

Understanding the Pattern

A patter is to a person making a garment what a blueprint is to a carpenter building a house.

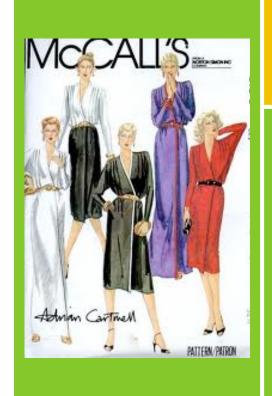
The pattern shows the what, when and how. Just like a blueprint, a pattern gives you a basic plan. This helps you successfully build or put together a product-a garment.

A pattern includes tissue paper pieces to follow when cutting out your fabric. It also includes step-by step instructions for constructing the garment or item. With the help

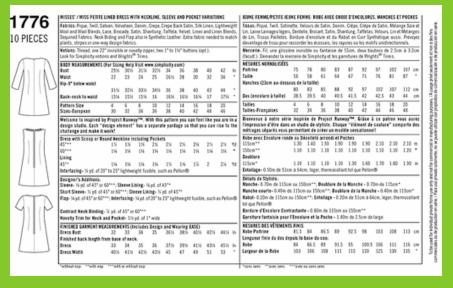
of a pattern, you can buy all the supplies and cut, mark, and sew your garment successfully. Patterns also can give you ideas about styles, fashions and possible fabrics and accessories.

Your pattern has three mair parts:

- 1. Envelop front and back.
- 2. Cutting and sewing instructions.
- 3. Tissue patten pieces.



The Pattern Envelope



The Front of the Pattern Envelope:

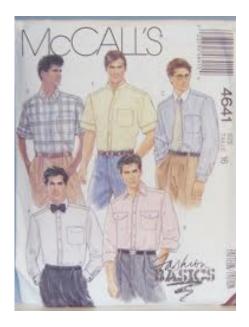
The front of the pattern envelop give the pattern number, figure types, size and price. It also shows a sketch and sometimes a photograph of the garment. These views give you an idea of the different fabrics, designs and details that you can use.

The Back of the Patten Envelope:

On the back of the pattern envelope is a chart that states the amount of fabric you need to make the garments.
Usually, the chart lists the fabric width so you can easily find the length you need. The most common width is 36 inches, 45 inches and 60

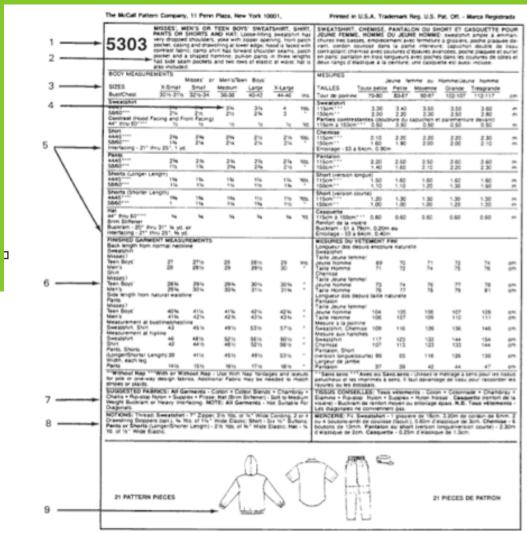
inches. If your fabric with is not on the list, use a conversion chart.

The back of then envelop also hold many other kinds of information. For example, if it requires lining or interfacing the amount is listed. Standard body measurements are also given. The notions are also listed on the back panel of the envelop. Notions are the items other than fabric that become a part of the garment. They include things like thread, fasteners and interfacing. They are under the heading Notions or Supplies Needed. It is important to read the back of the pattern envelope carefully so you purchase the correct supplies. Your project will

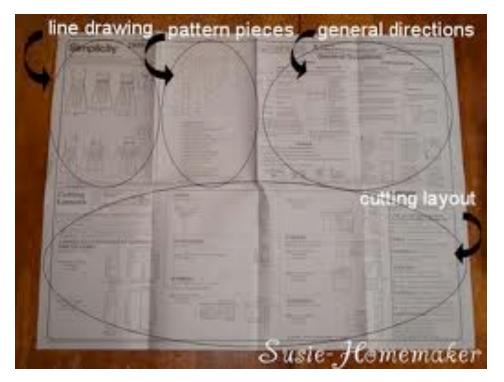


Pattern envelopes often show photos or sketches of different garments that can be made from the same pattern.

