



DESIGN
YOUR
OWN
MUUMUU

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
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DESIGN YOUR OWN MUUMUU

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Muumuus have been a popular way of dressing for many years in the islands. In the last decade, muumuus have become very versatile in styles, making them suitable for all occasions. Some of them are short; some are very basic and good for working around the house; and some are very dressy, used for very formal occasions.

The muumuu is a form of dress that can be adapted to the individual's style of dress. Many people can design a muumuu that is very becoming to them. Because muumuus can be straight and on the tailored side or very full and quite fancy, they give every woman the chance to wear the type most becoming to her figure. Also, they can be made with various types of fabric.

Muumuu fabrics range from the inexpensive cotton prints to the very expensive brocades and even to the expensive lace with lovely backing or lining.

Muumuu fashions change the same as dress styles of today. It is possible to use dress patterns and redesign them slightly and have lovely muumuus. If you have a desire to have individual muumuus, you can follow some basic principles and design your own by using a current fashion pattern or a basic pattern that has been made to fit you.

All the styles of muumuus could not possibly be illustrated in one publication, but the principles of redesigning are given here so you can study and apply them to whatever your needs may be. Present-day styles have purposely been left out because they would soon become dated, but the principles illustrated can be used for many years to come. The same principles can be used in designing different types of regular daytime wear or evening dresses from other patterns that do not quite suit you.

It is easier to redesign if you can find a pattern that has lines similar to the muumuu you wish to create. If you cannot find a similar pattern, then either a straight line, a princess line, or a regular basic dress pattern with a waist and skirt can be used. Do not overlook the possibility of using a maternity pattern. These are very easy to adapt for the full muumuus. Sometimes the maternity dress pattern only needs to be lengthened to give an attractive design for a plain or a formal muumuu.

Why not start clipping and collecting pictures from the newspapers to keep in this publication so you can refer to these when you want to create a muumuu of the type you have seen, or one that has a combination of special features?

