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USES OF THE DRESS FORM

by

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EXTENSION SERVICE

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DRESS FORM

(Finishing)

As there have been a great many bulletins and circulars published on the making of the Dress Form and as each demonstration has a certain way of doing it there are no specific directions sent out from the state office.

There are though a few general rules which might be wise to follow:

I. Equipment

- a. Two small bowls for water
- b. Two bath sponges
- c. Yard stick
- d. Shears and razor blade
- e. pencil
- f. Tape measure
- g. Needle and thread

II. Workers

If four people work on one form it may be gotten off more quickly. In any case the model should not stand longer than 30 or 40 minutes, depending on the size of the model. Two of the workers should paste, one on the front and one on the back. The other two should wet strips and have them in readiness for those pasting.

III. Material

- a. One dress form shirt, three or four sizes smaller than usual measurements.
- b. One-half roll of thin paper, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width
- c. One-half roll of heavy paper, 1 inch in width

IV. General Suggestions

- a. All the paper should be cut the desired length and everything should be in readiness before the model is allowed to stand.
- b. Be sure that the model stands with weight on both feet.
- c. The strips should not be wet faster than those pasting can use them.
- d. Too much water must not be used.
- e. The strips must not be dampened twice as the second wetting wipes the paste off.
- f. In pasting, stick the center of the strip first and let the ends go where they will.
- g. If the wide thin paper is used as the first two coats it will cling to the form better and make a great deal of trimming unnecessary.
- h. If the heavy paper is used as the outside coat it will add firmness to the form.
- i. Shoulder caps are more satisfactory than short arm lengths, because if a dress is made that slips on and off over the head you will be unable to use your form. To fit sleeves, it is necessary to try it on the individual because we cannot get the arm movement with the form.



Make a hip board slightly smaller than the card board base. To the center nail a 2 by 4 and nail to crossed 2 by 4 at the base.



A standard may be made to resemble an elongated milking stool. A hip board and three broom handles will be necessary. In the hip board make three holes through which the small end of the broom handles will just fit. These may be removed when the form is not in use and less space will be required for storing.

Commercial standards may be purchased at a reasonable rate. These may be obtained from companies which sell dress form material.

III. Covering the Form

A. Fitted Lining

1. Material: Two lengths of a good grade of unbleached muslin, or two or three closely woven flour sacks, thread.
2. Equipment: Shears, tape measure, needles, pins,

the arm movement with the form.

j. Be sure and take accurate measurements of the neck, bust, waist and hips.

k. When measuring the length of the form from the floor it is better for the person measuring to move than for the model.

l. Cut open the front of the form first as this gives the model a chance to breathe more easily.

m. Examine the form carefully and patch all weak spots from the inside.

n. Place form on table and see that it stands correctly.

o. Put in cardboard base at the demonstration, as this keeps the base from breaking and getting out of shape.

p. Finish the neck, armholes and base before taking home.

q. It takes one complete roll of paper to make a form. The form when completed should be exceedingly firm. All extra paper should be pasted on the inside of the form as this does not increase the size of the form and adds to its strength.

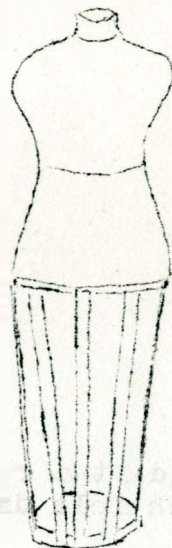
r. In placing the form on a standard care should be taken to raise the form the exact height of the person for whom the form is made.

FINISHING THE FORM

I. Shellacing

The form should be shellaced both inside and outside as this makes it weather proof, adds to its firmness and cleanliness, as the shiny surface can be easily dusted.

II. Standards



Make a hip board slightly smaller than the cardboard base. Fasten to this eight yard sticks which are also fastened to a wooden base at the floor. The yard sticks should lean in at the floor. In this way shirts and dresses can easily be hung.

ial it is necessary to tack it at the shoulder lines, armseye, under arm line, waist line and at the base of the form. Either thumb tacks or strips of tape may be used.

REMODELING THE FORM

To Make Smaller:

If in the course of time after the Dress Form is made and one becomes more slender, take the measurements of the form and of the individual. Cut the form down center front and back and trim off the four raw edges, the necessary amount. Paste back together.

To Make Larger:

Remove the fitted covering, pad the form with tissue paper (old pattern may be used) where the added size is needed. Recover with a fitted lining.

