

Pattern Fitting Directions

REASONS FOR CUSTOM FITTING:

- Doll bodies differ, amount of stuffing varies. People take more than 1/4" seams.
- You can have three 22" babies with three different neck and shoulder width measurements.
Example: Sugar Britches, Dianna Effner babies and the compo baby you had as a little girl.

2 AMAZING SECRETS OF A GOOD SEWER

Get a good seam ripper and get good at it – all good sewers make many mistakes

Read the pattern - You may think you know what the pattern maker had in mind, but!!!!

TO CHANGE THE SIZE OF A PATTERN

Old size divided by new size give % to use when copying. One % may not work for all pattern pieces, so check against shoulders, side seams etc.

HELPS:

- Use paper towels for fitting. Always cut on the fold so you have identical sides.
- Use 1/4" quadrille paper for fast lengthening. When lengthening or shortening a pattern, redraw the sides. Use a ruler from underarm to waist, to wrist, to ankle, to thighs just above the knee, and to upper arm.

Things to check for proper fit: Neck, shoulders, armhole, side seam, back waist seam, sleeve length, skirt length, and wrist and head circumference.

TO FIT THE NECK:

Cut out the yoke or front and back waist from paper towels

Pin or sew the shoulder seams, try on the doll. The pattern neck should come up a seam allowance, (1/4") from the base of the neck. If it is higher than this or there is not enough to overlap in the back for snaps or buttons, the neck must be adjusted. Carefully trim away the excess paper toweling so that the seam allowance comes up from the base of the neck 1/4". If necessary, continue cutting out so the neck is big enough to overlap in the back. If the paper towel does not come up that high, you must cut a new neckline. Fold the front pattern in half along the center front line and lay it on a new folded paper towel. Add to the neckline. Repeat for the back pattern, pin seams and try on again.

TO FIT THE SHOULDER'S:

Pin shoulder seams. Some dolls have square shoulders, some sloping. Add or subtract the seam allowance to fit, cutting a new pattern from folded paper towel if necessary.

CHECK THE ARMHOLES:

You may have a 28" doll pattern that is the exact dress you want to use on your 28" doll that will not fit the doll when it is finished because the shoulder plate is too large for the armhole, even though the neck fit is fine and the back waist length was perfect. This is not the pattern makers fault. There is a great variety in shoulder plates and arm construction among 28" dolls. Hold the pattern front up to the doll. If the armhole is too small, cut it deeper. If you cut it a lot deeper, you may need to add to the sleeve width to compensate. To do this, fold the sleeve pattern in half. Measure the difference between the original armhole and the deepened armhole. Add this amount to the sleeve by folding a paper towel and placing the folded sleeve pattern the amount of difference you measured in the deepened armhole from the fold. Cut out the new sleeve pattern.

BACK WAIST SEAM - NECK TO WAIST:

Tie yarn or use a large rubber band to find the doll's waist. Hold the center back seam of the pattern up to the doll. There should be 1/4" seam allowance at neck and at the waist.

WAIST TO HEM:

Determine what kind of finish the skirt bottom will have (for example, 1/4" seam, lace added, 2" hem). Allow enough extra for the finish you are using plus 1/4" for the waist seam, with the yoke or waist front pinned to the doll.

CHECK THE SLEEVE LENGTH:

To check for sleeve length, allow 1/4" seam at the top. Decide how you will finish the sleeve bottom - lace or elastic, self ruffle, or cuff? Allow enough seam allowance for the application you choose. For example, use 1/4" seam allowance for lace and elastic. For self ruffle, use enough to make the ruffle and fold it back to make the casing. For cuff, use 1/4" seam allowance. You must also allow for the drape of the sleeve. If the sleeve is the exact length of the arm, it will not have any drape or blouse to it. An inch is usually enough to make the sleeve blouse.

HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE:

If you are making a hat, be sure to check the head circumference with the wig on the doll. Wigs vary a lot in size so you cannot just add 1/2" to the hat measurement. You need to measure over the wig the doll will be wearing.