Textile Center Supply List

***Fine Shirt Making***

**Steve Pauling**

Please bring with you to class:

* Shirt Pattern Simplicity 1544AA, available through Simplicity’s website https://simplicity.com/simplicity/s1544 or from other retailers. This pattern comes in two sizings: 1544AA is for smaller to medium sizes, 1544BB is for medium to larger sizes. Instructor will also provide a few pattern pieces which have been modified for fine shirt making. Note that a women’s dress shirt (without darts or other special fitting details) can be created using a men’s pattern by simply exchanging the left and right front pattern pieces. If you choose to use a pattern other than the Simplicity 1544, elements to look for in choosing a traditional dress shirt pattern include:
  + 5/8” seam allowance (not all patterns use 5/8” seam allowances, i.e. Kwik Sew, Burda). We need that extra width for some techniques, so please adjust your pattern pieces to include a 5/8” seam allowance. After making your first shirt, you can change seam allowances as you desire.
  + Yoke: The back of the shirt incorporates a two or four piece yoke. The finished yoke is two layers of fabric made of one or two pieces of fabric for each side. In order to bag the yoke, the depth (vertical height) of the finished yoke should be approximately 1/2 the total height of the armhole opening. Do not choose a pattern whose depth is only 1-2” at the armhole. The deeper the yoke, the easier it will be for you to learn the “bagging” technique.
  + Shirt front placket: The ‘button hole side’ of the shirt front incorporates a ‘ribbonlike’ strip of folded fabric that adds structure and firmness to the front of the shirt. It should be constructed separate from the shirt front and not be a “hidden” placket nor unusually narrow.
  + Long Sleeves: Long sleeves are a pre-requisite for a dress shirt. Look for a loose fitting sleeve cap – one that has a low rise, rather than a steep, fitted rise/cap.
  + Standard Cuff: No “French” cuffs that utilize cuff links for closures (you can add this detail after you learn how to create a beautiful standard cuff).
  + Sleeve Placket: No one-piece-ribbon-like bindings as in the example below on the right. Instead, we will customize a true box pleat placket.
  + Pockets are optional (a true dress shirt would not have a pocket), but you won’t want to miss out on learning the techniques to make beautiful, crisp and professional looking pockets. We will customize the pattern piece for a few basic stylistic options.
  + Shirt Stand and Collar: A dress shirt has both a collar stand (narrow band between the bodice and actual collar) and the collar for a proper fitted look – NO one piece collars as found on a casual shirt.

The Instructor’s all-time favorite pattern is Vogue #7954. Unfortunately, it is is out-of print but can often be found on-line at sites like Ebay and Etsy. Other out-of print, suitable patterns include Vogue #7925, Vogue #8096, Butterick #3217, KWIK Sew #2777 and Simplicity #9469. A quick internet search shows they are still available on Etsy, Ebay and other reseller sites. Other patterns are also suitable if they have the features noted above. Do NOT use patterns with additional or other features unless you are familiar with their construction techniques and can manage them without assistance. Out of fairness to other students, the Instructor will not be able to provide assistance/mentoring for other pattern features during class time. When in doubt, please purchase and use Simplicity 1544. It will make the process of learning fine shirt making techniques and skills much easier for all of us. If you must use another pattern, please contact Instructor to discuss your decision.

* Supplies/Materials Fabrics: Students are encouraged to make their first shirt out of inexpensive light to medium weight 100% cotton fabric – muslin, quilting fabric, chambray, oxford, etc. The finer the weave (but still opaque and firm), the better. Aim for a cotton fabric that maintains a crisp edge when folded and pressed. Also, it may be less confusing if the fabric has a simple pattern (that doesn't need matching) printed on one side for ease in determining the front from the back of pieces during assembly. Be creative! – use scraps from your existing stash. Who cares if all the parts don’t match? Just try to select fabrics with similar weight, content and weave structure. The class will be focusing on techniques and skills. If you intend to wear your finished sample shirt, make certain your fabric is laundered before cutting.
* Interfacing: Traditionally, the collars, stands, cuffs and plackets of fine shirts were simply interfaced with an extra layer of fabric, similar in weight/content of the fashion fabric. This is certainly acceptable to do for this class and eliminates potential problems as the garment ages. However, with the development of fusible interfacings, particularly in recent years, crisp details are now more durable and easy to attain.

Unfortunately, my “tested, tried and true” fusible interfacing source is no longer in business. Research suggests that Pellon’s SF-101 fusible woven interfacing is a good option for “crisp” detailing and Pellon’s Shirt Tailor (non-woven fusible) offers a softer hand. Both of these are readily available on-line and in many brick ‘n mortar shops including The Sewing Lounge in St. Paul. They also have a few other options and Maggie Schneider, the proprietor, is happy to assist you. Mention this is for the Bobbin Doctor’s class and you will receive 10% off.

* Notions/Tools/Supplies – bring to first class:
  + 1) Sewing Machine in good working condition (straight stitch is all that is necessary, with 5/8” and ½” seam allowance markings), bobbins, typical accessories. Remember to bring the cords and foot control!! ;-)
  + 2) Required sewing machine presser feet: a) Straight stitch, rolled hemmers (approximately 3/16-1/4” or equivalent), regular adjustable zipper foot
  + 3) Optional sewing machine presser feet: a) Flat felling foot, zig zag foot (for convenience in making wider top-stitching widths)
  + 4) Your shirt fabric – see notes above.
  + 5) Dress shirt tissue pattern pieces, pattern envelope, instructions and fabric. **DO NOT CUT OUT ANY PATTERN PIECES** for the first class - either tissue pattern or actual fabric pieces. You may cut to separate the pattern pieces but don’t actually cut on the cutting lines of the pattern. We may be modifying a few of the pattern pieces which we will discuss during the first class. Don’t bring any extra tissue pattern pieces that won’t be used in your selected shirt pattern.
  + 6) Fabric scraps of the same type/weight as your shirt fabric, cut approximately 8” wide by 12 to 18” long. These can be scraps of other fabric, but should be similar to your shirt fabric. We will use these to practice making flat felled seams and other sewing techniques.
  + 7) Thread in appropriate colors and both machine and hand needles in appropriate sizes.
  + 8) Hand and machine needles appropriate for fabric and thread
  + 9) Pins and holder/cushion
  + 10) Sharp sturdy scissors for accurately snipping seam allowances close to stay stitching, grading seams, etc.
  + 11) Fabric shears and optional thread snips.
  + 12) Seam ripper
  + 13) Fabric markers (will also be discussed during first class)
  + 14) Small ruler
  + 15) Paper and pen/pencil for taking notes
  + 16) If you need reading glasses, don’t forget to bring them!!
  + 17)Lastly, bring a desire to learn new skills, a positive “can-do” attitude, and a sense of humor! If you have any questions regarding patterns, supplies, schedule of topics, please feel free to contact me via email (preferred) or phone. See you in class!! Steve Pauling Email: Steve@BobbinDoctor.com Phone: 612-378-2727

There will be time reserved at the end of each class meeting for clean-up. Please help this process go quickly by assisting the instructor.

For the class meetings at Textile Center: Parking is available in the lot directly behind our building, as well as our newly purchased lot at 3018 University Ave SE. Look for the green signs!