



Pattern
Alteration

Location of Bust Fullness



Extension Family Development
and Resource Management Specialists

Before attempting this alteration, study Extension publications E-372, *Principles of Pattern Alteration*, and E-373, *Personal Measurement Chart*, for basic instructions.

If the bust darts of a garment are not correctly positioned on the figure, the bodice will have horizontal and diagonal wrinkles across the front. Also, the darts may pucker at the tip (Fig. 1).

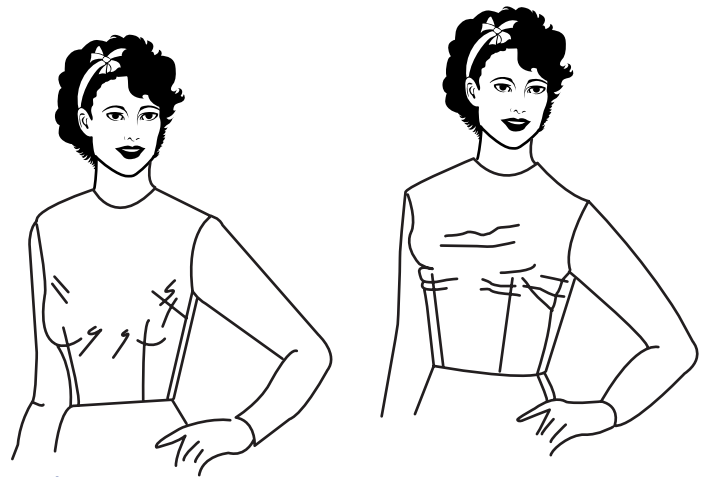
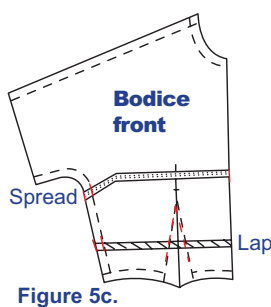
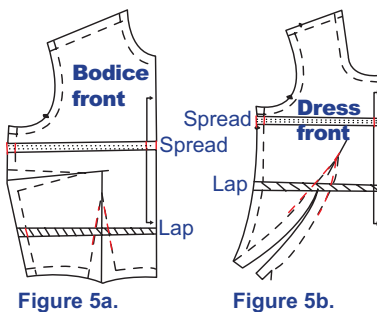
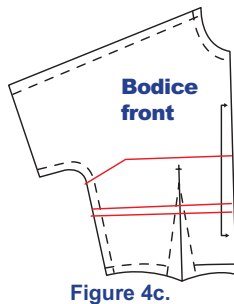
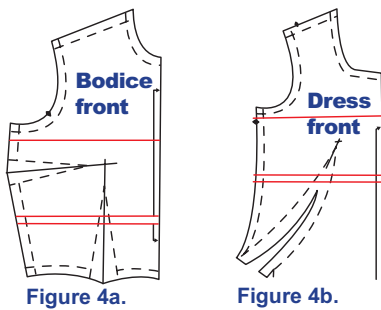
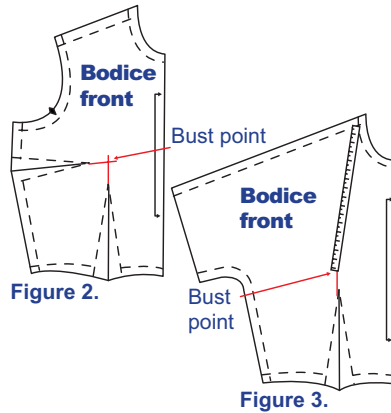


Figure 1.

Bodice with Darts

Darts should point toward the fullest part of the bust, ending $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (1 to 4 cm) from its tip. This depends on the garment style, your figure and personal preference. The *Personal Measurement Chart* (line 6) can help you determine the position of your bust point on the pattern. If your measurement and the pattern bust point location differ, you need an alteration.

