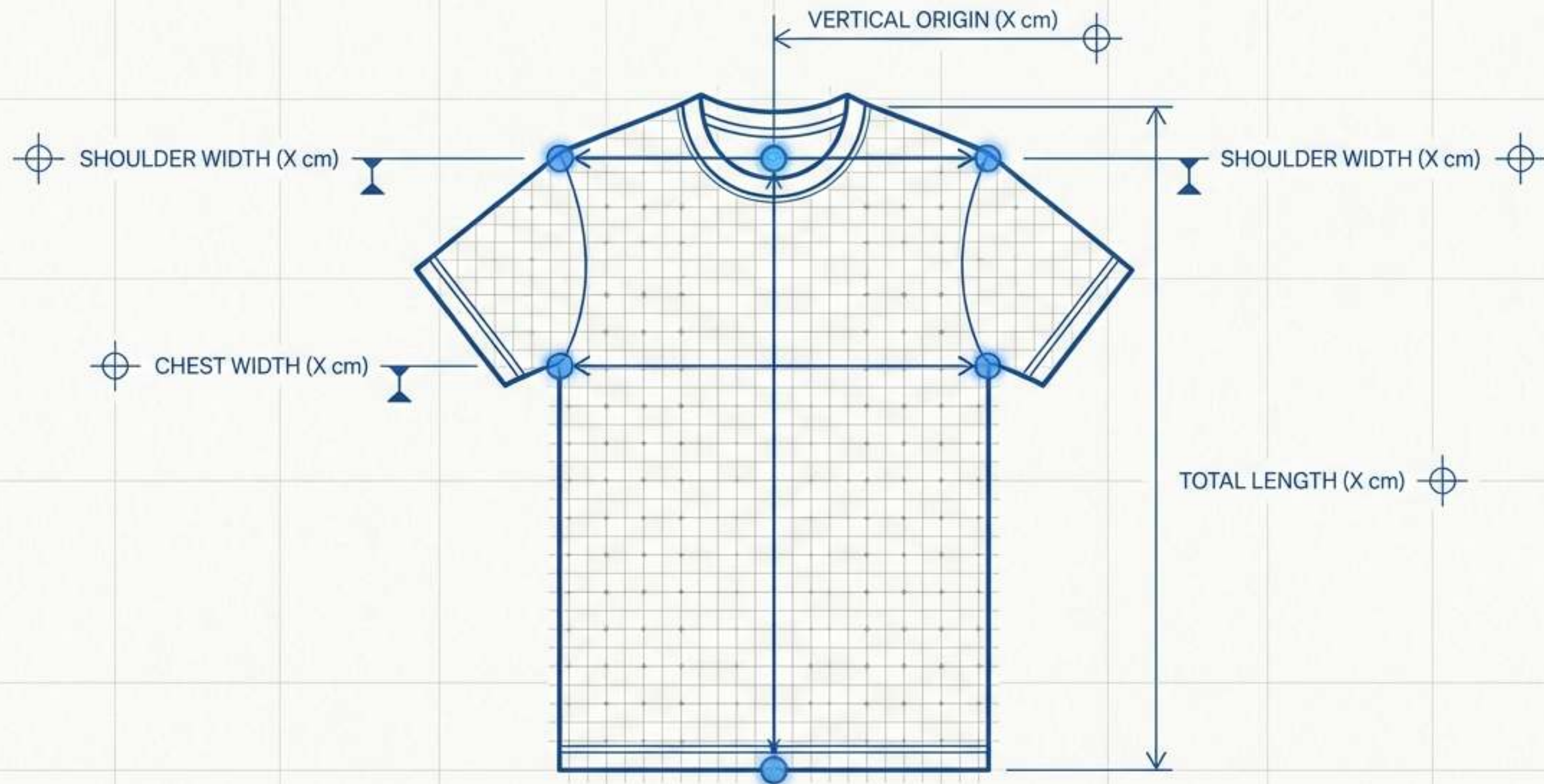




The Professional's Blueprint for T-Shirt Placement

A Systematic Guide to Achieving Perfect Alignment, Every Time.

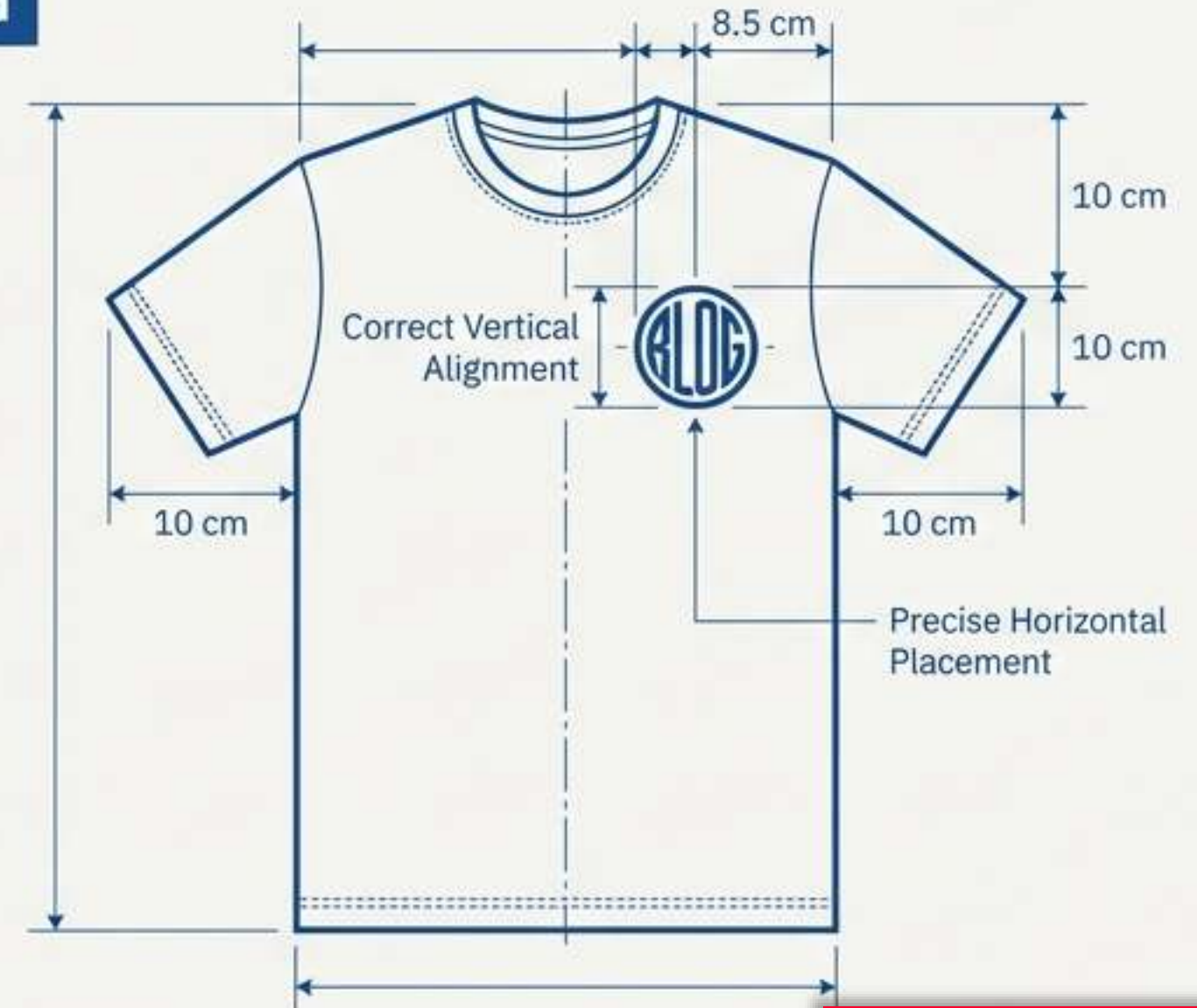
The Hidden Cost of Inconsistency

Crooked prints, misplaced logos, and inconsistent placement across a run of garments aren't just minor mistakes. They undermine professionalism, lead to wasted stock, and erode client confidence. Guesswork and "eyeballing it" are the enemies of quality and efficiency.

