

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MEN'S CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION
COURSE WITH AN EMPHASIS ON FIT

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**THIS BOOK
CONTAINS
NUMEROUS
PAGES WITH
MULTIPLE
PENCIL MARKS
THROUGHOUT
THE TEXT.**

**THIS IS THE
BEST IMAGE
AVAILABLE.**

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Many sources including The Clothes You Buy and Make by Caroline E. Wingo, Mary Brooks Picken's Modern Dressmaking Made Easy, and Simplicity's Simplicity Sewing Book Updated give instruction on women's clothing construction and fitting procedures but there are very few instructional materials on men's clothing construction and fitting procedures (9, 16, 19). This study focused on developing an outline and description of a men's clothing construction course, with the main emphasis focused on a unit for fitting men's garments.

According to Women's Wear Daily (14, p. 4) home sewing for all members of the family has increased and patterns for men have also increased in terms of numbers sold to customers. Many women are sewing men's clothing, not simply neckties but also suits and shirts. There are many reasons for the increase in sewing for men, some of which are: the development of easy-care double knit fabrics, a better fit, a savings of money, better quality for money spent, and husbands are "so appreciative" (3, p. 36).

Because men are shaped differently than women, women's fitting procedures will not work for men. Several books and articles give "pointers" on how to construct a certain part of a man's garment but many of the books do not give illustrated, detailed alteration procedures. Hazel M. Sear in The Sew-Easy Guide to Menswear (13) gives a definition of helpful sewing terms and also a list of equipment and findings needed for

a shirt, trousers, lined vest, tie, and sport jacket. However, very little information is given on fitting. Lengthening a pattern is the most often used alteration method. How To Make Men's Clothes by Jane Rhinehart (12) lists supplies that are used by professional tailors such as a pants board, clay chalk, and a tailor's thimble. The book describes how to draft a pair of man's pants, therefore no alterations for a commercial pattern are given because the pants should fit the person exactly. The books Sewing Slacks for Men by Helen K. Tews (18) and Sewing Knits for Men by the Singer Company (17) give detailed instructions on constructing men's garments. Taking of measurements is included in both books but neither relates to altering men's patterns.

From the above examples the author believes that a unit on fitting men's garments with illustrated alterations would be very helpful to the college student interested in this area of study. The illustrated alterations given in this study will show a man's silhouette in which the problem area is dotted. Reasons for the problem and how to correct the problem will be given.

The fitting unit will be designed for those person's who have had a course in Tailoring at the college level. A pair of muslin slacks and a tailored jacket will be the only items discussed and planned to be made in the course being developed.

It will be assumed that college students taking the course know how to do basic alterations. They should be familiar with sewing terms and a variety of fabrics. The illustrated alterations shown in this study will be for commercial patterns only. The terms trousers, slacks, and pants, meaning a garment for the lower portion of a man's body, will be used interchangeably.