

Truly Victorian
1892 Evening Bodice - TV490
 (does not fit over bustle)

Introduction

This bodice has a low round neck perfect for evening events. The waist is extended for the late 80's-early 90's style. The sleeves are a pouf gathered into the middle for a stylish effect. The bodice can also be left sleeveless. This closure is in the center back, either buttons or hook and eyes.

The bodice is drafted based on a tailoring method actually used in the late Victorian era. Each size is hand drawn, not scaled, with all of the bodice seams true to the era. This bodice is designed to fit snugly over a corset, without a bustle.

For this pattern, please disregard any attempt at standard sizing. Everyone is unique in body type and size, and we have come up with a completely different way of managing patterns. We have included comprehensive directions on how to size and adjust this pattern for a good fit. Although we can't fit everyone, we have tried to do some of the guess work for you. 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	16¾"	17 5/8"	18½"	19 3/8"	20¼"	21 1/8"	22"	22 7/8"	23½"	24 5/8"	25½"	26 3/8"	27¼"	28 1/8"
Adj. Front	13¼"	14 3/8"	15½"	16 5/8"	17¾"	18 7/8"	20"	21 1/8"	22¼"	23 3/8"	24½"	25 5/8"	26¾"	27 7/8"
Arm Hole	15½"	16"	16½"	17"	17½"	18"	18½"	19"	19½"	20"	20½"	21"	21½"	22"
Fabric 44"	2 3/8 yards or 2.2m													
Lining 44"	2 yards or 1.8m													
Interlining	1 5/8 yards or 1.5m													

**Yardages given are with nap. For Interlining, use a medium/heavy woven fabric like broadcloth, silesia, twill, or denim.

Notions: Ten ¼" Bones; Buttons for closure. Optional netting for Pouf Sleeve, 1 yard

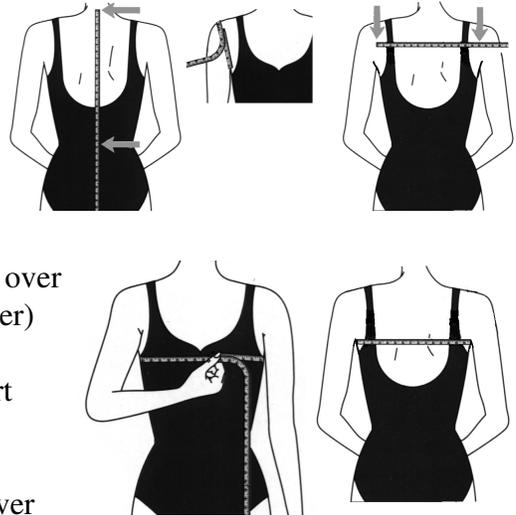
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Taking your Measures

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. **Hip** - Take this measure around the fullest part of your hip, over your petticoats and skirts.
5. **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 pieces, follow the instructions below:

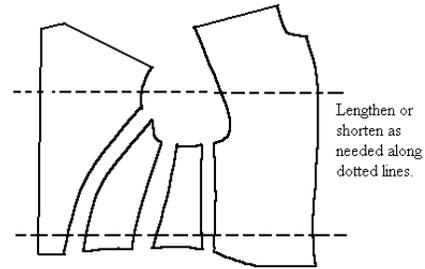
1. Choose pattern **Back**, **Side Back**, and **Side**, according to your **Back Width** measure. (These pieces are not interchangeable.)
Example: Back Width measures 14", cut out size E Back, Side Back, and Side.
2. On size chart, find **Adjusted Back** correlating to your Back pattern size.
Example: Size E Adjusted Back is 20½".
3. Subtract Adjusted Back from Bust measure. This is your **Adjusted Front**.
Example: Bust measure is 40". 40"(Bust) -20.5"(Adj. Back) = 19.5" (Adj. Front.)
4. Choose **Front** and **Collar** pattern piece that correlates to your Adjusted Front. (If Adjusted Front is between sizes, choose the larger size.)
Example: Adjusted Front 19½" 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, measured from armpit to wrist on inside of arm. Lengthen or shorten as needed, both above and below the elbow equally.

After choosing your pattern pieces, make a Mockup of your bodice. With someone to help you, check the fit of your bodice. Pin the Mockup on you down the center back with a 1" allowance (1/2" seam allowance and 1/2" for closure) on each side. Make changes to your pattern as described below.

Customizing Your Pattern

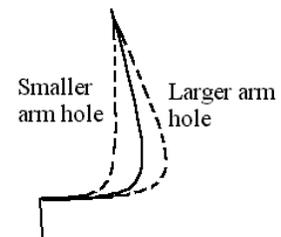
1. Length

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 the nape of your neck, and the Front to fit smoothly from bust point to nape of neck. by shortening or lengthening Front and Back, 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.