Chaos

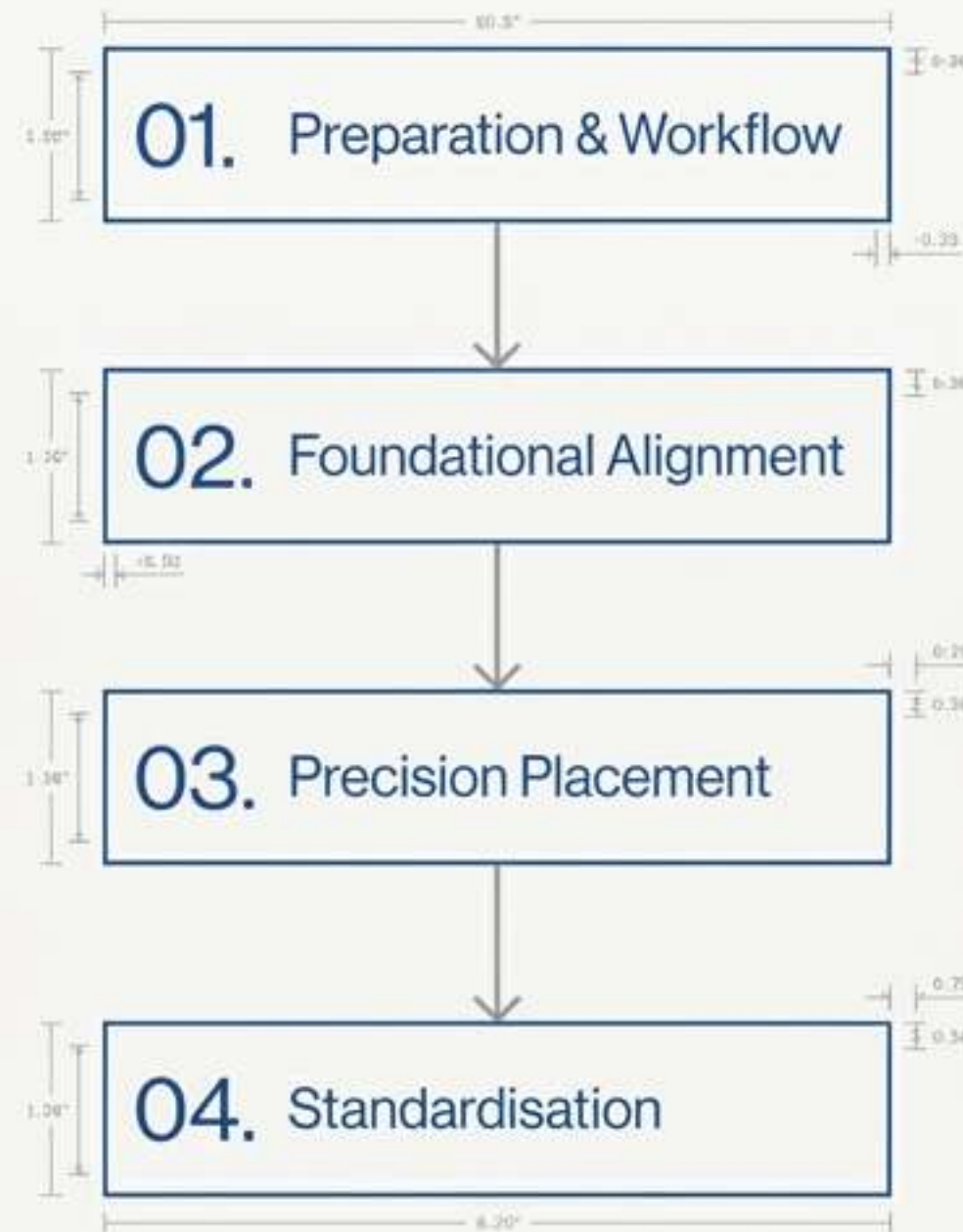


Control

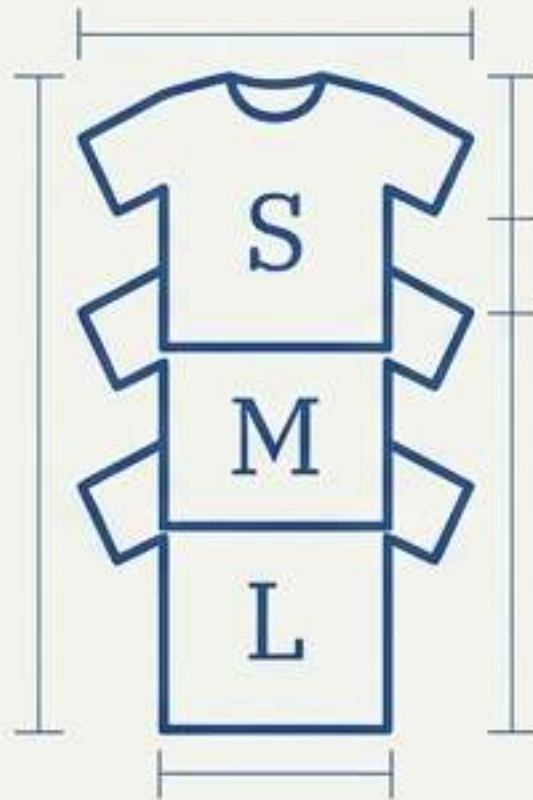


The Solution: Adopt a System

The difference between amateur and professional results lies in a repeatable system. This blueprint breaks down garment alignment into four distinct phases, transforming the process from an art into a science. Master the system, master the result.

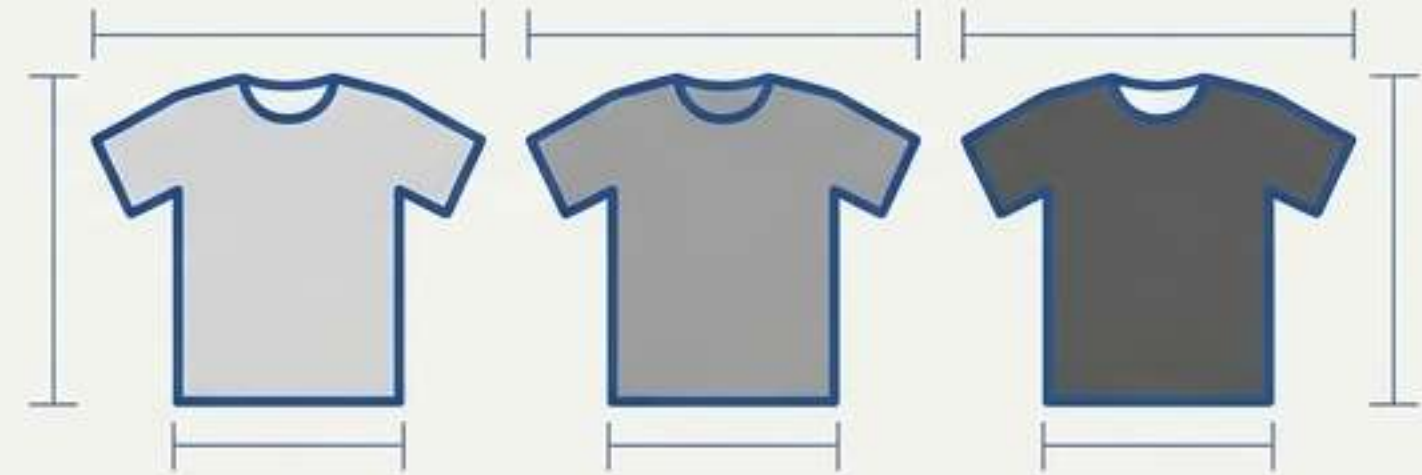


Phase 1: Preparation is Production



Sort by Size

Always begin by sorting the t-shirts by size. Stack them logically, either from large to small or vice versa. This ensures a smooth, uninterrupted workflow once printing begins.



