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EC74-494 Menswear....Should Pads & Sleeve Strips

Jane Speece

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Menswear



SHOULDER PADS & SLEEVE STRIPS

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MENSWEAR: SHOULDER PADS AND SLEEVE STRIPS

Jane Speece

Extension Specialist (Clothing)

A well tailored look in a jacket results from shaping and support through the shoulder area from shoulder pads. The smooth line is continued through the upper sleeve by a sleeve strip in the armhole.

SHOULDER PADS OR SHAPERS

Though purchased shoulder pads may be used in a jacket, making your own pads usually gives a more satisfactory fit. Occasionally, an individual may have one shoulder higher than the other and one pad may need to be thicker. A sloping shoulder or a hollow chest can be filled out by adding more padding. Thinner pads can be constructed for the square-shouldered male.

Materials To Use

The outer layers of the shoulder pad can be made of the canvas interfacing used in the front of the jacket or of unbleached muslin. Other possibilities are felt or a nonwoven interfacing. Thin layers of cotton batting or polyester batting are used for the padding.

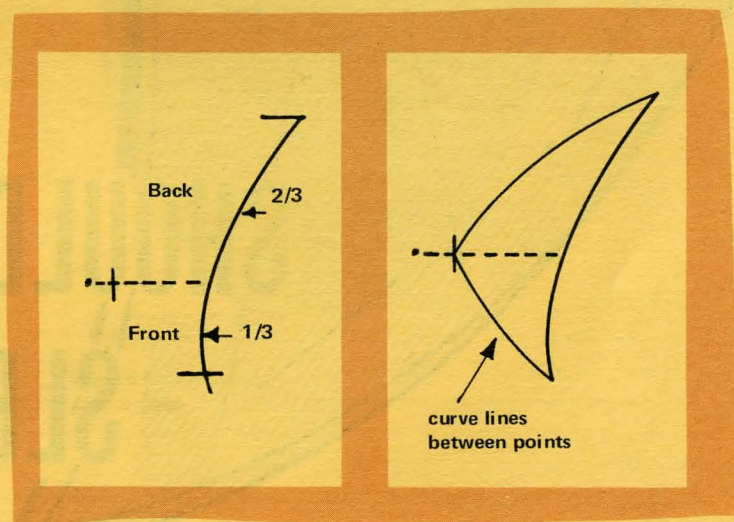
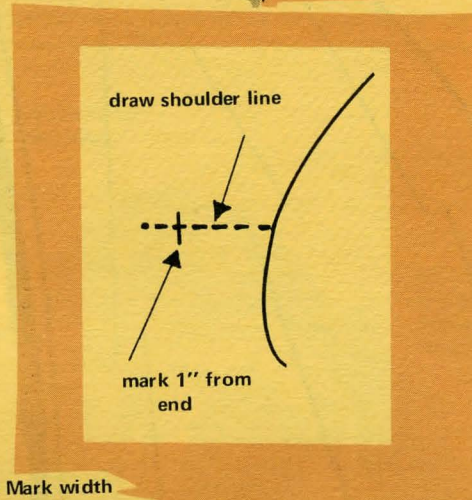
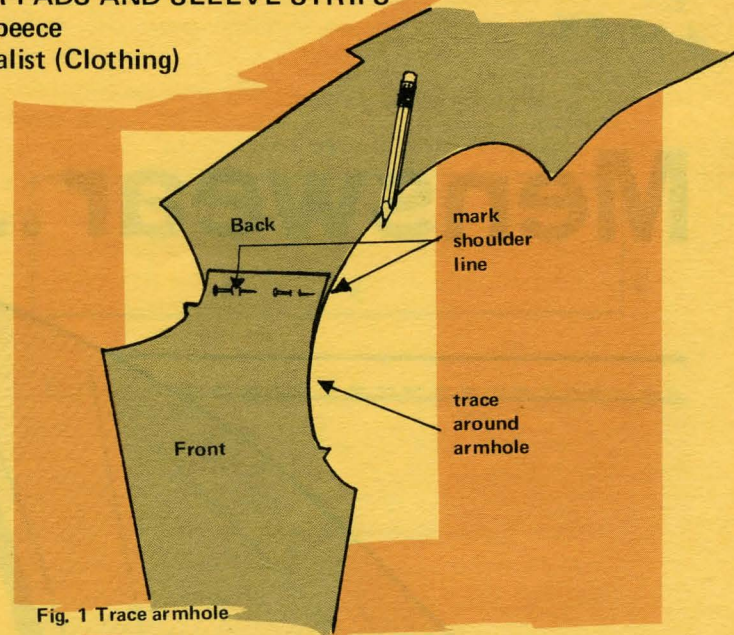
Draw Your Pattern

Pin the back jacket pattern piece to the front jacket pattern piece along the shoulder seamline. Place the pattern on a sheet of paper wide enough to extend from the underarm seam to the neckline.