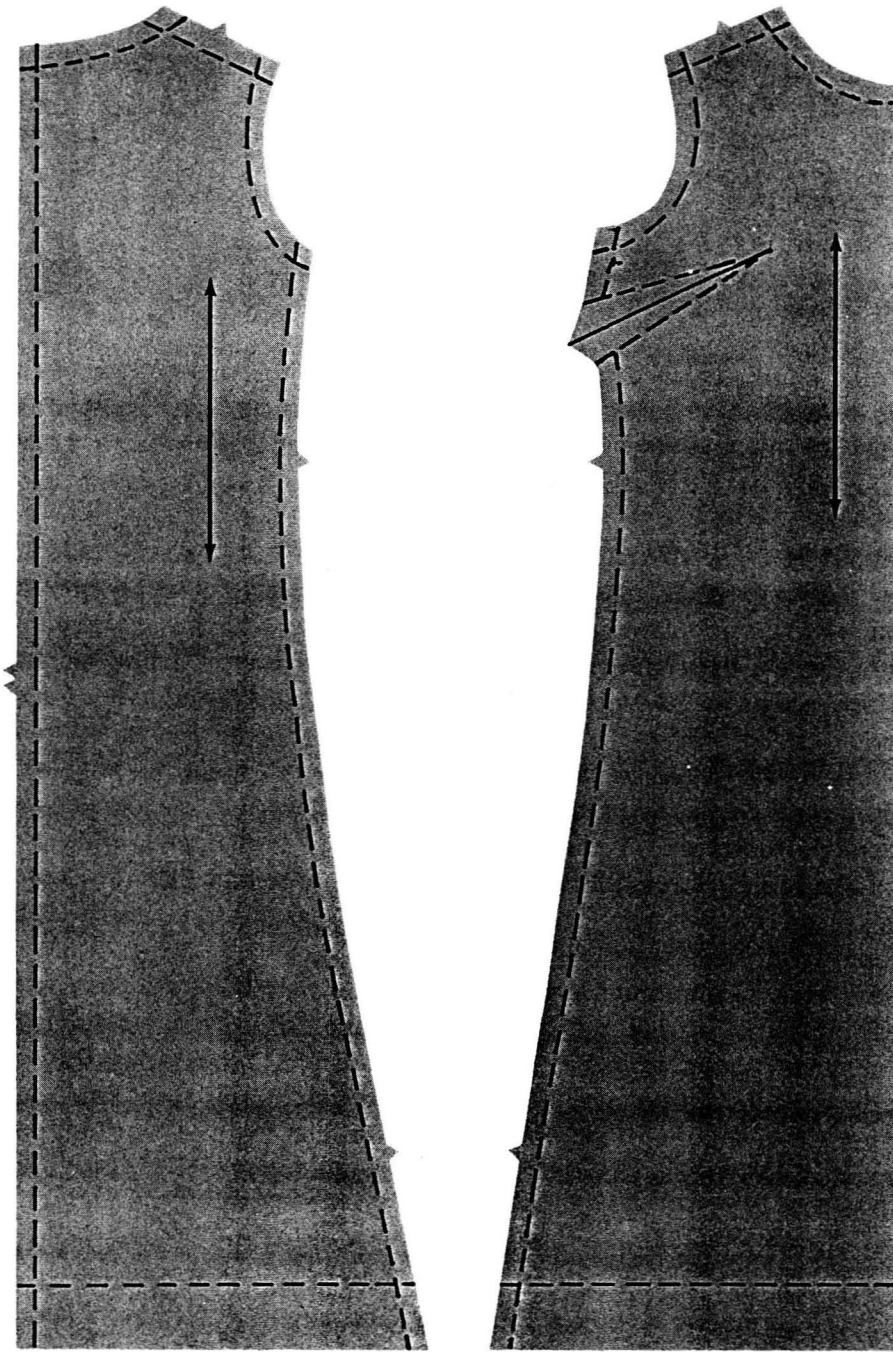


FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2

A basic shift pattern will serve as the foundation of your own muumuu design (see Figures 1 and 2).

YOKES

To make a yoke, cut dart out and add seam allowance on line AB and CD (Figure 3). If yoke is preferred at a different place than the top of the dart, fold the dart out and cut yoke on the desired line. Add seam allowances on both cut edges. The same principle is applied to the back of the pattern if a yoke is desired.

YOKE WITH FULL SKIRT

To add fullness in skirt below yoke, follow these directions:

- Step 1. Draw lines across pattern so grain lines will be easy to maintain (see lines E and F in Figure 4).
- Step 2. Slash entire length of pattern and spread to allow fullness desired. Note: Make sure that side seams of front and back are on same bias grain line.
- Step 3. Add seam allowances to lines AB and CD shown in Figure 4. Line CD is to be drawn from high points of slashes (see dotted line).

