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Patternmaking Terminology 2015

This list of terms was originally created by Kathleen Fasanella. She is a terrific nationally famous Patternmaker. If you ever see her book: *The Entrepreneur’s Guide to Sewn Product Manufacturing*, do not hesitate to buy it. Through the years, the list has been revised and edited by Joan McKenna.

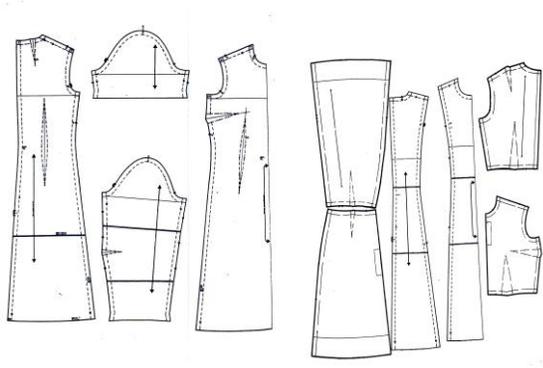


Allocation – The amount of fabric needed to produce the style.

Apparel Tech Pack - A “Tech Pack” is a set of design or style sheets which contain all the necessary specifications to construct a garment or a sewn product for prototype or production purposes. Tech pack formats can vary greatly from manufacturer to manufacturer; some are in an Excel spreadsheet format and some are in a template format that can be completed by hand. This document is usually prepared by the designer and finalized in consultation with everyone else on the design team, and the merchandisers. It is then forwarded to the production department for reference during manufacturing.



Block – A proven pattern that fits the target consumer, complete with the manufacturer’s characteristic style. It’s used to develop all subsequent styles. Has seam allowances.



Breakpoint – Point on the front garment edge where the lapels turn and fold back to form the “roll-line.” Buttons are sewn at the breakpoint and below the breakpoint.

Breast Apex and Areola – These terms are used to describe parts of the human breast. The pigmented area on the human breast that surrounds the nipple (apex) is called the areola.



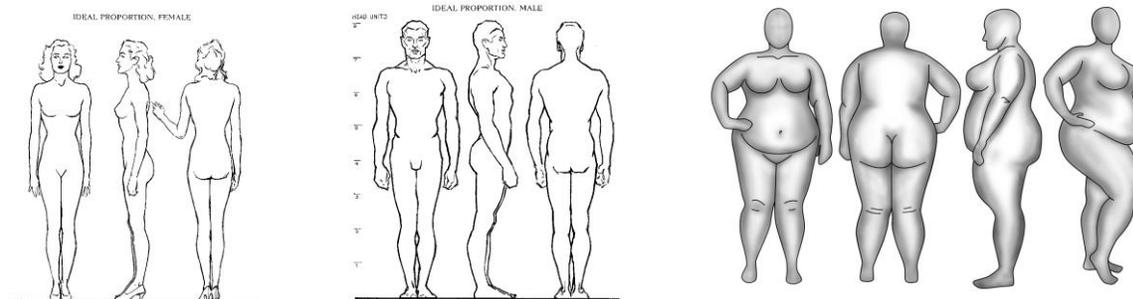
Button-stand – The area that extends beyond the true center front. Half a button sits on the button stand. When designing the button stand add ¼ inch to half the diameter of the button. This will ensure the button does not sit over the edge of the garment.

Canvas - Another word for interfacing. Old timers used canvas before there were fusible interfacings. Color code: Red.

Color Coding – Helps organize your work. Each type of fabric is color coded on the pattern piece. Fashion Shell is Black. Linings are Blue. Interfacings are Red. Contrast is Green or Purple. Trim is Green or Purple.

Contrast – Fabric or leather of different color or texture to create surface interest usually yokes and pockets. Color code: Green or Purple.

Croqui(s) – Croqui(s) are used to draw apparel designs on: The front, side and back view of a symmetrical garment as it is meant to be seen on the body. It can also be an outline of the target customer. This makes sure the correct proportions are drawn. If a garment is asymmetrical, then all sides of the croqui need to be drawn: The front, the left side, the back and the right side. Here are examples of croqui.



Direction Card also called: **Pattern Card** - An itemized list of all the pattern pieces that belong to a given design. Sewing instructions are also on the card. The card is rabbit holed and hung with the pattern.

Dummy - A practice garment made to test a pattern.

Ease – Sewing situation where pieces of different lengths are sewn together. The longer section is eased onto the shorter piece. May also refer to the amount of room a finished garment may have: Comfort ease. Designer’s ease.

Fabric Processing – Professionals wash, shrink, press or dry clean their fabrics and leathers, before cutting the garment. OR.....In factories, the patterns are drafted with a shrinkage allowance. Also see “Proto”

Face-up - The face of the fabric and pattern faces up, away from the cutting surface. Pattern pieces will say “R” for right side of garment or “L.” for left side of garment. Cut 1 – face up. The R or L is always circled. Also see “RSU” – right side up.

