



The Home Dressmaking Class

Conducted by OLIVE C. CALDWELL



IN OUR last lesson we discussed cutting and making a skirt. This month we shall take up the making of a waist, or the separate blouse, so indispensable with a suit.

Again we will start with the selection of a style. In general, this will be governed by the type of person who is to wear it. A long-waisted woman will avoid up-and-down effects that add to the seeming length of line from shoulder to waist. She will choose a plain style, or one that will emphasize the round-about so carefully avoided by the short-waisted or stout woman. The length of the arm is important in this relationship; a long, thin arm should never be encased in a plain, tight sleeve; a cuff, a round frill, or a soft, loose "angel" type of sleeve will break the long line. A short or over-plump arm will be helped by a straight sleeve, and by such ruses as a deep point down over the hand, a long line of buttons to the elbow, etc.

The shape of the face ever should be considered. The woman whose face is broad and round will choose a narrow collar and a "V" shaped opening—never the broad neck treatments or square or round opening so helpful to long, narrow features.

With these points in mind you select your pattern. The size is designated by the bust measurement—the patterns only coming in the even sizes, 34, 36, etc., up to 42 and 44 inches bust measure.

Your own measurements having been carefully taken, apply them to the paper pattern, and make any alterations necessary before attempting to cut the goods. It is the knowledge of how to do this properly that will give you perfect control in any blouse making operation.

Applying the Measurements—The Waist Line

FIRST, identify the waist line upon the pattern; this line is usually marked with perforations. Using a yard stick for a guide, draw a pencil line straight across the pattern, marking the waist line plainly. Do this on both the front and the back half of the pattern. (See the line marked "Waist Line" in Diagram 1).

Then starting at the centre front, one-half inch below the straight line just drawn, draw a line on the front half of the pattern like the dotted line in Diagram 1.

Starting at the centre back, one-half inch above the straight line, draw a line on the back half of the pattern like the dotted line in Diagram 1.

This dotted line gives one-inch raise from the centre front to the centre back and is the proper angle for the waist line, giving the correct line for the average figure. It is the line to be used hereafter as the waist line.

All length measurements for the waist must be measured from this waist line up. It is very important that the individual length measurements be applied to the pattern from the waist line up. If, when measuring the pattern, from the waist line at the centre front up to the base of the neck, the individual measures more than the pattern, it is very necessary that the length be added above the waist line. Especially is this so if the garment extends below the waist line. If the needed length from the waist line

to the neck is not added above the waist line, the garment will draw up in the front or pull down in the back. This is also true of the back. Measure from the waist line at the centre back up to the neck of the pattern; any addition to the length of the pattern must be added above the waist line.

The Shoulder Alteration

WHEN the front length of the pattern has been made to conform to your front length measurement, then measure the shoulder of the pattern. Apply your shoulder measurement, taken from the base of the neck to the tip of the shoulder, to the shoulder of the pattern. Increase or decrease the shoulder of the pattern, as shown by the dotted lines in Diagram 2. "X" for the increase and "O" for the decrease of the shoulder width. Do this on both the front and back half of the pattern.

Armhole Alteration

YOU ARE now ready to alter the armhole. If you have had to decrease the front or back length of your pattern by folding a tuck, you have no doubt changed both the size and the shape of the armseye of the pattern.

Measure the armseye with your tape measure. If the armseye is too small trim it out to the proper size, preserving the original shape. Be careful about trimming it out too much at this time. When the garment is tried on and the armseye seems too tight it is very easy to trim it out then.

If the armseye is found to be too large fill it out by fastening a piece of paper to the pattern and decreasing the size of the armseye as shown by the dotted lines marked "B" in Diagram 2. If there

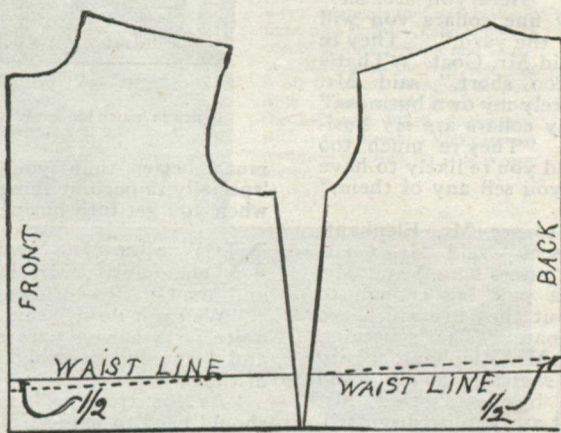


Diagram 1.

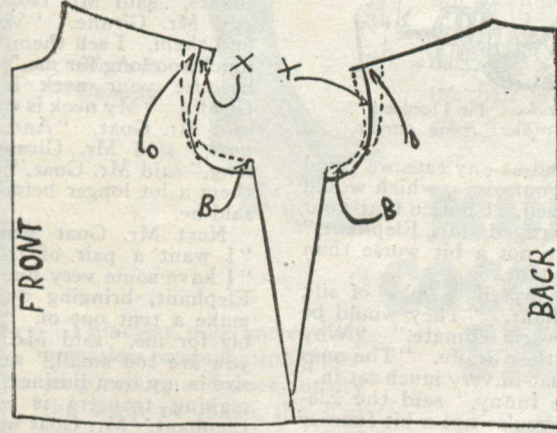


Diagram 2.

has been no length alterations made in the pattern the armseye may be too large and the alteration shown by the dotted lines marked "B" will be necessary.

This may change the under-arm length again. If this is so, and upon measuring, the length of the pattern under the arm from the waist line to the armseye is found to be too long, shorten it by folding a tuck in the pattern which will not interfere with the back or front length measurements.

