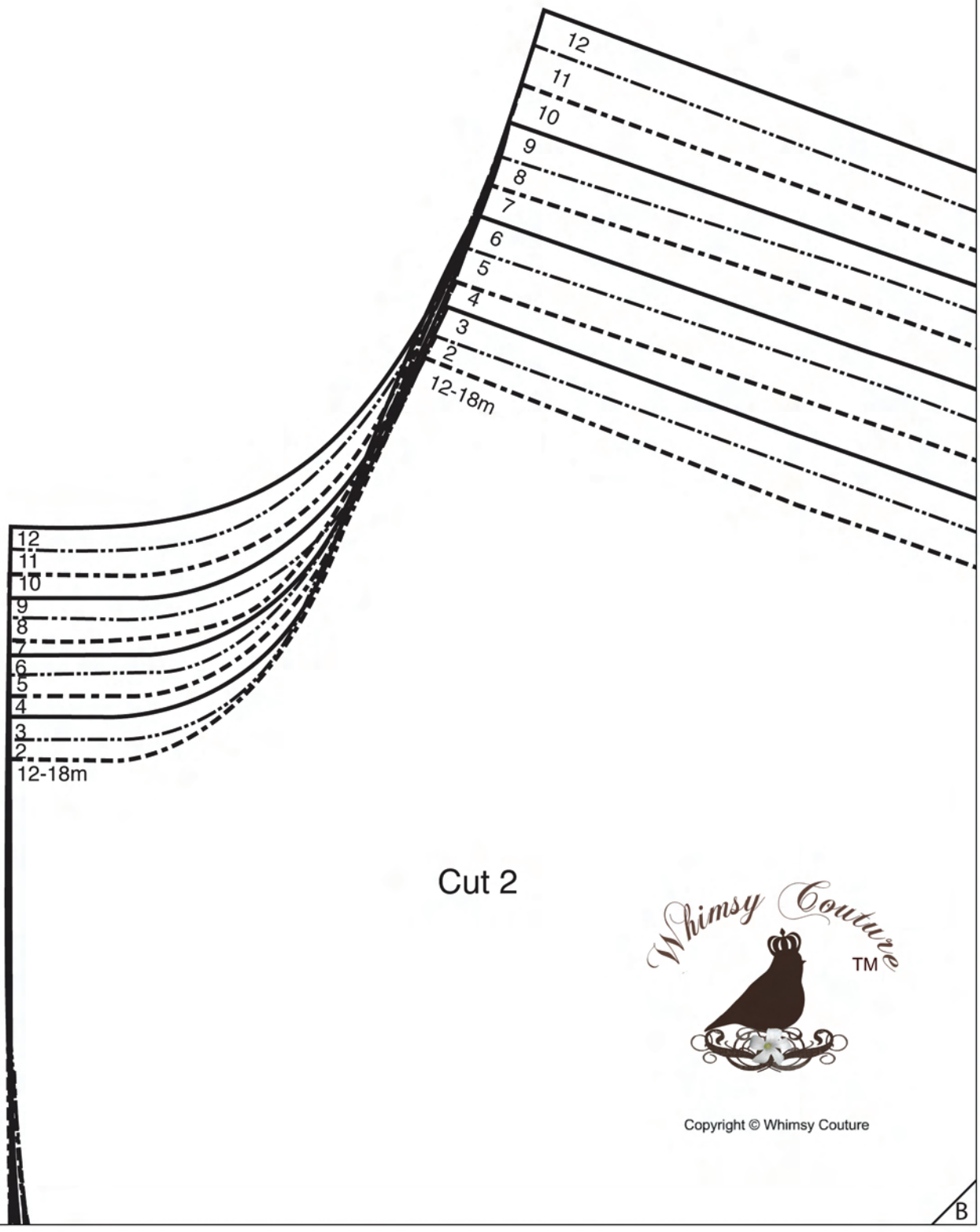


Cut 2

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