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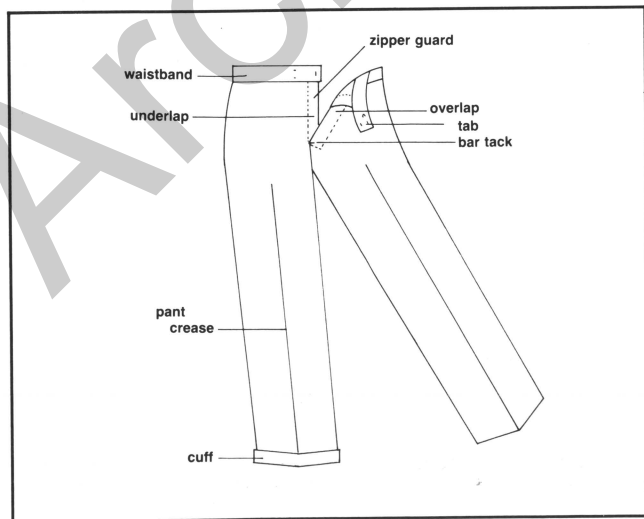
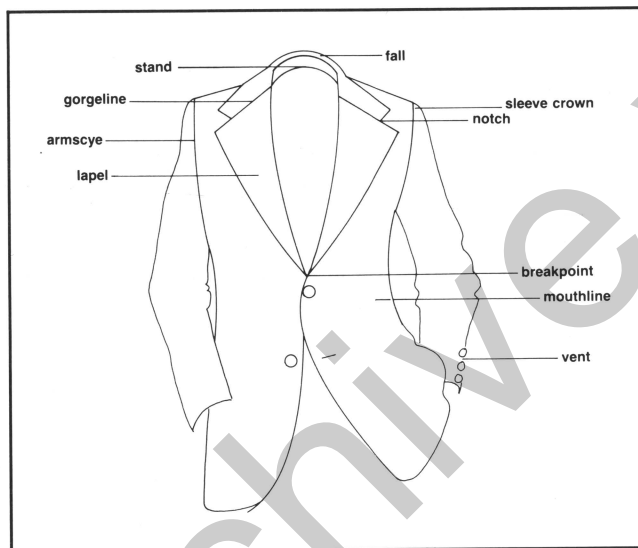
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## Fitting the Pattern

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Patterns are made for average figures. They will fit a few persons exactly and some with minor adjustments. However, many need specific adjustments for special problems. Terminology should be reviewed before measuring and fitting is started. Study the following illustrations.

Next take and record measurements on the charts provided.



### Measurement Chart for Men's Jackets

Chest \_\_\_\_\_  
(Place tape around the chest high under the armpits and covering the shoulder blades in back.)  
Back waist length \_\_\_\_\_  
(Measure from the bone at the base of the neck to waist.)  
Waist \_\_\_\_\_  
(Measure natural waistline.)  
Finished length \_\_\_\_\_  
(Should cover the seat.)  
Hip \_\_\_\_\_  
(Measure at fullest part.)  
Shoulder \_\_\_\_\_  
(Measure from base of neck, across top of shoulder to edge of armscye.)  
Sleeve length \_\_\_\_\_ right arm \_\_\_\_\_ left arm  
(Sleeve should cover the wrist bone. 1/2 inch of shirt should show beyond jacket.)

### Measurement Chart for Women's Jackets

Bust  
high \_\_\_\_\_  
full \_\_\_\_\_  
Bust Height \_\_\_\_\_  
(Measure from center of shoulder to point of bust.)  
Waistline \_\_\_\_\_  
(Measure natural waistline.)  
Hip \_\_\_\_\_  
(Measure fullest part of hip.)  
Shoulder \_\_\_\_\_  
(Measure from neck, across shoulder to edge of armscye.)  
Shoulder to elbow \_\_\_\_\_ right arm \_\_\_\_\_ left arm  
Elbow to wrist \_\_\_\_\_ right arm \_\_\_\_\_ left arm  
Finished length \_\_\_\_\_  
(Measure from base of neck in back to hem edge.)

## Testing the Pattern

**Paper Pattern**—Check individual measurements on the paper pattern and make any obvious adjustments.

Common variations are found in

**Sleeve lengths**—One arm may be longer than the other. Measure both arms.

**Sleeve cap**—Patterns often have excess ease which cannot be shrunk out. See the section on altering sleeve caps for instructions.

**Back shoulder seam**—The back shoulder seam should be no more than ¼ inch longer than the front. Fold out excess over that amount.

**Muslin Shell**—Check the corrections by making a muslin shell. This fitting garment will verify alterations and reveal fitting problems disguised in the paper pattern. Cut the shell from medium-weight muslin using the pattern for the front, back, sleeve and undercollar. Add a seam allowance to the undercollar if it is not on the pattern. Extend seam allowances to 1½ inch, including the underarm seam. This allows room for alterations. Omit facings, upper collar and hem allowances.

**Mark** buttonholes, waistline, darts, pocket placement, lapel, collar roll lines, center front and back, grain, hip and seam line indicated on the pattern.

**Stay stitch** the neck, shoulder, and armhole edges on the seam line. Stitch in the **darts** and machine baste the jacket pieces together. Double check to be sure all markings are on the muslin.

**Fit** the muslin on the figure with **shoulder pads** in place. Jackets should be fitted over a shirt or blouse. Arms should be relaxed and held at the side of the body during fitting. Most men automatically pull their arms to the front which makes the jacket appear to bind across the shoulders.

Since the jacket hangs from the shoulders check this area first. The shoulder seam should lie directly on top of the shoulder unless a sloping line is a part of the design. All grain

lines, both horizontal and vertical, should be straight. The shirt collar should hug the neck gently with no wrinkles below the collar. The shirt collar should extend approximately ½ inch above the jacket collar. The body of the jacket should fit easily without binding at the sleeves and be free of wrinkles. A second fitting may be necessary. When the shell fits perfectly transfer the alterations made in the muslin to the paper pattern.

Some fitting will still be necessary in the final garment, however, major alterations can be solved in the muslin.

## Prepare and Cut the Fabric

**Fabric Preparation**—Launder washable fabrics and findings with the detergent and water temperature that will be used for maintaining the garment. Machine dry. This process will preshrink the fabric and remove the finish, which is applied during manufacture of the fabric, and frequently causes skipped stitches. *Non-washable* fabrics should be given a steam bath by a commercial cleaner or at home. *Interfacings* should be placed in a tub of tepid or cool water until saturated. Hang carefully over a rod until dry. All *findings* including zippers should be preshrunk.

**Cutting the Fabric**—The following suggestions should be followed for this project:

1. All pockets are made of face fabric with the exception of the inside pockets which are made of lining fabric.
2. Eliminate the center back seam on the undercollar by cutting it on a bias fold.
3. If pants are to be made of the same fabric they may or may not be cut at this time. (Refer to the section on making pants before cutting.)
4. When using plaids with pockets & flaps, checks or stripes should be matched to the jacket and cut separately. (See guide on pocket construction.)
5. Transfer all markings to the fabric before removing the pattern.

This guide is part of a series on clothing construction.  
For others in the series see Home Economics guides 410-422.