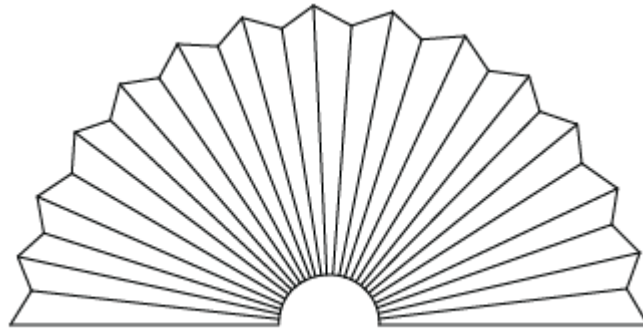


# Sunray Pleating Explained in Detail

Pleating is an artisan hand craft, our team has an overall experience of 100 years that has been passed down through three generations. Each of our patterns have been hand crafted in house. Please see our T & Cs on our website here: [www.cimentpleating.com/termsandconditions](http://www.cimentpleating.com/termsandconditions)

## What is a Sunray / Drop?

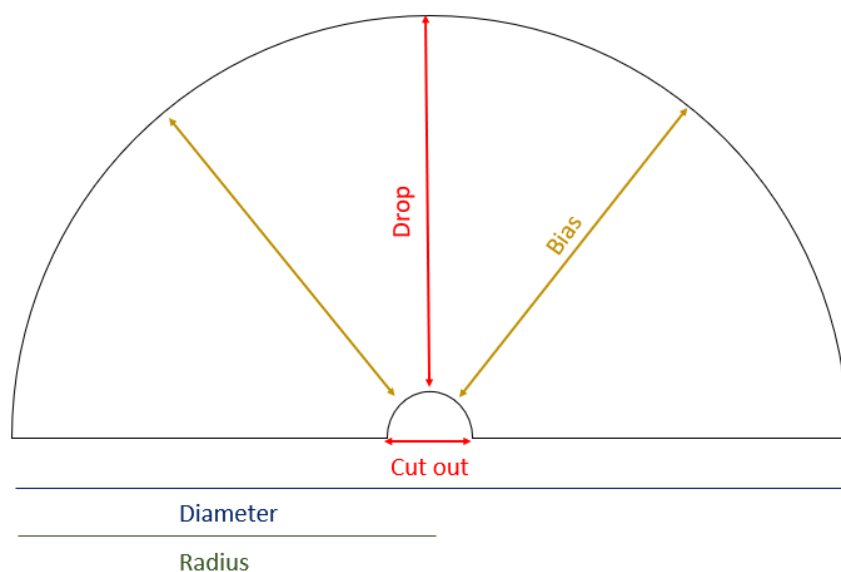
A sunray is just a circle skirt that when pleated has graduating accordion lines starting from a centre point growing towards a hem or bottom. We can pleat a sunray in anything between a  $\frac{1}{2}$  circle and  $\frac{1}{4}$  circle (anything smaller than a semi-circle). Sunrays are typically used for skirts but can be used for other things such as sleeves, trouser legs or decorative upholsteries, the list goes on. To keep things simple, we will be talking about sunrays as if you are pleating for a skirt.



The 'drop' is the drop of your skirt, this is the measurement from waist to hem.

Our patterns have a cut out at the centre point where the pleats graduate from, this part of your fabric will not be pleated. It varies slightly from each pattern but it's usually 20cm diameter.

Please see diagram below of a guide to our sunray patterns and the terminology best used when describing a sunray.



## How much fabric to use

Usually, fashion will use 2 semi circles per skirt. For a fuller look you can use 3 or 4 ½ circles, popular for dance wear. To work out how much cloth you need, you can use the equation below.

$$\text{Drop} \times 2 + \text{cut-out}$$

Example:

If your skirt requires a drop of 1 metre, then you need 100cm x 2 + 20cm. This will be a total diameter of fabric 220cm usually cut along the selvage. This is the total for 1 ½ circle. If you require a ¼ circle, halve it.

We have four sizes of sunrays we can pleat fabric in, each at different costs. Please see below.