Sort by Colour

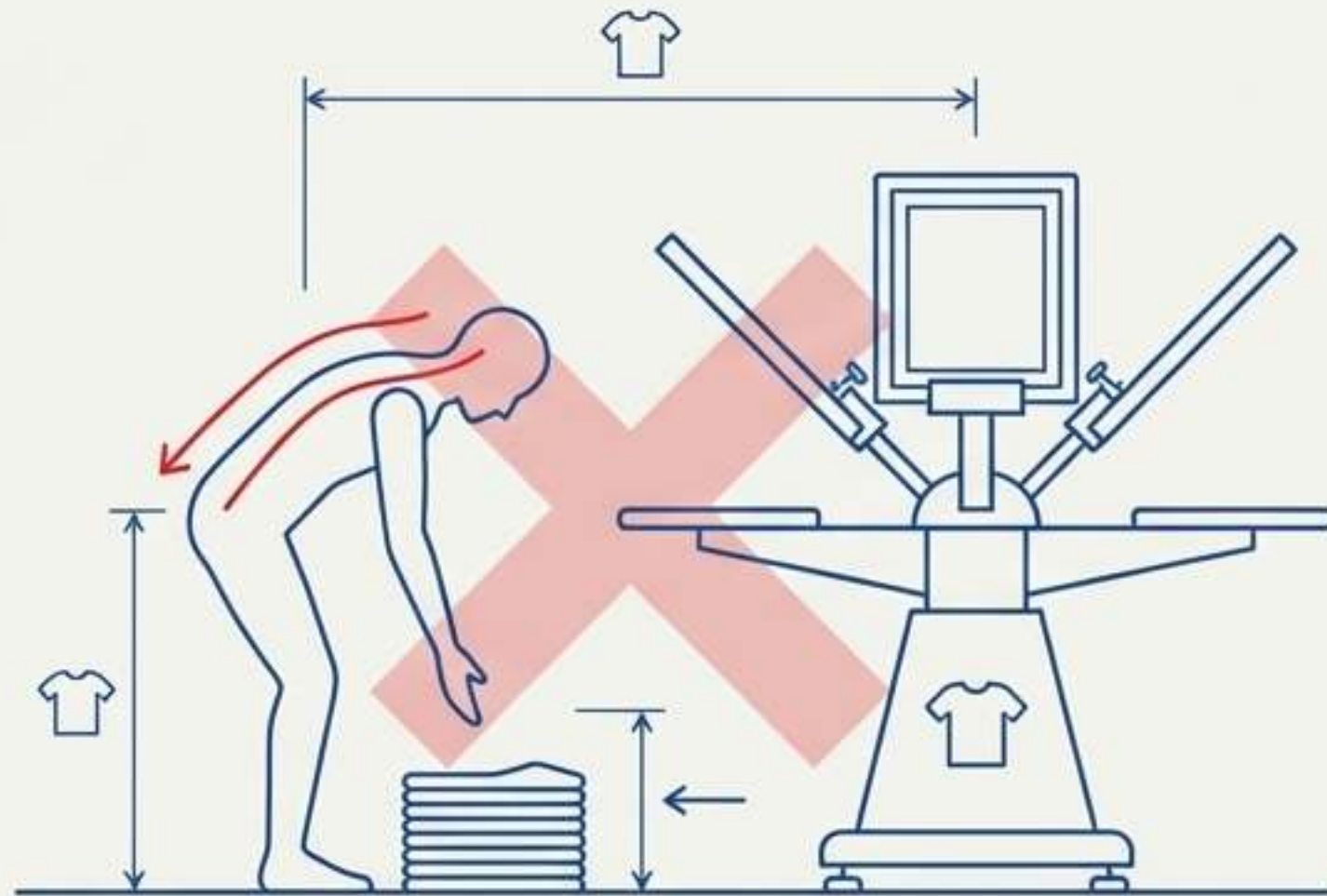
If the job involves multiple shirt colours requiring different ink changes, sort by colour first, then by size within each colour group. It is far easier to adjust print position between sizes than it is to perform a full ink change.

Pro-Tip: Engineer an Ergonomic Workspace

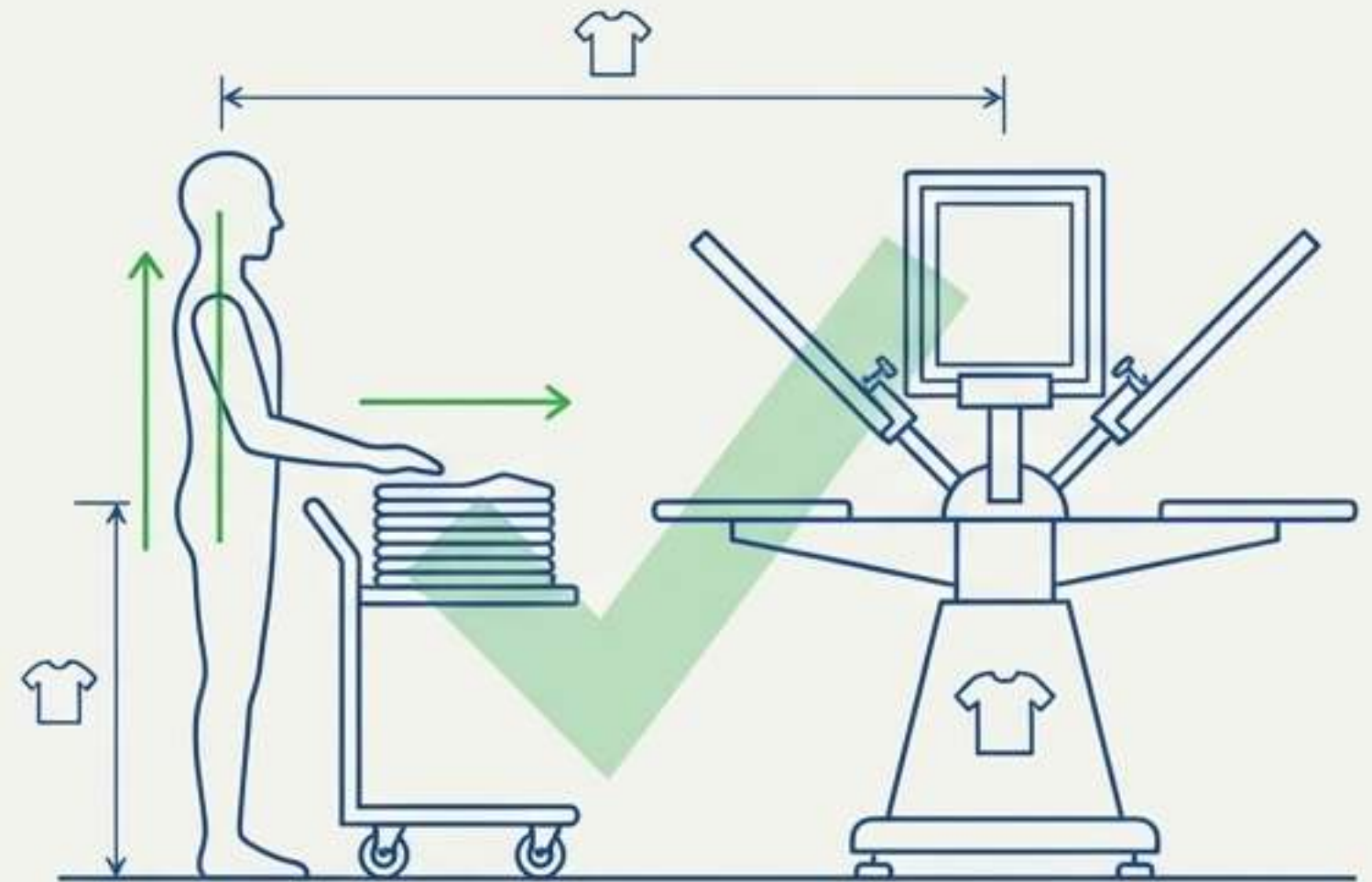
Position your stacks of t-shirts close to the palette to minimise unnecessary movement. Avoid twisting or taking extra steps for each garment.

Use trolleys on wheels for your stacks. This achieves two critical goals:

1. **Height:** It brings the shirts to a comfortable height, avoiding the need to bend down, which prevents fatigue.
2. **Mobility:** It allows you to move entire stacks easily without heavy lifting.