The Neck Alteration

IF THE alteration for the increase of the front or back length of the pattern has been made, the size of the neck has doubtless been altered. If the length of the pattern was found to need no alteration, the neck may still require some changing.

Measure the neck of the pattern. The number of inches between points X and X on the front half of the pattern (See Diagram 3) and the number of inches between X and X on the back half of the pattern (See Diagram 3) added together, should be half your neck measurement.

Apply the individual neck measurement to the pattern. If, for example, the pattern is found to measure one-half inch more than one-half of your neck measurement, decrease it by taking one-fourth of an inch off the front and one-fourth of an inch off the back of the pattern as shown by "A" in Diagram 3. Likewise if the pattern is too small at the neck increase it the required amount as shown by the dotted line marked "B" in Diagram 3.

Having measured and applied the individual measurements to the pattern, pin it together with the seams on the outside and try it on. Sometimes when the pattern has appeared to be all right, it may, when tried on, require some alteration. If the pattern is too long between the bust line and the neck lay a tuck in the pattern, or if it is too short split it and set in a piece. (See "D" Diagram 3). Make the alteration in the same manner between the bust and waist lines. (See "E," Diagram 3).

It is rarely, if indeed it ever happens, that a pattern needs all the foregoing alterations. Sometimes one alteration suffices; again, two may be needed.

Different figures require different alterations, but whichever one is needed to make a pattern fit, it is made in the manner set forth.

Diagram No. 4 shows all the alterations and may be followed when making any single alteration.

Altering the Width at the Wrist

VERY often all the width given in the pattern above the elbow is required, but from the elbow to the wrist a little less width is desired. For this alteration follow the lines marked "D" in Diagram 5. Any style of cuff may be worn with the Bishop sleeve. Subtract from the length measurements the number of inches desired for the cuff before cutting the sleeve as the sleeve would have to be cut just that much shorter.

The Dress Sleeve with a Dart to the Elbow

THIS is a very comfortable sleeve for a dress and especially good for a short thick arm.

The Width Alteration

FIRST, measure around the top of the sleeve pattern to determine how many inches it is larger than the armseye of the garment. If it measures more than from 2 to 2½ inches larger than the armseye, it must be reduced.

This sleeve pattern may also be cut too high at the top. If this is so, pencil a line like the dotted

line marked "C" in Diagram 6, and measure along this line for the width at the top of the sleeve. This sleeve pattern is increased or decreased in width by folding a plait or setting in a piece where the dotted line marked "X" is shown in Diagram 6, or as shown by the dotted lines marked "F" and "G," "F" for decrease and "G" for increase. The width at the elbow may also be measured and this alteration extended at the elbow. If the elbow is all right let the alteration taper to nothing at the elbow. If the width at the elbow is altered the alteration must extend to the wrist, taking off or adding an equal amount on both the upper and under sleeve

and preserving the original proportions.

The Length Alteration

WHEN the width has been altered the sleeve pattern must be measured for the length. Fold the pattern and apply the measurement taken from the shoulder to the elbow to the pattern, measuring along the dotted line marked "X" in Diagram 7. Increase or decrease the length of the pattern to make it conform to your measurement by folding a tuck or setting in a piece of paper between the shoulder and the elbow where the dotted line is shown in Diagram 7.

In the same manner apply the "elbow to wrist" measurement, and make the alteration where the dotted line is shown between the elbow and the wrist. The "Inside Length" measurement could be applied to the pattern, and the pattern altered to correspond to this measurement. It will readily be seen that the dart should (Continued on page 49)

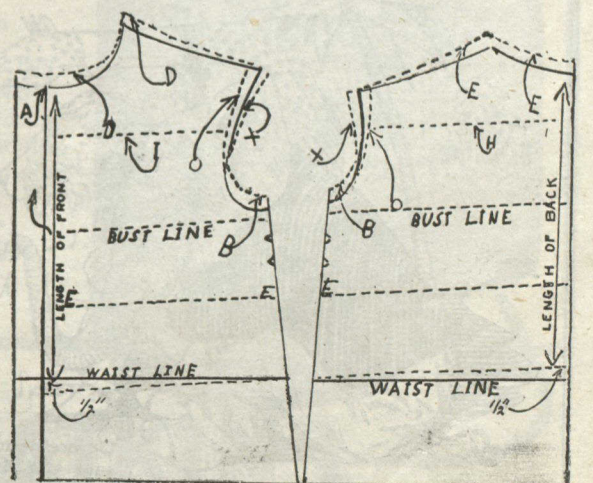
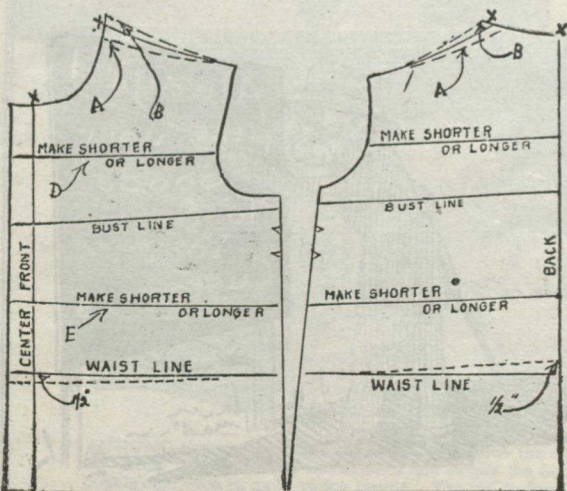


Diagram 4.