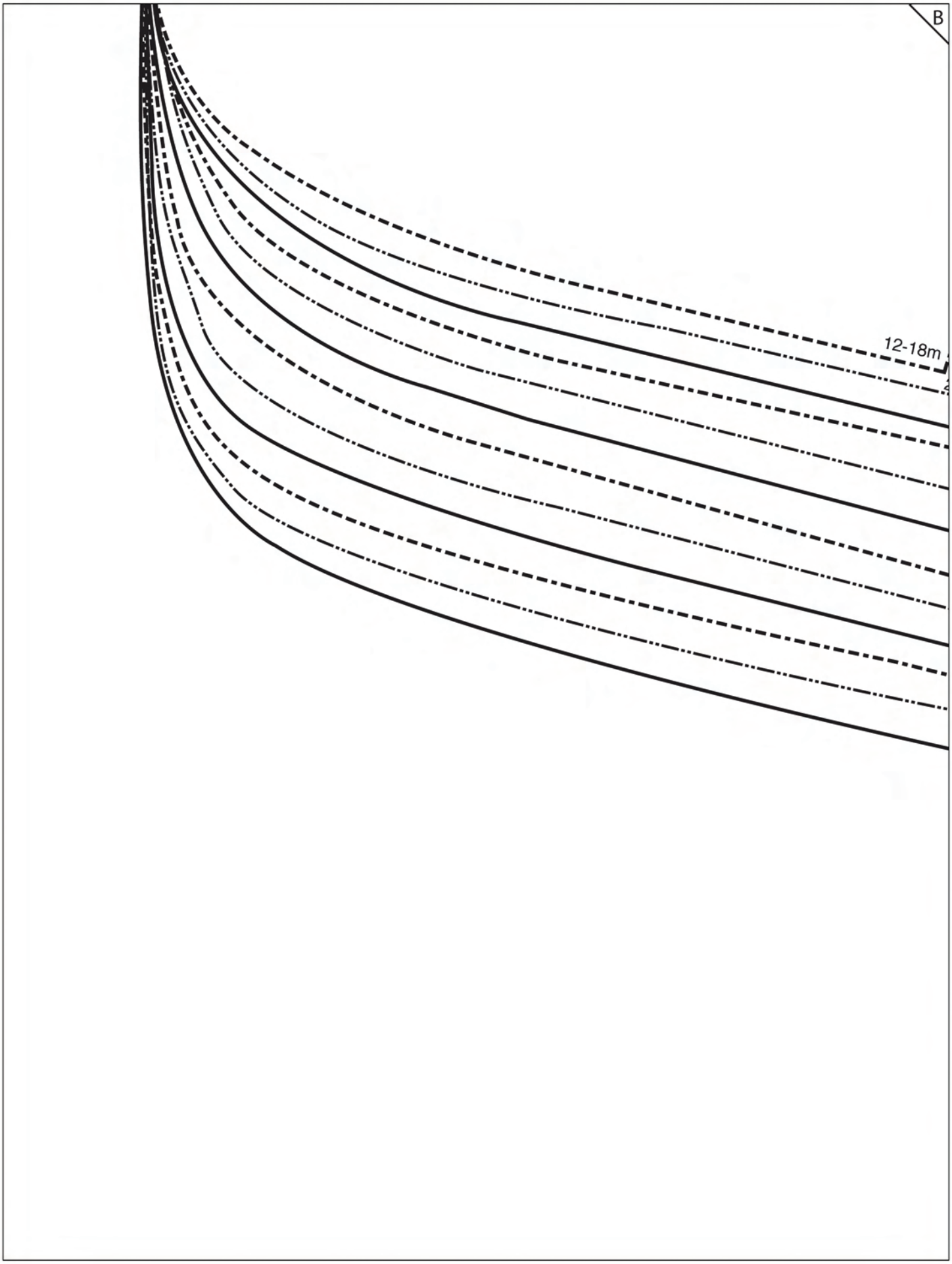
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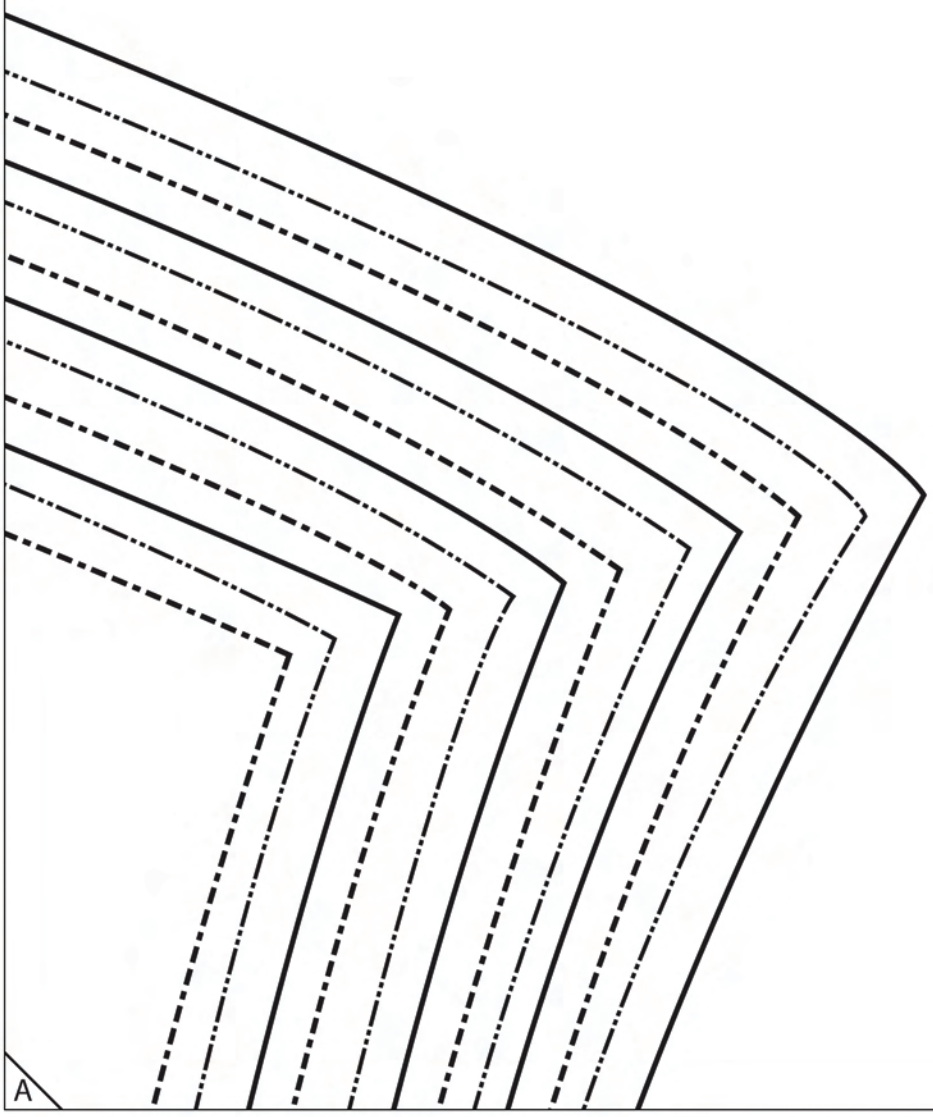