INCORRECT

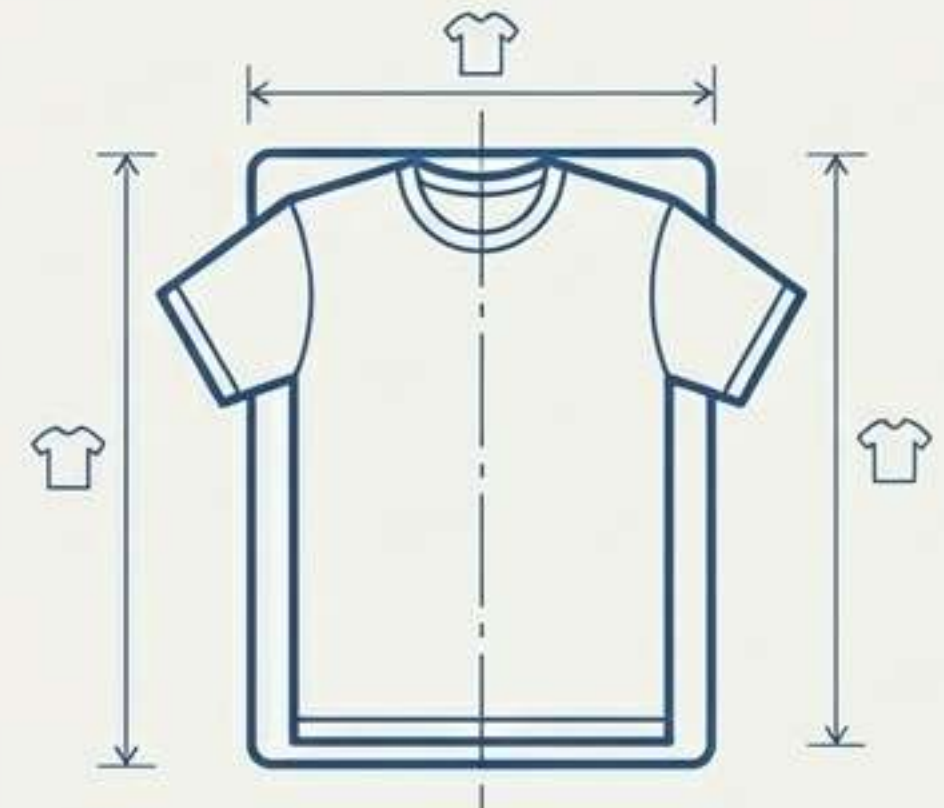
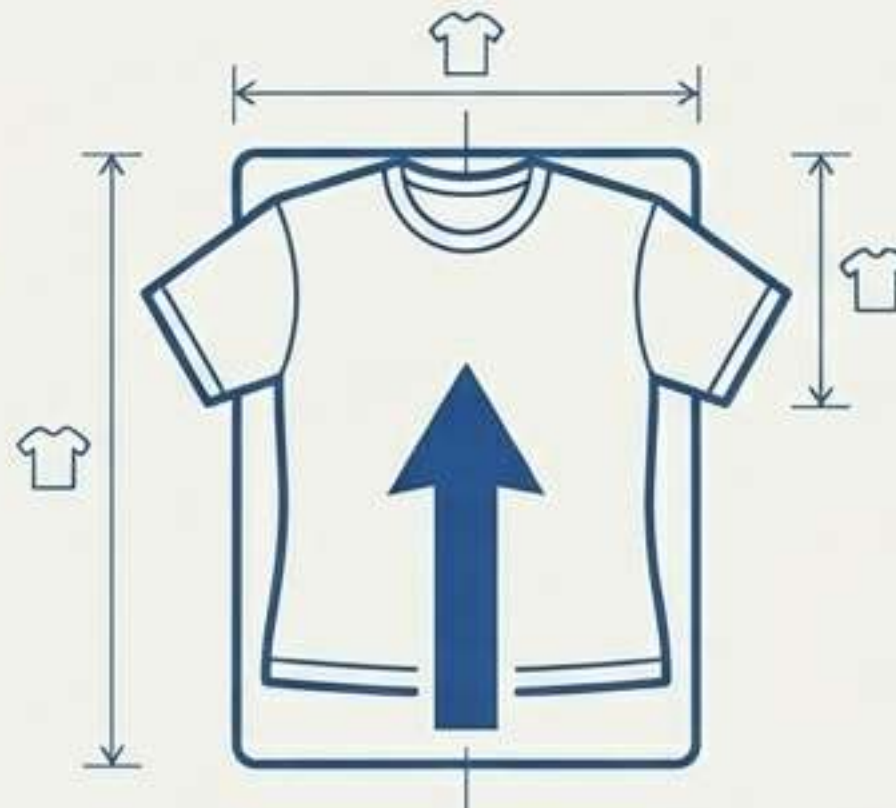
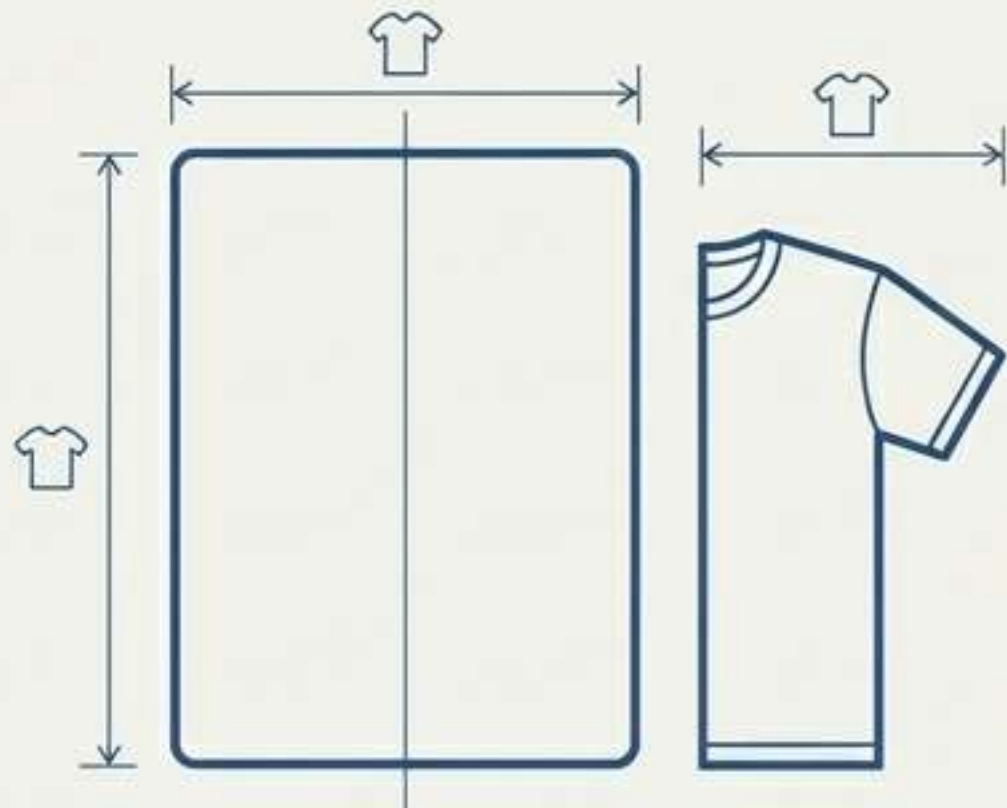


CORRECT

Phase 2: Mastering the Foundational Alignment

The accuracy of your entire print job depends on this single action. The goal is to load the t-shirt onto the printing palette so that its natural centre line aligns perfectly with the centre line of the palette.