Small up to 50 cm drop 1/2 circles £6.00 1/4 circles £3.50

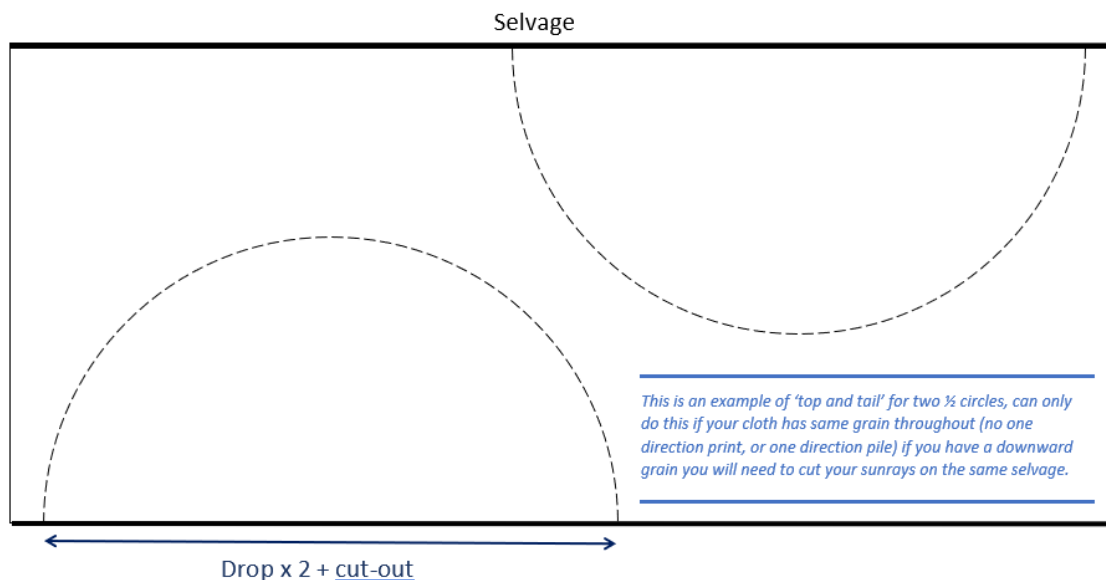
Med up to 100 cm drop 1/2 circles £10.00 1/4 circles £5.50.

Long up to 120 cm drop 1/2 circles £12.00 1/4 circles £7.00.

Extra long up to 150cm drop 1/2 circle £15 1/4 circle £8.00.

## How to cut a sunray

To help your side seams hang straight you will need to cut your sunray along a selvage of your chosen fabric.



On softer fabrics such as georgette and chiffon the fabric can drop down at the cross grain / bias. To ensure this doesn't happen too much we suggest you hang your sunrays overnight after cutting, you will then need to level them.

## Cut out / Waist

The cut out on a sunray is where your waist would be. If you leave the cut out, we will add a centre snip to the fabric, this is to help release tension and prevent the cloth going off grain.

Some companies will use a larger cut out to use one sunray per skirt. If you do this, you will need to add the cut-out diameter + (drop x2) this will help to work out what size sunray pattern we will pleat your fabric in for costing.

**You do not have to cut your waist / cut out before sending to us.**

Our patterns cut-out diameters are:

*Small up to 50 cm drop – cut out 10cm*

*Med up to 100 cm drop – cut out 20cm*

*Long up to 120 cm drop – cut out 23cm*

*Extra long up to 150cm drop – cut out 23cm*

*This is a rough guide of the sizes. Each of our patterns have been hand made over the period of a decades. Some patterns can vary in size, in cut out, pleat size and drops.*

## What fabric to use

We recommend pleating polyester, this is the only way we can guarantee permanent pleats. Natural fibres can pleat but may not hold very well. If a cloth creases then the pleats will crease too. If you are still concerned about your fabric, you can test it at home.

To test a fabric, sandwich it between two layers of paper and fold the cloth across one corner. Using an iron and steam press the corner for about 30-40 seconds and then let it cool. If the cloth sticks, melts or the print transfers, we cannot pleat it. If the cloth creases well and you are happy with the sharpness it will pleat. This is the closest indication of how well it will pleat. We recommend leaving it overnight to see how the pleat will hold.

Please sample your fabric, as this is the best way to see how well a cloth falls, drapes, and compliments your chosen pleat. All prices are sample prices.