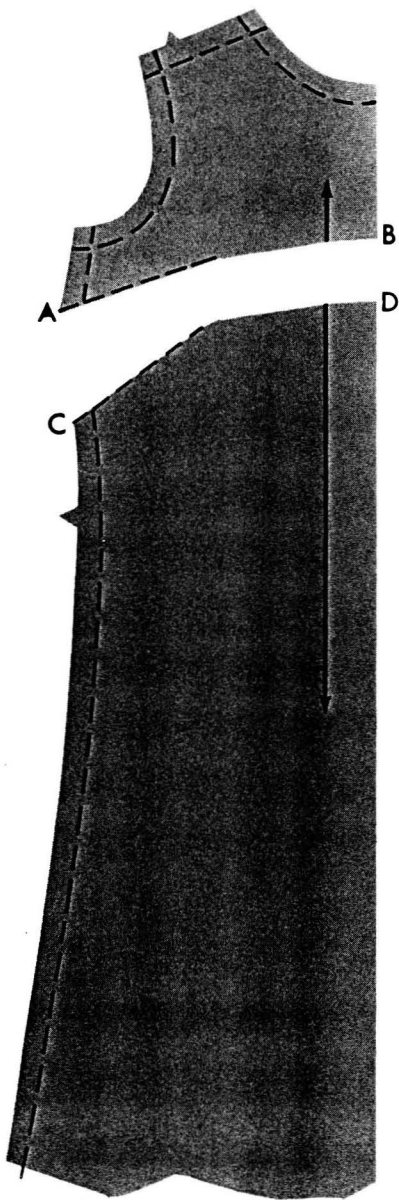


FIGURE 3

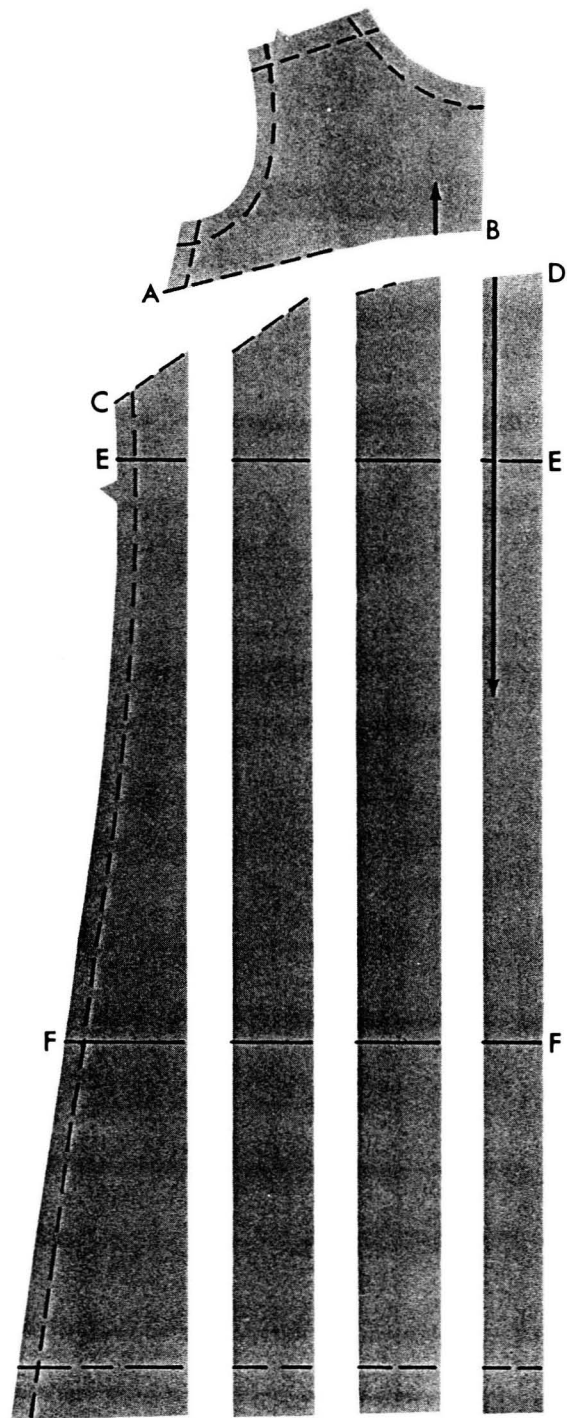


FIGURE 4

BELL-SHAPED SLEEVES

To make a bell-shaped sleeve from a long, fitted sleeve pattern, follow the step-by-step directions below (see Figures 5 and 6). A 3/4 or short bell sleeve may be made in the same way. For these lengths, cut long sleeve pattern to desired length. Seam allowance may be left on top part of sleeve when shorter length is cut.

- Step 1. Close dart, making underarm seams the same length.
- Step 2. Slash sleeve from bottom to top seam allowance. Spread to desired width.
- Step 3. As sleeve is spread, small darts will appear in seam allowance at top of sleeve. Flatten darts. Seam allowance remains the same and will fit armscye.
- Step 4. Make sure longest part of curve is in line with elbow point on back of sleeve.
- Step 5. Retain straight grain line from shoulder line. Note in Figure 6 the new line for straight grain of goods drawn between slashes.

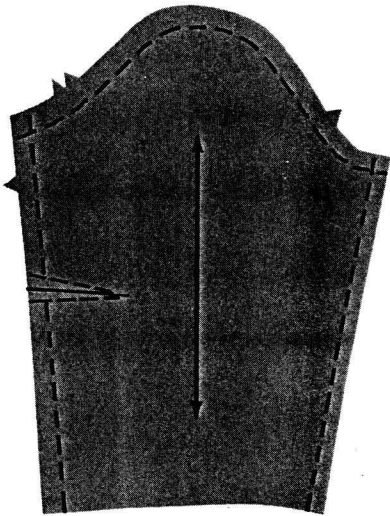


FIGURE 5

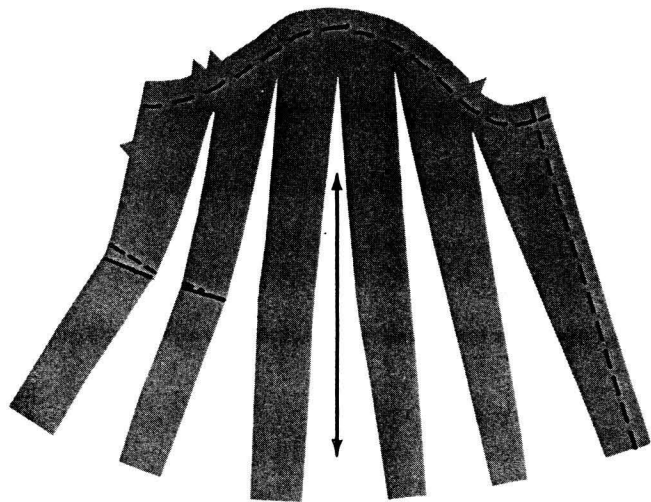


FIGURE 6

FULL GATHERED SLEEVES

To convert a plain sleeve to a full gathered sleeve, follow these steps (see Figures 7 and 8):

- Step 1. Draw lines across sleeve pattern perpendicular to straight grain line (Figure 7).
- Step 2. Slash pattern and spread, keeping lines A and B straight.
- Step 3. Make a new cutting line at top of sleeve. A fluid line at the high edges plus a seam allowance at the top will balance the cap depth with the fullness added.