1. To find the bust point on a basic pattern, extend the center lines of the darts until they cross (Fig. 2). If the pattern has only one bust dart, extend the center line approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Measure the pattern and compare it to line 6 of your chart (Fig. 3). Another way to locate the bust point correctly is to lay the pattern over a basic pattern that has been altered to fit. Use the basic pattern to locate the bust point



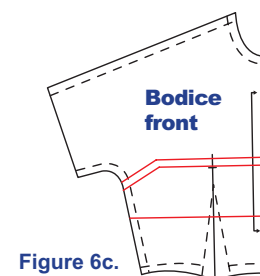
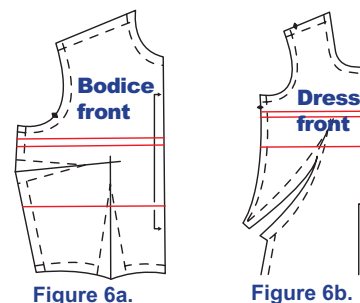
correctly on the pattern that needs to be altered. Determine the difference in dart placements by measuring between the actual location and the place where you need to put the dart or darts.

To lower bust darts:

2. Draw a line across the pattern between the darts and the armhole. Put it at a right angle to the lengthwise grainline or the center front (Figs. 4a and 4b). On some styles, you may need to angle this line at the armhole to avoid the sleeve area (Fig. 4c).
3. Draw a line across the pattern between the tips of the darts and the waistline at a right angle to the lengthwise grainline or the center front. Measure down by the amount you need for the alteration, drawing a second line parallel to this line (Figs. 4a, 4b and 4c).
4. Slash the pattern along the line above the darts. Place tissue paper under the pattern. Evenly spread the pattern by the amount you need, keeping the center front straight (Figs. 5a, 5b and 5c).
5. Lap the pattern below the dart tips by bringing the parallel lines together to maintain the original length (Figs. 5a, 5b and 5c).
6. Redraw the side seam, and the cutting lines and dart stitching lines (Figs. 5a, 5b and 5c).

To raise bust darts:

2. Draw a line across the pattern between the darts and the armhole at a right angle to the lengthwise grainline or center front. Measure down by the amount you need for the alteration, drawing a second line parallel to the first (Figs. 6a and 6b). On some styles, the lines may need to be angled down from the armhole (Fig. 6c).



3. Draw a line across the pattern between the tips of the darts and the waistline at a right angle to the lengthwise grainline or the center front (Figs. 6a, 6b and 6c).
4. Lap the pattern above the darts by bringing the parallel lines together. If the lines are angled (Fig. 6c), slash the pattern from the side seam to the angle along one of the lines. Then lap the pattern on the horizontal lines, allowing the cut section to lap as needed (Figs. 7a, 7b and 7c).
5. Slash the pattern along the line below the dart tips. Place tissue paper under the pattern. Spread the pattern by the amount you need to maintain the original length, keeping the center front straight. Tape the pattern in place.
6. Redraw the side seam, and the cutting lines and dart stitching lines (Figs. 7a, 7b and 7c).

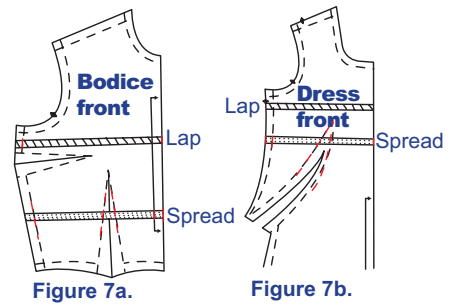


Figure 7a.

Figure 7b.

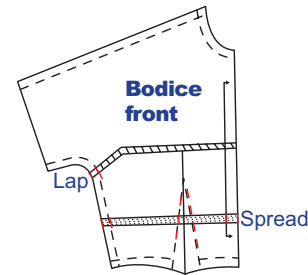


Figure 7c.

Princess Style Bodice

The fullest part of the bust allowance on princess style garments normally falls halfway between the notches on the princess seams. Determine the correct location for the bust fullness by marking the bust point on the pattern. (Use the same method as you do for bodice patterns with one dart.)