Draw the curved armhole line between the notches or 6" to 7" on each side of the shoulder seam. The length of the curve will depend upon the size of the pattern. Mark the shoulder seam on the armhole curve and at the neckline (Fig. 1).

Remove the pattern and draw the shoulder line between the two points on the paper. Draw a bisecting line or mark a point about 1" from the neckline end of the shoulder line. This point marks the tip of the shoulder pad, and the pad pattern will not extend past this point (Fig. 2).

A shoulder pad is shaped so that about two-thirds of the pad lies through the back shoulder area and about one-third through the front shoulder area. Measure the length of the curve and mark the points according to these proportions (Fig. 3). Connect the three marked points with curved lines to finish drawing your shoulder pad pattern (Fig. 4).



The pad may be cut on the straight grain, but a bias cut, either true or slightly bias, will allow greater give when the pad is seated. Establish the bias by folding one corner of the pad pattern back over the shoulder line to form a right angle. Mark the line made by this bias fold. (Fig. 5).

Lay this line along the straight grain of a double piece of fabric when you cut out the pad so that you will have two outer pieces for the cover. If you prefer to cut the shoulder pad on the straight grain of the fabric, lay the marked shoulder line along the straight grain when you cut the pad. Since the shoulder line is slightly bias in a garment, you will still gain a slightly bias cut. Mark the shoulder line with a clip so that you will know where to install it in the jacket.

As you construct the shoulder pad, remember that you are making the pad to help shape and smooth the shoulder area of a garment for a certain individual. The amount of padding needed and used will depend upon the personal shoulder line. Occasionally, the style of the jacket will dictate whether you need a thicker, firmer pad or a very thin pad.

Construct the Shoulder Pad

After the outer layers of the shoulder pad are cut, use thin layers of your inner padding to build the pad to the thickness you want for the jacket pattern and for the individual you are fitting.

Make both right and left pads at the same time to be sure you construct the correct pad for each shoulder. Place two of the outside layers side by side on an ironing board. Pull loose thin layers of the inside padding and begin to build up the pad. The greatest thickness will lay through the shoulder seamline and will taper to nothing toward the outer edges.

Steam each layer as you add it to the pad. Taper the edges of each layer so that there will be no bulges. The thicker portion over the shoulder may be built up to as much as $\frac{1}{2}$ " without looking too bulky. The outer edges may have no padding at all.

Once the pads are built up, place the outside layer on each pad and steam press the pad over a curved surface to add the shoulder shaping (Fig. 6). Let the pads dry over the curved surface or pin the ends together to hold the curved shape until dry.

Check the fit of the pad with the individual's shoulders. Add or subtract any padding needed before you proceed. Then use several rows of diagonal basting to hold the pad layers together. Be sure that this basting is loose or the pad may draw in spots. If the pad is quite thin, you can use a widely spaced zigzag stitch on the machine.

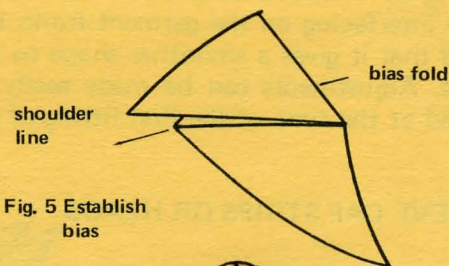


Fig. 5 Establish bias



Fig. 6 Shape around a curved surface

Seat the Shoulder Pad

Slip the pad between the first and final layers of the front interfacing, the clip in the shoulder of the pad corresponding to the shoulder seam of the garment front. The armhole edge of the pad will lay along the raw seam edge of the jacket front (Fig. 7).

When permanently seated, the pad will extend $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " beyond the garment seamline at the shoulder area. It will meet the seamline at the outer points of the pad. Pin or baste the pad to the front interfacing to hold it in place throughout the various steps of construction.