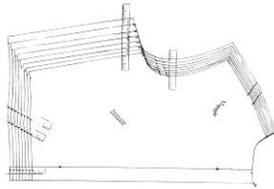
Fairgate Rulers – Industry standard rulers. You can buy them individually or in kits. The most inexpensive kit to buy looks like the following picture. Item # 15-102 Fashion Designer’s Kit. BUT...it is missing a very important ruler. The 24 inch Vari-Curve. The item number of this ruler is 12-124. If you are not sure you need a professional package of rulers, you can also buy a Fairgate Fashion Form 3-in-1 Rule #10-128. To see the entire Fairgate line click on: www.fairgate.com.



First Pattern - The first pattern made for a sample garment. First patterns still need refining before they go into production for the style.

Fit Model – A person hired to test fit garments for a manufacturer. Needs to represent your typical customer.

Grading - Refers to “growing” or “shrinking” a pattern for all the needed sizes in a particular style.



Guides (Templates) – These are tools used to show actual placement of buttons, pockets, embroidery, etc. Guides fit the pattern and are made by the pattern maker.

Interfacing – Adds body or can change the weight of fabric. Interfacing is not synonymous with stabilizer which is used for Computerized Machine Embroidery. Also see Canvas – Color code Red.

Markers – Are full tracing of the patterns as they will be cut in production. Usually two sizes of a style are cut together. Example: XL and S. M and L.

Match Stripe – A cross-grain stripe marked on the pattern. Very necessary for fabric that is striped, plaid, or prints that need pattern matching.

Muslin – A type of woven solid light colored inexpensive cloth. Used to test patterns.

Nap – Usually adds a third dimension to fabric like velvet, suede, and corduroy. Some napped fabrics have a change in color or a one way design printed on them. All have a nap which must be cut in the same direction to avoid “shading.” Normally napped fabric is cut with the nap down. The only exception is VELVET. Cut this nap up for deeper richer looking color. Note that a change in nap can be considered a contrast.

Needlepoint Tracing Wheel – Tool used to make a “knockoff” of a finished garment without taking the garment apart. Needle Sharp. Sharper than your regular tracing wheel.



Notch – 1/8 inch clip in the pattern. These markings show placement of darts, seam lines etc. Never get “Notch Happy” and use too many notch markings on your patterns.

Pattern Specs – Standard Practices that don't vary between styles of a given company. For examples all seam allowances are 3/8" - 1/2". This can also refer to tolerances of finished garments. Example: Back seam should be 14 inches long for a size 12. If the seam turns out to be 14 1/2, this is still tolerable. If the seam is 14 3/4, then the garment may be considered a "second." A second is NOT suitable for premium pricing. It must be sold as a second. (Manufacturers avoid seconds at all costs. Don't get me started on how they do this.....)

Proto or Prototype – A test garment of actual materials, used to test the garment after washing or dry cleaning. It is then fitted and inspected for durability. It provides the most accurate measure of materials and production costs.

Punch holes – Used to mark the ends of sewn darts, tucks, pocket placement, etc. Punches are circled. They are made 1/2 inch in from where you want the dart, tuck, etc to end.

Rabbit Holes – These holes are 3/4 inch in diameter. Pattern hooks are put through these holes so that patterns can be hung along with their pattern cards.

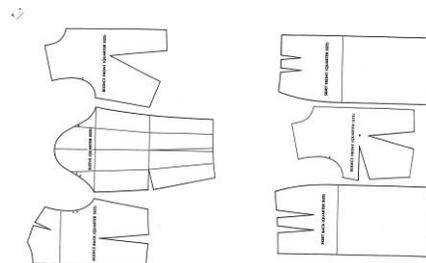
R.S.U. – Right side up, see "face up"

Roll Line – Refers to the natural line formed by a collar or lapel as it turns back on itself.

Shell or Self – Refers to the main fashion fabric of the garment. Color Code: Black.

Sketch Sheet – A technical sheet given to the pattern maker, complete with fabric specs, notions, and technical sketch of a garment to be patterned.

Sloper – A block without seam allowance. The sloper pattern is used to make all pattern changes BEFORE any seam allowance is added. A **Fitting Sloper** is a muslin toile cut from the sloper pattern. It is used to check measurement input and done with minimum ease. I usually add 1 inch seam allowances to this, just in case I need to let it out.



Top Collar –The collar on top – cut slightly larger than the bottom collar.

Toile – (French) Sample garment to check fit. Can be made from muslin, or cut from cloth that is similar to the fashion fabric. A good example of this is making a toile for a bathing suit. The toile needs to be cut and sewn from fabric with the same 4-way stretch as the fashion fabric for

the bathing suit. A **Fitting Toile** is a muslin toile cut from the sloper pattern. It is used to check measurement input and done with minimum ease.

Trim (noun) – Trim is the smallest accent. Example: Think of ‘A lot, a little, and a smidgen’. Shell is “a lot.” Contrast is “a little.” Trim is “A smidgen.” Color code: Green or Purple.

Tweak – Minor changes to measurements, patterns, toiles, or fashion garments that affect the fit of the garment.

Under Collar – Bias cut bottom collar pieces, cut slightly smaller than the top. Creates a smoother roll and sewn edge doesn’t show. Usually interfaced.

Weighted Cord – A string filled with lead. Knot ends immediately upon purchase. Keep away from small children and animals. Used in marking necklines, armholes and plumb lines on the fit model.