Note: Length of sleeve decided on and cut first will make the slashing adjustment easier.

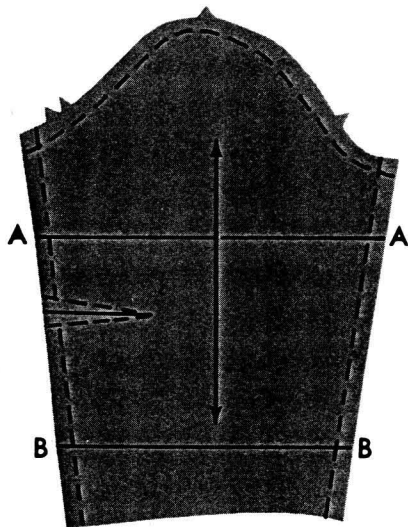


FIGURE 7

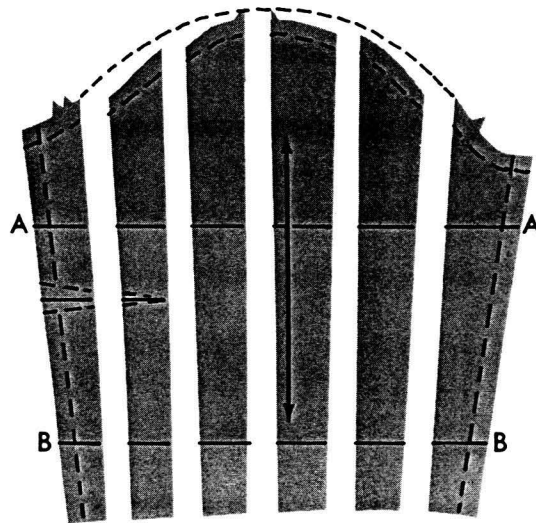


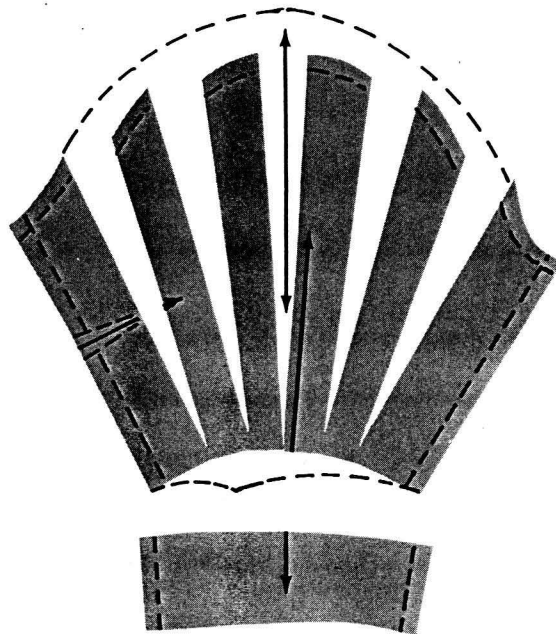
FIGURE 8

LEG O' MUTTON SLEEVE

To make a leg o' mutton sleeve from plain, long or 3/4 length sleeve pattern, follow these steps:

- Step 1. Make plain sleeve pattern desired length, plus seam allowance on bottom.
- Step 2. Slash top of sleeve to seam allowance at bottom.
- Step 3. Spread top to give fullness desired according to type of fabric.
- Step 4. Add length to the center of sleeve; add the amount that the sleeve needs to be extended from shoulder for the desired cap effect. One or 1-1/2 inches is about the usual extension.
- Step 5. For pointed bottom of sleeve, shape so the point is in line with tapered end of dart on back half of sleeve (see dotted line in Figure 9) Note the center grain line.

FIGURE 9



HOLUMUU WITH FLOUNCE

A shift pattern or princess line may be used to make holomuus with ruffled, pleated or circular flounce. If the princess line is used, join the pattern on the front side and back side panels before cutting flounce as illustrated (Figures 10 and 11).

Gathered Flounce (Figures 12 and 13):

- Step 1. Draw lines across pattern the same as illustrated in sleeves, Figure 7.
- Step 2. Slash pattern from bottom to top seamline. See Figure 8 for principles of slashing sleeve. The grain line on bias side seam front and back will be the same if spread evenly at top and bottom of back and front.
- Step 3. Check grain line on side seams before placing on fabric. Add seam allowance at top of flounce.

Pleated Flounce (Figures 14 and 15):

- Step 1. Place lightweight paper over pieces of flounce pattern. Fold paper, making pleats at the place and size desired. Pleats may be made same size both top and bottom. Pleats that have more fullness at bottom give a more flattering effect.
- Step 2. Place original flat pattern over pleated paper and cut, allowing for seams.
- Step 3. Mark pleated lines on paper so they may be transferred to fabric. Indicate on dress part where pleats are to be joined.
- Step 4. Mark straight grain lines, starting at front panel. Make back side seam FK the same grain line as side front SL. The back center seams EJ will be the same no matter what the grain line is at side.

