

Truly Victorian
1872 Carriage Bodice
TV402

Introduction

This bodice is taken from the 1872 Butterick Pattern Catalog. It was listed as a Carriage Bodice, as it has an outerwear look to it, but it is fitted as a bodice with all the normal darts and seams. The neckline was given as high round, without a collar. I have added the option of a "V" neckline as well, which was very stylish at the time. The bodice closed with buttons down the center front. The bell sleeve is in 2 pieces, and widens dramatically at the wrist. The basque has deep points at the front and the sides, with short pleats at the center back. It is split at the side seams below the waist, to allow room for bustles of various sizes.

The bodice is drafted based on a tailoring method used in the 1870's, adjusted to fit the modern body. All of the bodice seams are true to the era, and it is designed to fit snugly over a corset.

For this pattern, please disregard any attempt at standard sizing. We have included comprehensive directions on how to size and adjust this pattern for a good fit. These methods are a little different than what you may be used to, so please read them carefully, before cutting out pattern pieces. **It is strongly advisable to make a mockup of the bodice, before cutting out your fashion fabric, to check fit.**

Size Chart

SIZE	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Bust	30"	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"	42"	44"	46"	48"	50"	52"	54"	56"
Waist	22"	24"	26"	28"	30"	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"	42"	44"	46"	48"
Back Length	15 ½"	15 5/8"	15 ¾"	15 7/8"	16"	16 1/8"	16 ¼"	16 3/8"	16 ½"	16 5/8"	16 ¾"	16 7/8"	17"	17 1/8"
Back Width	12"	12½"	13"	13½"	14"	14½"	15"	15½"	16"	16½"	17"	17½"	18"	18½"
Adj. Back	15.5	16.25	17	17.75	18.5	19.25	20	20.75	21.5	22.25	23	23.75	24.5	25.25
Adj. Front	14.5	15.75	17	18.25	19.5	20.75	22	23.25	24.5	25.75	27	28.25	29.5	30.75
Arm Hole	15½"	16"	16½"	17"	17½"	18"	18½"	19"	19½"	20"	20½"	21"	21½"	22"
Main fabric	2 7/8 yards or 2.7m with nap													
Lining	2 7/8 yards or 2.7m with nap													
Interlining	2 1/8 yards or 1.9m with nap													

**Yardages given are with nap for 44/45" wide fabric. For lining, use broadcloth or batiste, or similar light weight fabric. For Interlining, use a firmly woven fabric like light twill, silesia, or heavy broadcloth.

Notions: Seven ¼" stays; Buttons or hooks and eyes for closure.

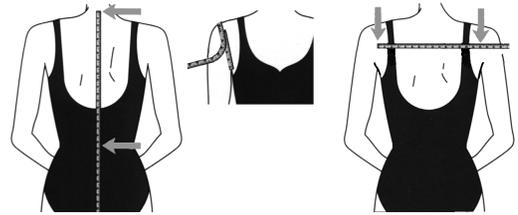
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Taking your Measures

For this pattern, you will need to take a few body measures. It is best to have someone take these measures for you, (and to take them several times), to make sure that they will be correct. Be sure to take measures over your corset and any underclothes that you will be wearing under your bodice. The measures you need are:

1. **Back Width** - Measure across back, while standing naturally, from the socket of one arm to the socket of your other arm. Do not take too wide.
2. **Back Length** - Take this measure from the nape of neck, down the spine to the waist.
3. **Bust** - this is the full measure around your body. Make sure that the measure is taken over the fullest part of bust and around (not under) shoulder blades.
4. **Arm Hole** - This measure is for your sleeve size. Take measure close under arm and over point of shoulder.



Sizing Your Pattern

Our unique method of sizing patterns is designed to allow all body types to use our patterns. Most other patterns can only accommodate B-cup sizes. Choosing Fronts and Backs separately will allow people with different cup sizes to fit themselves better. To choose the correct pattern, follow the instructions below:

1. Choose pattern **Back** , **Side Back**, and **Side** according to your **Back Width** measure. (These pieces are not interchangeable)
Example: Back Width measures 14", cut out size E Back, Side Back, and Side.
2. On size chart, find **Adjusted Back** correlating to your Back pattern size.
Example: Size E Adjusted Back is 18.5".
3. Subtract Adjusted Back from Breast measure. This is your **Adjusted Front**.
Example: Bust measure is 40". $40\text{''(Bust)} - 18.5\text{''(Adj. Back)} = 21.5\text{'' (Adj. Front.)}$
4. Choose **Front** pattern piece that correlates to your Adjusted Front. (If Adjusted Front is between sizes, choose the larger size and customize Front as described in customizing section.)
Example: Adjusted Front 21.5" would be size G Front pattern.
** If your Front is a smaller size than the Back, cut shoulder longer to equal Back shoulder length.
5. Choose **Sleeve** pattern according to your **Arm Hole** measure. The sleeve length is 17" for all sizes, armpit to wrist. Lengthen or shorten as needed, both above and below the elbow equally.