3. Method of Construction:

- a. Mark center front of material
- b. Four or five inches down this line fasten at hollow of neck. Fasten center bust, waist line and hip line,
- c. On the straight of the material across the bust fasten at armscye.
- d. Cut down center line at neck and hollow out neck line.
- e. Pin shoulder line in place and around armscye.
- f. Trim away material, allowing one inch for lapping.
- g. If shoulder is hollow it may be necessary to take small darts at the shoulder line.
- h. Pin underarm line to base of form.
- i. Trim away material, allowing one inch for lapping.
- j. Take necessary darts at waistline.
- k. Pin at base of form.
- l. Trim away material, allowing one inch to be turned under.
- m. Fit back lining in the same manner.
- n. A tight fitting collar may be made by taking darts in a straight piece of material.
- o. Mark seam lines.
- p. Remove from form and stitch shoulder seams, collar seams, and darts. Turn back arm edges and base edges and stitch. Leave one under arm seam open so that the lining may be slipped back on the form.
- q. Put back on the form and overhand the underarm seam.

Note: If the model is out of proportion, that is the shoulder or bust higher than the other, or one hip larger than the other, the seams will have to be reversed before stitching so that when it is sewed up the side that was originally fitted will be on the same side when finished. This makes a very satisfactory covering as there is no danger of it slipping out of place, when garments are being draped or fitted on the form.

B. Vest Fitting

Use a vest similar to the one used as a foundation. Have it three or four sizes smaller than the form so that it fits snugly. As a vest is of more or less stretchy mater-

SUGGESTIONS FOR COLLAR AND CUFF PATTERNS

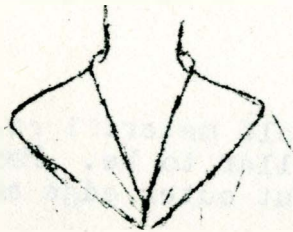
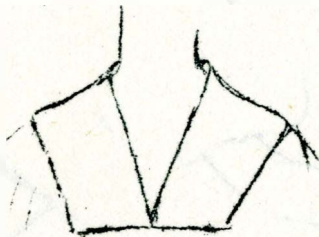
How often has it happened that you like a certain dress pattern all but the collar and cuffs and how often have you made or purchased a dress that did not have collar and cuffs to suit or needed those things to make the outfit complete.

With a dress form, paper or just a flat pattern, any kind of a collar can be cut. There are three kinds of collars, the tailored which are used on men's shirts and women's tailored blouses and the third is the flat collar. Any other collar that we may have is a variation between the last two.

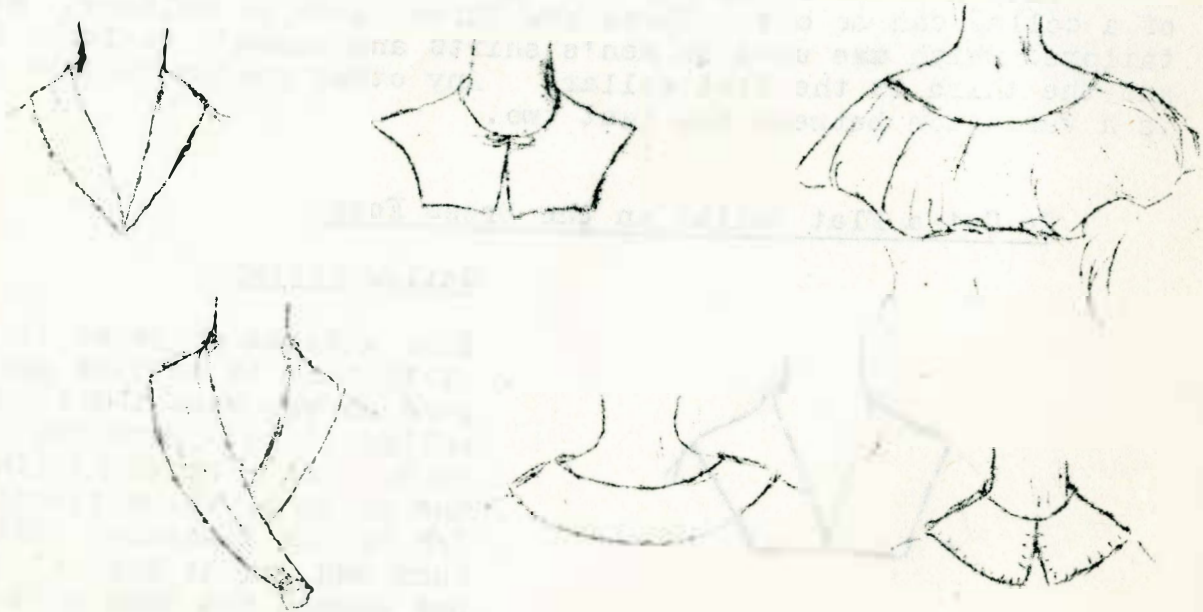
To Cut a Flat Collar on the Dress Form.