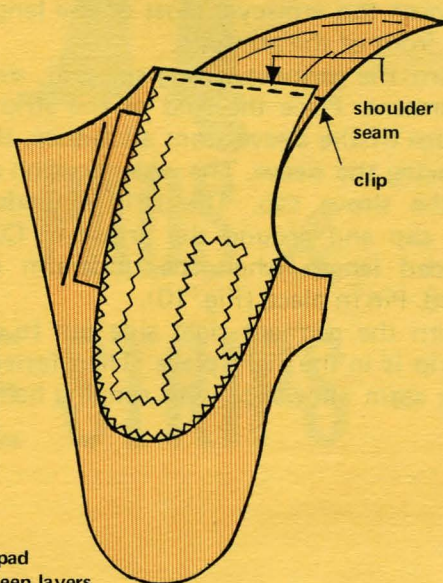


Fig. 7 Slip pad between layers of interfacing

You may feel that adding the shoulder pad to the interfacing at this time adds extra bulk when installing the interfacing on the garment front, but you will find that it gives a smoother shape to the shoulder line. Adjustments can be made easily or edges trimmed at the time of the first fitting of the jacket.

SLEEVE CAP STRIPS OR HEADS

The sleeve cap strip is used to cushion the seam over the armscye so that wrinkles in the seam allowance do not show on the right side. This strip also helps the sleeve cap retain a smooth line as the garment is worn.

Fabric to Use

You may use a single layer of cotton or polyester batting with a muslin covering or a single layer of lightweight felt or polyester fleece. Occasionally, the interfacing canvas is used with a cover of felt or muslin. The final result must be smooth and not bulky so that it does not show on the outside of the sleeve.

Pattern to Follow

Cut the strip from a true bias 10" to 15" long and 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ " to 3" wide (Fig. 8). It can be trimmed later if it is too long for the jacket sleeve curve. Lay the layer of batting on the bias strip and then fold the strip back on itself for $\frac{3}{4}$ " along the lengthwise edge. Machine or hand baste along the edge (Fig. 9).

Seat the Sleeve Strip

The sleeve strip will not be installed until the jacket sleeves are stitched in and the seam pressed open over the armscye. Most of the length will go to the front of the armscye.

Turn the garment wrong side out, sleeve inside the garment. Place the fold of the strip along the raw edge of the sleeve seam allowance, the smooth side facing the sleeve. The wider portion should fall into the sleeve cap. The strip extends over the sleeve cap and around the armscye. Cut off any unneeded length when the underarm curves are reached. Pin in place (Fig. 10).

Turn the garment right side out to check that the strip is in the right place. Then fasten the strip to the seam allowance with running hand stitches.

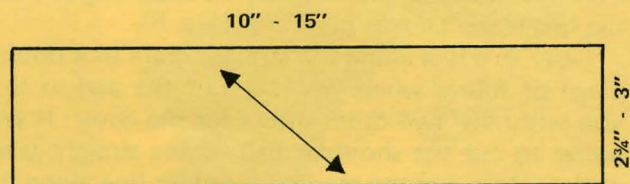


Fig. 8 Cut strip
on the bias



Fig. 9 Baste along
cut edge

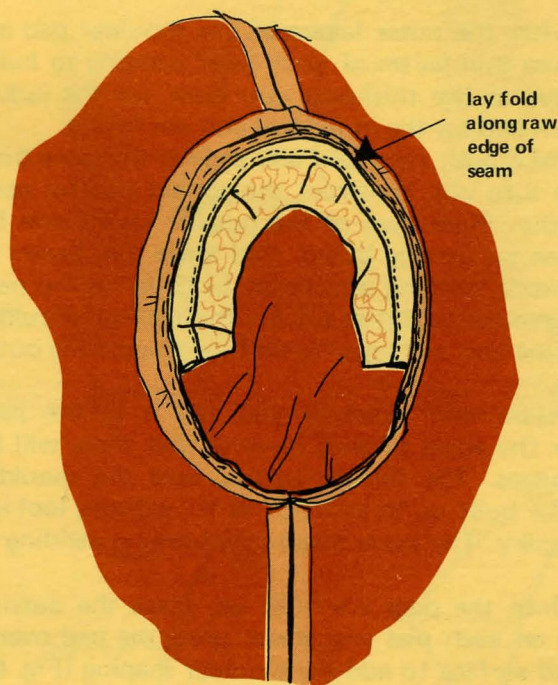


Fig. 10 Install sleeve
strip