



*Pattern
Alteration*

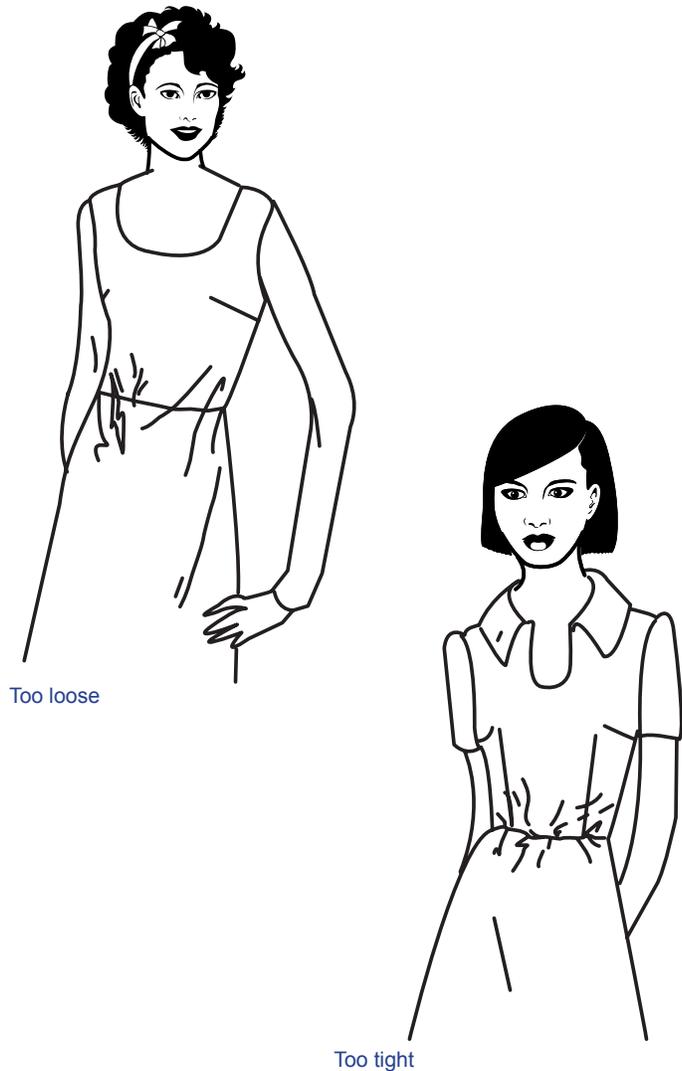
Waistline

AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

Extension Family Development
and Resource Management Specialists

Before attempting any of these alterations, review Extension publications E-372, *Principles of Pattern Alteration*, and E-373, *Personal Measurement Chart*, for basic instructions.

A garment that is too tight in the waist forms diagonal wrinkles, pinches the waist, and gaps or pulls at closings. One that is too loose in the waist hangs in vertical folds and falls away from the waist (Fig. 1). Determine the amount you need to alter from the *Personal Measurement Chart* (line 3). *Alter the front and back pattern pieces.*



Too loose

Too tight

Figure 1.

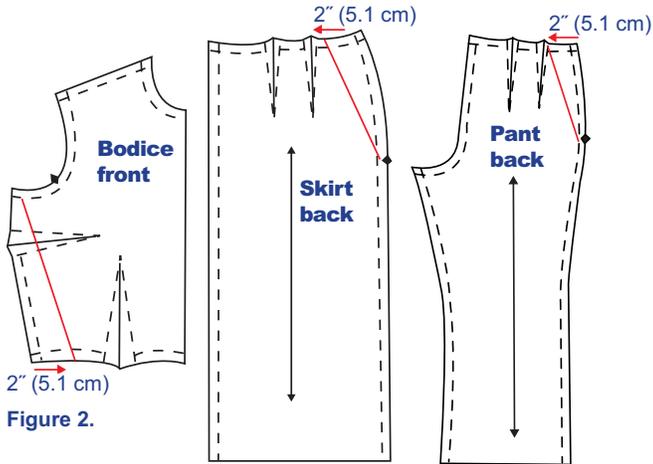


Figure 2.

