

Multi-Size Patterns

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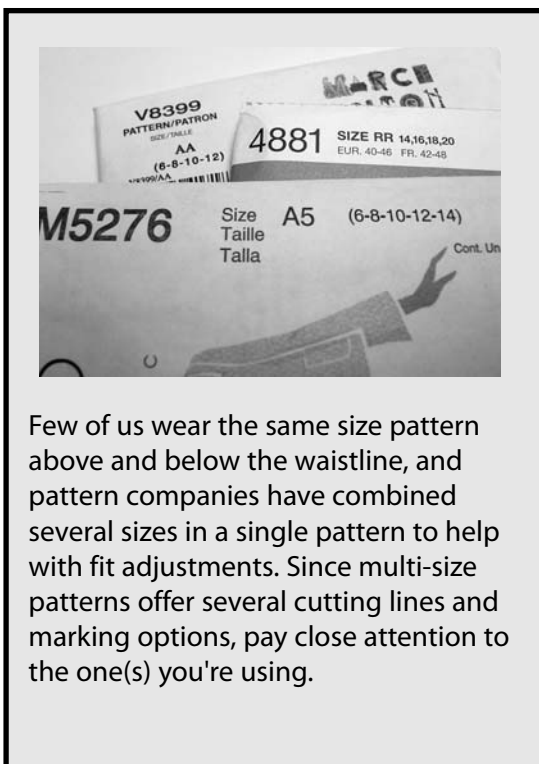


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Few of us wear the same size pattern above and below the waistline, and pattern companies have combined several sizes in a single pattern to help with fit adjustments. Since multi-size patterns offer several cutting lines and marking options, pay close attention to the one(s) you're using.

Single vs. Multi-sizing

Not all designs are suitable for multi-sizing, and generally the more fitted or detailed the silhouette, the more likely you'll find it only in a single-size offering for more accuracy.

Although some unfitted garments (like aprons and nightgowns) may offer sizes from XS to XL in a single pattern, generally fashion patterns offer combinations of three to five sizes—for example, an 8/10/12 or 14/16/18/20. Some companies may offer cross-over sizing, such as 8/10/12 and 12/14/16 to better suit varying measurement combinations.

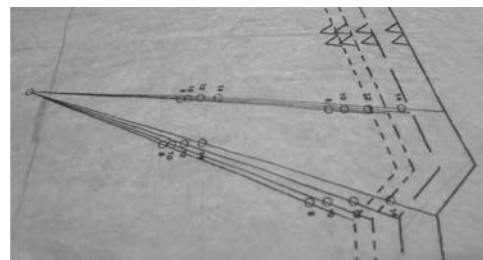
What if you wear a size 12 on top and a size 18 on the bottom? That combination isn't usually offered as it spans too many size ranges, so purchase the offering closest to your needs for upper body fitting and alter to fit the hipline, an easier adjustment—in this case, a 12/14/16.

Shared vs. Multiple Cutting Lines

Some areas of a pattern piece may offer shared cutting lines, meaning a portion is the same for

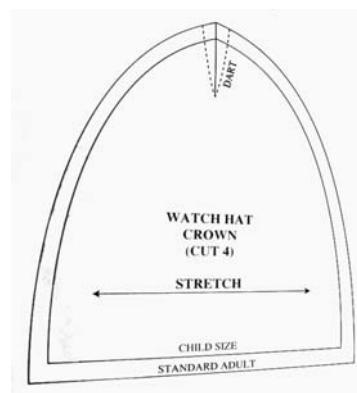


all sizes. Most commonly, the shared cutting line is the center back or center front seam with sizes varying at the sides or other garment areas (1). Multiple cutting lines, by size, are generally located at the neckline, armhole and side seams. Each size will have its own designated markings and notches (2)



Nested Cutting Lines

If a pattern offers all sizes in a single envelope, the pieces may be "nested," meaning that each piece is stacked within the next largest size and is totally independent of the other size pieces (no common cutting lines) (3).



Separate Pieces

Whether a multi-size pattern is nested or offers multiple cutting lines, some pieces, like facings, may still be separated by size. Drawing multi-size lines on small pieces can become confusing as the separation area is minimal and it's simply easier for the pattern company to offer multiple pieces by size. When you open a pattern like this, be sure to note the specific size on the pattern piece and select the one for the size you're using in the matching area. For example, if you're cutting a size 10 in the neck and shoulder area, choose the size 10 neckline facing piece.

Pattern Use

To use a multi-size pattern, you have two choices—cut on the designated lines for your figure needs, or trace the custom pattern onto paper or tracing cloth leaving the master pattern intact for another use.


Fitting

Accurate body measurements are important when working with multi-size patterns, as you're taking advantage of the multiple lines for customized fit. Always keep in mind that adjacent pieces must be cut using the same size line so they will fit together. For example, a dress with a fitted waist must be cut using

the same pattern size at the waistline so pieces will fit together, even though the hipline may jump to the next size range or larger.

On occasion, tapering between size lines can be a key to successful fitting. However, jumping abruptly from one size to two or three sizes larger doesn't create a smooth line and the garment will look distorted.

As an example, on a one-piece dress front when transitioning from a size 10 bust to a size 14 hip, taper the cutting line between the sizes, essentially creating a size 12 waistline, even if it's not needed. Smooth the line before cutting.

Once you've created the altered pattern, pin the seamlines (not the cutting lines) together and pin-fit it to double-check. Alter the pieces as needed before cutting. 

It's important to note that not all multi sized patterns can be adjusted by blending. Before choosing to taper a pattern between sizes, always check the pattern envelope or instructions or check with the pattern manufacturer to see if that particular pattern can be adjusted by blending.