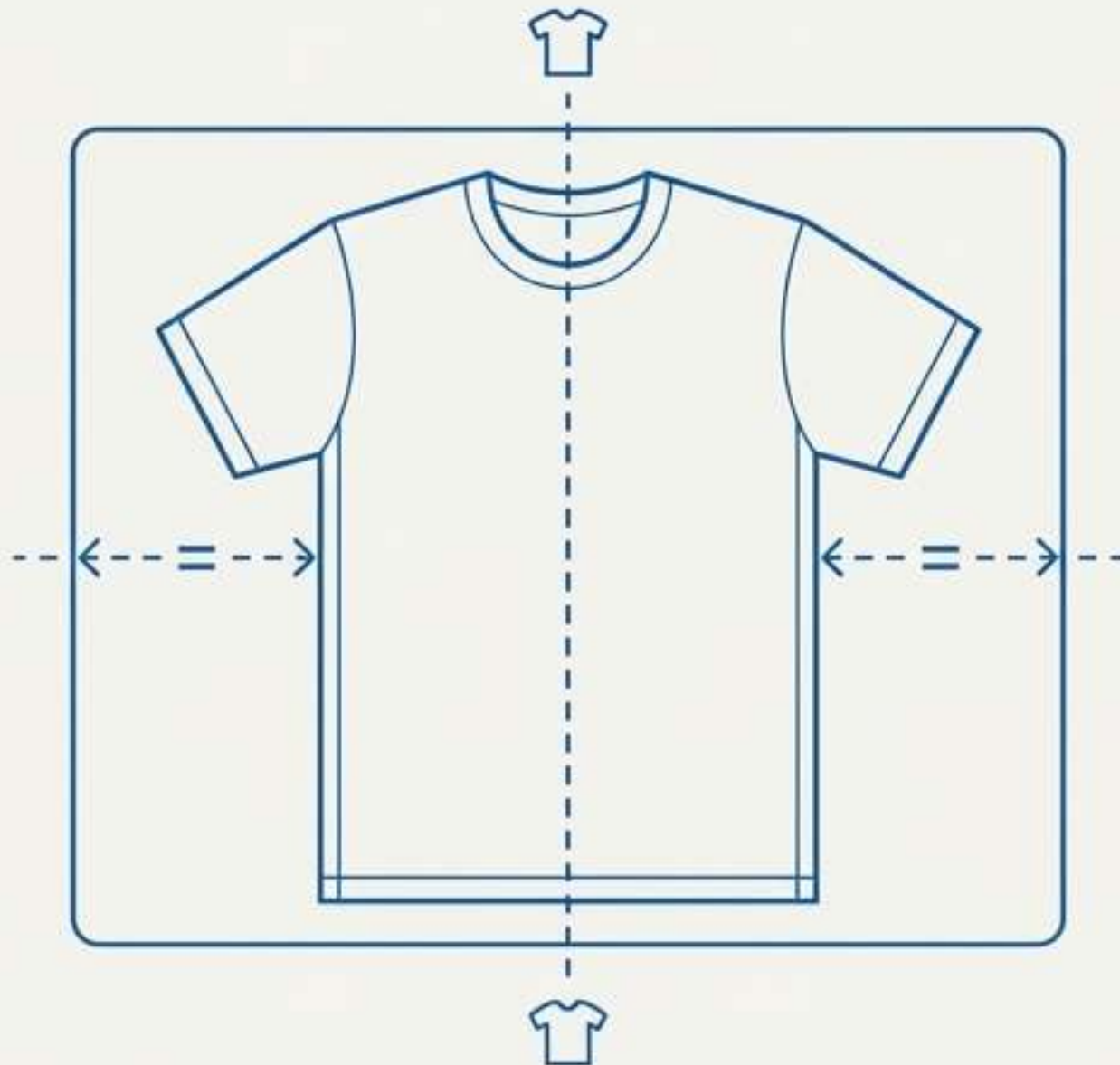
1. Grab the bottom hem of the t-shirt.
2. Pull it smoothly and evenly over the palette.
3. For a front print, the shirt's front should be on top of the palette, with the back underneath. This is reversed for a back print.



Verifying the Centre Line: Two Professional Checks

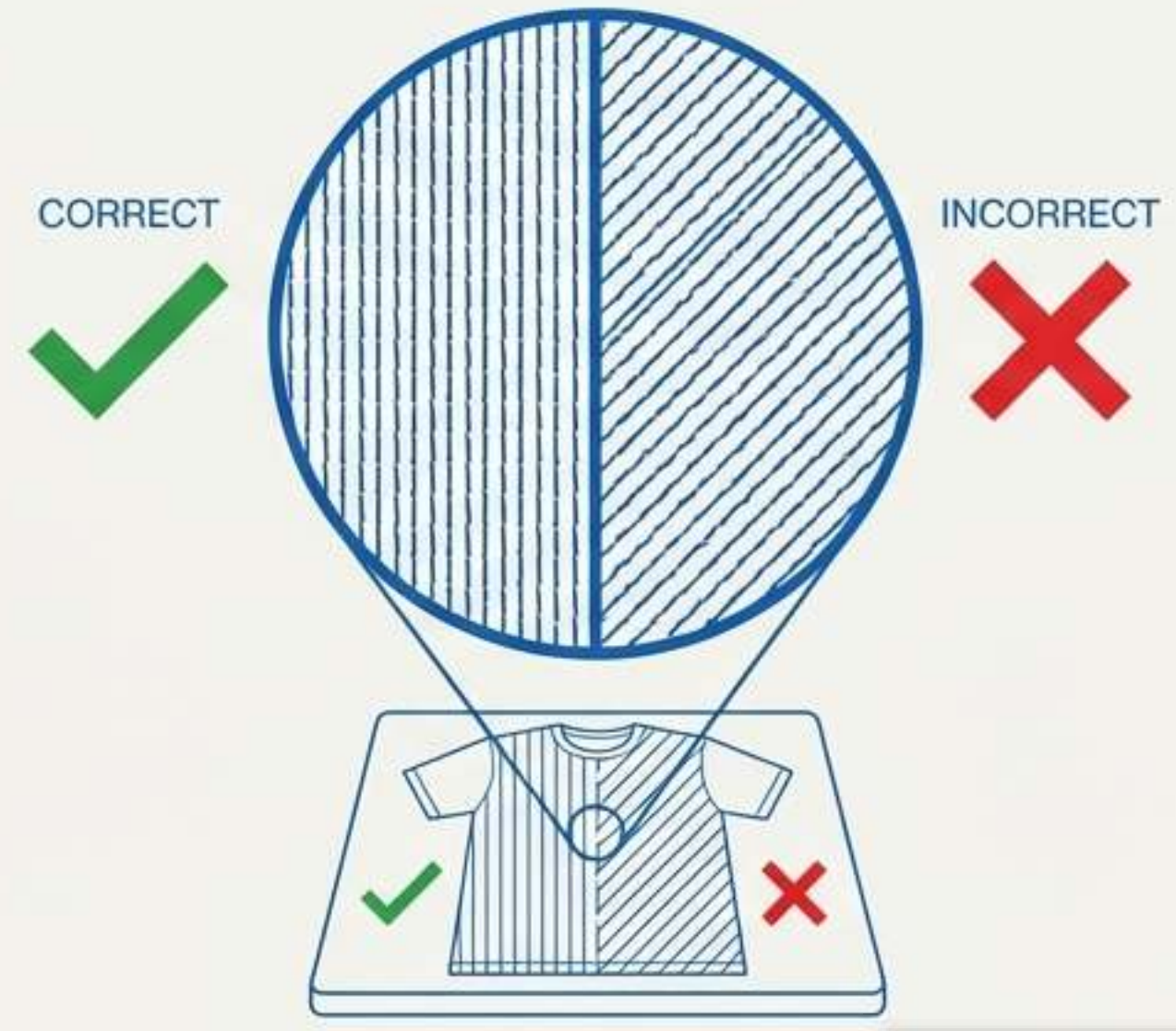
Method 1: The Seam Check

If the t-shirt has side seams, they are your guide. The distance from each side seam to the edge of the palette should be equal. Use your fingers to quickly measure and confirm symmetry.



Method 2: The Knit Check

For seamless t-shirts, use the fabric's texture. The vertical lines of the knit should run perfectly straight down the palette. If you see the texture running diagonally towards the bottom, the shirt has not been pulled on straight and must be adjusted.