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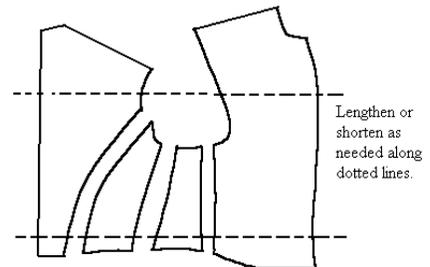
After choosing your pattern pieces, make a Mockup of your bodice. Sew the Back, Side Back, Side and Front together, leaving the center front open. With someone to help you, check the fit of your bodice. Pin the Mockup on you down the center front, like a seam, with a 1" allowance (½" seam allowance and ½" for closure) on each side. Make changes to your pattern as described below.

Customizing Your Pattern

Almost all adjustments are made to the Front. Do not make adjustments to the Back, Side, or Side Back pieces unless absolutely necessary.

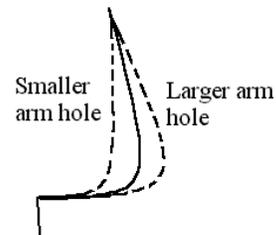
1. Length

When fitting your bodice, the bottom of the arm hole should fit snugly under your arm. Adjust the length to your waist by shortening or lengthening each pattern piece equally, just above the waist. Adjust the height of the Back to reach ½" above the nape of your neck, by folding out the excess evenly across entire back. Fit the Front smoothly from bust point to nape of neck by shortening or lengthening Front, above the arm hole as needed.



2. Arm Hole

Move arm hole on Front forward or back as needed, using cup sizes as a guide line for these changes. The arm hole should fit snugly around your arm, but should not be binding.

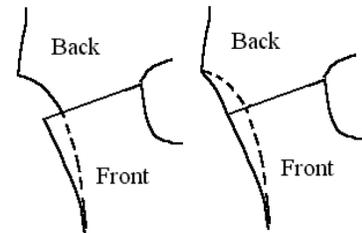
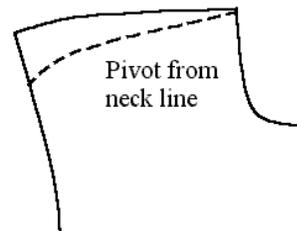


3. Shoulder

The bodice should fit over point of shoulder with a small amount of ease. Take in or let out shoulder, on Front only, by pivoting the shoulder seam from the neck edge.

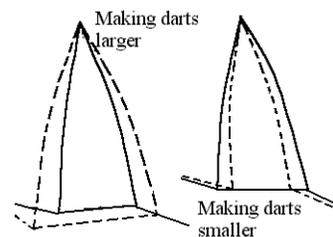
Match shoulder seams at neck edge. Adjust shoulder length on both Front and Back as necessary. (edge of fabric should be ¾" past point of shoulder.)

If you are making a lot of changes to the shoulder and arm hole, you may wish to measure around your finished arm hole to get the correct size for your sleeve. Hopefully, your changes will result with a snug bodice and the arm hole will be correct to your body.

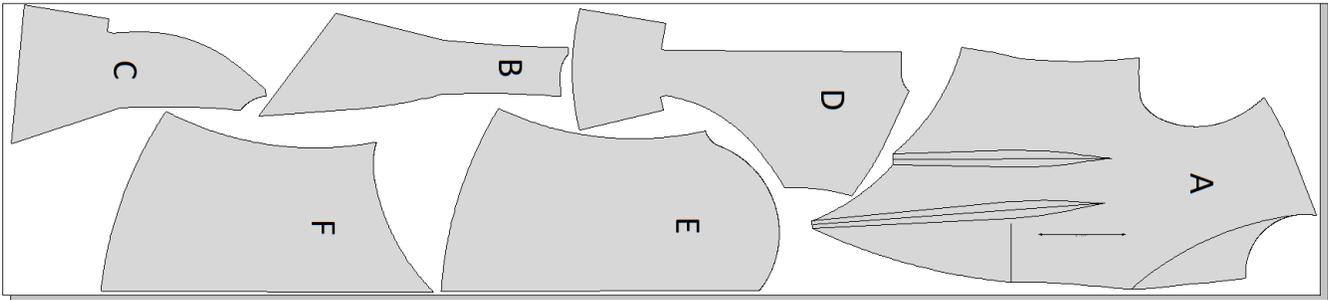


4. Waist Size

All waist size adjustments are made to the Front darts, after the rest of the bodice is fitted. The darts have nothing to do with cup size. An A-cup person with a tiny waist may have larger darts than a C-cup person with no waist. The dart lines on the pattern are there as a guideline only. Take in or let out all darts equally to fit waist. Example: if you have an excess of 4" at the waist, make each dart larger by 1".



