

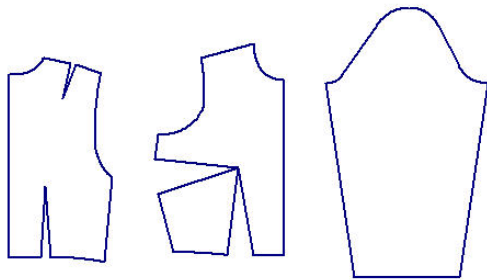
Introduction to Sleeves

Sleeves are both functional and design elements of a garment. As functional elements, sleeves must allow for freedom of movement and comfort and must enhance the overall purpose of the garment. As design elements, sleeves should compliment the bodice to which they are attached.

Sleeve Types

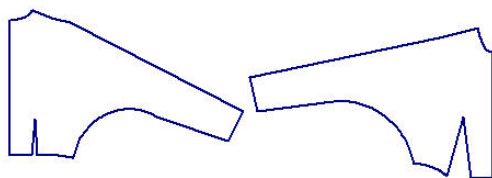
There are three basic types of sleeves - set in, kimono, and raglan.

Set in sleeves are sewn to the bodice armholes. All set in type sleeves must be eased, gathered, darted, or tucked and sewn into the bodice armhole seam.



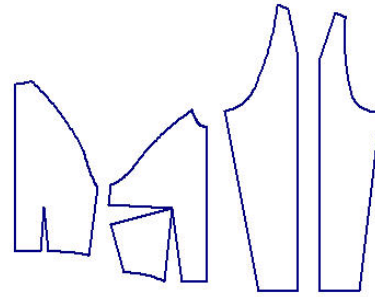
Bodice with Set In Sleeve

Kimono sleeves are cut all in one with the front and back bodice. The kimono sleeve is always cut with a deeper armhole than the set in sleeve. Wrinkles under the arm are inherent to this type of sleeve because of the deep armhole.



Bodice with Kimono Sleeve

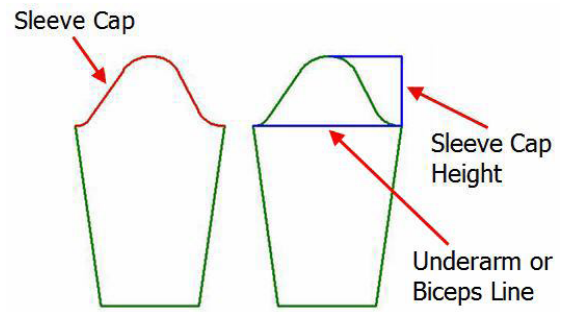
Raglan sleeves have part of the sleeve attached to the bodice. A diagonal seam is formed from the neckline to the underarm. Underarm wrinkles are common in this style because the chest and the armhole is lowered to increase freedom of movement.



Bodice with Raglan Sleeve

Sleeve Cap Height

The form and function of set in sleeves is dependent upon the shape and height of the sleeve cap and the style of armhole to which the sleeve is sewn. The sleeve cap is the curved top section of the sleeve from the front underarm to the back underarm. The sleeve cap height is that area of the sleeve from the biceps or underarm line to the top of the sleeve cap. The cap height will vary with each armhole and sleeve style. Changes in fullness of the cap seamline and cap height will result in dramatically different sleeve styles.



Sleeve Cap Height

General Principles

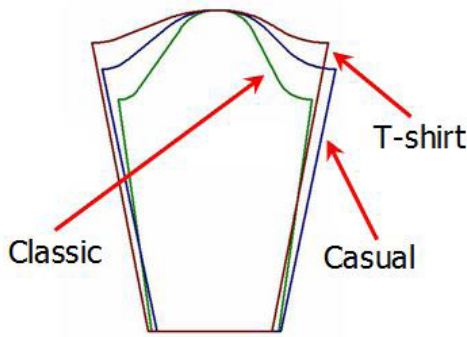
- As the cap height is shortened, the sleeve will stand or jut away from the arm at the hemline if the armhole is not dropped off the shoulder tip.
- As the cap height gets shorter, the underarm line must get longer in order to produce a sleeve cap line that can still be sewn into the bodice armhole.
- As the cap height is shortened, a "gusset" is formed at the underarm. This "gusset" is what provides the freedom of movement. It also creates folds at the underarm that are not desirable in more tailored clothing.
- If the sleeve cap height is increased above the normal shoulder line, the sleeve will stand away from the arm at the hemline.
- If the sleeve cap height is increased above the normal shoulder line, the sleeve will stand away from the arm at the hemline. They require ease stitching to mold the cap to the arm.