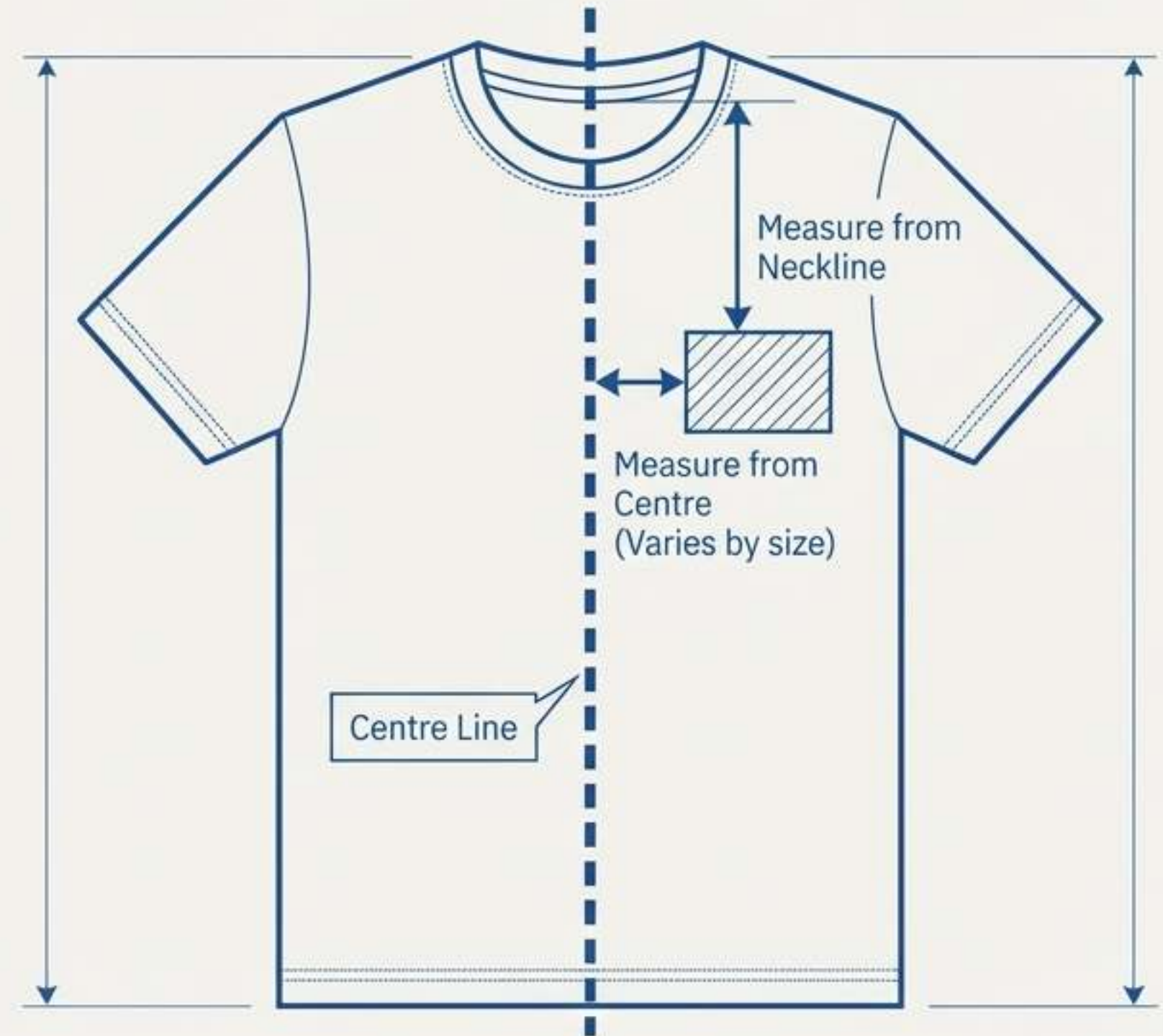


Phase 3: Precision Placement for a Left-Chest Logo

Core Principle: Horizontal placement is always measured from the **centre line of the t-shirt**, not from the side seam or armhole.

Rule 1 (Horizontal): The distance of the logo from the centre line changes with the size of the t-shirt. A larger shirt requires the logo to be placed further from the centre to appear visually correct.

Rule 2 (Vertical): Vertical placement (height) is always measured down from the centre of the neckline.

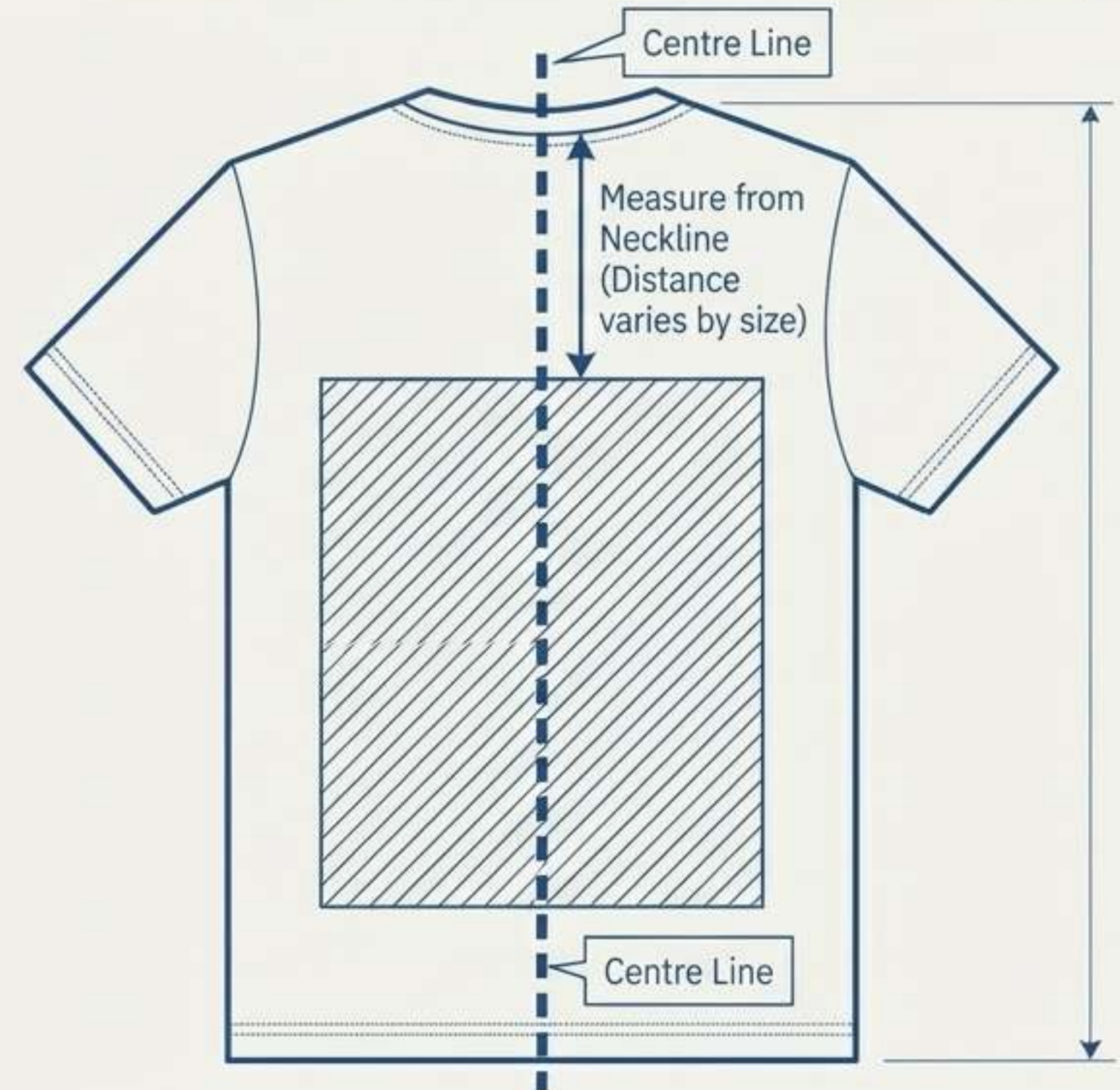


Precision Placement for a Full-Back Design

Core Principle: Like the front, all measurements for a back print are based on the centre line and the neckline.

Rule 1 (Horizontal): The design must be perfectly centred on the shirt's vertical centre line.

Rule 2 (Vertical): The height is measured from the neckline down to where the top of the print should start. This distance changes with shirt size; for example, the print on an XL shirt will start lower down from the collar than on a Small.