To lower bust fullness:

1. On the center front section, draw a line at a right angle to the center front right above the upper notch. On the side front section, draw a line from above the upper notch to the side seamline (Fig. 8).
2. On the center front section, draw a line at a right angle to the center front just below the lower notch. Measure down by the amount you need for the alteration and draw a second line parallel to the first. On the side front section, draw two straight lines just below the lower notch. At the princess seamline, the two lines should be as far apart as the amount you need for the alteration. The lines should meet at the side seamline (Fig. 8).
3. Slash the center front section apart along the upper line. Then slash the side front section along the upper line from the princess seamline to, but not through, the side seamline. Clip the side seam allowance at that point.
4. Place tissue paper under the pattern pieces. Evenly spread the center front section by the amount you need, keeping the center front straight. Spread the side front section by the amount you need at the princess seamline, tapering it toward the side seamline. The clipped seam allowance will lap (Fig. 9).

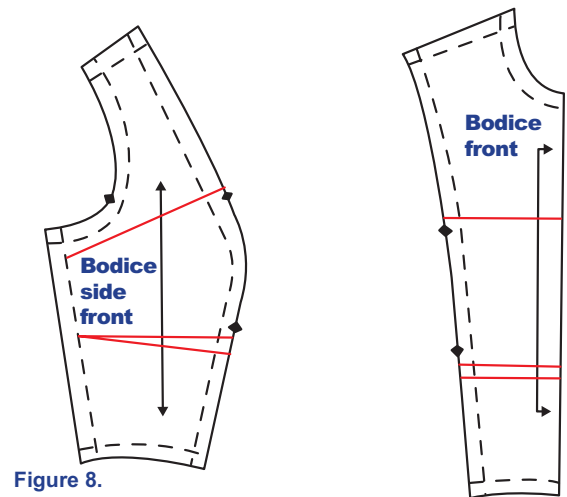


Figure 8.