12-18m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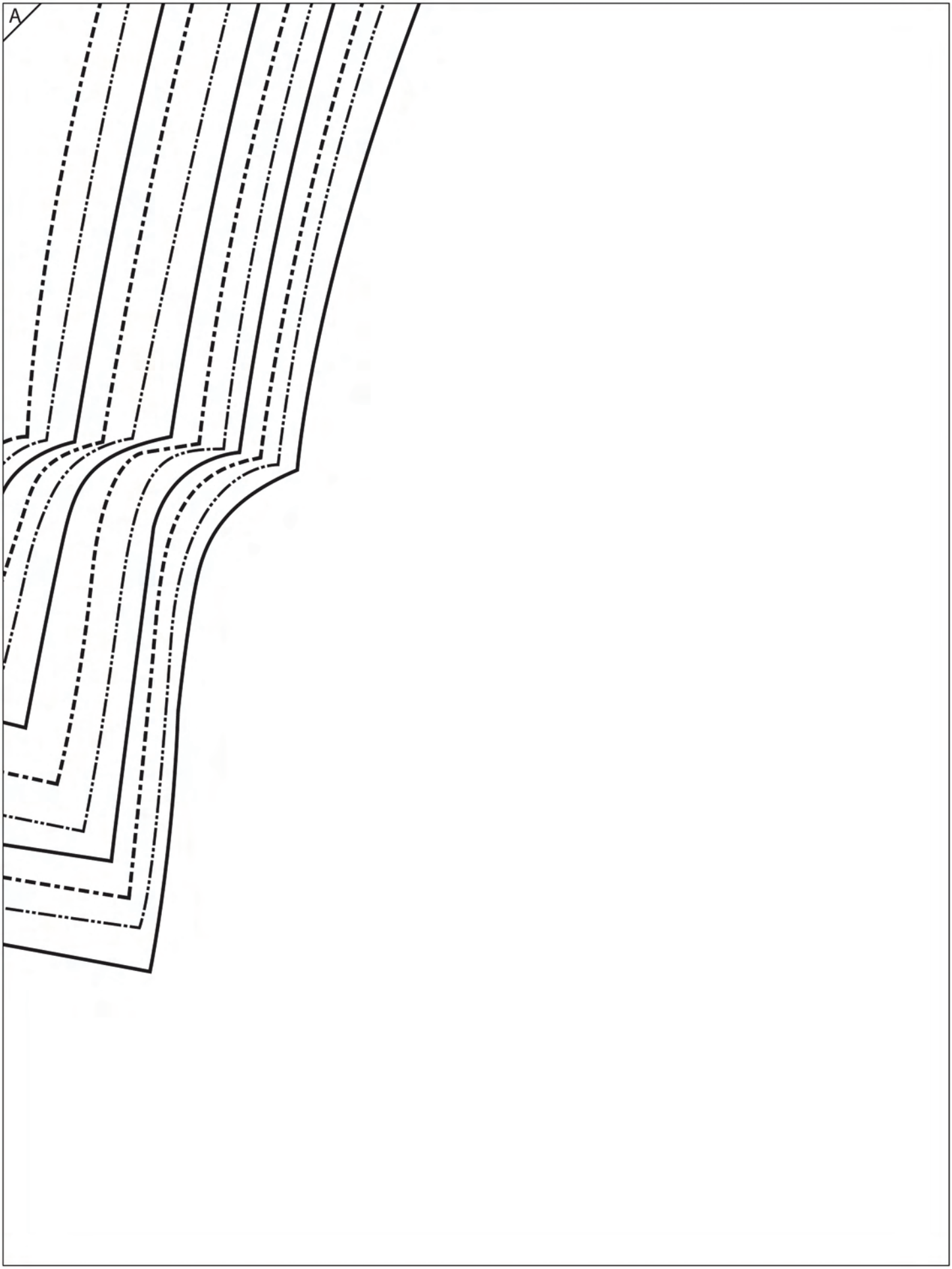
