

Fitting Fashions to the Favored Miss

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Select simple patterns that can be easily cared for. Note: The variation in the use of the same pattern, the simple design and ease of construction.



EXTENSION SERVICE
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Fitting Fashions to the Favored Miss

Dresses best suited to your girl depends on her age and activities. A child who is too young to go to school does not need the same type of dress as her older sister. But all dresses should be styled for comfort and freedom of action. Dresses should be easy to put on and to fasten. Select a correctly sized pattern.

1. Correct Size

Take careful measurements before buying a pattern. The following measurements are listed on the pattern envelope and in pattern books. Buy according to measurements and not according to age.

For children and girls:

Sizes	1	2	3	4	5	6
Breast	20	21	22	23	23-1/2	24
Waist	19-1/2	20	20-1/2	21	21-1/2	22
Hips	21	22	23	24	25	26
Neck to hem	17	18	19	20	22	24

For girls:

Sizes	7	8	10	12	14
Breast	25	26	28	30	32
Waist	22-1/2	23	24	25	26
Hips	27	28	30	32-1/2	35
Back length to waist	11-1/4	11-3/4	12-3/4	13-3/4	14-1/2
Front length to waist	10	10-1/2	11-1/2	12-1/2	13-1/4
Shoulders	4	4-1/8	4-3/8	4-5/8	4-3/4
Width of back	11-1/4	11-5/8	12-1/4	12-1/2	13-1/2
Width of chest	10-1/2	10-7/8	11-1/2	12-1/8	12-3/4
Length of sleeve	17	17-7/8	19-5/8	21-3/8	22-3/8
Width of sleeve	11	11-1/4	11-3/4	12-1/4	12-3/4
Neck	12	12-1/4	12-3/4	13-1/4	13-3/4

Before buying the pattern you will need to take the three first measurements listed, breast, waist and hip. Buy the breast measurement.

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Fig. 2

Standing back of person being measured, take chest measurement around body, under arms and straight across back.

Take waist measurement at natural waist line where body creases when bent.

Take hip at largest part of hip.

Check pattern and compare to a garment that fits. It is important to make your pattern fit before cutting your dress.

Check the following measurements:

1. Width of shoulder seam - side of neck to armseye seam.
2. Length of waist from side of neck to waist line front.
3. Length of waist back from bone at base of neck to waist.
4. Length of skirt. If a straight gathered skirt, a three inch hem will make it possible to increase length on circular skirts hems must be narrow 1/4 to 1 inch at most.
5. Check waist measurement.
6. Follow guide sheet of pattern for making pattern longer or shorter.

Placing Pattern On Material

1. Check layout on pattern instructions sheet for size of pattern and width of fabric.
2. Be sure grain line marking of pattern is in line with grain of material.
3. Pin and cut.

Marking

Should be done while cut pieces are still on table and before pattern is removed.

Transfer necessary pattern marks to fabric with tracing wheel and tracing paper.

Choose the best color tracing paper for fabric. Use lightest color that will mark fabric. Seam lines as well as darts may be marked in this manner.

Place double tracing paper between layers of fabric with the waxed part of the paper next to the cloth. See Fig. 3

In case of darts mark the end of dart. See. Fig. 4

Stay stitching is a line of machine stitching made through a single thickness of fabrics, using matching thread. It should be placed 1/8" from the seam line toward cut edge. See Fig. 5

By following arrows as shown in diagram, you will prevent stretching of the curved and bias edges; the grain of material is held in place.

Unit Construction

1. On the front, pin, stitch and press all darts. Stitch darts from the wide end to the point.
2. If pattern calls for tucks, follow markings of patterns and put them in place.
3. Pin seams at shoulder and sew, press seams open.
4. Make collar and cuffs.
5. Pin and sew up shoulder seams. Ease in fullness of back on to the front.
6. Pin collar in place. Sew and trim seam.
7. Next, prepare skirt front and pin, baste, sew to front of waist.
8. Pin, baste and sew back of skirt to back of waist.
9. Pin up the two side seams and baste. Try the garment on and make any necessary changes.
10. Complete garment by adding sleeves, hems and fasteners.

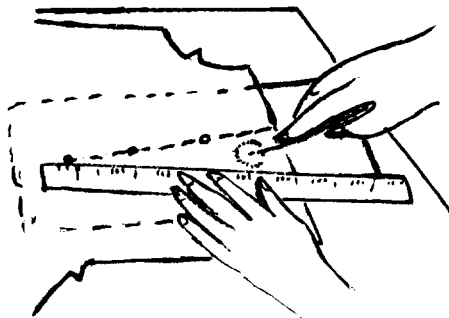


Fig. 3

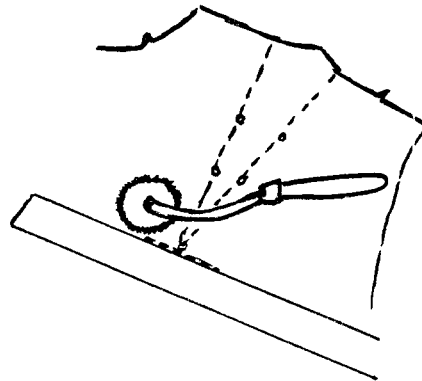


Fig. 4

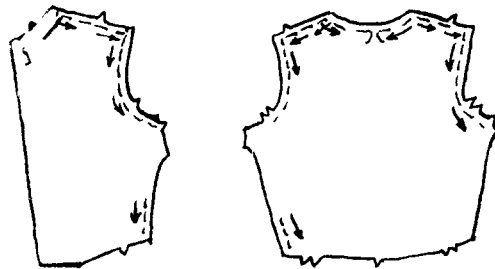


Fig. 5

The collar should fit just above the collar bone and should be snug but not tight

Shoulder seam should end just before the shoulder curves into the arm

The side seam should begin 1/2 inch below the arm pit
Armholes should have an easy fit.

Darts should be a little closer to the center than half way between side seam and center

Skirt length should be slightly above the knees for the small girls and about knee length for 10's and 12's.

The waistline should be right at the child's natural waist, or 1/2 inch above, never below.

Fig. 6

Fabrics

In selecting fabrics consider wearability and washability. Look for printed tags with facts about shrinkage and colorfastness. Materials should not shrink more than 1 or 2 percent so that the fit of the dress will not change with washing. Be sure the color is fast to both washing and perspiration.

Percale, gingham, seer sucker, chambrays, pique and broad cloth, if well made, are all durable and make good-looking dresses. For play clothes that require a particularly sturdy cloth, Indian head, denim, and cotton twill are well suited.

Corduroy is another fabric that is good for childrens' apparel. It adapts itself with equal ease to play clothes, school clothes and dress-up clothes. Read the label as to color fastness and shrinkage.

Avoid fabrics with too soft a quality which when made up will give a droopy look. The crisp fabrics make the freshest looking garments. Prints with colored back-grounds or all-over patterns do not show dirt or wrinkles as readily as do materials with white grounds and spaced patterns.

Color

Select becoming colors. Chances are the little lady will look well in many colors, but it could be that she will prefer certain colors. Here's an opportunity to let her help plan.

The golden-haired-fair-complexioned child may look better in more delicate colors. The dark-eyed-brown-haired should be able to wear warm colors such as reds, and browns to better advantage.

It is well to select colors that go well together so that dress, socks, shoes and coat may be worn as a complete outfit.

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