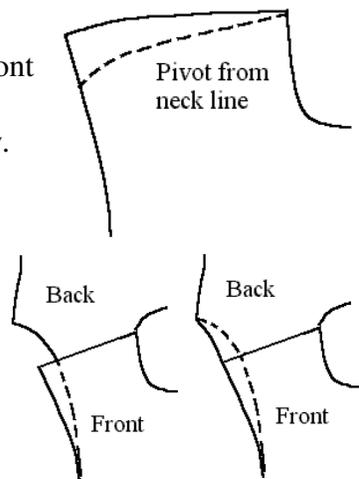
3. Shoulder

The bodice should fit over point of shoulder with a small amount of ease. Take in or let out shoulder, on Front only.

Match shoulder seams at neck edge and cut shoulder on Front to match shoulder on Back.

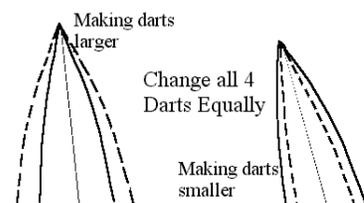
Adjust shoulder length on both Front and Back as necessary. (edge of fabric should be 3/4" past point of shoulder.)

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". Extend past hips parallel to old dart line.



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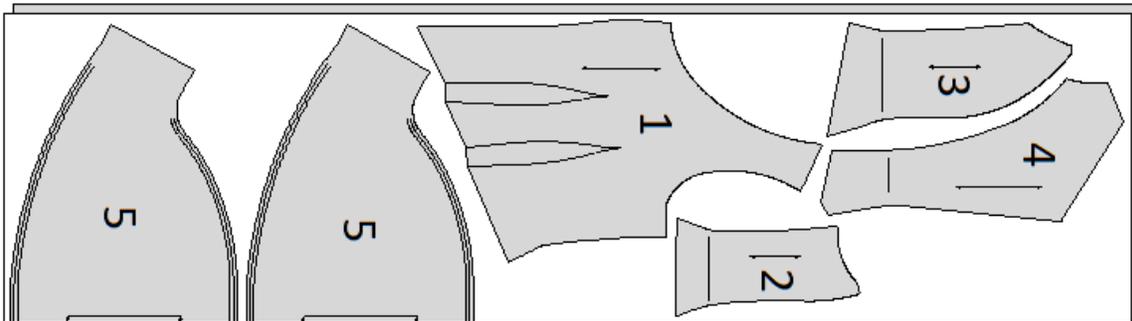
5. Hip Size

This pattern is designed to have a hip size of 12" greater than the waist measure, regardless of changes made to waist size at the darts. Adjust for hips by letting in or taking out any or all seams below the waist as needed.

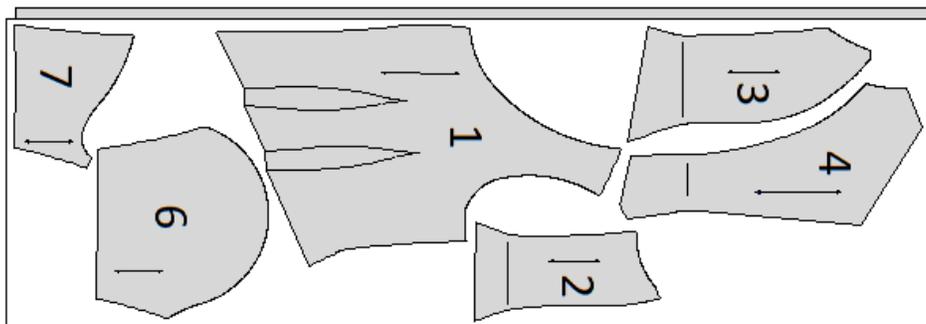
6. Evening Neckline

After fitting your bodice, mark neckline where desired. If needed, take in excess fabric from bust point to neckline, at the center front edge.