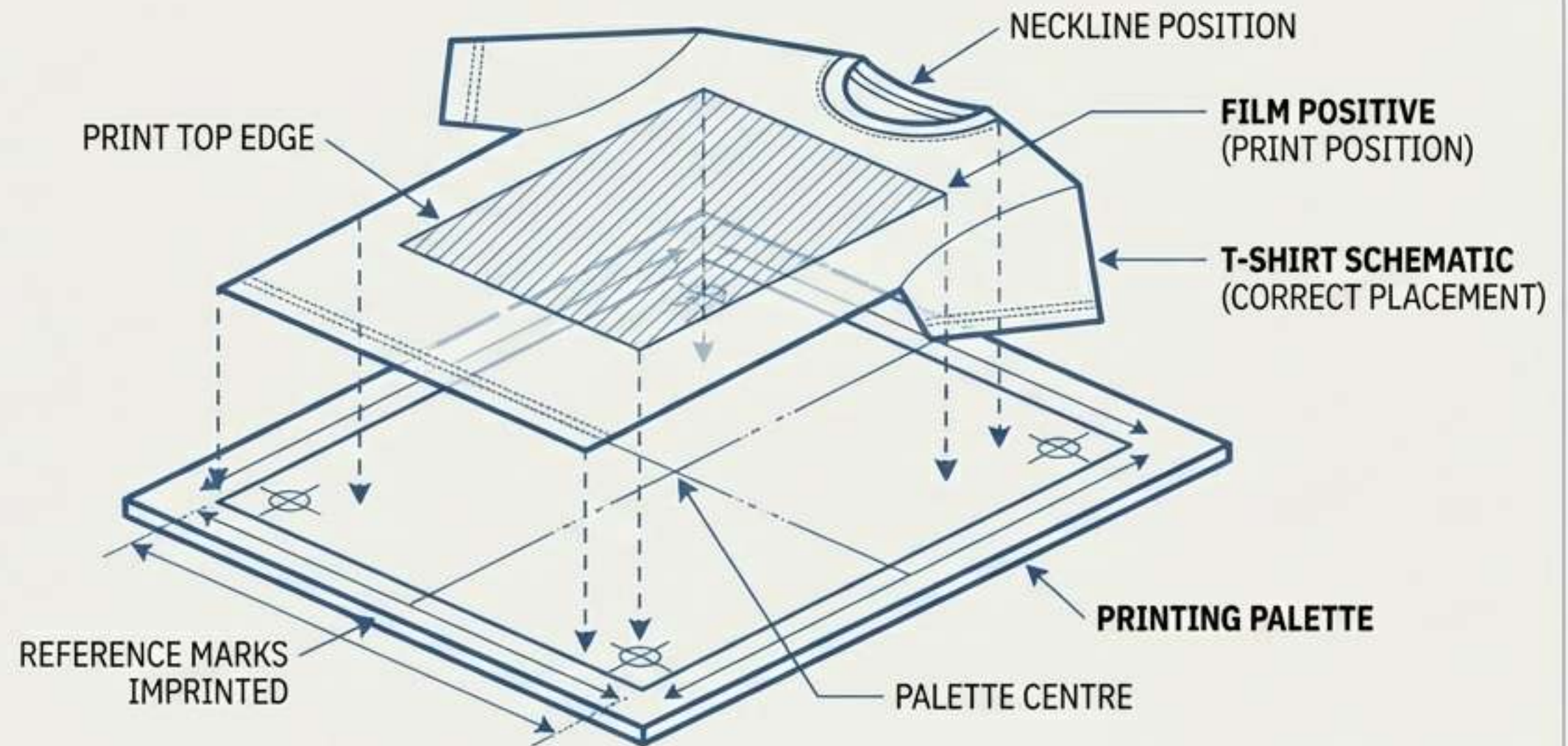


Phase 4: Standardising the Setup by Marking the Palette

Once you have determined the perfect placement for your design on one shirt, the final step is to transfer those measurements onto the palette itself. This creates fixed reference points, eliminating the need to re-measure for every single garment and guaranteeing identical placement across all sizes.

The Goal

To create a 'map' on your palette that shows exactly where the top edge of each t-shirt size should sit to achieve the correct print position.



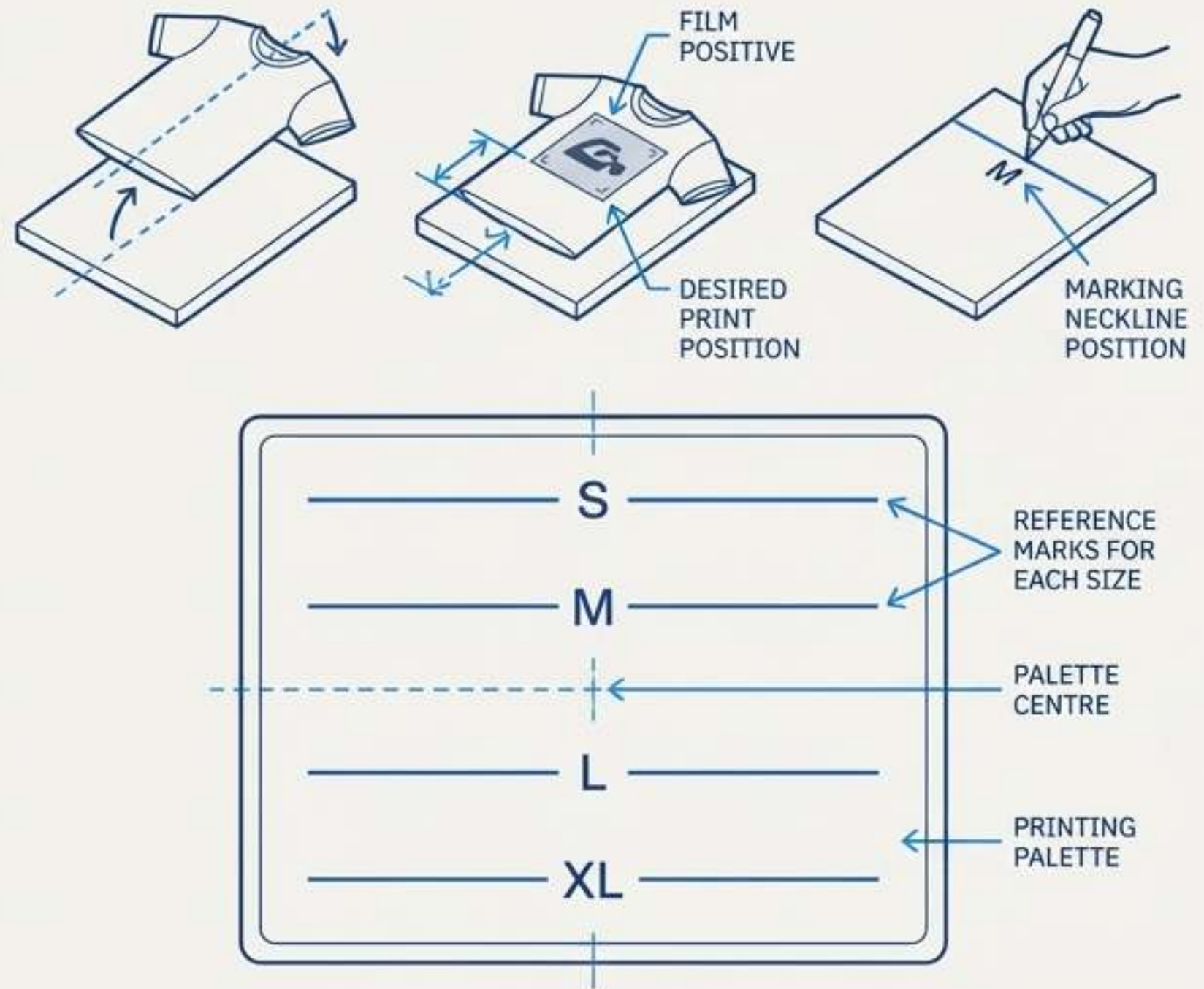
How to Mark the Palette for a Left-Chest Logo

Step 1: Load a t-shirt of a specific size (e.g., Medium) onto the palette and ensure it is perfectly straight.

Step 2: Place the film positive of your logo in the exact desired print position on the t-shirt.

Step 3: Using a marker, make a clear mark on the palette corresponding to the top edge (neckline) of the t-shirt. Label this mark with the shirt size (e.g., 'M').

Step 4: Remove the Medium shirt. Repeat this process for every other size in your run (S, L, XL, etc.), creating a unique, labelled mark for each.