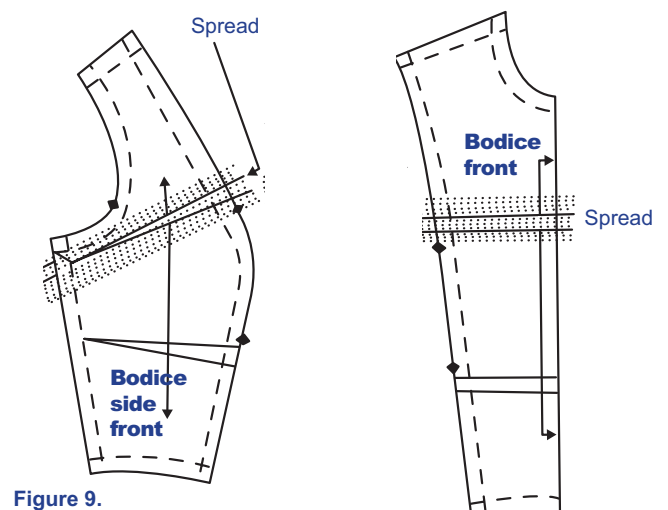
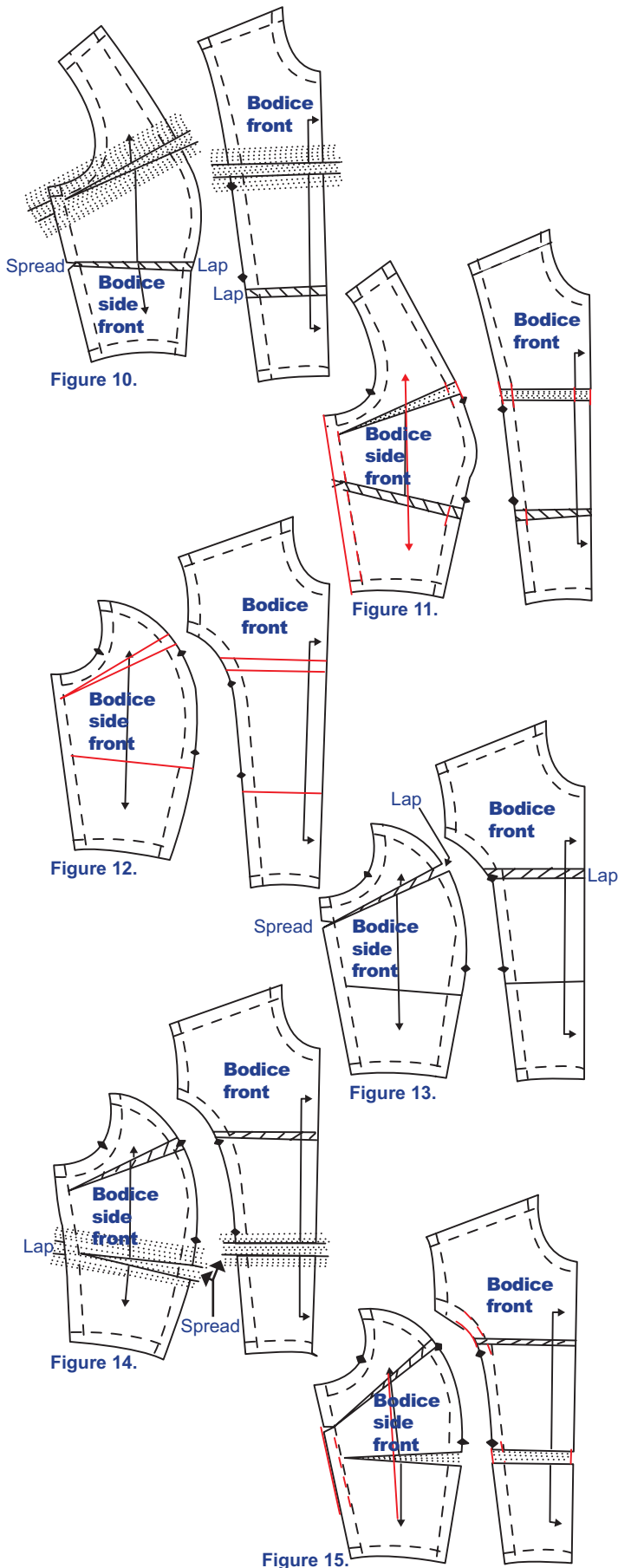


Figure 9.



- Using the lower pair of lines, lap the center front section by bringing the parallel lines together to maintain the original length. On the side front section, clip the side seam allowance where the lower pair of lines meets. Lap the pattern by bringing the lines together, tapering them toward the side seamline. The clipped seam allowance will spread (Fig. 10). Tape the pattern in place.
- Redraw the side, and the princess seamlines and cutting lines. Redraw the grainline on the side front section (Fig. 11).

To raise bust fullness:

- On the center front section, draw a line at a right angle to the center front just above the upper notch. Measure up by the amount of alteration you need, drawing a second line above and parallel to the first. On the side front section, draw two straight lines from above the upper notch to the side seamline. At the princess seamline, the two lines should be as far apart as the amount you need for the alteration. The lines should meet at the side seamline (Fig. 12).
- On the center front section, draw a line at a right angle to the center front just below the lower notch. Draw a line across the side front section below the lower notch to the side seamline (Fig. 12).
- Lap the center front section by bringing the parallel lines together. On the side front section, clip the side seam allowance where the upper pair of lines meets. Lap the pattern by bringing the lines together, tapering them toward the side seamline (Fig. 13).
- Slash the center front section apart along the lower line. Then slash the side front section from the princess seamline to, but not through, the side seamline. Clip the side seam allowance at that point.
- Place tissue paper under the pattern pieces. Evenly spread the center front section by the amount you need to maintain the original length. Spread the side front section by the amount you need at the princess seamline, tapering it toward the side seam. The clipped seam allowance will lap (Fig. 14). Tape the pattern in place.
- Redraw the side, and the princess seamlines and cutting lines. Redraw the grainline on the side front section (Fig. 15).

Ann Vanderpoorten wrote the original manuscript for this publication.

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Revised