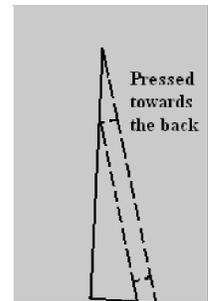
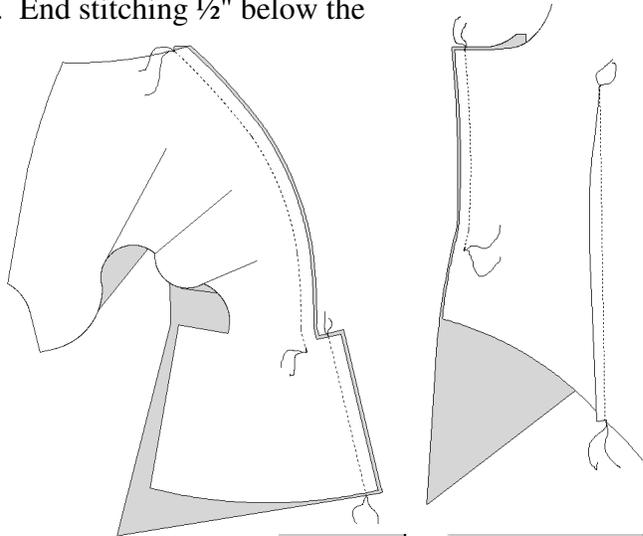
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Sewing Instructions

Note: 1/2" seam allowance has been added to all pieces.

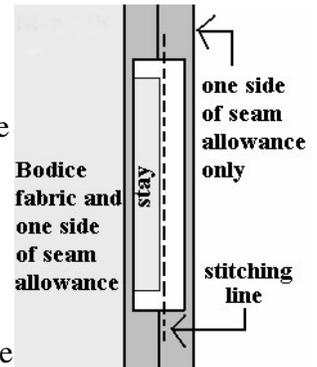
1. Main fabric: Cut 2 of Back, Side Back, Side, Front, Outer Sleeve, and Inner Sleeve.
 Interlining: Cut 2 of Back, Side Back, Side, and Front.
 Lining fabric: Cut 2 of Back, Side Back, Side, Front, Outer Sleeve, and Inner Sleeve
2. Flat line fashion fabric with interlining. Flat line by laying matching interlining onto wrong side of fashion fabric and carefully baste around all edges. Do not stretch fabrics or allow them to bunch. Once the fabrics are sewn together, treat them as a single piece. **Do not skip this part.** It is very important to give your fashion fabric a firm base.
3. With fashion fabric, sew the darts into Fronts.
4. Sew Backs to Side Backs along curved seam. End stitching 1/2" below the top edge of pleat and backstitch. Sew pleat edge on Side Back to pleat edge on Back.
5. Sew Sides to Side Backs at side seam.
6. Sew Fronts to Sides at side seam. End stitching at 1" below the waistline, and backstitch.
7. Sew Backs together at center back seam. End stitching 1/2" below the top edge of pleat and backstitch. Sew pleat edge on Backs together.
8. Sew Backs to Fronts at shoulder seam.
9. Clip and press all seams. Do not clip the darts.
10. Boning (stays).
 - a. On the Front, place boning along both of the darts, extending from just below the tip of the dart to 3-4" below the waistline. Use the dart itself as the casing. Sew a stitching line 3/8" away from the dart seam to make a channel for the stay. Sew across the top of the channel. Insert the stay into the channel, and sew across the bottom



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of the channel $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the bottom edge to hold the stay in place. Press the darts facing towards the back.

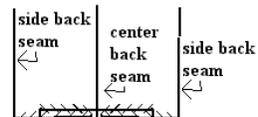
- b. Boning at the side and side back seam should be about 6-7" long, ending at the waistline and short of the armhole at least 1". Bone the center back seam with a 6" bone, ending at the waist.
- c. Make casings for the bones: cut $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide strips out of lining material. Fold material around bone and, using a zipper foot, sew bone tightly into casing.
- d. Baste bone casing to seam allowance only, as close to seam and bone as possible. Sew along one side, or both, as desired.



