

## 8.1 Cut

### Bias cut

A bias cut garment is cut at 45 degrees to the fabric's warp and weft threads. Non-woven fabrics do not have a bias.

Cutting fabric on the bias creates more flexibility and elasticity in the fabric than cutting straight with the grain of the fabric. Bias cut gives greater stretch making it suitable for skirts, dresses, neckties or piping trims.

During the 1920s, Madeleine Vionnet introduced bias cut garments which clung to the natural curves of a woman's body. The bias cut fabric accentuated the body's curves and draped gracefully.

Womens silk evening dress, Madeleine Vionnet, France, 1930–35. Powerhouse Museum collection, purchased 1996. 96/386/2



### Straight cut

Straight cut garments are cut along the grain of the fabric. In this example the skirt is cut straight along the check.

Womens silk day dress, possibly made in Australia, 1840–49. Powerhouse Museum collection, gift of Anne Schofield, 1983. A8072. Photo by Sue Stafford

