

Buy a Better Pattern

**Silhouettepatterns.com** | This company is rare, if not unique, among pattern lines in offering all their women's top patterns with different fronts for different bust sizes. It works quite well, I'm told, and they offer many classic and contemporary shirts, blouses, and jackets with good shapes and simple directions. Lots of block sources here, plus many very interesting free video tutorials on fitting and factory construction.

**Sewing.patternreview.com** | A vast archive of patterns reviewed by members of this venerable community.

Take a Class/Buy a Custom Pattern

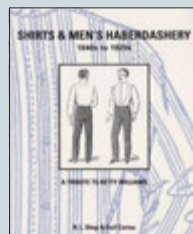
**Sarahveblen.com** | Sarah Veblen is the author of the current best-selling book on fitting and she's available for very reasonable one-on-one consultations, as of this writing, via email or Skype.

**Deofsf.com** | Don McCunn, author of one of my all-time favorite fitting books has retired from online classes but his mailing list is still quite active as of this writing, and he's putting all of his extensive class archives and videos online, including directions for making a custom form from the fitting body shell described in this book.

**Paccprofessionals.org** | The Association of Sewing and Design Professionals offers local and online referrals to sewing professionals in all areas of expertise, including fitting help and custom pattern making.

Drafting and Flat Pattern, Vintage

**Shirts & Men's Haberdashery: 1840s to 1920s**, by R. L. Shep and Gail Cariou. The best, if not only, all-in-one-place collection of old shirt drafting methods and books republished as facsimiles. Fascinating, but I wish it covered the 1900s more thoroughly. A good one to check out via interlibrary loan.



**Drafting Men's Shirts and Undergarments**, by Harry Simons. One of the best, most modern, and most varied draft books in the Cariou/Shep book above. It is also available at centerforpatterndesign.com as a reprint, along with other cool related stuff.

**Cutterandtailor.com** | Has many large scans of more recent but still vintage drafts for shirts and much else, also linked to from my blog and boards.

**Theperfectnose.wordpress.com** | Has links to pdf downloads of many wonderful out-of-print drafting, draping, and design books from the 1930s and 1940s.

Drafting and Flat Pattern, Contemporary

The following three textbooks are college level, aimed at training garment industry pros, and are generally big and expensive, but they are comprehensive and filled with drafts for shirts (among other things), grading information, and industry terms and practices. They're all useful for home sewers, and each has many unique offerings. Find detailed, illustrated reviews of each on my blog.

**Metric Pattern Cutting for Menswear**, by Winifred Aldrich. Of the three, this is my favorite, but not by much. I like her many shirt and jacket blocks and directions, plus it's smaller than the others, and easier to hold!

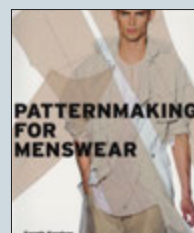
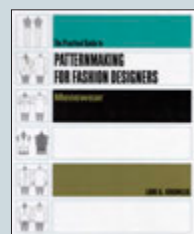
**The Practical Guide to Patternmaking for Fashion Designers—Menswear**, by Lori A. Knowles.

**Patternmaking for Menswear**, by Gareth Kershaw.

**Yourwardrobeunlockd.com** | A wonderful, detailed blog post from a writer whose mother was an UrbanLegend designer, about how to draft like it was simple. Look under Articles/Free/Advanced for Pattern Drafting 1: Bodice Sloper.

Patternmaking Software

**Cochenille.com** | (garment designer, Mac and PC) and **wildginger.com** (pattern master, PC and via Windows emulation on the Mac). Both these companies have stuck it out through the boom and bust days of pattern making software for home sewers and continue to flourish because they love it and really understand



it. Especially useful if you sew for others, or ever make anything custom-fitted besides shirts.

Online Drafts

Googling "drafting men's shirt block," no quotes, will open the door to many resources, including these:

**Lekala.co (yes, leave off the "m")** | Lets you can order a free drafted shirt pattern for printing out at home after logging in and posting a few measurements, as well as many for-pay (but very inexpensive, and generally well reviewed) drafts for other styles for men, women, and children.

**Damorrish.com/cadcam-downloads/menswear-shirt-block-generator** | Offers other drafts besides shirts and lots of really useful tutorials on digital pattern work, for free.

**Ralphpink.com/pattern-cutting/menswear/mens-basic-blocks** | Offers other drafts besides shirts and lots of really useful tutorials on digital pattern work, for free.

Draping

**Dress Design: Draping and Flat Pattern Making**, by M. S. Hillhouse and Evelyn A. Mansfield. A timeless 1948 classic, in libraries everywhere and may even be still available in pdf form online for free.



Custom Forms

**Sue-mason.com** | Sue Mason has put together an amazing resource documenting her custom-molded body form discoveries in great detail, free, under Tutorials at her site. Thanks, Sue!

Visit my Pinterest boards for lots of links to other approaches, including the method I used for my form pictured through-out this book.

Copying

**Kennethdking.com/book** | *Making Garments from Existing Garments*, by Kenneth D. King. This excellent book on CD is very detailed and goes way beyond simply pin-copying dartless shirts. Kenneth offers many other methods on all aspects of pattern design, couture construction, and fitting.

**Patternmaking for a Perfect Fit**, by Steffani Lincecum. Another detailed approach to copying all sorts of garments and making patterns from them. Steffani also offers an online class on the topic at [craftsy.com](http://craftsy.com).



Tools

NONDIGITAL

Amazon.com is the current source for my favorite new curved rulers and rolling measuring devices, **SA rulers**; really cool and useful! Check out my Pinterest boards for links to all the other tools described in this chapter.

DIGITAL

**Epson WorkForce WF-7510** | This is my super-scanner/printer for 11 x 17-inch (28 x 43 cm) tabloid-size paper, aka Ledger or B size, and Super-B, or 13 x 19-inch (33 x 48 cm), print only. If you're beginning to really enjoy downloadable patterns, this is your secret weapon.

To Consider

Considering that the presumed goal of all pattern-drafting instruction is to get students to eventually no longer need any patterns or directions to come up with a new pattern for what they want to design, I suggest—if this is even a little bit your goal, too—spending some time with scaled-down diagrams of garment pattern pieces such as you'll find in pattern-piece thumbnails (vintage patterns sales at Etsy and eBay often include them), books on design, and some costume-history texts (the Dover book shown here is excellent). At first, just imagine how you'd draw up a full-size pattern from only these little diagrams, with a fitting block as the foundation, and then actually try it! Maybe start with just a detail, like the collars here, and think of it as a drawing exercise. How much more information do you really need to begin playing?

