

METHODS OF PATTERN MAKING

Pattern making is a highly skilled technique which calls for technical ability, and a sensitivity to interpret a design with a practical understanding of garment construction. **Pattern making** is basically an art of manipulating and shaping a flat piece of fabric to conform to one or more curves of the human figure.

For successful garment designing **pattern making** forms the fundamental step. This function connects design to production by producing paper templates for all components such as cloth, hemming, fusible etc. which have to be cut for completing a specific garment. A pattern is flat, roughly cylindrical framework with series of secondary curves and bulges, which are of concern to the pattern maker.

A pattern maker typically makes a pattern from a flat sketch with measurements or a two dimensional **fashion illustration**. The basic pattern is the very foundation upon which pattern making, fit and design are based. The basic pattern is the starting point for flat pattern designing. It is a simple pattern that fits the body with just enough ease for movement and comfort.

Methods of Pattern Making

Pattern making involves three methods-

1. Drafting
2. Draping
3. Flat paper pattern making

Drafting: It involves measurements derived from sizing systems or accurate measurements taken on a person, dress or body form. Measurements for chest, waist, hip and so on, and ease allowances are marked on paper and construction lines are drawn to complete the pattern. Drafting is used to create basic, foundation or design patterns.

MEASUREMENTS

Bust – measure just under the arms around the fullest part of chest.

Waist – measure around narrowest part of torso.

High Hip – measure 6 inches [15.5 cm] below waist around the hips.

Back-waist length – measure from nape of neck to waist level

Shoulder length – measure shoulder from ball socket to side of neck.

Armhole depth – measure from nape of neck to under arm level.

Back width – measure from armhole to armhole across shoulder blades.

Neck – measure around base of neck.

Tools used for Drafting

A: Tape Measure

This is likely something you already have in your stash, because if you have been making clothing you should have been measuring your body along the way! If not, pick up a good quality fiberglass tape measure today so you can start your pattern making off right with correct body measurements.

B: Seam Ripper

You will use this in patternmaking for taking out your basting stitches when you move from the muslin fitting to the pattern drafting stage.

C: Fine Point Sharpie Marker

Muslin versions are always ugly because they are marked up, but you want to make your markings with a permanent and fine point.

D: Tracing Wheel

to take your markings from the muslin stage to the patternmaking stage, this tool will pierce through the paper and leave behind marks to draft with a mechanical pencil.

E: Rotary Cutter

I like using my rotary cutter for the big broad strokes of cutting muslin. Make sure to use a cutting mat beneath your item to protect the cutting surface of the table underneath!

F: Fabric Scissors

Sharp, high-quality scissors are used for all your fabric cutting in sewing and patternmaking. These will shape the muslin down to the proper size after you have cut it big and broad with the rotary cutter.

G: Tracing Paper

It is used for leaving marks behind on their muslins.

H: Scotch Tape

It is inevitable that you will need to tape pattern pieces together and a basic Scotch tape is the best for this.

I: Clear Rulers

Having a variety of clear rulers in different shapes and sizes is essential in your kit for patternmaking. One must have little ones for marking in tiny areas, long ones for making marks

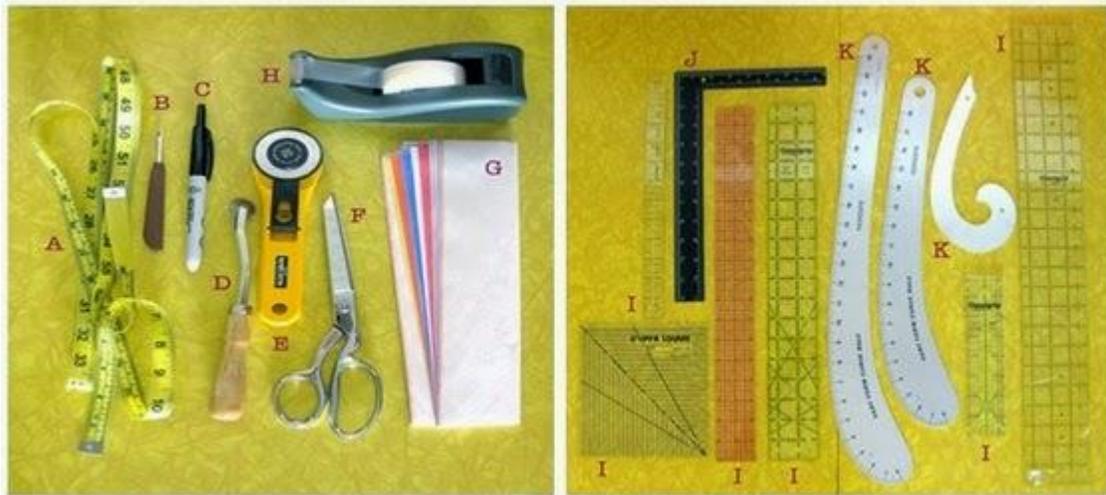
for pin tucks, side seam lines, and other parts of the patternmaking process that call for something longer than average. Also keep a quilting square with diagonal lines for helping square up corners and creating angles.

J: Right Angle

This is also a huge help in creating perfect 90 degree angles on your pattern.

K: Curved Rulers

To shape arm holes, hip curves, hems and other lines that are not straight in patternmaking, it is essential that you have a few different curved rulers to get the proper slope in your pattern.



Tools use for Drafting

Draping: It involves the draping of a two dimensional piece of fabric around a form, conforming to its shape, creating a three-dimensional fabric pattern. Ease allowances for movement are added to make the garment comfortable to wear. Advantage of draping is that the designer can see the overall design effect of the finished garment on the body form before the garment piece is cut and sewn. However, it is more expensive and time consuming than flat pattern making. Draping can be made on a Human body or on a stand.

Flat Pattern Making: It involves the development of a fitted basic pattern with comfort ease to fit a person or body form. A sloper is the starting point for flat pattern designing. It is a simple pattern that fits the body with just enough ease for movement and comfort. Five basic pattern pieces are used for women's clothing. They include a snug-fitting bodice front and bodice back with darts and a basic neckline, a sleeve and a fitted skirt front and back with darts. However, as fashion changes frequently women's styles fluctuate frequently. These basic slopers are then manipulated to create fashions. Nowadays draping is also tested by Computer aid techniques. A basic sloper has no seam allowances, which facilitates its manipulations to various styles. It has no design interest, only construction lines are marked on it. It is necessary that the basic structure of a sloper should be such that adjustments can be introduced easily. For a good pattern making, accurate measurements are of utmost importance.



Pattern making by CAD system

The flat pattern making method is widely used in the ready-to-wear market because it is fast and accurate

Conclusion:

Skill, technical knowledge, analytical power of drawing and special ability on technology of making garments are necessary for pattern making. Special care is very essential here, because if any fault occurs during the process such as design, measure or lack of any piece and the faults are not corrected before marker making then the whole production is cancelled. So one should have clear idea and sufficient knowledge on pattern making and should be very careful in the process.