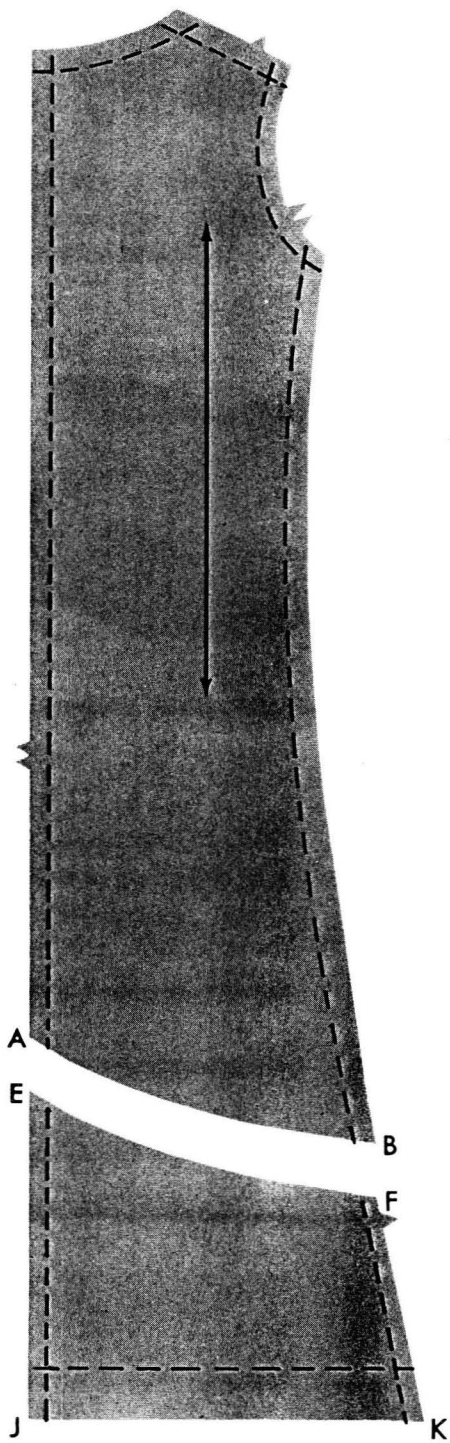


FIGURE 10

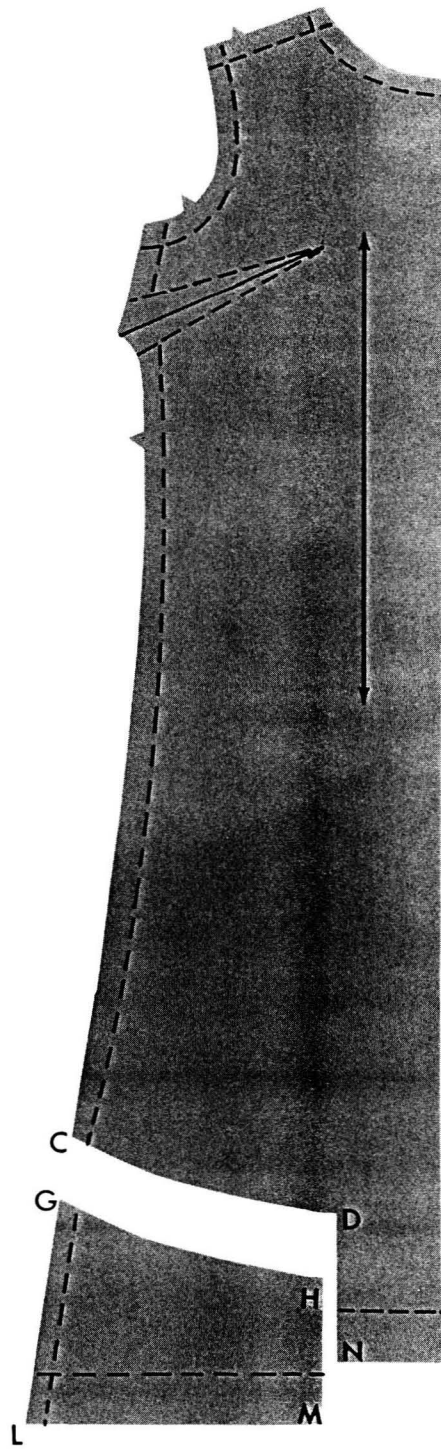


FIGURE 11

YOKES ON BASIC WAIST PATTERN

Yokes may be put into pattern any shape desired. Add seam allowance on each side of design line.