## Do I hem before or after?

The advantage of hemming the fabric first is that you get a sharper pleat. If you are hemming first, make sure you hang the half circle and then level it. Make sure the hem sits flat on the table after sewing, it is very important to get the right tension on your machine. The disadvantage of hemming is that after the sunray is pleated the hem line may not be straight. If you hem the half circle after pleating then the hem will flute out as you are hemming against the pleat, popular in dance wear.

Please see examples of fabric hemmed incorrectly:



We can still pleat this for you but there is a strong risk of 'chipping' this is an unwanted pleat within a pleat. If we have concerns, we will usually phone to discuss.

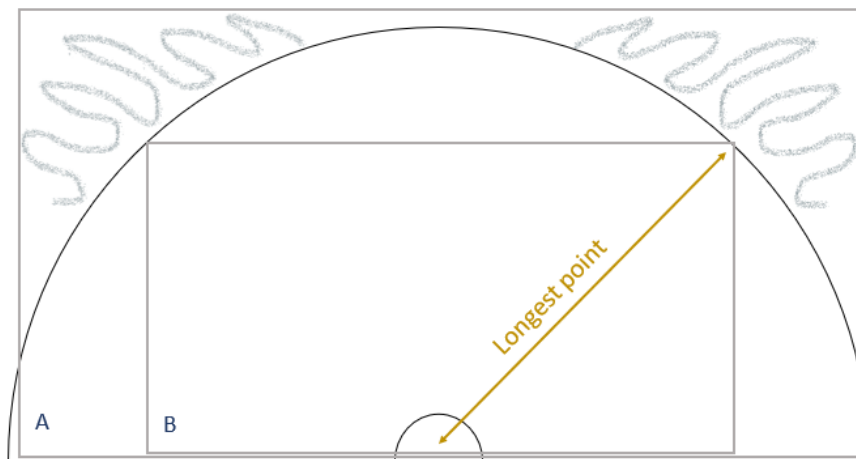
### What are the sizes of the pleats?

If you ask for a sunray, we will pleat in our standard no3 pattern. This is a 4cm (1 ½ ") accordion pleat at the 100cm drop. Please do not ask for a specific measurement/size as a sunray graduates, we cannot always guarantee that measurement. We will always pleat a sunray in our no3 pattern unless you ask for a particular sunray.

If you require a different size pleat ask us what to write on the order form, you can speak to us via phone 01707 661 311 or email us at [info@cimentpleating.co.uk](mailto:info@cimentpleating.co.uk) we do not have WhatsApp, so please do not text.

### Do I have to pleat a semi-circle in a sunray?

You can pleat squares, rectangles, and other shapes in a sunray, but they all need to fit in to our semi-circle patterns. If you wish to pleat a different shape you will need to draw us a diagram / lay plan explaining how you want us to pleat it. Alternatively, you can safety pin where you want your centre point to be. (Where the pleats start to graduate from)



Example A – Pleating a shape that is larger than our pattern would mean that some of your cloth will hang out the pattern therefore will not be pleated. We can pleat like this but there are risks, increased chances of cloth staining in our steam box, the fabric can pull out the pattern meaning risk of going off grain, chipping and you can be left without stitch lines. The advantage of pleating like this is if you cannot decide what drop you want and want to cut after.

Example B – If you would like all your fabric pleated, your shape must fit inside our largest sunray 'extra-long' from centre point to the longest point of your cloth it cannot succeed any more than 160 cm.

## How do I place an order?

To place an order by post, send us your fabric alongside our order form on our website here: <https://www.cimentpleating.com/order>. Use one form for each separate pleat.

Our minimum order is 1 meter of fabric for our **normal** service the lead time takes a working week. Our **express** service takes 1 day if it reaches us before 10:00am. If it is after 10:00am we would do it the following working day. There is a 50% surcharge and our minimum order for express is 3 meters or one ½ circle sunray.

We may need to speak to you before we start your pleating. So that your order is not delayed, please put our phone number in your contacts 01707661311 so you know it's us.

Once the order is processed, we will email you the invoice and phone you with confirmation. You will be able to pay via the invoice email, by card over the phone or by bank transfer.

We can either send the fabric back to you via a next day courier or you can arrange for it to be picked up.

If there is anything else we can help you with, please don't hesitate to phone 01707 661 311.