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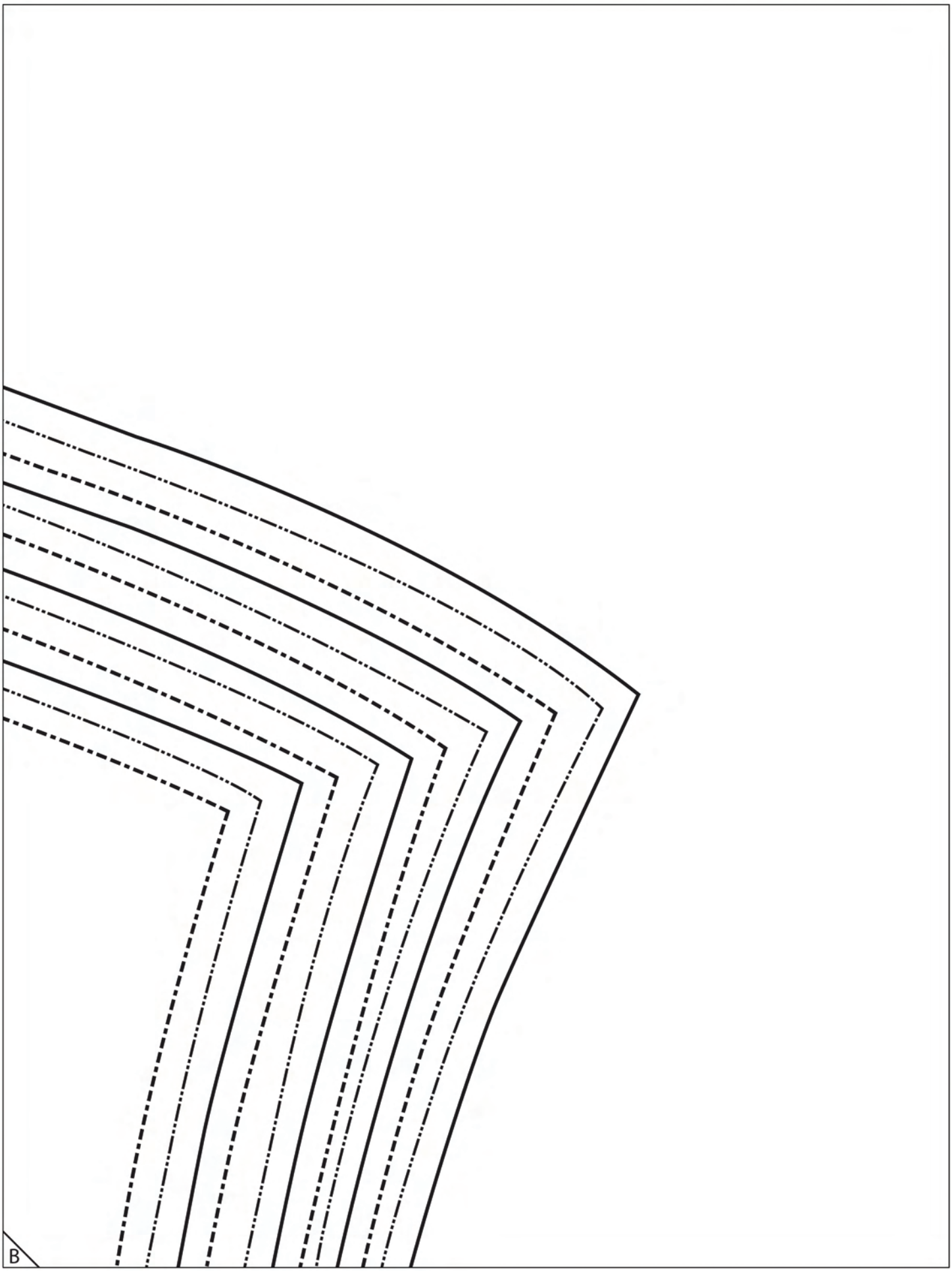
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