

*Pattern Design Guides by Don McCunn***Vest Variations**

These instructions show how to create two variations of vests from the basic fitted sloper.

The vest on the left is appropriate for either men or women. It uses a princess seam line for both the front and the back.

The vest on the right is a typical peasant style vest. It is shaped with just side seams and no darts. The resulting pattern can also be used as a basis for a long line bra.

The instructions have been prepared for Don McCunn's online class "How to Make an Upper Torso (aka Bodice) Sloper."

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Vest Variations

by Don McCunn

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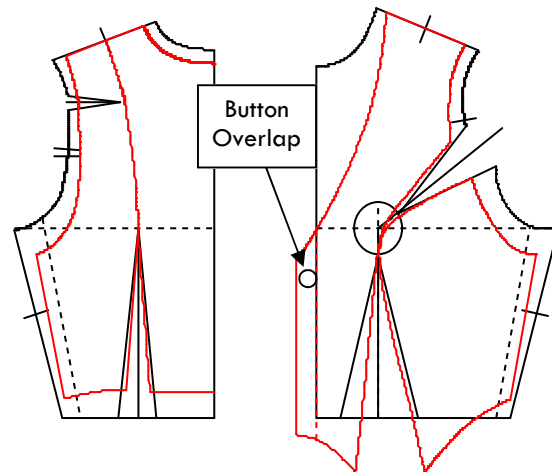
As with any design process, the first step is to draw the desired design lines onto a copy of the fitted sloper pattern.

Princess Seam Design Lines

The princess seam design lines follow the natural contours of the body. The main difference between this style for men and women is that the body of the vest for men can be cut from a single piece while women require the side front seam.

This style uses a button closing. The width of the button closing is usually determined by the width of the button. So if a button is $5/8$ " in diameter, the distance from Center Front to the edge of the button overlap is $5/8$ ".

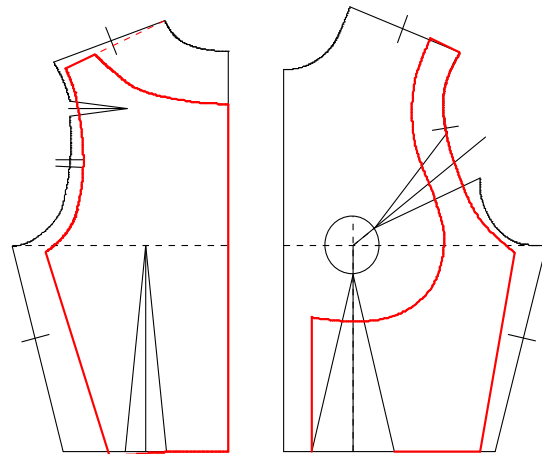
The neck and armhole are also usually inside the sloper lines and the armhole should be lower to prevent bunching of the fabric when the vest is worn with a blouse or shirt.



Peasant Vest Design Lines

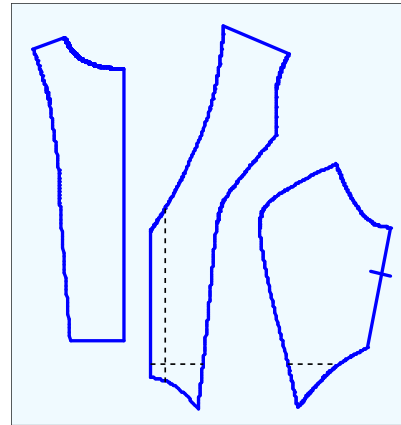
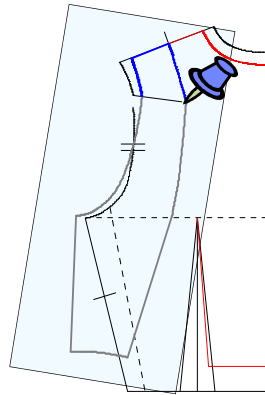
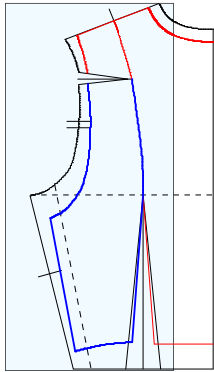
The peasant style vest for the back pattern can be created by simply cheating the dart shapes out of the shoulder and side seams.

