



# WOVEN FABRICS

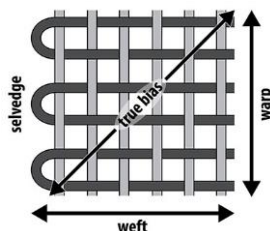
## QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

[www.makewithmk.co.uk](http://www.makewithmk.co.uk)

### PREPARING YOUR FABRIC FOR USE

Before using your fabric for any project, take a few moments to do some quick checks. It takes such little time but it can save tears in the future.

### FABRIC GRAINLINES EXPLAINED



Selvedge	woven border running lengthwise down fabric sides, unable to fray unless cut into
Warp	vertical straight grain of fabric
Weft	horizontal straight grain of fabric
Bias	45° angle to selvedge, has greatest fabric stretch

### RIGHT SIDE/WRONG SIDE

Many fabrics have an obvious right and wrong side. Usually, the colours are brighter on the right side or embroidered fabrics use lighter threads on the wrong side. On the right side, the selvedge may even have writing or colours running down.

Sometimes however fabrics can be used either side so whichever side you choose as your right side, be consistent with every piece cut.

### ON-GRAIN FABRIC

Fabric may not be exactly straight or on-grain when you buy it. You need the warp and weft grains to be at right angles or your finished garment shape will distort (think about that t-shirt with twisted seams!).

First, your cut edges need straightening. Either snip across the selvedge into the fabric then tear across the fabric (works well with close woven fabrics like cottons) or if using heavier fabrics where tearing is not suitable, you may be able to cut along a visible grainline.

Fold selvedges together to match cut edges. Check both corners are 90° (using a magazine corner is accurate enough). If your fabric is off-grain, pull firmly across the bias to stretch as needed and keep checking corners again until grainlines are sitting correctly at right angles.

Now you're ready to start laying out your pattern pieces!