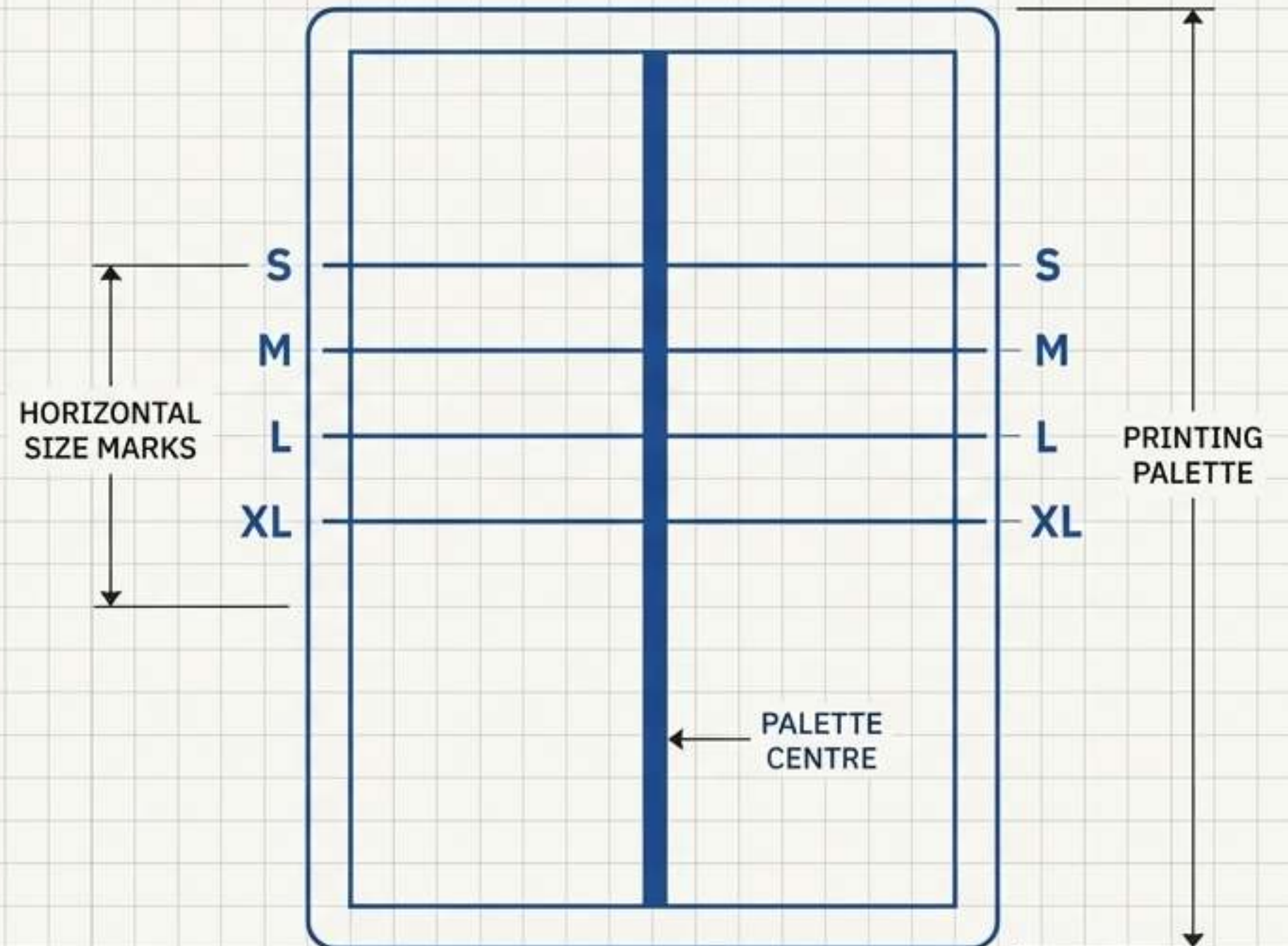


How to Mark the Palette for a Back Design

The process is identical to the front logo.

1. **Load:** Place a t-shirt for a specific size onto the palette correctly.
2. **Position:** Place the film positive of the back design in the desired location.
3. **Mark:** Mark the position of the shirt's neckline on the palette.
4. **Repeat:** Continue for all sizes in the print run, creating a complete set of reference marks.

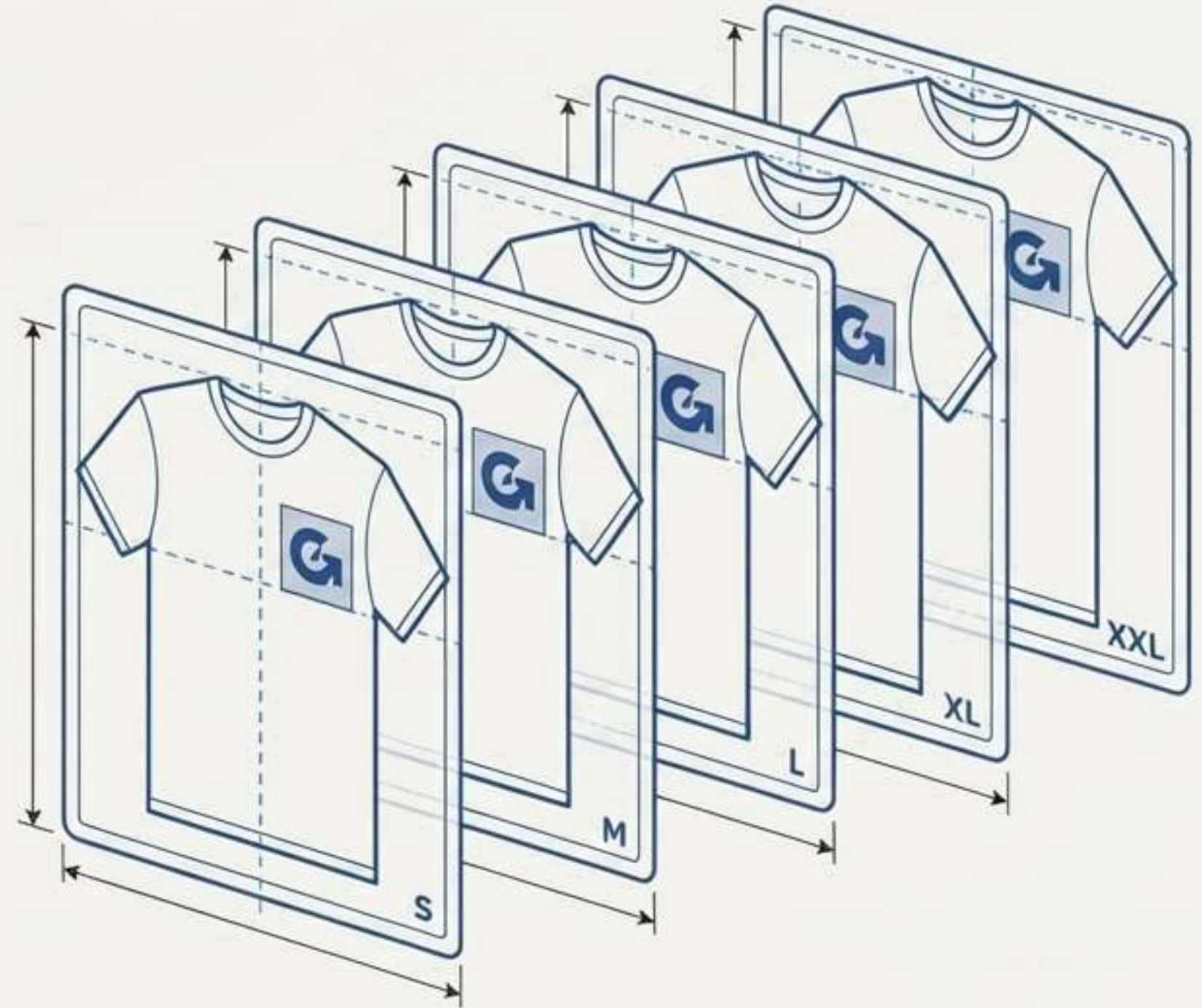
Pro-Tip: Mark the centre line of your palette first. This provides a crucial vertical reference point to use alongside your horizontal size markings.



The Result: Repeatable, Professional Excellence

By implementing this four-phase blueprint, you move beyond guesswork and achieve a new level of control and quality in your work.

- ✓ **Consistency:** Every print is placed identically across the entire run.
- ✓ **Efficiency:** Eliminates the need for re-measuring, dramatically speeding up production.
- ✓ **Accuracy:** Reduces errors, saving on wasted garments and materials.
- ✓ **Professionalism:** Delivers the high-quality, consistent results that clients expect.



More Than a Method, It's a Mindset

This system for t-shirt alignment is a foundational element of a professional screen printing practice. It's a reflection of a commitment to precision, efficiency, and craft. The principles of preparation, systematic alignment, and standardisation are the building blocks for producing work you can be proud of.



This methodology is distilled from 35 years of professional screen printing experience.