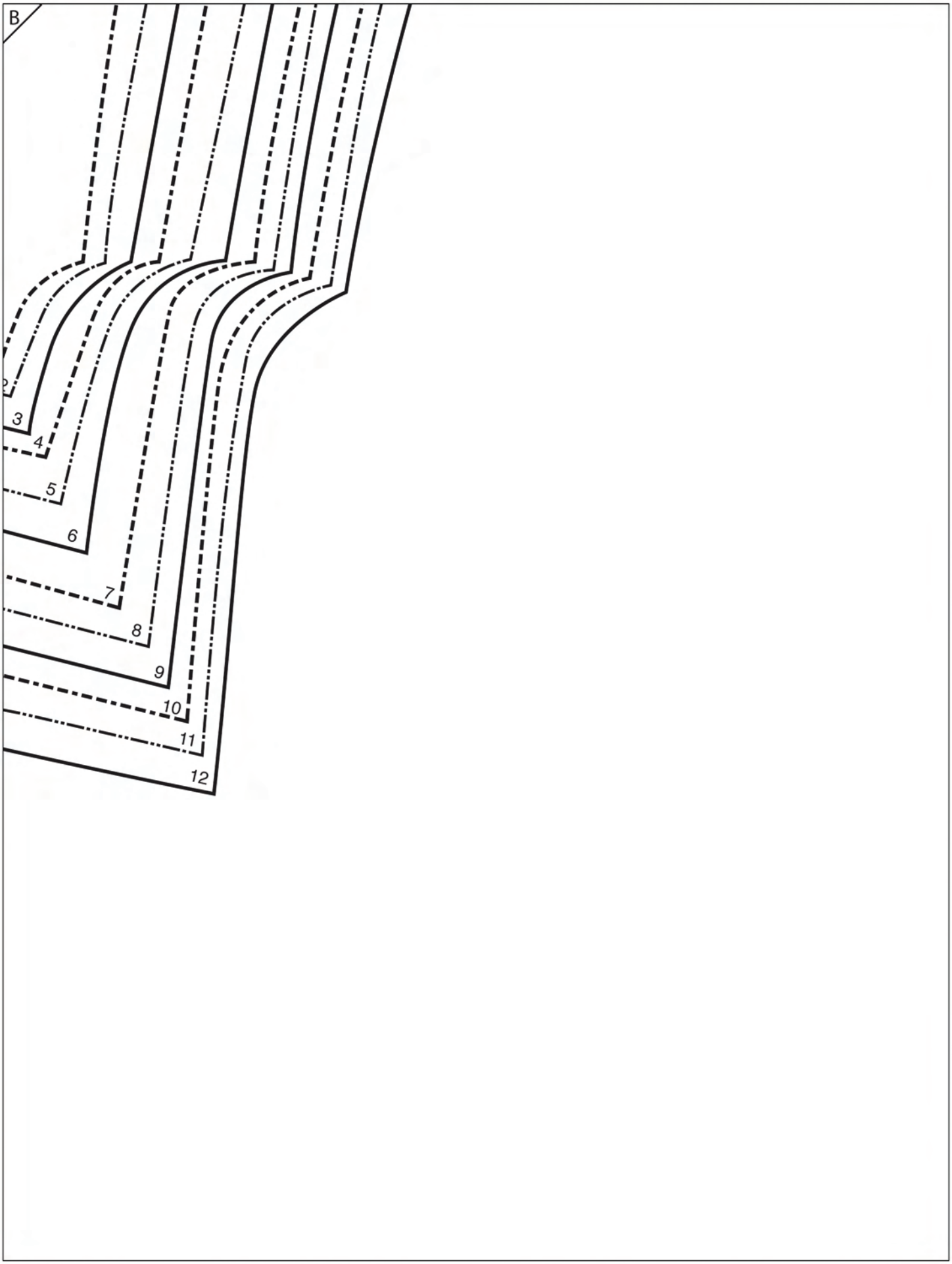
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