The Information Found on the Back of the Patten Envelope



- Pattern number.
- The garment description explains details. You may not be able to see all of these in the photograph or sketch.
- 3. Double-check the list of body measurements to be sure you buy the right size.
- 4. This tells you how much material to buy. Draw a line down from your pattern size. Draw a line across from the view you like and the width of your fabric. Where the lines cross is how much you need.
- If linings or interfacings are needed, the yardage you need will be listed here.
- Finished garment measurements are provided for you to check against your body measurements.
- 7. These fabrics have been selected by the designer as the best ones to use with this pattern. This section also warns you of any problems you may have with certain fabrics. Read it carefully before you select fabric. You may need extra fabric if you choose a large plaid or design that will have to be matched. The salesperson or your teacher can often help you make this decision.
- These are "extras" that are needed to complete your garment. Buy them when you buy your fabric. You can easily match colors of thread, zippers, seam tape, and buttons then.
- The back view shows you how the back will look.



What You Will Find On the Guide Sheets:

The first page gives you the cutting layouts, explanations of marking symbols, and a few general directions. Also, on the first page, you will find line drawings of all pattern pieces. Each piece has a letter or number on it. This makes it easier to identify the pieces you need for the view you are making.

The next section usually includes some general directions. A pattern markings section explains the symbols on pattern pieces such as cutting lines, grain lines, notches and dots. Another section shows how to lengthen or shorten pattern pieces for a proper fit. The directions may also give suggestions for preparing your fabric and

pattern, as well as any specific cutting notes. A fabric key generally explains the meaning of various shadings on the guide sheet. Using the fabric key, you will be able to see the different layers of fabric and the printed and reversed sides of pattern pieces in the cutting layouts.

Cutting layouts show how to correctly place the pattern pieces on your fabric. The guide sheet gives layouts for different views and sizes. It also shows layouts for various widths of fabrics and fabrics with nap. find the layout for your garments and draw a circle around it. Often there are special notes in the cutting layout section to make cutting and marking easier. Be sure to read these carefully before you begin.

Cutting and Sewing Guide Sheet:

In your pattern envelope, you will find one or more printed sheets.

These cutting and sewing guide sheets give detailed instructions on how to make your garment.

Sketches are shown to help you understand procedures.

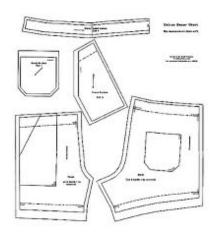
Sewing Directions

The sewing directions in the guide sheet takes you step by step through the process of making your garment. Complete each part before going on to the next step. It will make the construction of your garment easier if you read through all the steps before you begin sewing. You will have a better idea of what to do and how to do it.

Pattern Pieces

Inside your
pattern envelope
you will also find
the pattern
pieces necessary
for making your
garment. Select

the pieces you need by referring to the guide sheet. Write your name on each piece you need and refold the other pieces back up and place them back into the pattern envelope. This helps keep you organized.





Each pattern piece lists the pattern number, size, view number, name of the piece and identification letter. In addition, pattern pieces use many symbols. The bold line around each pieces is the cutting line. Most patterns have several sizes printed on one pattern piece. If so, you will see several cutting lines representing each pattern size. Use the cutting line for your size. If you are not using a multi-sized pattern, just inside the cutting line may be a broken line that represents the stitching line. Multi-sized patterns do not show a stitching line.

A line with triangles on both ends indicates the grain line. This line helps you correctly locate the pattern on the fabric grain. Thin, solid lines indicate center fold lines, hemlines and placements for pockets or trims that on on the outside of the garment.

Adjustment lines show where to shorten or lengthen the pattern piece.

Notches are the diamondshaped symbols along the cutting line. They help you join pieces together at the right places. Dots are also aids for matching seams and other construction details.

Patterns

Clothing and Textiles Family and Consumer Sciences

Taken and adapted from Apparel: Design, Textiles and Construction 10th ed. Chapter 23.