

Victorian half-bust corset

1880

About 1880 the time of the Natural form ended and the bustle returned.

The shape of the corset changed again, it became shorter and the hourglass silhouette developed emphasized by using curved spoon busks.

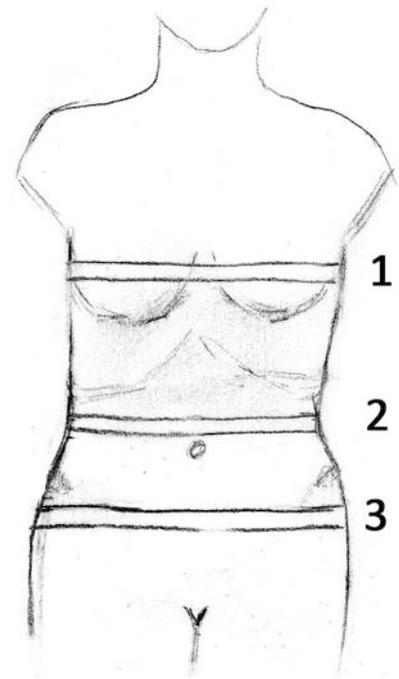
The pattern is adapted to an original corset about 1880 and contains 5 panels. It can be sewn with a wide busk or a spoon busk. Boning is designated at all seams, additional boning can be added as desired.



1. Take measurements

There are three measurements needed, bust, waist and about 2" (5cm) below your pelvic bone. To measure bust and hip lay your measuring tape loosely around. At waistline the natural waist measurement is not very useful, because you want to reduce your waist. Normally the waist can be reduced about 3" (6-8cm) without problems. If you have a corset at home put it on and measure your reduced waist.

The gap at the back is designated to measure 2 1/4" (6cm) with this pattern and should have the same width from top to bottom.



2. Adjusting the pattern:

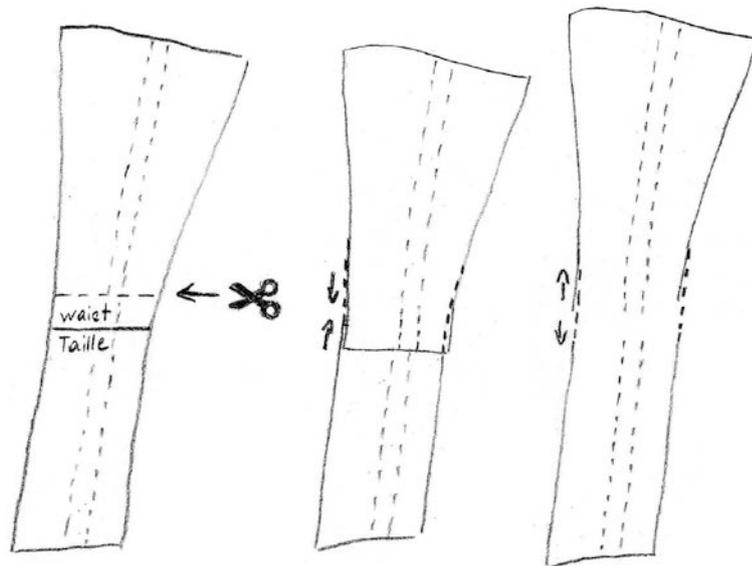
Compare your measurements with measurements of selected size. If you are in between two sizes use smaller size. If for example just your hip is more than one size larger or smaller than the selected size, connect lines from the waist down with the corresponding size.

Seam allowance of 5/8" (1,5cm) included at front and back, at top edge and bottom line.

All seam allowances to be used for boning are 3/4" (2cm).

Consider when measuring your pattern, with 5 panels you have to subtract $(2 \times 5/8") + (8 \times 3/4") = 7 1/4"$. The calculation is not quite correct, because originally this is a metric pattern therefore you have to subtract $7 1/2"$: $(2 \times 1,5cm) + (8 \times 2cm) = 19cm (=7 1/2")$.

Depending on the length of your upper body you have to adjust your pattern. You can't just cut off excess fabric at the top and bottom. Draw a line 1" (2,5cm) above waistline. For shorter size just fold in to desired length along that line. For taller size cut along that line, extend to length needed and adjust edges. (Choose your busk according to alterations.)



Before you sew your corset do a mock-up first. Choose a strong fabric. Instead of inserting a busk you can close the front or insert a zipper. To check the correct fit it is necessary to insert at least boning along the seams and at the back. Instead of using grommets you can just punch holes and insert the lace. Now you determine the length of your busk. Try to sit down with the busk.

Mark waistline, do all alterations needed and transfer to your pattern.

3. Boning:

Boning are at least designated to every seam, at seams seam allowance will form the bone casings. There is additional boning in the middle of the panels you can omit or alter as desired. At part #1 boning for size US 8 (EU34) is marked, for each size shift boning 1/8" (3mm), at hip boning should end at seam to panel #2. All other pieces position of boning as marked.

For additional boning bone casings are needed. The width of casings is calculated as followed: $(\text{Width of tube} + 3/16" (5\text{mm})) \times 2$. The tubes should be wide enough to insert boning without problems, but narrow enough that boning can't twist inside the tubes, 3/16" (5mm) are needed to attach casings to the corset.

At back part for lacing I recommend plastic coated steel boning with a width of 3/8" (10mm) for all sizes.

