

CHOOSING THE CORRECT PATTERN

To avoid a lot of pattern adjustments to style and size don't be tempted to purchase a pattern in haste without looking any further than the picture on the front of the envelope. It is important to buy the correct size and understand all the information the commercial pattern company's write on the back of the pattern envelope.

Here are some tips to remember when purchasing patterns.

- 1, Consider the time you have to sew when selecting a suitable pattern.
- 2, Look for patterns that are good value, more than one garment included in the pattern or more than one version of a style.
- 3, Read the pattern description, often important style details are not visible on fashion photographs. They illustrate the overall impression of the finished garment.
- 4 Find your figure type. The height and back, neck to waist length will determine if you are Misses or Miss petite or Miss Tall.

Misses Petite under 5'4" Below average height

Misses 5'5" - 5'6" Average

Miss tall 5'6" - 5'9" Above average (Burda patterns only)

For the larger sizes select Women's or Women's Petite size 18 to 32.

- 5, Buy patterns by accurate body measurements do not assume commercial pattern sizing is the same as ready to wear sizing.
- 6, Purchase patterns for dresses, blouses, jackets and coats by measuring the bust or chest size, even if the waist and hips are larger, because it is easy to increase below waist. Area's crucial to good fit are shoulders, necklines, chest and armholes, these are more difficult to reduce in size. Multi sized patterns are useful if you require a different size bodice and skirt.
- 7, Patterns are a B cup bust size. If you are a larger bust cup size purchase pattern for the chest measurement and enlarge the front of the pattern for extra bust curvature (for full details read November 1998 article).
- 8, If you are in-between sizes your preference to fit will enable you to choose a smaller or bigger size. Finished garment measurements are printed on some pattern envelopes. This is useful to select the most suitable size.
- 9, Patterns contain comfort ease and various amounts of design ease. Pattern ease is described on pattern envelopes as fitted, semi fitted, loose fitted or very loose fitted. If your preference is for closer fitted styles do not purchase patterns with maximum ease because the garment will be very loose.

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10, An easy sewing rating can mean fewer pattern pieces and no fitting. Pattern styles with darts or seams will provide shape and be flattering to the figure.

11, Check finished widths and lengths on pattern envelope. For example trousers may be too wide or skirts too short.

12, Work with the suggested fabrics and notions to avoid fitting disappointments and minimal pattern alterations.

Simplicity and McCalls have the most information printed on the pattern envelope.

The description of the garment and the finished measurements can be used to confirm the pattern photograph or drawing has the amount of ease and the style details you prefer. A description outlines features of the garment, so you can decide if the pattern is suitable for sewing time available and sewing ability.