



VIKISEWS

# CONSTRUCTION TYPES

/MASTER OF PATTERN HACKING/

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The cut of a garment is defined as the shape given to a garment by means of cutting out the fabric pieces in a particular way. It determines the basic characteristics of the garment construction. The choice of a garment cut depends on fabric properties (pliability, width of fabric, size and direction of the print), function of a garment, as well as on an individual's body type, and fashion trends.

**The cut of a top garment is characterized by the following features:**

- the cut of a sleeve, i.e. the way a sleeve is attached to the garment armscye
- structural lines within the primary components of a garment (front and back) made by vertical and horizontal seam lines.

## THE CUT OF A SLEEVE

A sleeve shape is created by all structural (construction) lines: sleeve cap, bicep width line under the armscye, front and elbow curves, elbow line, and hemline. When analysing a garment and choosing a basic block pattern, consider how the sleeve is attached to the garment armscye since the armscye defines the shape of the sleeve cap.

### SET-IN SLEEVE

A set-in sleeve is attached to the garment at the point that corresponds to the joining point of the arm and shoulder on the figure. This type of sleeve is considered to be a classic type and creates a formal silhouette. This type of sleeve is often used in shirts, suits, coats made of different fabrics. Its main feature is the rounded sleeve cap that follows the curves of the figure. The sleeve cap is attached to the garment armscye and sewn all the way round.



Depending on their design and sleeve cap, sleeves may acquire various shapes. It depends on the length and configuration of the shoulder line, use of shoulder pads, and shape of the sleeve cap, i.e. the amount of ease, presence of gathers, pleats, and darts along the sleeve cap.



The classic version of a set-in sleeve doesn't suggest adding gathers along the sleeve cap. This means that easing is not visible in the finished garment.

The sleeve shape is characterized by the sleeve width at different levels — at the bicep width line under the armhole, elbow line, and hemline.

Depending on its volume, a sleeve can be fitted, of medium width, voluminous, or excessively wide. A sleeve can be flared or tapered evenly or in an uneven manner, thus creating various shapes at different sections of the sleeve.



The shape of a sleeve also depends on the sleeve length and on how the sleeve hem is finished (gathering, cuffs, turn-backs).



In order to design a sleeve that follows the curves of the arm, such shaping elements as darts, vertical and horizontal seam lines can be used.

For example, a basic one-piece sleeve can be designed with an elbow dart. A two-piece sleeve is made up of two parts, top and bottom. Its shape is achieved with a convex line at the elbow seam and with a concave line at the front seam.

## SHIRT SLEEVE

A shirt sleeve is a variation of a set-in sleeve. It is defined by an increased bicep width under the armhole, decreased sleeve cap height, and minimal amount of ease along the sleeve cap. A shirt sleeve has a greater amount of ease added for comfort. As a result, there may appear small folds and creases at the armhole area, although they are not considered as a fitting issue.



A shirt sleeve helps create a soft silhouette in various types of garments. Such garments are comfortable to wear and have a relaxed fit.

## RAGLAN SLEEVE

In a raglan sleeve, the armscye line goes from the back neckline to the front neckline; the shoulder part of a garment and the sleeve make up one piece. Compared to the classic set-in sleeve, a raglan sleeve cut has a lower armscye.

A garment designed with a raglan sleeve has a soft and wavy silhouette, the shoulder line becomes rounded.

It is an all-time favourite type of sleeve and continues inspiring fashion designers to create new garments with a raglan sleeve cut. At different times, a raglan sleeve took a variety of forms, from straight to smoothly curved, and at times it had a rounded cut.



Garments featuring a raglan sleeve can be cut with a fitted-waist, semi-fitted, or a straight silhouette. They are comfortable to wear and practical to use.

## GROWN-ON (DOLMAN) SLEEVE

A grown-on sleeve is cut in one piece with the front and back of a garment. The main feature of this sleeve shape is that there is no armhole seam or the armhole seam is partially present. The bodice part of a garment has a smooth silhouette.



At present, a huge amount of garments are designed with a grown-on sleeve: blouses, dresses, robes, nightgowns, jackets, trench coats, coats, and so on.

A grown-on sleeve ensures a relaxed fit, and with your hand down there appear soft falling folds. Such garments are comfortable to wear. The cut of a grown-on sleeve varies from extremely wide to moderately narrow; it depends on fashion trends and choice of fabric.

## SLEEVE WITH A COMBINED CUT



This sleeve shape is created on the basis of two other sleeve types. A sleeve with a combined cut is mostly used in outerwear garments, coats and jackets.