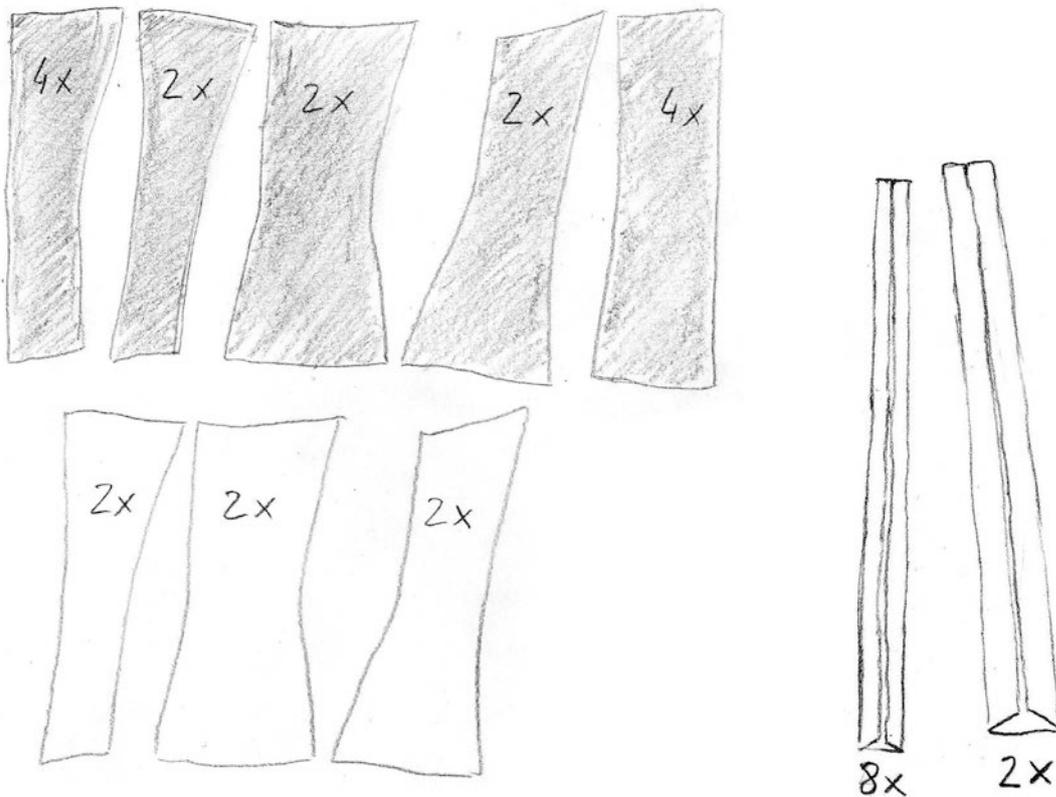
For sizes up to US 18 (EU 44) spiral wire with a width of 9/32" (7mm) for all other boning is sufficient. With larger sizes you can use steel boning instead of spiral wire for some boning. At curves like breast and hip always use spiral wire.

4. Cutting

Cut all pieces, #1 and #5 cut from upper fabric for facing. Transfer all marks, boning channels and waistline. Number all pieces.

(Seam allowance included, at top and bottom for easily unraveling fabrics)

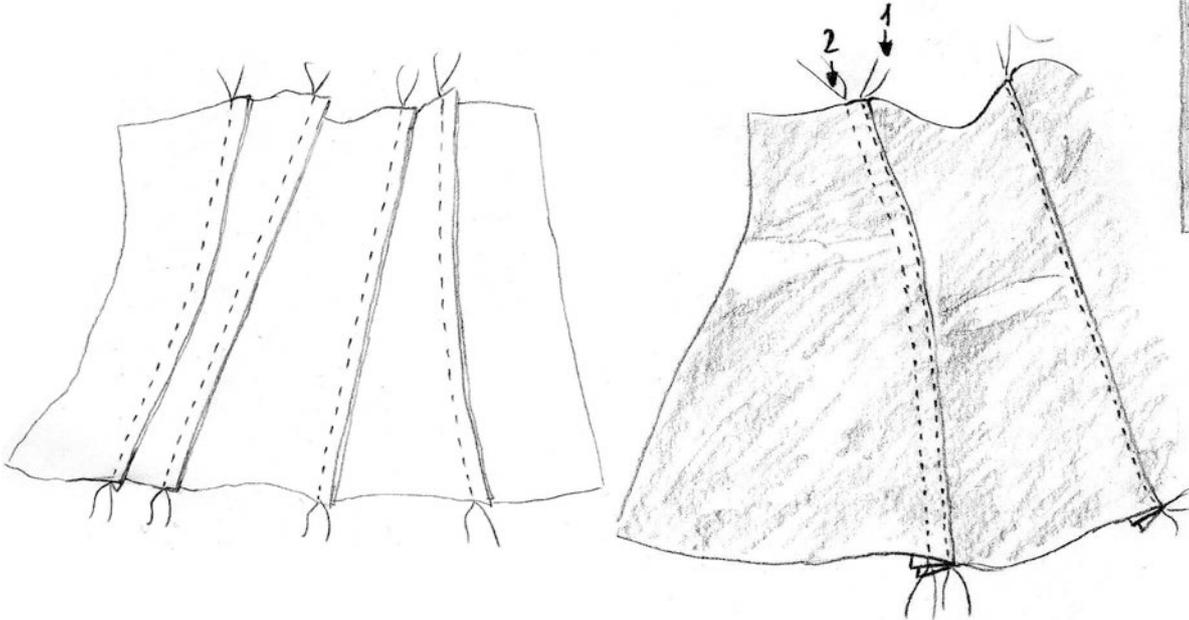
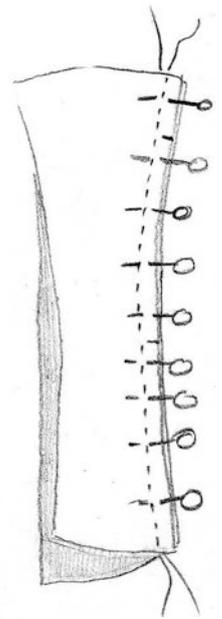
Cut bone casings from coutil. Fold stripes towards center or form with a bias binding maker. Casings must be wide enough to attach to upper fabric. For double casing at panel #4 cut a wider stripe.