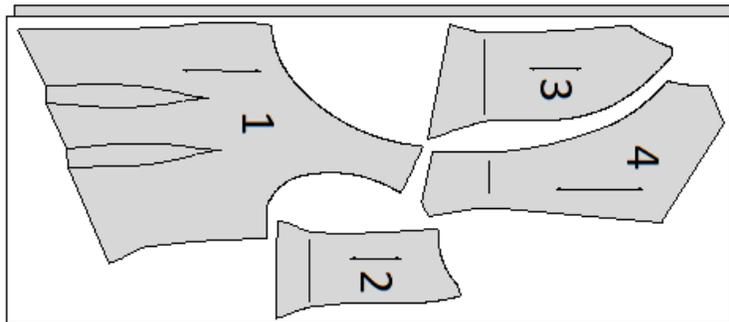
Fashion Fabric – 2 3/8 yd or 2.2 m



Lining – 2 yd or 1.8 m



Interlining – 1 5/8 yd or 1.5 m

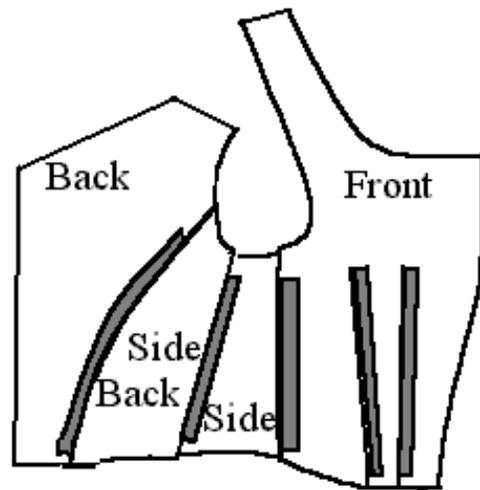


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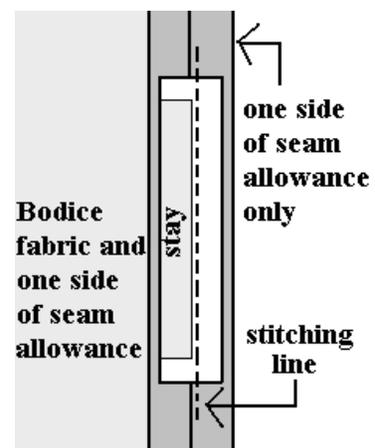
Sewing Instructions

Note: 1/2" seam allowances have been added to all pieces.

1. Flat line your 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.
2. Baste a stay stitch along the neckline edges of the both the Front and the Back. This will help keep the neckline from stretching out with handling. Handle the neckline edges carefully throughout the sewing process, to further reduce stretching.
3. With fashion fabric, sew darts into Fronts.
4. Sew Backs to Side Backs along curved seam.
5. Sew Sides to Side Backs at side seam.
6. Sew Fronts to Sides at side seam.
7. Sew Fronts together at center front seam.
8. Sew Backs to Fronts at shoulder seam.
9. Clip and press all seams.
10. Repeat steps 3-9 with lining fabric.
11. Attach boning to fashion fabric along all darts and side seams.



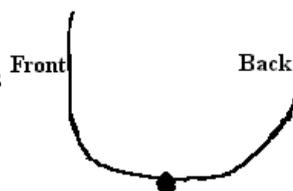
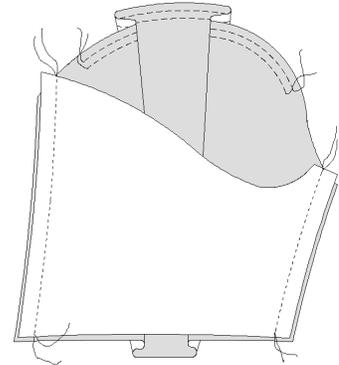
- a. Dart bones should extend from point of dart to 1/4" above seam line at bottom. Side seam bones should extend from 1/4" above waist seam line to 3/4" below arm hole seam line. For curved side back seam, use spiral boning (this bone may be made shorter if desired).
- b. Cut 1 1/2" strips lining material to make casings for the bones. Fold material around bone and sew bone tightly into casing.
- c. Baste casing to seam allowance as close to seam and bone as possible.



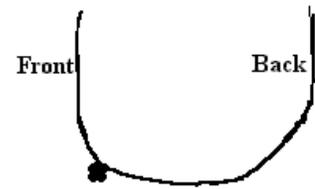
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12. Pouf Sleeve

- a. If desired, flat line Pouf Sleeve with netting.
- b. Sew gather stitching in the top and bottom edges of the Sleeve, and along the top edge of the Outer Sleeve Lining, as marked on the pattern pieces.
- c. Sew side seams of each Sleeve, right sides together.
- d. With sleeve lining, sew Outer Sleeve Lining to Inner Sleeve Lining along both side seams.
- e. With right sides together, gather or pleat lower edge of Sleeve to fit bottom edge of the sleeve lining. Concentrate gathers to the outer section of sleeve. Match Sleeve seam to mark on Inner Sleeve Lining.
- f. Pin Pouf Sleeve into armhole.
 Match side seam of Pouf to bottom middle of arm hole. Pleat or gather top of Pouf to fit. Concentrate pleats to top of shoulder.
- g. Pin Inner Sleeve Lining into armhole. Match front seam of sleeve lining (the shorter one) to fit into the armhole at the notch on the Front. Pleat or gather top of Sleeve to fit armhole.
- h. Stitch sleeve to armhole.



**Bottom Middle
of armhole**



**Front bottom corner
of armhole**

13. Attach lining to bodice, matching all seams and edges. Sew around neck, back, and bottom edges. For closure other than buttons, see below.**
14. Clip all edges, and turn bodice right-side out through arm hole. Press all edges flat. Hand baste lining to arm holes.
15. On Backs, place buttons on the left, and horizontal button holes on the right, 1/2" in from center back edge. If using 5/8" buttons, place buttons every 1 1/4" from neckline to bottom edge.

**For laced closure: sew the center back edges with a 1" seam allowance, instead of the 1/2". This will make the center back edges just meet. Insert boning into the edges on both sides, and place your grommets/eyelets just inside the boning.

**For hook/eye closure: Sew the left-hand center back edge with 1" seam allowance, and the right-hand side with 1/4" seam allowance. This will make the left side end at the exact center back and the right will underlap the left by 3/4". Place hooks on the left side and eyes on the right side.

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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.
- ✿ **Revers** - 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.**