11. Lining:

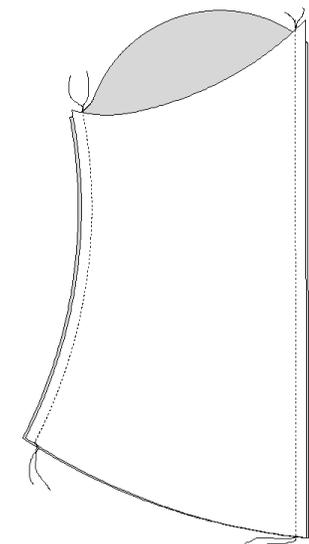
- a. Repeat steps 3-9 with lining fabric, EXCEPT: Steps 4 and 5: end stitching at the TOP of the pleat, rather than $\frac{1}{2}$ " below.
- b. Attach lining to bodice, right-sides together, matching all seams and edges. Sew around all neck, front, and bottom edges with $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. At side seam, sew up to bottom of side seam on both sides.
- c. Clip and trim all edges. Turn bodice right-side out through arm hole. Press all edges flat. Hand baste lining to arm holes.

12. Form pleats by pulling top pleat edge of fashion fabric to lining side of bodice, matching the top edge of lining. Match center back pleat seam to center back bodice seam, so that the pleats form on either side of the center back. For side back pleat, lay pleat under the bodice back. Baste pleats in place to the lining only, to hold permanently in place.



13. Two-Piece Sleeves

- a. Sew Outer Sleeves to Inner Sleeves along both side seams. Clip seams and press.
- b. Repeat with lining fabric.
- c. With right sides together, match the linings to the sleeves. Sew sleeve to lining at the wrist. Turn inside out and press.
- d. Baste lining to fashion fabric along arm hole edge. Run ease gather stitches along top curve of sleeve.
- e. Fit sleeve into arm hole of fashion fabric, right sides together, matching front sleeve seam to notch on Front. Ease sleeve top curve to fit arm hole. Make sure sleeve's elbow curves toward front.



14. Place horizontal button holes on the right-hand-side, $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the center front edge. Space the buttons every $1\frac{1}{4}$ " for $\frac{5}{8}$ " buttons. Skip the button at the very top, to leave room to pin a broach or ribbon tie. Place the last button at the waistline, or just below.
15. Place buttons on the left hand side, corresponding with the button holes.
16. Trim bodice as desired.

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- ✿ **Ruches** - To make a ruche, cut strips of material to desired width plus extra for hems. Sew all the strips together at ends making 1 long strip. Finish both top and bottom edges with a very small hem. Machine pleat or gather near center of strip, lengthwise.
 - a. Sew ruches onto edges of overskirts, necklines, sleeves.
 - b. Sew 1-3 ruches around underskirts, even with hem line.
 - c. Sew ruches in patterns around skirts and bodices.
 - d. Add a ribbon or small bias strip over the ruche for a layered trim look.
- ✿ **Ruffles** - make ruffles out of self fabric, contrasting fabric, or lace. Ruffles can be made with a top edge (like a ruche), or without. Cut strips of material desired width plus the hem. Sew all the strips together and hem bottom edge. Pleat or gather near the top edge.
 - a. Sew 1 - 8 ruffles around skirt, same colors or contrasting.
 - b. Sew ruffles in swag patterns onto skirts or sleeves.
 - c. Layer different materials in the same ruffle for layered effect.
 - d. Trim ruffles with ribbon or lace.
- ✿ **Ribbon**
 - a. Sew ribbon onto skirts and bodices in patterns.
 - b. Make ruches out of the ribbon.
 - c. Make ribbon flowers and put them on garments in bouquets.
- ✿ **Braids**
 - a. Sew braid over seams to either hide or accentuate lines.
 - b. Sew braid on in patterns.
 - c. Sew onto skirts around the hem.
 - d. Sew onto edges of bodice and sleeves.
- ✿ **Fringe**
 - a. Sew onto any edge.
 - b. Sew over shoulders on bodices to simulate shawl.
- ✿ **Puffings** - make a puffing like a ruche, except gather lightly near both the top and bottom edge. Then sew onto material at top and bottom, slightly narrower than the puffing.
- ✿ **Stripes** - cut strips of contrasting material. Cut on the bias if going around curves. Fold under raw edges and sew to garment.
- ✿ **Reverses** - a reverse is a flipped-over effect of fabric, usually simulated with a contrasting fabric. Cut out triangles of fabric, trim outer edges, and sew onto skirts and bodices to give a “corners pulled back” look.
- ✿ **Van Dyke** - a van dyke is a wedge shaped cutout at the bottom edge of skirts, sleeves, or bodices. Fill in a Van Dyke by putting a ruffle under the area where the Van Dyke is.
- ✿ **Embroidery and Beading** - put it anywhere.
- ✿ **Appliqués** - buy or make appliqués out of lace, contrasting material, velvet, or anything else.
- ✿ **Add bows, silk flowers, buttons, buckles, and anything else.**
- ✿ **Simulate layered skirts, tabliers, vest fronts, or yokes with any trim or trim combination.**
- ✿ **Mix and match any of the above trims. The more the merrier. Trim the trims, too. Don't worry, anything goes.**