



How to Draft Your Bodice Block/Sloper

Taking Your Measurements

(updated 14 Nov 19)

Only read this if you want the best chance at success...in other words...Read This!

It's always important to take accurate measurements BUT this time, you really want to be consistent, as well as accurate. I suggest wearing a snug garment with your usual undergarments and applying guidelines by either drawing on your garment OR stick some tape on you or your garment and draw on the tape.

You can also use some string tied around certain parts- just make sure it can't shift.

It's completely fine to use the seams of the garment you're wearing as a guide as long as you agree with where the seam are. You can also use it as a reference of where you DON'T want to measure.

Mark these guidelines on your body:

- 1) Around your 'natural' waist (not where your pants sit but where you think your waistline is)
- 2) Around the base of your neck
- 3) Around your bustline across your apex (the apex is the fullest part of your bust)
- 4) Around your Armhole -take your time with this one and get some help!
- 5) Your Center Front and your Center Back from the base of your neck to your waist.

Remember, some of these places aren't where your garments sit, it's the actual spot on your body. And being consistent is important to getting your Sloper as close to perfect as possible. There isn't necessarily a 'correct' place to measure in some places, it's just where you want to use as reference for all your patterns. The illustration gives the 'correct' place to measure but you may find your body isn't as straight-forward as some of those places. And that's ok! It's why we're doing this, right?

We'll be drafting our Slopers based on basic flat pattern drafting methods. I referenced my own books from my college years and primarily from Patternmaking for Fashion Design by Helen Joseph Armstrong. Draping a Sloper is also possible but it's understandably tricky to do on ourselves.

We may not draft our Sloper perfectly the first time. We'll have to fit it and check some of the main seams and their locations before we can use it to draft some patterns. But the work you put in to this Sloper is worth it. Spend the time on it! It's really the key to making all your clothes fit well and as close to accurate as possible on the first try!

This method can be used for a company- however the company would usually measure a dressform that measures their base size from their size chart. Ideally a company doesn't use the measurements of a person that works there (like the owner) when drafting their basic block. But yes, this happens. (Many will find this information familiar since there is a lot of great progress being made in the home sewing world to add more inclusive sizing and add blocks in other size ranges that represent the population better).