Sailor Collar.

Take a piece of paper or old cloth that is as wide and as long as you want the finished collar to be. Mark the center back. Cut a straight line down the grain of the material, about $\frac{3}{5}$ of the distance. Slip on form and pin at back of neck and put second pin down a few inches keeping grain of material straight up and down the back. Then pin to shoulder blades keeping cross grain of material straight. Cut out neck. The outer edge of the collar may be V shaped in front or square.

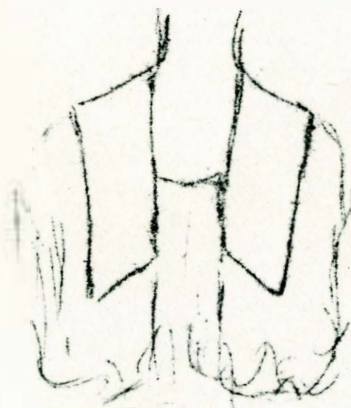


After the paper or old material has been pinned in place, that is straight lengthwise and crosswise of the figure the shape of the neckline and outer edge may be cut as desired.



Roller Collar.

Use a long straight piece of old material or paper longer and wider than you want finished collar to be. Mark center back and pin at base of neck at back. Cut outer edge as desired.



This type of collar always fits up high and close to the neck at the back. It is never wise to try and make the ends of this collar meet in front, as it will draw too much and will not look well.

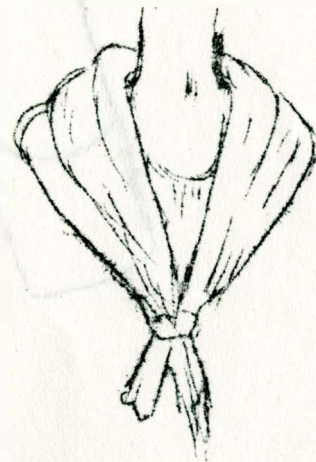
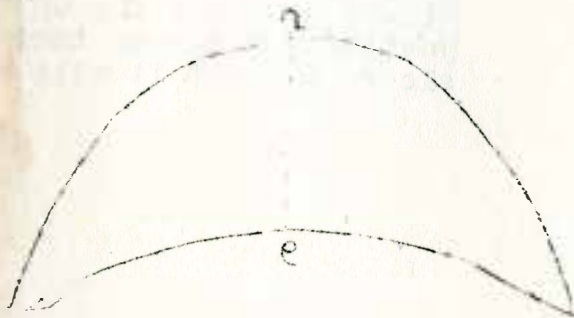


Fichu Collar.

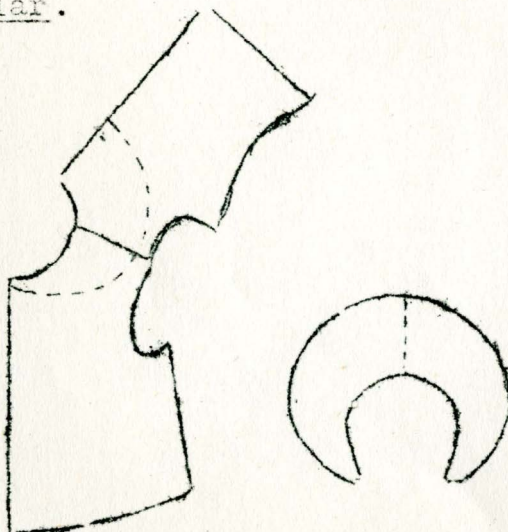
This type of collar is excellent for slender figures as it tends to broaden the shoulders and softens the contour of the neck. It was very popular in colonial days. This type of collar is one of the steps between the straight and the flat collar.



Start with a large oblong piece of paper. Mark center back. Crease on this line. Line at center back. Let distance e - b be 2, 4 or 6 inches depending upon amount of roll desired. Connect the lines e - d and cut. The greater the distance is from e - b the less will be the roll of the collar.



Flat Collar.



To cut a flat collar from a shirt waist pattern place the front and back together as in the accompanying figure. This gives the neck line, center front and back. The outer edge of the collar may be designed as desired.

Flare Cuff.



A flare cuff as shown at the left should be cut with a curved lower edge the same size as the bottom of the sleeve.

Tight Cuff.



For a cuff that fits up close to the sleeve, cut the lower edge same as lower edge of sleeve and make the upper edge just enough larger than the sleeve so that it will not draw.