Garments with a waist seamline

1. Measure in 2 inches from the side seamline at the waist seamline.
2. Draw a line from that point to the underarm seamline on the bodice or to the side seamline at the hip for pants or skirts (Fig. 2).
3. Slash the pattern from the waist *to, but not through*, the side seamline. Clip the seam allowance at that point.

To increase:

With tissue paper under the pattern, spread one-fourth the amount you need to enlarge the garment at the waist seamline (Fig. 3).

To decrease:

Lap one-fourth the amount you need to reduce at the waist seamline (Fig. 4).

To complete either alteration:

1. Tape the pattern in place.
2. Redraw the darts, seam and cutting lines (Fig. 5).

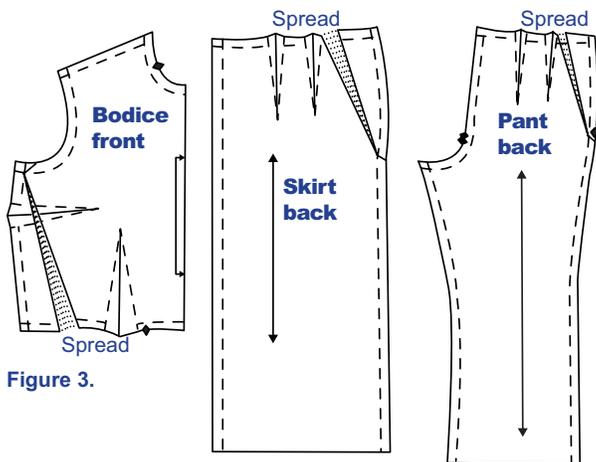


Figure 3.

Garments without a waist seamline

1. At the waistline, draw a line 2 inches in from the side seamline toward the center front.
2. Draw diagonal lines from that point to the intersection of the armhole and side seamlines and to the side seam at the hip (Fig. 6).
3. Slash horizontally at the waistline from the 2-inch point you marked in Step 1 *to, but not through*, the side seamline. Clip the seam allowance at that point.
4. Slash the diagonal lines from the same 2-inch point *to, but not through*, the side seamlines. Clip the side seam allowances at these points (Fig. 6).

To increase:

With tissue paper under the pattern, spread the pattern by one-fourth the amount you need to expand the waist. The horizontal slash will lap, and the diagonal slashes will spread (Fig. 7).

To decrease:

Lap the pattern by one-fourth the amount you need to reduce at the waist. The horizontal slash will spread, and the diagonal slashes will lap (Fig. 8).

To complete either alteration:

1. Tape the pattern in place
2. Redraw the dart, seam and cutting lines (Fig. 9).

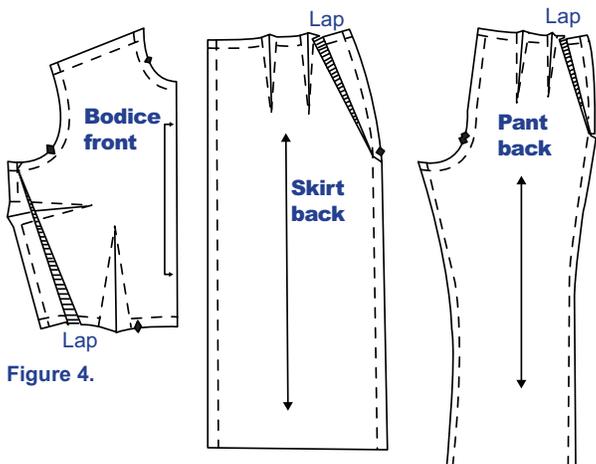


Figure 4.

