

# METHODS OF PATTERN DEVELOPMENT

## I. DRAFTING

### INTRODUCTION

Drafting refers to a basic pattern that fit a particular individual or a model. Drafting is considered as a map of a garment, in the same way as for constructing a house one needs a map. The basic pattern may be a Bodice block, skirt, sleeve, trouser etc. It is also known as a sloper. A set of slopers is drafted from measurements taken from a model form, a live model, or according to standardized or individual measurements. These slopers can be used to develop new designs and patterns. It is a template or tool in the development of original patterns. The other names for a sloper are standard pattern, foundation pattern, or a block pattern. Drafting does not include seam allowances. There are no design features in drafting. It is just a basic block mostly made with individual body measurements. Drafting acts as a base to establish style lines and other design features.

Drafting is done on the rough side of brown paper as the markings on the rough side are darker. The measurements for drafting of a block should be accurate for a perfect fit. If the measurements are not taken properly than the stitched garment will have an un-satisfactory effect, ill fit and will be of no use. Sharp pencils should be used for drafting and all the relevant information may be marked on it. It is used for bringing out new designs and developing new patterns. This method is the simplest one and is used by the beginners. It is done on a flat surface.

### STEPS IN DRAFTING :

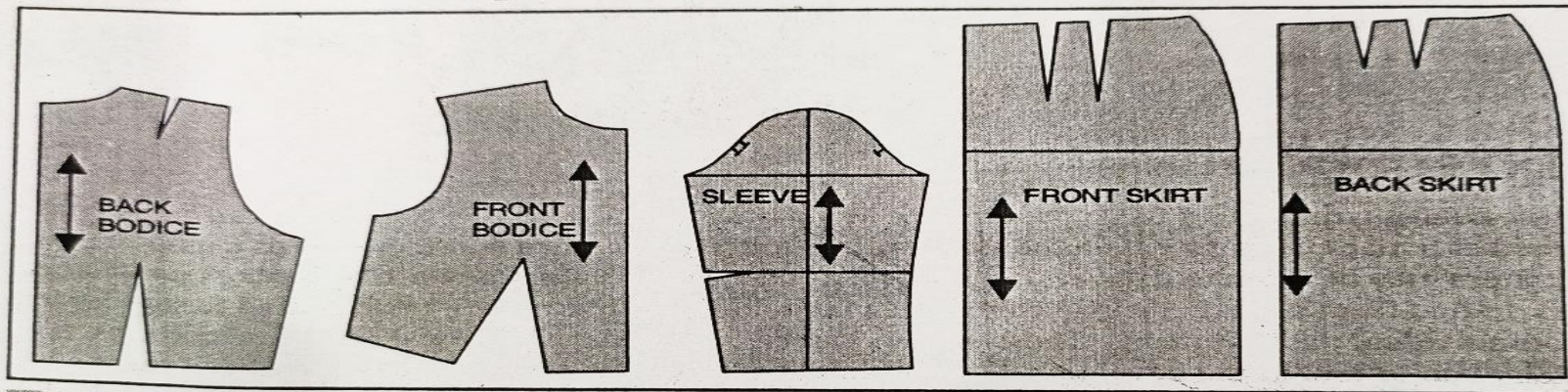
**1. Taking body measurements :** The first step in drafting of a sloper is the measurements, for whom it is to be stitched. Measurements can be taken from the actual body, an already stitched garment, or the standard measurements can be taken for drafting. Measurements should be taken accurately as it is directly related to the fit of the garment. Ease is kept on the brown paper. A record chart of measurements can be prepared before, so that all the measurements are taken and recorded on the record chart according to the garment to be stitched.

**2. Making a layout of garment or drafting :** The next step is drafting of the pattern/sloper. It is done on brown paper with a sharp pencil and all the lines should be fine and clear. Lines are

curved using a French curve. The draft of the garment is prepared after doing some calculations. There are no seam allowances in the draft. This drafting or sloper may be kept for future use and is for developing new designs, the sloper can be traced on another paper and then it is used.

**3. Placing the draft on the fabric, pinning, marking and cutting :** Before placing the draft on the fabric, the fabric should be prepared before cutting. The grain of the fabric should be straight and cotton fabric should be pre-shrunk. The draft is then placed on the fabric according to the desired layout. The fabric can be folded lengthwise, crosswise or double folded according to the fabric and design. The pieces are placed on the fabric and pinned in position. The markings are then transferred from the paper to the fabric using carbon paper and tracing wheel. Seam allowances are also marked on the fabric and finally the fabric pieces are cut and then stitched accordingly.

### The basic five set slopers / basic pattern set :



### ADVANTAGES OF DRAFTING

1. If the measurements are available, draft of any size can be prepared.
2. It is the cheap and easy method of developing a sloper, which can further be used for developing new designs.
3. The amount of fabric required for sewing any particular garment can be easily calculated and estimated.
4. Any corrections, adaptations and alterations can be done in the drafting, hence reducing the wastage of the fabric.
5. A single draft can be used many times and therefore it saves time for taking measurements.
6. A draft helps to eliminate wrong cutting of the fabric.
7. If the measurements taken for drafting are accurate, then there will be no chances of ill-fitting. The garment will give a perfect fit if the measurements are accurate.
8. Draft can be placed on checked, striped, pile or one way printed fabric, hence results in accurate cutting and matching of lines.

### DISADVANTAGES OF DRAFTING

1. It is a time consuming process as it takes a lot of time in making the draft on paper
2. The garment is to be tried each time to check