The blouses shown on this page are simple-to-make types, besides looking smart. This leaflet tells you how to choose a simple-to-make blouse pattern, how to buy a pattern that fits and the kind of fabric to select, plus some construction hints.

When learning to sew, choose a pattern that has very few pieces. Blouses with a fitted facing at the neckline, hemmed or faced armholes, bust or waist darts or both and a simple neck opening are easy to make.

Patterns are bought by figure type and size. Look at the charts inside. Decide first the figure type you need by studying the chart on figure types. Then take the bust measurement to determine your pattern size from the chart on pattern sizes.
Buy the Best Fitting Pattern for You

What Figure Type Do You Need in a Pattern?

Girl
About 5 ft.
Girls’ patterns are designed for the growing girl whose figure is undeveloped and who is about 5 ft. tall.

Teen
About 5 ft. 3 in.
Teens’ patterns are designed for the taller girl with some figure development and whose height is about 5 ft. 3 in.

Junior Miss
About 5 ft. 5 in.
Junior Misses’ patterns are designed for the fully developed girl whose height is about 5 ft. 5 in.

Miss
About 5 ft. 6 in.
Misses’ patterns are designed for the fully developed figure.

What Size Pattern Do You Need?

This chart gives the bust measurements of sizes 8 through 16 in girls’, teens’, junior misses’ and misses’ patterns.

Record your bust measurement on the chart beside the measurement and figure type that are nearest your own size and type.

To take the measurement, place the tape measure around the fullest part of the bust or chest. Hold it snug, but not tight.

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<th>8</th>
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<th>14</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>BOUST MEASUREMENTS</strong></td>
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<td>26</td>
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Select a Fabric

Choose a closely woven, soft cotton of medium weight, such as percale. Fabrics like this are easy to sew.

The fabric may be of solid color or have a small allover design.

Buy the amount of fabric called for on the pattern envelope.

Prepare fabric for cutting.

Straighten both ends of the piece of fabric by tearing it or by drawing a thread to cut by. See the pattern guide sheet for instructions on how to straighten the fabric.

Fold the fabric so that the wrong side is on the outside, ready for marking and stitching.

If the crosswise threads of fabric are not at perfect right angles to the selvage, pull the fabric on the bias in the opposite direction until crosswise threads are squared with the selvage. Press fabric on lengthwise threads. Figure 1.

Lay the Pattern...Cut...Mark

Study the construction guide for information on the pattern pieces, layouts and placing of pattern on the grainline.

Pin the pattern to the fabric by pinning first on the long arrow that is on pattern piece. This arrow should be straight with the up and down threads of the fabric, keeping the arrow the same distance from the edge. Smooth from the arrow out to the edge of pattern, being careful to keep fabric flat on table. Some pieces are placed on the fold of the fabric. Pin along the fold first. Smooth from the fold out to the edge of the pattern. Figure 2.

Transfer Pattern Markings to Fabric

Use dressmaker's carbon and a tracing wheel for quick and accurate marking of the blouse. Place a piece of cardboard or a magazine under the fabric to protect the table.

Use two pieces of dressmaker's carbon. Place the first piece carbon side up on the cardboard or magazine under the bottom layer of fabric. Place the second sheet of paper tracing side down on the top layer of fabric, under the paper pattern, Figure 3. This will place marks on wrong side of fabric.
Using ruler and tracing wheel, make line through markings. Use a small crossline to indicate stopping point of stitching. Figure 4.

Test the marking on a scrap of fabric to get the feel of the tracing wheel. The marks should be heavy enough to see and follow. Be careful not to mark too heavily, for the carbon may make a permanent mark and not come out of the fabric. Choose a color that contrasts but is not too dark.

Stay-stitching means machine stitching near the seamline to hold threads in place while the garment is being put together. Stay-stitch in the direction shown by the arrows in Figure 5.

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Stitch Darts to Fine Point

Pin dart and stitch from the widest part to a point. The last 3 or 4 stitches are parallel to the edge at the point. Figure 6.

After the darts have been stitched, press them before stitching seams. Press on wrong side of fabric with an up-and-down movement—not an ironing movement. Press underarm dart down. Press waist darts to the center front or center back.

Follow the guide sheet with the blouse pattern for other construction details.

Prepared by
Fannie Brown Eaton Graham Hard
Nena Roberson Reba Boyles
Extension Specialists in Clothing
Texas A. & M. College System

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