A possible combination is a grown-on sleeve at the back and a set-in or a half raglan sleeve at the front. Other combinations include a raglan sleeve and a grow-on sleeve; a set-in sleeve and a raglan sleeve.

## VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL STRUCTURAL LINES ON THE MAIN GARMENT PIECES (FRONT AND BACK)

The cut of a top garment is also characterized by the presence of vertical and horizontal seam lines on the front and back.

These lines are determined by the anatomical structure of the body and the design of a garment.



According to the number of vertical seams, a garment can have from two to six vertical seams or no seams at all.

For example, if the front and back of a garment are divided vertically, two more garment pieces are created — side front and side back.



A narrow vertical part of a garment that holds fasteners is called a placket.

Plackets look perfect on shirts, dresses, blouses, and lightweight coats.



A seam joining the bodice and skirt, yoke seams, and various seam lines that run from one side to the other are the examples of horizontal lines on a garment.

Each horizontal line allows to incorporate pleats, gathers, flounces, darts, and pockets; add finishing details and elements; and combine different materials in a garment.

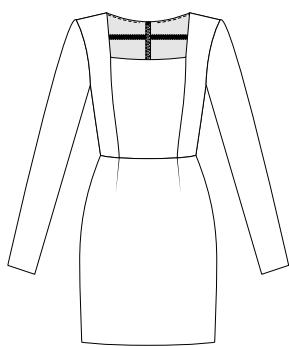
# STRUCTURAL LINES IN TOP GARMENTS

## THE CUT OF A TOP GARMENT

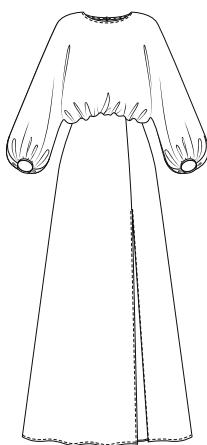
### 1. SLEEVE TYPE:

#### SET-IN SLEEVE

- one-piece



#### GROWN-ON (DOLMAN) SLEEVE



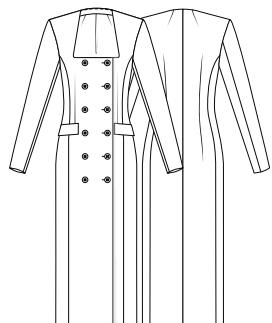
#### SHIRT SLEEVE



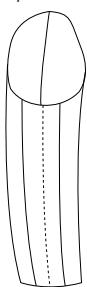
#### SLEEVE WITH A COMBINED CUT



- two-piece

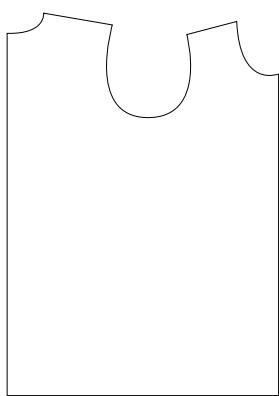


- three-piece

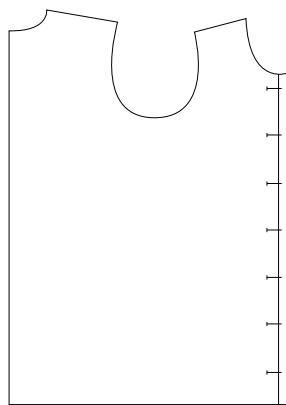


## 2. VERTICAL STRUCTURAL LINES:

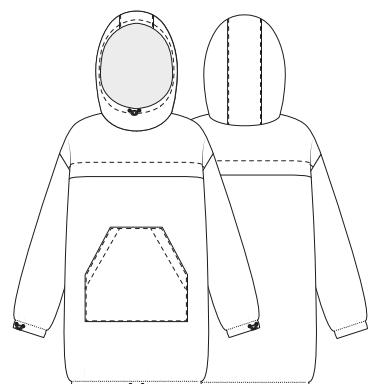
- no seams (without side seams and closure)



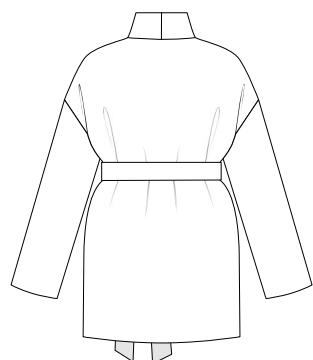
- one seam  
(without side seams)