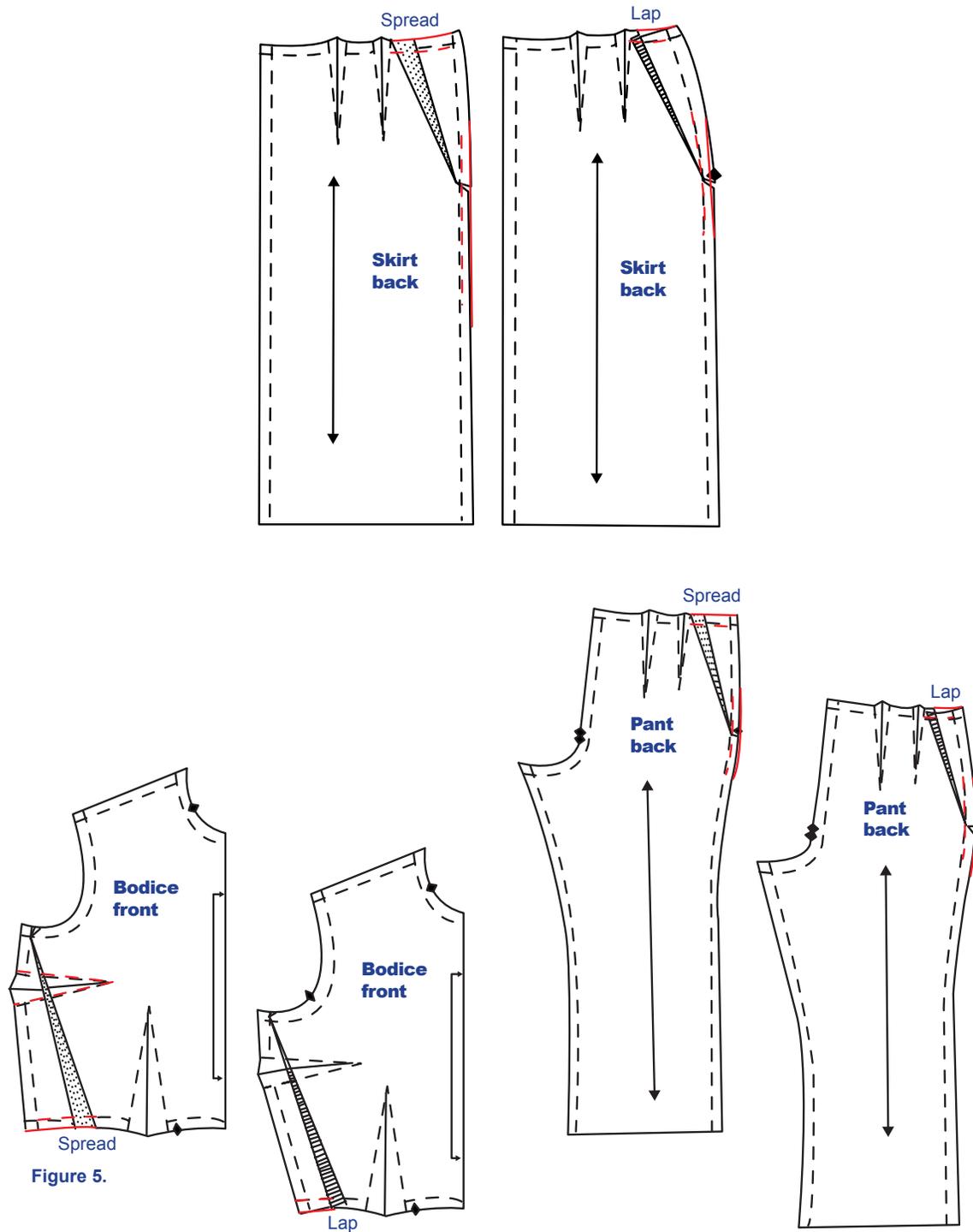


Figure 5.

Marlene Odle-Kemp wrote the original manuscript for this publication.

Produced by AgriLife Communications and Marketing, The Texas A&M University System
 Extension publications can be found on the Web at: <http://AgriLifeBookstore.org>.
 Visit Texas AgriLife Extension Service at <http://AgriLifeExtension.tamu.edu>.

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Acts of Congress of May 8, 1914, as amended, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Zerle L. Carpenter, Director, Texas Cooperative Extension, The Texas A&M University System.