Figure 18 shows the neck line of a basic pattern lowered and then a round yoke cut. Yoke may be shaped deeper at front and/or back with narrow yoke at shoulders.

The body of the waist may be gathered or pleated. For gathers, draw line across pattern before slashing to spread. Spreading may be even or slightly circular.

Figure 19 shows the shoulder line extended for a yoke that

gives the effect of a very short cap sleeve. When the shoulder line is extended using a basic pattern of a set-in sleeve, the shoulder line needs to be raised at the shoulder armscye. One seam allowance rise for regular shoulder is usually sufficient. A person with square shoulders may need to have the shoulder raised more.

Draw a straight line from neck seam to end of shoulder (see AB in Figure 19).

Note: Raising shoulder line on a drop shoulder or butterfly type sleeve basic pattern is not necessary--only on set-in sleeve pattern.

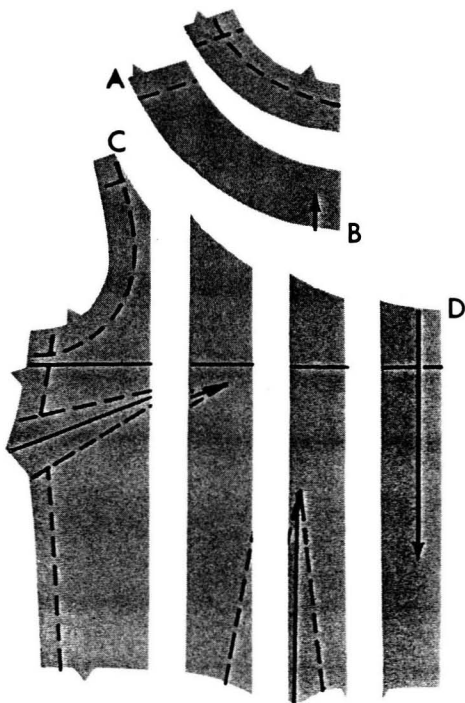


FIGURE 18

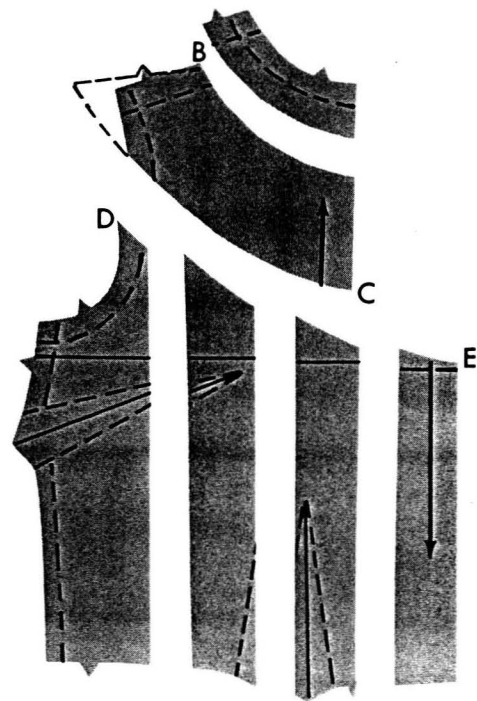


FIGURE 19

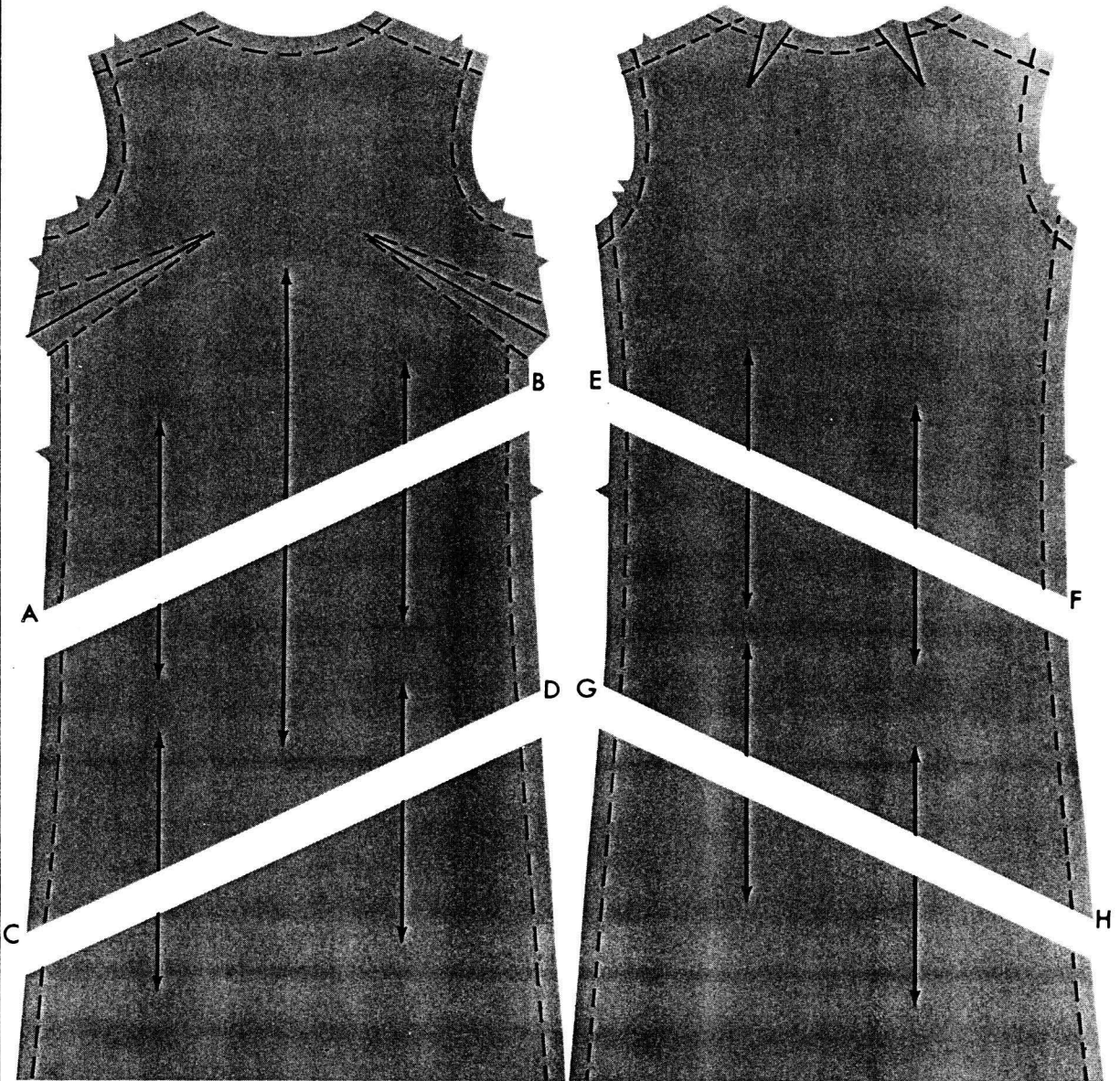
DIAGONAL DESIGNS

To make diagonal designs in a pattern, first cut a paper pattern of entire back and front (Figures 20 and 21). Then follow these steps:

- Step 1. Measure side seams accurately where design will join. The stitching line is the join. This principle is an important one to remember at all times. Note that $AC=FH$ and $BD=EG$.
- Step 2. Place a few marks on design line so the grain lines remain the same. Extend lengthwise grain lines through length of patterns.