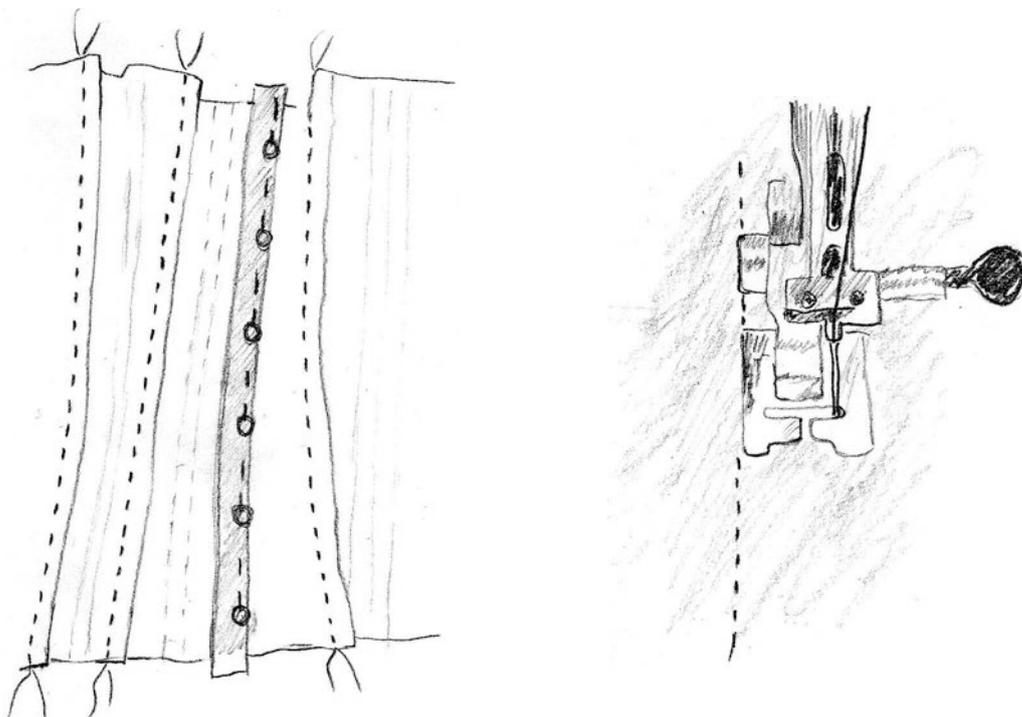
5. Sewing

Sew together all parts of upper fabric respecting marks. Sew together lining parts, #1 and #5 will be from upper fabric.

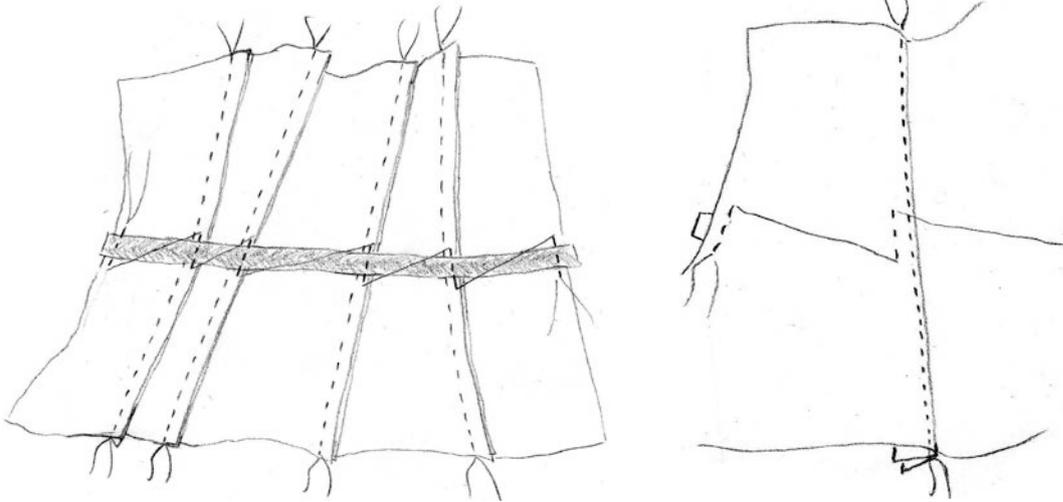
Iron all seam allowances toward part #5. Take parts from upper fabric and topstitch seams from right side quite narrow. Topstitch again with the desired width for channel. Seam allowance will form the channel



Attach additional boning channels. Pin casings to left side of corset corresponding marks, turn over and stitch from the right side, be careful to remove our pins just in time. The seams should be exactly parallel, therefore use edge of your presser foot as guidance and alter the position of your needle according to desired width of channel.