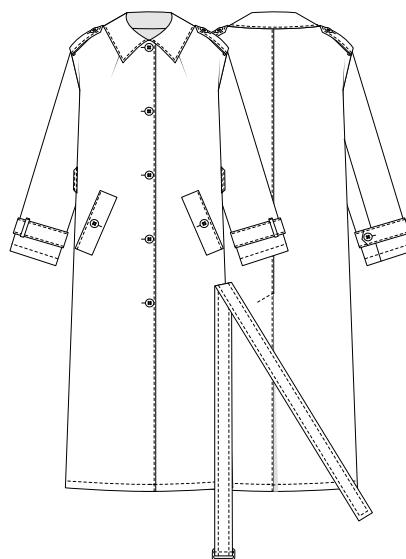
- two seams



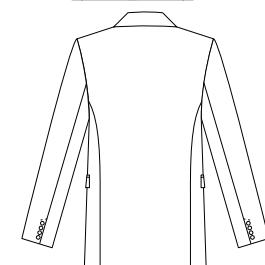
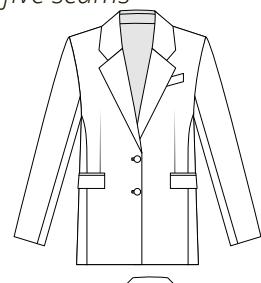
- three seams