FIGURE 20

FIGURE 21



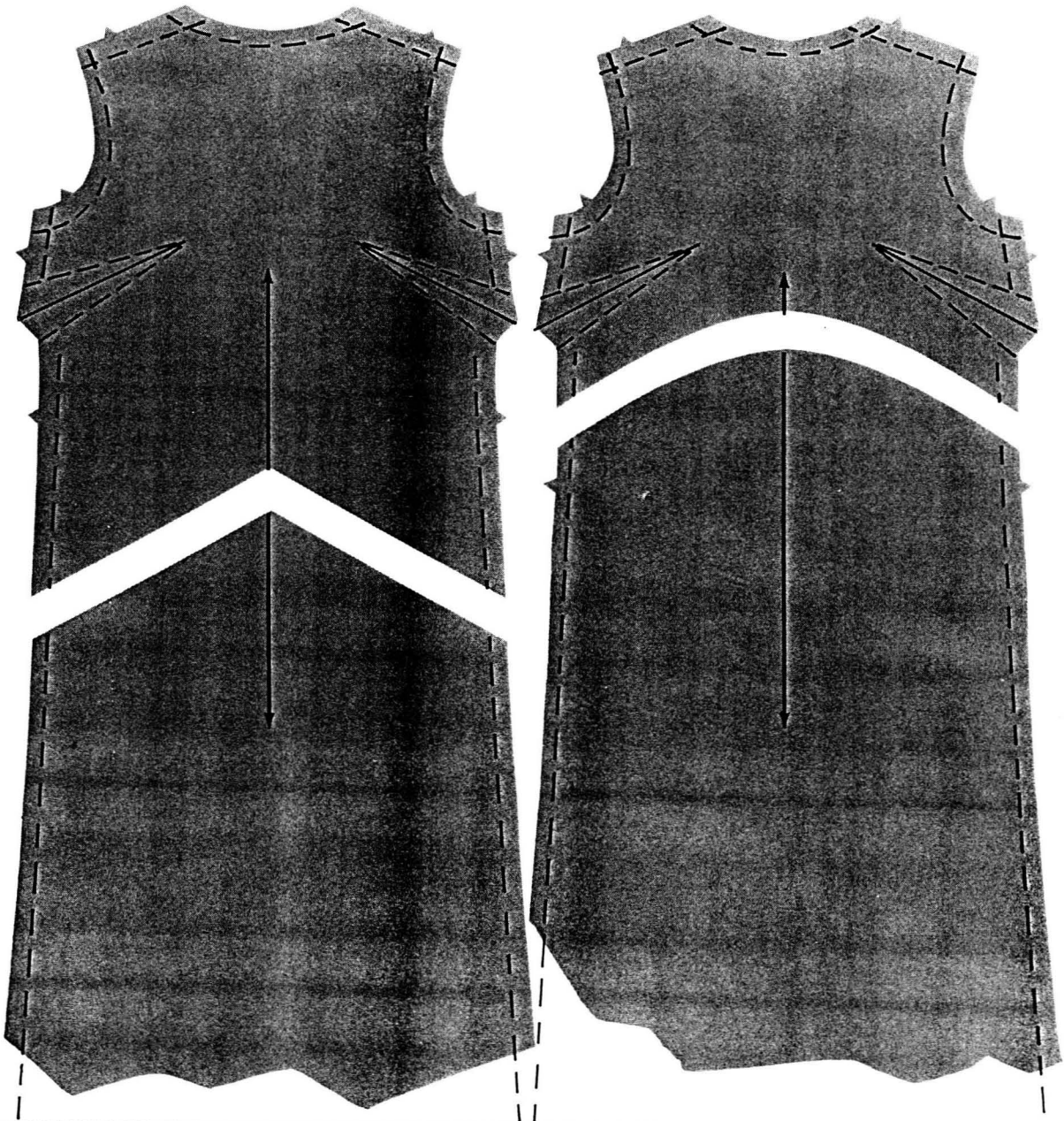
Step 3. Slash pattern on desired line.

Step 4. Place pattern on fabric, noting all grain lines. Add seam allowances on both edges of all slashed design lines. Lines AB, EF, CD, and GH will have two seam allowances added.

Figures 22 and 23 illustrate that other design lines may be made. These may be on front and/or back. They are often used when different colors of fabric are used or when a combination of print and solid fabrics is used.

FIGURE 22

FIGURE 23



MUUMUUS FROM MATERNITY PATTERNS

To lengthen the top of a maternity pattern of either a two-piece or regular dress length:

- Step 1. Draw straight lines to desired length as in AB and CD in Figure 24. If the hem line is too wide for fabric or desired width, alter width as shown in Figure 25. The seam allowance at neck may need slashing to make pattern flat.



FIGURE 24

Step 2. Fold in dart from hem to neck seamline, or you may slash and lap the pattern. If the slash and lap of fullness extends through the neck line, keep seamline at neck together, leaving gap in seam allowance in pattern.

Step 3. Extend EF and GH as in Figure 26 (dotted line).

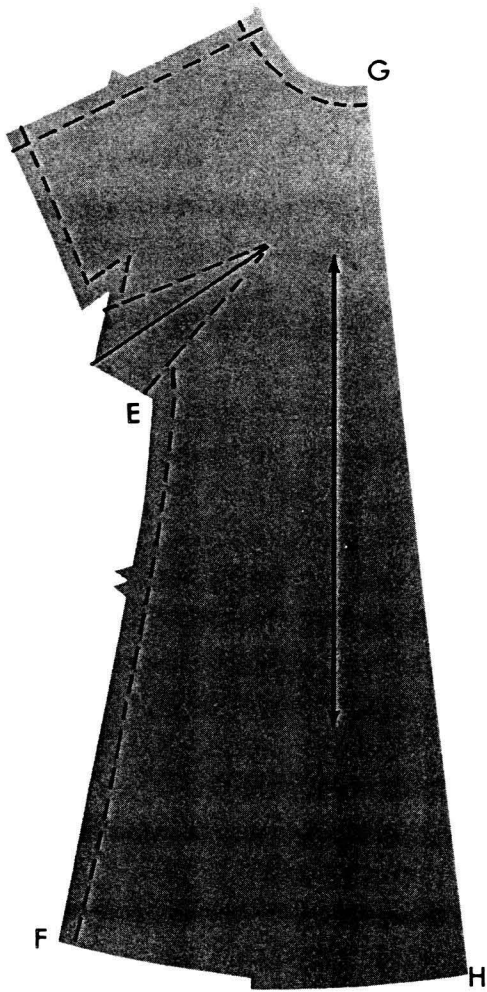


FIGURE 25



FIGURE 26