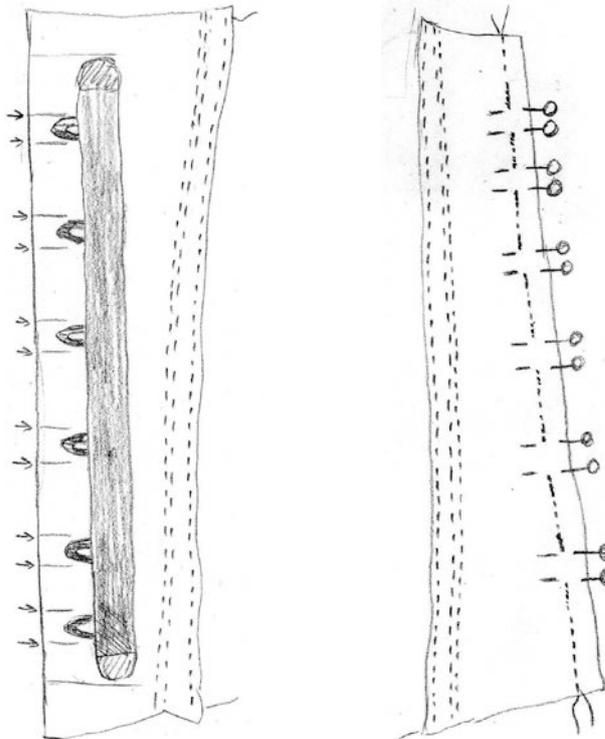


At facing baste waistband to waistline, turn around and topstitch seams from right side. Remove basting threads.



6. Inserting the Busk

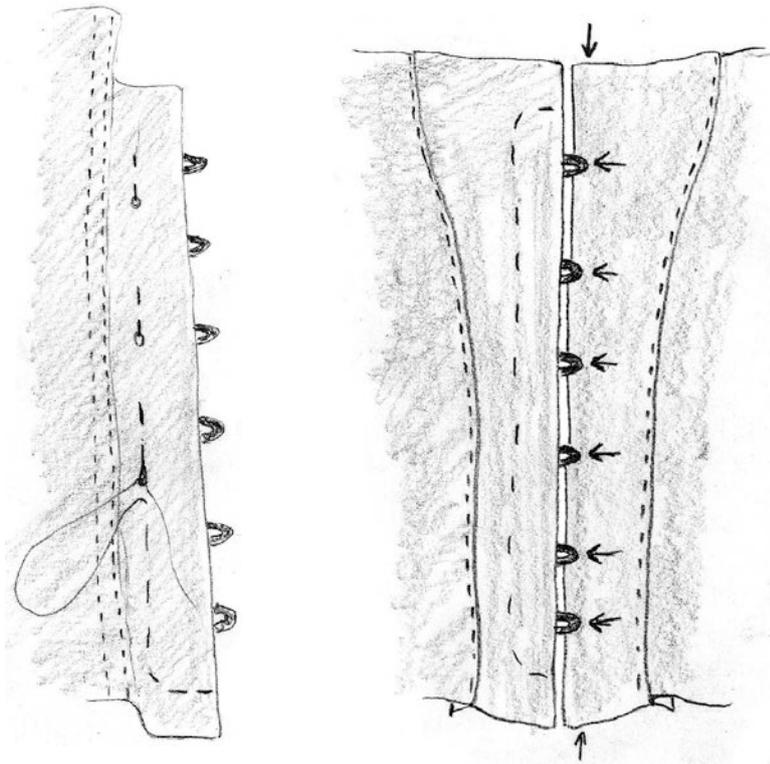
Right side of corset: Pin together upper fabric and lining along front edge, right sides together. Mark position of busk and openings for hook exactly. Stitch along front edge, leave openings for hooks. Secure your seam at all openings at beginning and end with some back stitches. Iron open seam allowance.



Left side of corset: Pin upper fabric and lining right sides together and sew nonstop. Iron open seam allowance.

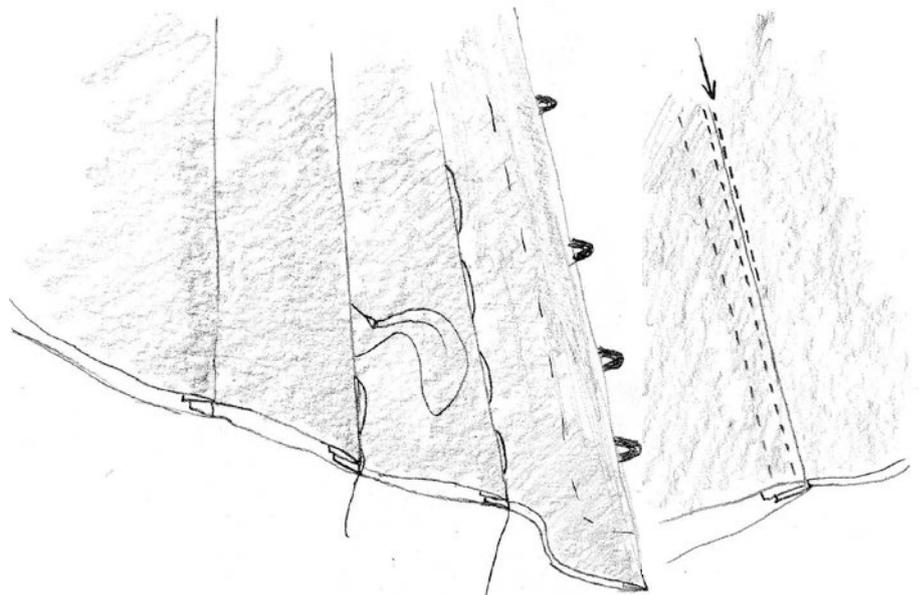
Sew together back edges of corset, right sides together. Now you have to tubular parts. Iron edges.