the armhole without puckering. Fabric weight and cap is eased into the armhole.

- Jacket and coat sleeves are often redesigned to reduce ease but not restrict movement. The and the shoulder slope is lengthened.

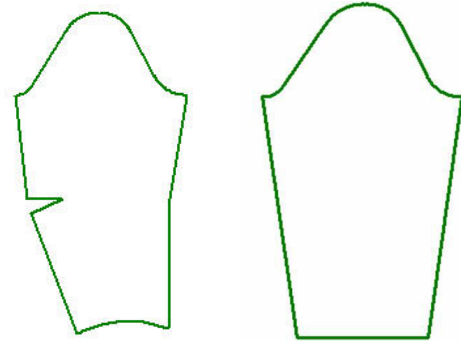
Sleeve Styles

Set in sleeves fall into three main categories - classic, casual, and t-shirt. The sleeve style is mainly determined by the height of the sleeve cap.



Sleeve Styles

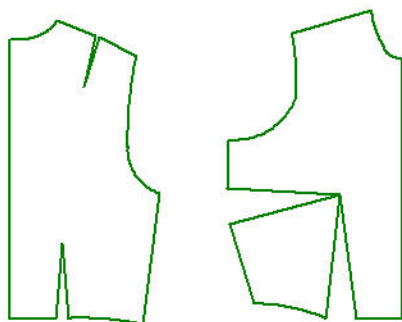
- Cap height for the classic sleeve should be about 5" (12.5 cm) to 6" (15 cm).
- Additional cap ease is needed to go over ball of the arm since the sleeve cap is high and bicep or underarm line is narrower.
- Cap ease should be between 1 1/2" (3.75 cm) to 2" (5 cm).



Classic Sleeves

Classic Sleeve

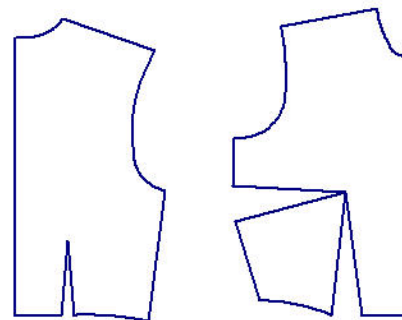
The classic sleeve is the sleeve found in most traditional where the shoulder point at the armscye ends at the shoulder tip, thus the armscye is not dropped off the shoulder. The classic sleeve is characterized by a high sleeve cap. The higher sleeve cap is much more formal and attractive when movement is not a priority. The armhole depth on the bodice could be raised slightly to provide a bit more freedom of movement without between style and mobility.



Classic Bodice

Casual Sleeve

The casual sleeve is a less tailored style. The bodice armhole shoulder point is dropped off the shoulder one half to one inch (1.25 to 2.5 cm). Diagonal wrinkles will form at the armscye as a result; however, greater freedom of movement is possible. The casual styles are a nice compromise between style and mobility and between formal classic styles with little freedom of movement and sloppy t-shirt styles.



Casual Bodice

- The cap height should be about 3" (7.5 cm) to 4" (10 cm) with about 1" (2.5 cm) ease.
- The shoulder seam is lengthened one half to one inch (1.25 to 2.5 cm) on the bodice and the shoulder slope is also lengthened to raise the shoulder line slightly.
- The armhole is therefore larger and the sleeve cap is also larger and so less ease is required in cap.