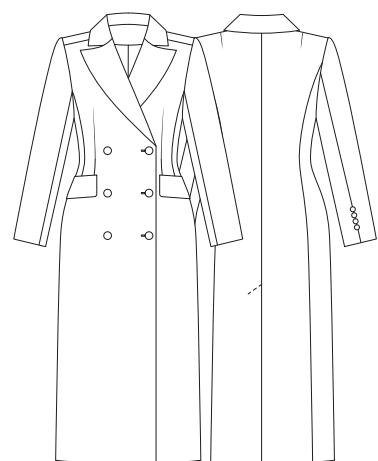
- four seams



- five seams

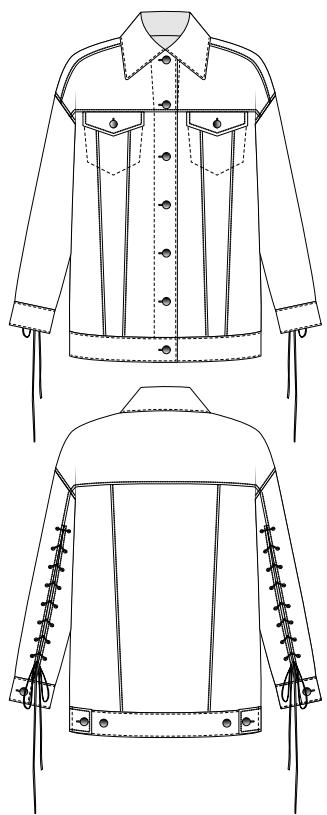


- six seams

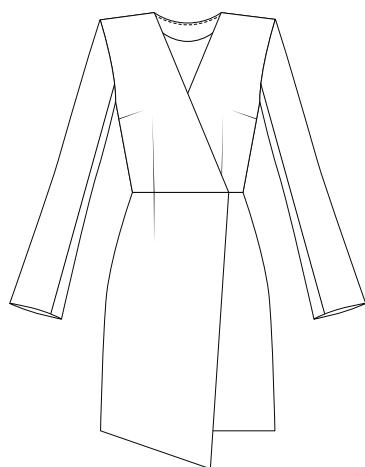


### 3. HORIZONTAL STRUCTURAL LINES:

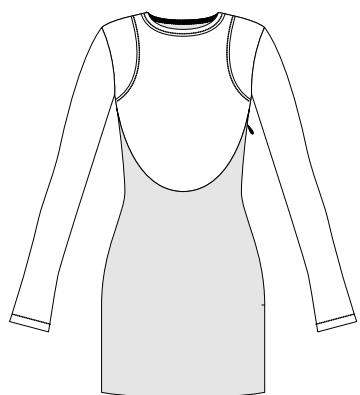
- *yoke*



- *bodice + skirt*

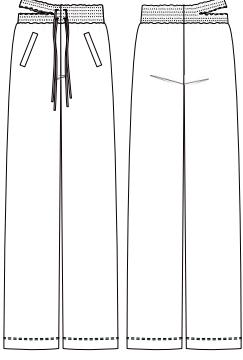
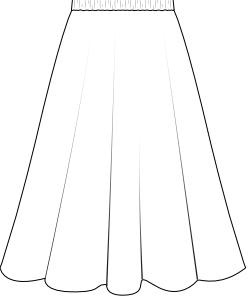
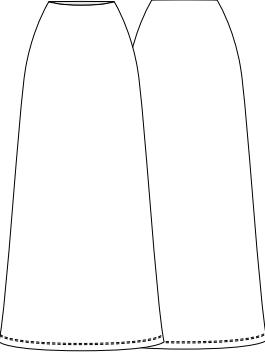
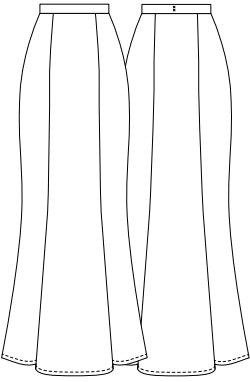
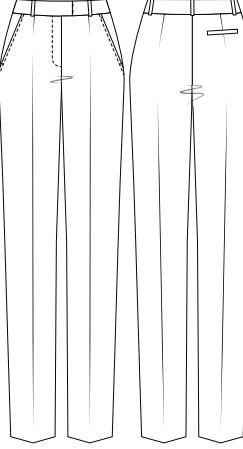
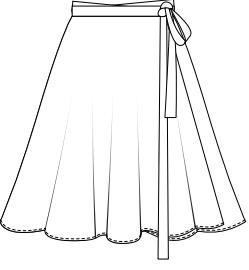
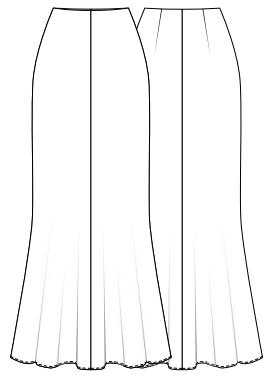


- *seam lines*



# STRUCTURAL LINES IN BOTTOM GARMENTS

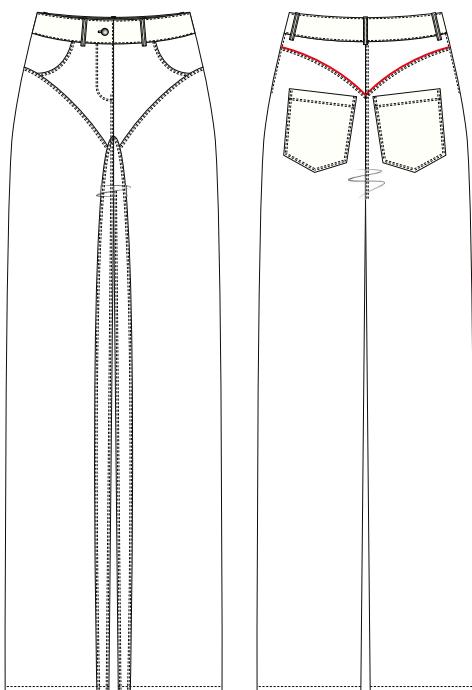
## THE CUT OF A BOTTOM GARMET

1. VERTICAL STRUCTURAL LINES:			
TROUSERS	SKIRTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• two seams (without side seams)</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• without seams (a full circle skirt)</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• two seams</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• six seams</li></ul> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• four seams (side seams and inseams)</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• one seam</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• four seams</li></ul> 	

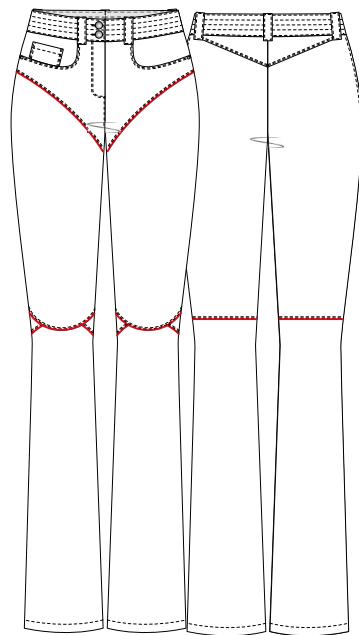
## 2. HORIZONTAL STRUCTURAL LINES:

### TROUSERS

- *yoke*

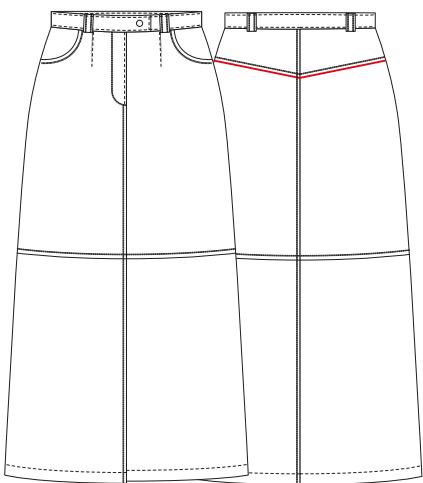


- *seam lines*



### SKIRTS

- *yoke*



- *seam lines*