Turn over corset parts. Insert busk part with hooks to right corset half and baste in place. Lay front edges exactly together and mark position of the clasps. At position of clasps make a hole with an awl and pull them through. Be careful not to damage your fabric. If needed extend holes with a big knitting needle. Baste left busk side in place.



7. Finishing the corset

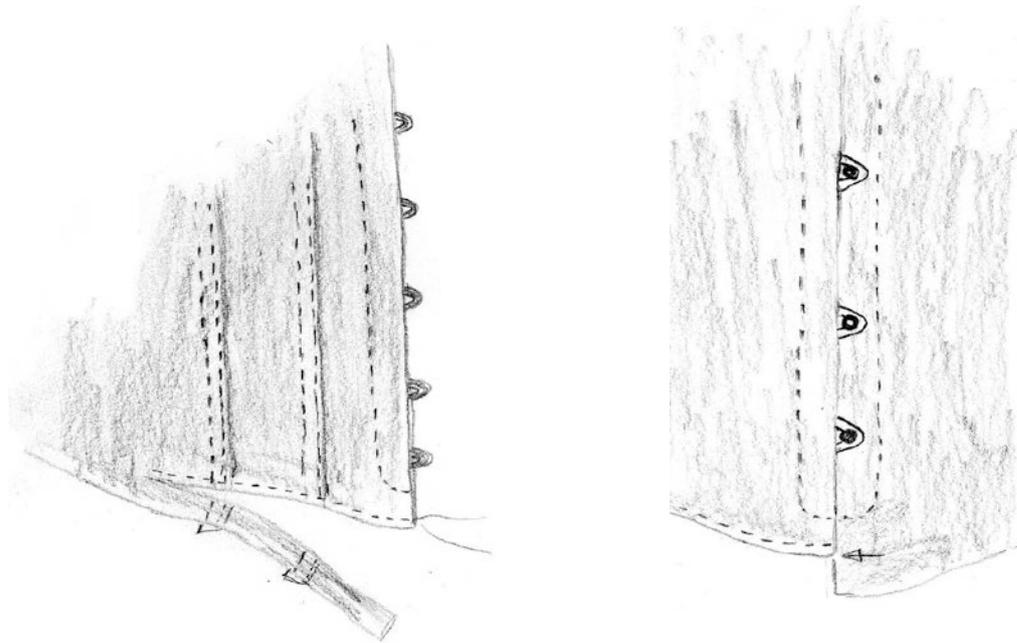
Lay seams of upper and facing fabric exactly on to each other and baste along seams. Sew together the two parts of the corset along the seams, sewing in the ditch of the seams.



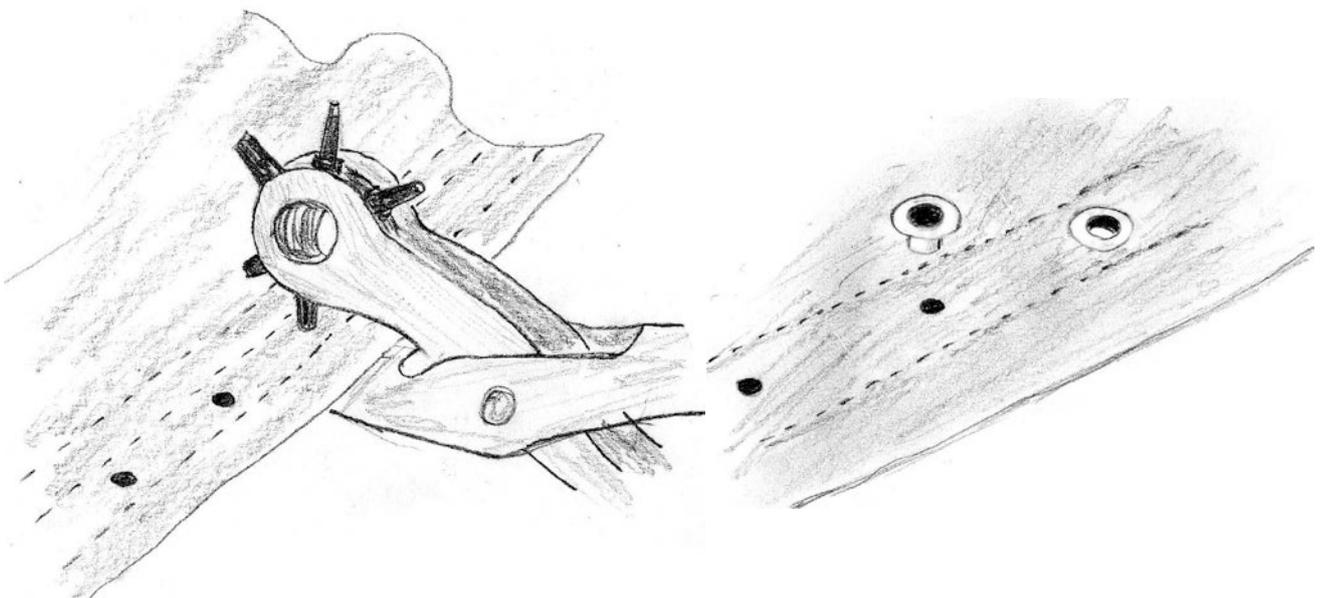
With your zipper foot stitch along the edge of the busk, be careful not to break your needle with the metal of the busk.

Stitch bone casings along back edge for lacing. Between the tunnels you leave place enough for your grommets.