The front pattern needs to curve around essentially following the line of a bra underwire. This style vest can be used to create the torso portion of a long line bra.



Vest Variations, cont'd

Patterns for the Princess Seam Vest

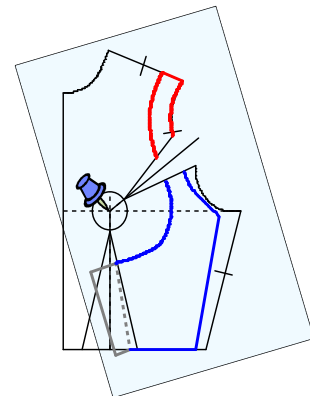
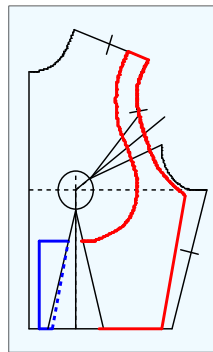
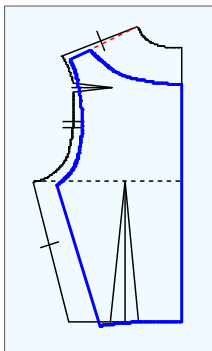


1. Trace the side back pattern up to the Upper back dart.
2. Put a pin in the Side Back seam at the dart point and pivot out the dart.
3. Trace the pattern up to the shoulder seam.

For the other patterns you can simply trace the lines onto a fresh sheet of pattern paper.

Add seam allowances around all the pattern pieces.

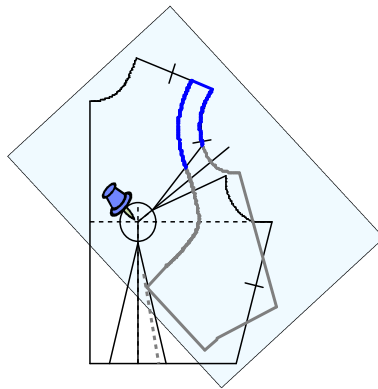
Patterns for the Peasant Vest



1. Place a fresh sheet of pattern paper over the back pattern and trace the lines.

2. Place a fresh sheet of pattern paper over the front pattern
3. Trace from the front opening up to the first dart leg.

4. Pivot the lower Bust Dart out and trace to the Upper Bust dart.



5. Pivot the upper Bust Dart out and trace to the shoulder seam.

Vest Variations, cont'd

Fitting Check for the Peasant Vest

It is a good idea to do a fitting check of the peasant vest. The photo on the right shows the peasant vest made up in muslin with bias tapes used to secure the front opening. It was necessary in this instance to adjust the shoulder seams a little.



Sewing Vests

Vests are relatively easy to sew. They are made up of fashion fabric and a lining.

1. Cut the vest pattern out of fashion fabric.
2. Cut the vest pattern out of lining fabric.
3. Sew the side, side front, and side back seams of the fashion fabric. The specific seams depend on the style of vest you are making. Do not sew the shoulder seams.
4. Sew the side, side front, and side back seams of the lining fabric.
5. Pin the fashion fabric to the lining, right sides together.
6. On the back of the vest, turn over the seam allowance of the lining fabric at the shoulder seam.
7. Sew from the shoulder seam down the front of the vest, around the hem, then up the other side of the front of the vest.
8. Sew around the back neck seam line.
9. Sew around the armseye.
10. Trim and turn the vest through one of the open shoulder seams.
11. Pin the front shoulder seam to the fashion fabric of the back shoulder seam, right sides together.
12. Sew the shoulder seams but do not sew through the lining of the back of the vest.
13. Turn the shoulder seam allowances inside the opening between the back fashion fabric and the lining fabric.
14. Top stitch to close the back shoulder seam lining.



Lining Pinned to Fashion Fabric, right sides together.



Shoulder Seam Sewn Except for Back Lining



Back Lining Pinned for Final Top Stitching