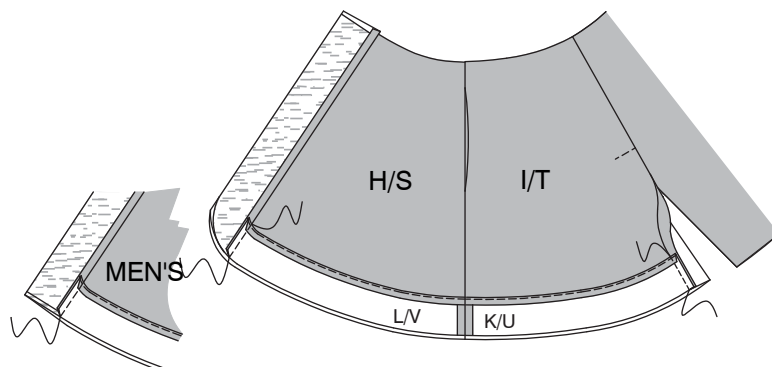


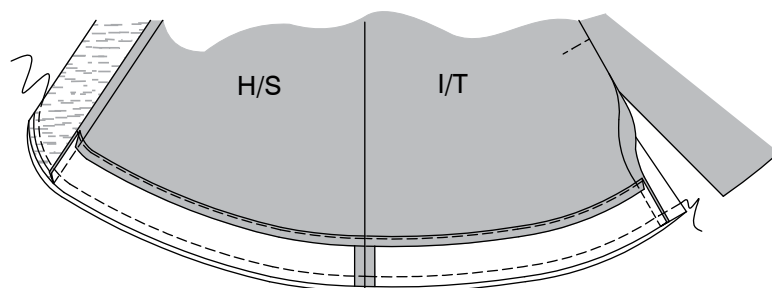
Countryside Frock Coat

Correction in Instructions, page 8

Under Hem Facings and Finishing, after “Press under 1/2” (13mm) along upper edge of Hem Facings and topstitch close to pressed edge.” and before “Hand sewing pleat edges to coat.” The following steps are missing:



Open out front peplum facings and pleats, and with right sides together, stitch ends of Hem Facings to Peplums at pleat and front facing edges. Press seams open.



With right sides together, stitch Hem Facings to Peplums along bottom edges. Trim seams, turn Hem and Front Facings to inside, and press.

Notes About the Frock Coat in History

The frock coat has been one of the most enduring men's fashions in history. Its long-running popularity has in large measure been due to the garment's inherent versatility. Individual features of the basic coat have varied over the years and adapted to shifting trends. The adaptable quality enabled the frock coat to change with the times and persist as a preferred fashion through the centuries. Add to its versatile qualities the coat's flattering silhouette, and you've got a fashion that deserves renewed interest.

Developed for an 18th century English country gentleman's love of outdoor activities, the frock coat provided a tough, hard-working garment that was both presentable and unconstraining to the horse ride. Its generous skirt assured a comfortable mount, as well as a protection from the brush and brambles of fox-hunting terrain.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the English gentleman and gentlewoman set the standards of taste and dress for America and most Western European nations. The frock coat therefore became the coat of choice for men everywhere who aspired to a sophisticated, well-appointed life. Its comfort and hardy practicality assured that it became a favorite of the working man, too, especially when he went into town on a Saturday night or church on a Sunday morning.

Much like the hemlines and silhouettes of women's fashions through the ages, the frock coat's history reflects a variety of modifications, according to changing tastes or purpose. While the coat originally evolved for riding and hunting, it was quickly adapted for military use and eventually was absorbed into a gentleman's wardrobe as formal and/or mourning wear.

After the mid-1800s, the cutaway coat with tails

(an extreme modification of the basic frock coat) gained favor for evening occasions, and the frock coat was more commonly seen as daytime formal wear. By the early 1900s, morning coats replaced the frock coat for formal day wear, but frock coats were still worn by businessmen until World War I. In the 1970s, when fashionable women appropriated menswear styling, silk and satin frock coats were seen on designers' runways and city streets as a fresh, flattering, and unconventional look. Despite its manly history, the frock coat was discovered to be quite flattering to women, with its cinched-in waist and full skirt. Today, frock coats are donned by historic reenactors at Civil War and Western "End of Trail" events, as well as male and female aficionados of Western wear.

The permutations and variations of the frock coat have been numerous, and have gone through repeating cycles over nearly 200 years of respectable wear. The overall silhouette has been tighter or looser at the waist, single- or double-breasted, with padded or unpadded shoulders. The peplum skirts have been as short as mid-thigh or as long as the ankle, when the frock style was worn as an overcoat. The collars have been larger or smaller, shawl style, classic shirt style with lapels, or narrow standup types. Generally, the coats have always been unlined, except for the front skirts, which were traditionally lined with a sturdy cotton to provide protection for the legs while on horseback.

Throughout its long history, the frock coat has made a statement of refined taste and sophistication, whether worn by a big-city businessman, a frontier lawman, or a military officer. In today's anything-goes world, the frock coat is deservedly getting renewed attention as a men's and women's fashion of distinction.



Early 1800s

Mid-1800s

Late 1800s