Cut of seam allowance along top and bottom, match left and right side of corset. Stitch narrow along bottom edge, leave top edge open jet.



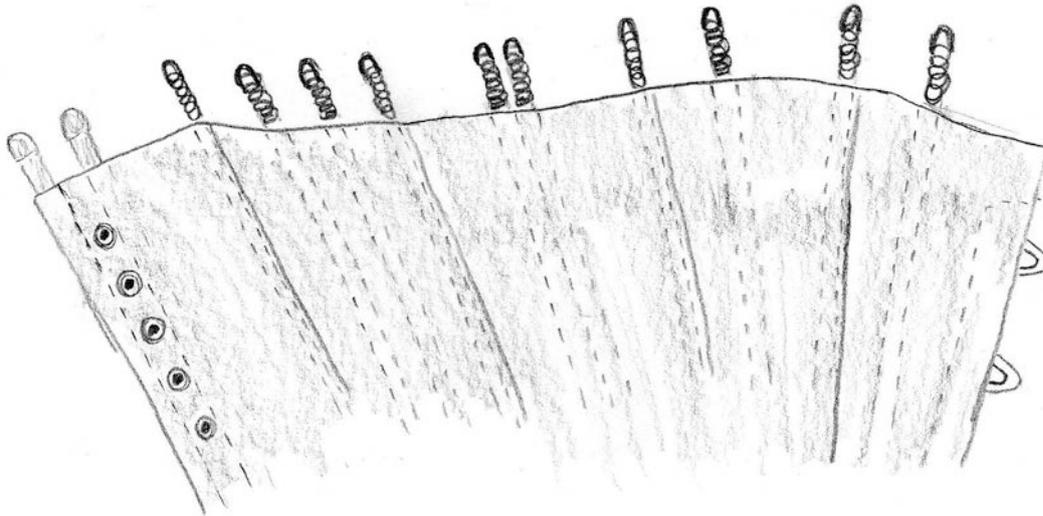
Mark position of grommets. Punch holes and insert grommets. At waistline grommets are more closer (look at pattern).



Measure length of casings, boning must be about 1 ¼" (3cm) shorter than you can sew on your bias binding without problems.

Cut boning as required, don't forget to number them. For spiral wire I recommend end caps, for continuous boning you can use end caps too, but I recommend sealing them with lacquer. Dip ends into lacquer to a depth of about 5/8" (1,5cm), let it dry and repeat the process once again. If there are some beads after drying you can sand them.

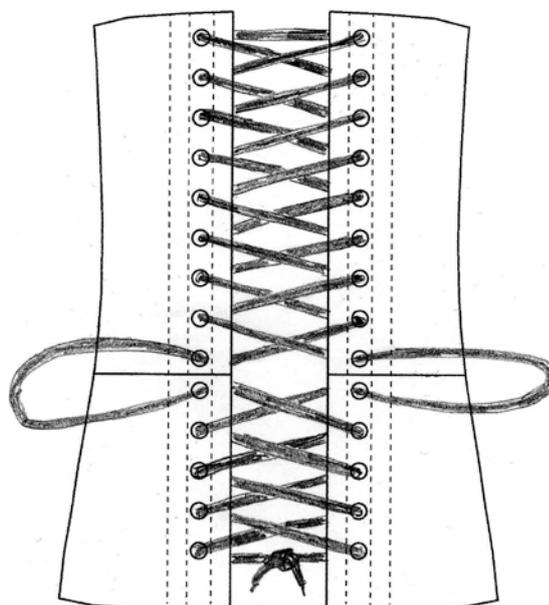
Insert all boning and sew narrow along top edge.



Attach bias binding to top and bottom edge.

If a placket is recommended cut one rectangle from upper fabric one from facing fabric, about 1" (2,5cm) shorter than the back edge of the corset and 2 3/8" (6cm) wider than the gap or your corset. Sew, right sides together, leave opening for turning about 2" (5cm), turn inside out, close opening and sew to corset along the seam between grommets and 2nd boning channel.

Insert Lacing.



Size Chart

General information for historical patterns:

For all historical patterns which would be worn over a Corset, waist circumference is reduced, according to the next smaller size. For Example you wear a size 14 with a bust measurement of 36" and a natural waist of 31" a waist reduction about 2" is already considered.

Please always do a mock-up first.

EUR	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52
US	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
Body height					66					
Bust	31,5	32,5	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
Waist	26	27,5	29	31	32	34	35,5	38	40	24,5
Hip	37	38	39	40,5	42	43	45	47	49	51
all measurements in inch										

EUR	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52
US	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
Body height					168					
Bust	80	84	88	92	96	100	104	110	116	122
Waist	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	96	102	108
Hip	94	97	100	103	106	109	114	119	124	129
Back length	41,4	41,4	41,6	41,8	42	42,2	42,4	42,7	43	43,3
Arm length	59,3	59,6	59,9	60,2	60,5	60,8	61,1	61,4	61,7	62
Upper arm	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	34	36	38
Back width	15,5	16	16,5	17	17,5	18	18,5	19,2	19,9	20,6
Neck circumference	34,6	35,2	35,8	36,4	37	37,6	38,2	39,4	40,6	41,8
Front length	43,6	44,2	44,8	45,4	46	46,6	47,2	48,3	49,4	50,5
all measurements in cm										

#1014 Corsett 1880 Size US 8-18 (EU 34-44)