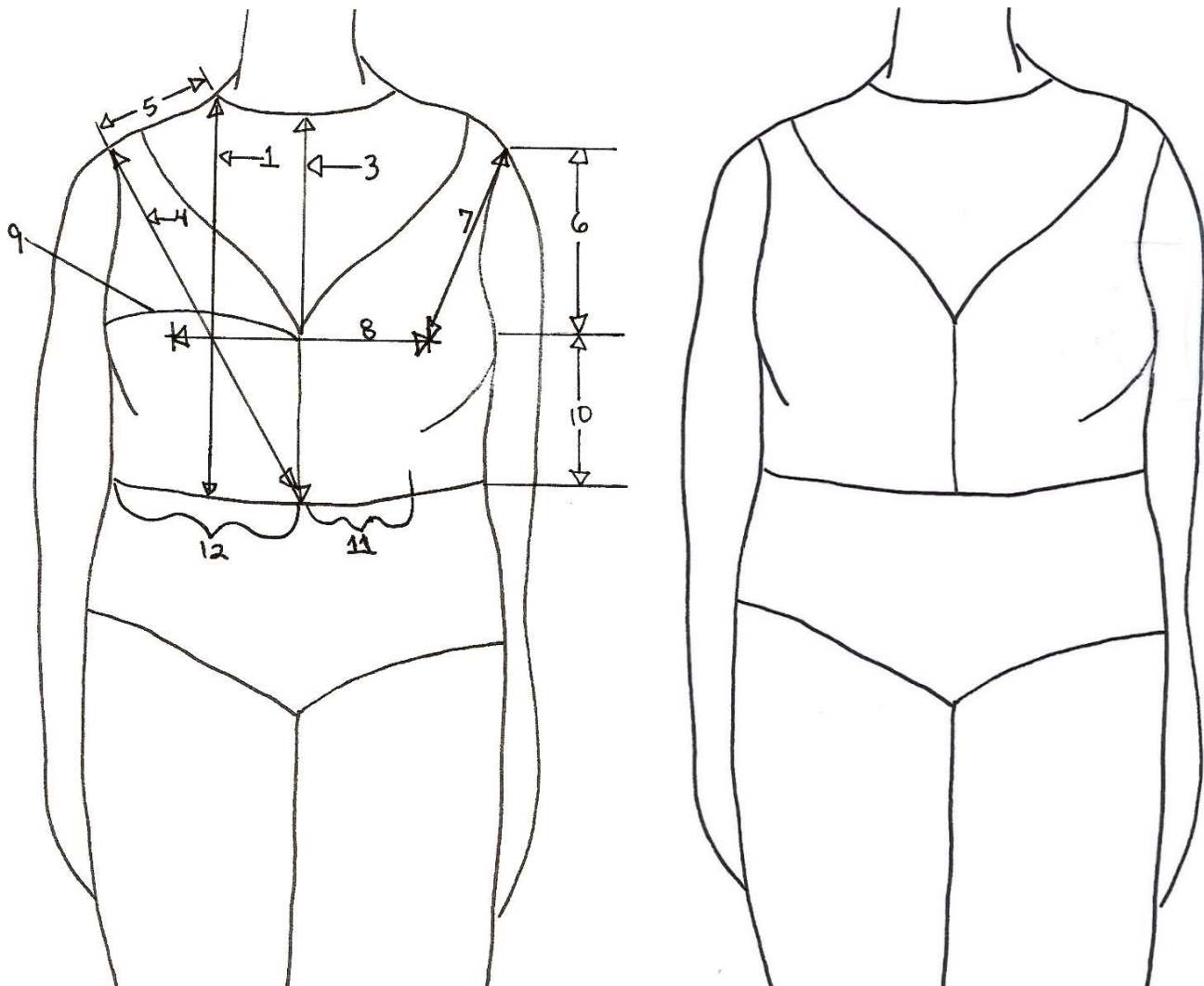
Once you sew and try on your Sloper, it becomes obvious that this is close to a second skin. It's like we're making a dressform of YOU!

This document doesn't precisely explain everything so watch the videos!

Front Measurements

Abbreviations: CF Center Front - AH Armhole - HPS High Point at Shoulder

- 1) High Point at Shoulder to Waist: Shoulder/Neck Juncture straight down parallel to CF
- 2) Across Shoulder: Across back. See Back Illustration. **Write down half.**
- 3) Center Front Length: Front Neck to Waist
- 4) Shoulder Slope Angle: Outer shoulder to Center Front Waist
- 5) Shoulder Length: Neck to shoulder point.
- 6) Armhole Depth: Outer shoulder to bottom of armhole, straight down
- 7) Bust Depth: Shoulder tip to bust point (Apex)
- 8) Bust Span: Apex to Apex; **write down half of this measurement**
- 9) Bust Arc: Center Front to Side Seam over Apex **plus 1/4"**
- 10) Side Length: AH to Waist
- 11) Dart Placement: Half Bust Span **minus 3/4"**
- 12) Waist Arc: CF to Side Seam **plus 1/4"**



Back Measurements

Abbreviations: CB Center Back - AH Armhole - HPS High Point at Shoulder

- 13) High Point at Shoulder to Waist: Shoulder/Neck Juncture straight down parallel to CB
- 2) Across Shoulder: Across back, shoulder to shoulder. **Write down half.**
- 14) Center Back Length: Back Neck to Waist
- 15) Shoulder Slope Angle: CB Waist to Outer Shoulder
- 16) Back Neck: CB Neck to Shoulder
- 17)Waist Arc: CB Waist to Side Seam **minus 1/4"**
- 11) Dart Placement: Use from Front measurements
- 10) Side Length: AH to Waist (from Front Measurements)
- 19) Back Arc: CB to bottom of AH **minus 1/4"**
- 20) Across Back: CB to mid-Armhole