Fabric recommended: Coutil or other strong fabric

Fabric required: upper fabric: 1yd with a width of 55"
90cm with a width of 140cm

lining : 0.5yd with a width of 55"
50cm with a width of 140cm

Spiral wire 7mm: 4.5 yd (4m) + end caps

Plastic coated metal boning ca.10mm wide: 1.7yd (1,5m)

Busk: 13" (33cm) this is an aproximate value, length of busk is
determined at your mock-up)

Twill tape or grosgrain ribbon: Width 5/8" to 1 1/4" (1,5 to 3cm): 1.1yd (1m)

Bias binding: 2.8yd (2,5m)

Grommets with a diameter of 4mm

Lace: 6-6.5yd (5-6m)

Parts:

#1: 4x upper fabric

#2: 2x upper fabric + 2x lining

#3: 2x upper fabric + 2x lining

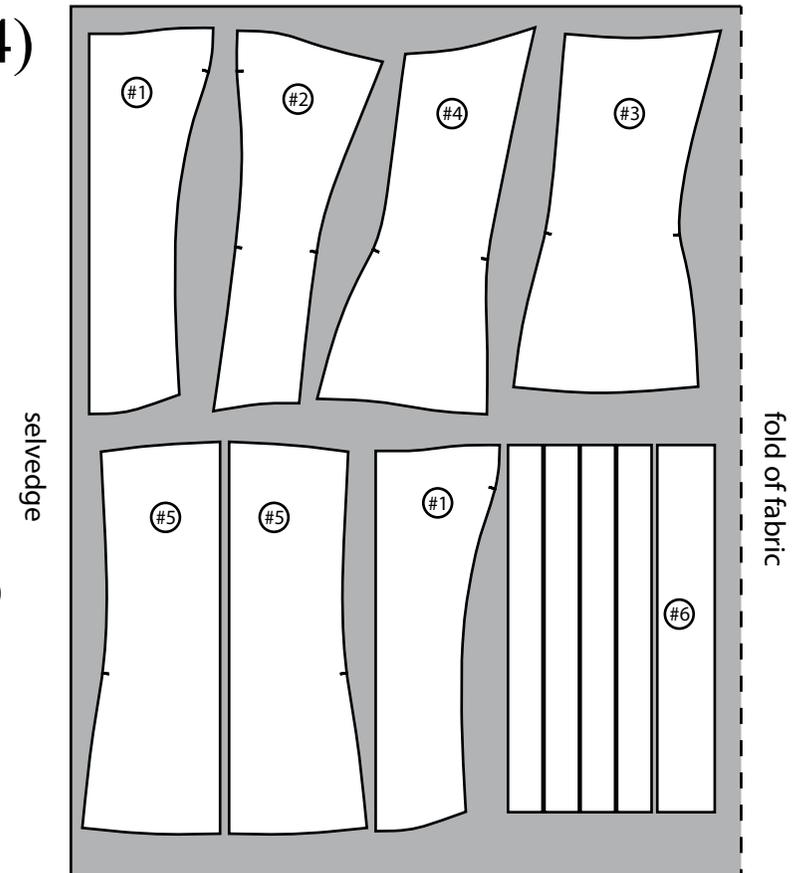
#4: 2x upper fabric + 2x lining

#5: 4x upper fabric

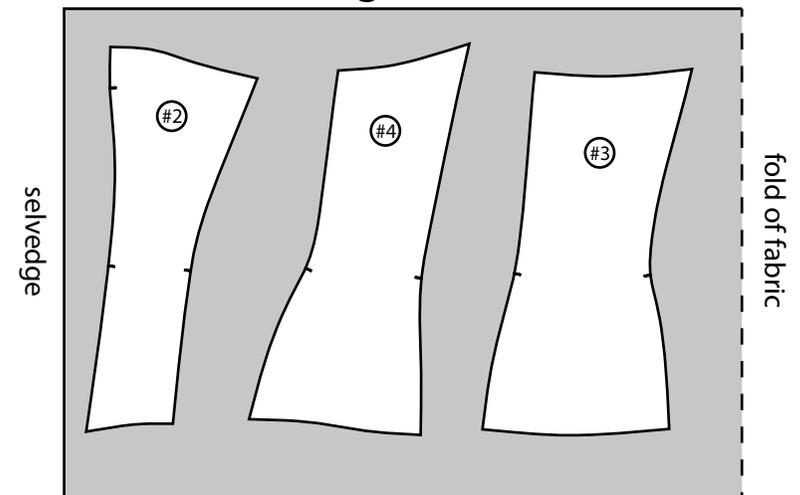
#6: boning channels

1,5cm seam allowance included, at parts where seam allowance is
supposed to form boning channels seam allowance is 2cm
(see pattern)

Upper fabric



Lining fabric



2

#3

ochen

ochen

seam allowance 3/4" (2cm)
Nahtzugabe 2cm

seam allowance 3/4" (2cm)
Nahtzugabe 2cm



#4

seam allowance 3/4" (2cm)
Nahtzugabe 2cm

boning / Stäbchen

boning / Stäbchen

seam allowance 3/4" (2cm)
Nahtzugabe 2cm

3

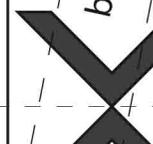
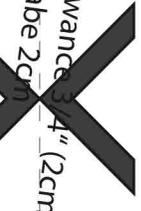
#5

seam allowance 3/4" (2cm)
Nahtzugabe 2cm

boning / Stäbchen



boning / Stäbchen



seam allowance 5/8" (1,5cm)
Nahtzugabe 1,5cm

busk / SchlieÙe

center front / Vordere Mitte

Pattern 1880

Größe 34-44

Snail Patterns

waistline
Taille

2

grainline
Fadenlauf

boning / Stäbchen

seam allowance
Nahtzugabe

4

Pattern 1880

Größe 34-44

Snail Patterns

waistline
Taille

2

grainline
Fadenlauf

boning / Stäbchen

3

Pattern 1880

Größe 34-44

Snail Patterns

waistline
Taille

2

grainline
Fadenlauf

boning / Stäbchen

3

Corset 1880

Grösse 34-44

Black Snail Patterns

seam allowance 3/4" (2cm)
Nahhtzugabe 2cm

waistline
Taille

grainline
Fadenlauf

boning / Stäbchen

boning / Stäbchen

4

seam
Nahht

5

Corset 1880

Grösse 34-44

Black Snail Patterns

waistline
Taille

4

line

grainline
Fadenlauf

5

6

5

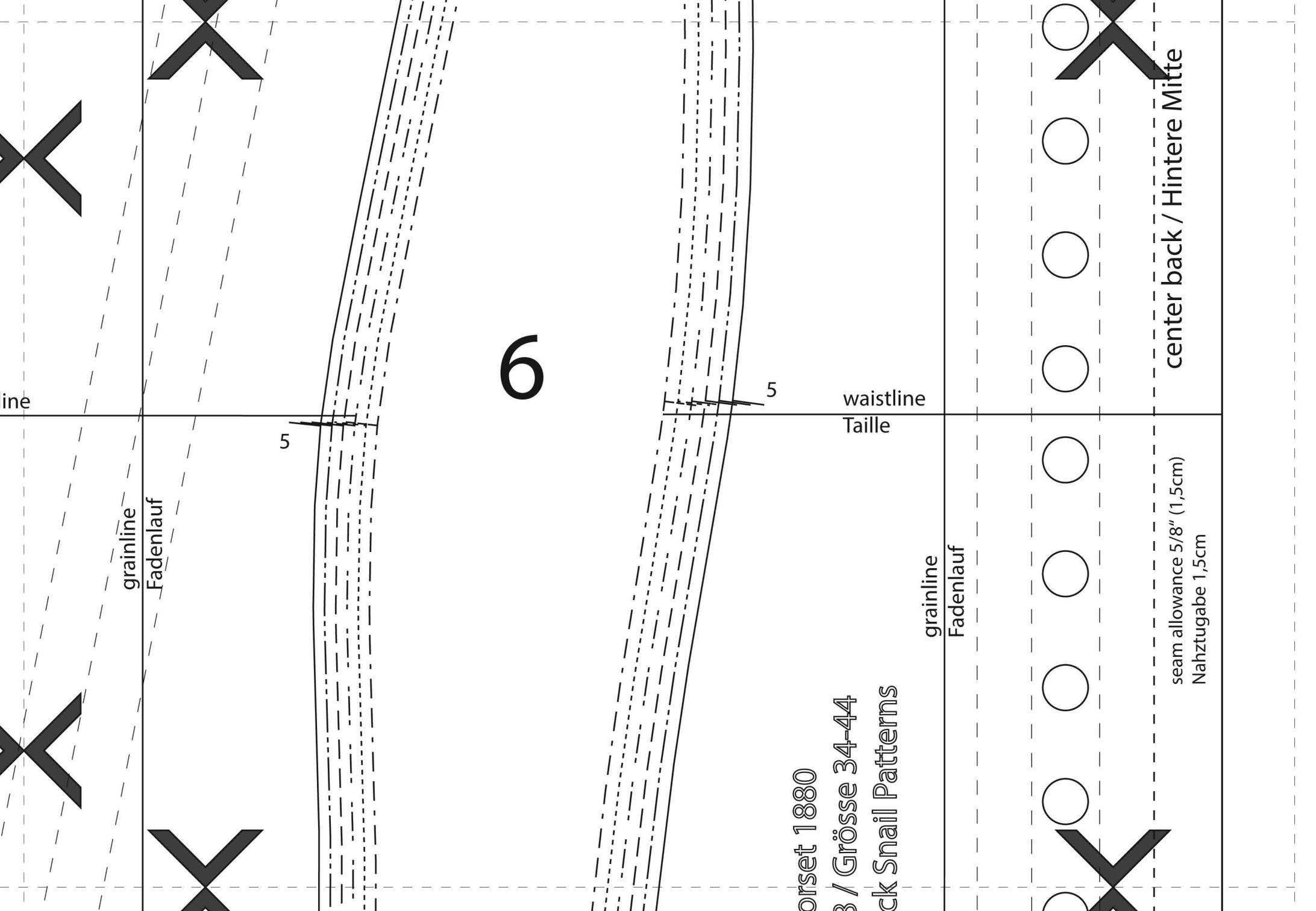
waistline
Taille

grainline
Fadenlauf

seam allowance 5/8" (1,5cm)
Nahztugabe 1,5cm

center back / Hintere Mitte

corset 1880
3 / Grösse 34-44
Back Snail Patterns



7

X
#1014 Corset 18
Size 8-18 / Gröss
© by Black Snail

X
#1014 Corset
Size 8-18 / Gr
© by Black Sn

X

X

X

#1014 Corse
Size 8-18
© by Black S

#1014
Size 8-1
© by Bla

10cm x10cm

3" x 3"

8

34 / 8

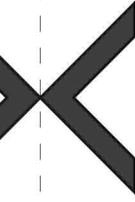
36 / 10

38 / 12

40 / 14

42 / 16

44 / 18



9

#1014 Corse
Size 8-18 / G
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