

Definitions and Illustrations Glossary

A

A-line

A silhouette shape characterized by its smaller measurement towards the top and widening measurement at the hem, as if in the shape of an A.

Acetate

A manufactured fiber in which the fiber-forming substance is cellulose acetate. **(TXT)**

B

Bias

45-degree angle to the lengthwise and crosswise grains of woven fabrics. **(PA 162)**

Blazer

A jacket style typically characterized by its professional appearance, usually featuring a notched lapel collar.

Ex: **(PA 178)**

Blouse

A silhouette of a garment typically used to describe a shirt or jacket characterized by its looseness and box-like shape.

Bodice

The torso part of a dress, top or jacket typically including the space between waist and neck on front and back, excluding sleeves.

Bound buttonhole

A buttonhole finish characterized by its multiple layers of fabric which are turned and stitched to finish the raw buttonhole edge.

Rectangular hole in the garment fabric that is bound or faced and backed with narrow strips of fabric that meet like lips to cover the opening. **(PA 460)**

Buttons

A small disc or knob-shaped device attached to an article of clothing for utilitarian or decorative purposes. (VDFD 60)

Used as garment closures since the Middle Ages; both decorative and functional. (PA 310)

Side buttons

Buttons along the side of a garment.

Buckles

Center bar usually has a prong that engages with eyelets to adjust the belt to various circumferences; typically made of plastic, wood, metal, or shell.

Clasps or catches used to fasten the ends of a belt, sometimes ornamented with designs. (AAT)

Button front

A means of closing the front of a bodice by using buttons and button holes on either side of the split front to close the garment.

Button loops

A way of shutting a button closure by using loops of fabric attached to the edge of a garment rather than holes in the garment for the button to go through.

Loops are made of narrow tubes of bias fabric; strips of cording, braid, or elastic; or thread chains. (PA 311)

C

Center back

Where two pieces of fabric are stitched together in the center of the back of a garment.

Chiffon

A sheer, very lightweight, balanced plain-weave fabric using fine-crepe twist yarns of approximately the same size and twist both in warp and in filling. (TXT)

Closures

A way to bring two pieces of fabric together to keep them attached temporarily, as in cases of putting on and taking off garments. Different from a fastener, a closure closes the two pieces of fabric completely.

Collars

A piece of fabric which attaches to the neck of a garment and may or may not close in the front, encompassing part or all of the neck.

Part of a shirt or blouse that fastens around the neck. (**VDFD 70**)

Convertible collar

A collar which can either be worn buttoned or unbuttoned, typically used on button front garments.

The neck button can be worn either fastened or unfastened. (**VDFD 70**)

Ex: (**PA 181**)

Crew collar

Ex: (**PA 180**)

Flat collar

Lies flat or nearly flat against the garment all around the wearer's neck. (**PA 179**)

Notched collar

A collar which attaches to a jacket or coat front and forms a v-like cut out with the lapel.

Shawl collar

A collar characterized by its shape which looks similar to a lapel without a notch. A piece of fabric is attached to the front of a garment and extends completely around the neck and down the front of the other side of the garment.

Three piece collar

A collar characterized by its use of an upper collar and under collar, as well as a collar stand.

Two piece collar

A collar characterized by its use of an upper collar and under collar.

Contour dart

A dart which starts at a point and expands, then extends at the other end to another point. Typically used on the fronts of dresses to contour to the hips and chest area.

Contour waistband

A waistband attached to pants or a skirt which curves down in the middle and back, and then curves up again at the hips.

Conventional Zipper

Most common in ready-to-wear-apparel; one end of the zipper remains attached when it is unzipped. (**PA 314**)

Cotton

Refers to several fibers belonging to the genus *Gossypium* used to produce commercial and craft textile products. (**TXT**)

Cropped

A silhouette which features a garment cut off at the waist when the garment would usually extend past the waist, or pants which are cut at the ankle when they typically would not be.

Cuffs

The part of a sleeve at the bottom nearest the hands, can be either an edge finish or finished with a separate piece of fabric in a variety of styles.

Angled

A cuff shape characterized by its angled edges instead of corners at the opening.

Ex: (**VDFD 82**)

Barrel

A cuff characterized by its wide and un-open shape.

Ex: (**PA 183**)

Flared

A cuff style that extends outward from the wrist in an expanding shape, widest at the hem.

Straight (ex: **VDFD 82**)

Turnback

Cuffs designed to be turned back and pushed up the arms.

Ex: (**PA 183**)

D

Darts

A shaping method which pinches a piece of fabric together and stitches it in an angled direction, with the point facing a full part of the body.

A triangular fold stitched to shape the flat fabric to specific curves of the body. (**PA 164**)

Contour

A dart that expands from one point to a wider shape and then back down to a point.

Double- pointed

A dart that expands from one point to a wider shape and then back down to a point.

Elbow

Used in sleeves to tailor the shape to the elbow.

Fisheye

A dart that expands from one point to a wider shape and then back down to a point.

French

A dart which extends from the side seam at the waist towards the bust area.

Horizontal

A dart typically used in the chest area of a bodice, with the fullest part of the dart in the middle of the chest.

Neck

A neck dart may be used to create a neckline which lies more flat to the body. Eliminates some fullness in the neck and chest area.

Side

Similar to a French dart in its placement, but separate in that this style dart uses a curve, rather than a straight line.

Waist

A dart usually in the waist area of pants or a skirt which helps the garment contour to the waist better.

Double welt pocket

A pocket which features two strips of fabric bracketing and finishing the opening of the pocket.

Dropped waist

A style of cutting a garment so that the waist, or thinnest part of the garment shape, falls slightly below the natural waist.

Ex: (PA 180)

E

Ease

A shaping method characterized by loosely stitching the edge of a wider garment piece, pulling the threads to gather the excess, then sewing the two pieces together.

Eisenhower jackets

Waist-length army jackets of a particular style and khaki color, resembling jackets worn by U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower during World War II. The jacket became standard issue for U.S. troops beginning in November 1944. (AAT)

Elbow length

A sleeve style that ends at or near the elbow.

Enclosed seam

Occur only at edges, where they appear as a line with no visible stitches along the edge.

F

Fastener

A way to bring together two pieces of fabric to attach them temporarily. Different from a closure, a fastener does not typically close the garment completely.

Devices that fasten or hold together separate parts. (AAT)

Field jacket

An army jacket typically worn on leisure time.

Ex: (PA 178)

Flap pocket

A pocket style which closes when a piece of fabric, which is sewn above the opening, folds over the opening and attaches to the front of the pocket.

A patch pocket with a utilitarian closure. (PA 184)

Flap of fabric above the pocket that extends down over the pocket opening. (PA 185)

Flight jacket

Army jacket typically worn while traveling, especially on foot.

Floor length

A skirt length which brushes or lies on the floor.

Fly front

A button or zipper closure which is covered and hidden by a piece of fabric.

G

Gathers

A shaping mechanism similar to ease, but which takes in much more fullness and features actual cases of fabric overlapping itself, whereas with ease the fabric typically is just bunch slightly.

Gore

A separate part of a skirt. Gores are used to create ease and shape in a skirt. A gore is indicated by a seam which goes from top to bottom in the skirt.

Vertical divisions within a garment, usually tapered panels seamed together to add shape to a garment. (**PA 167**)

Grain

The alignment of fibers in a textile giving it a certain appearance and texture. (**VDFD 126**)

A term to describe whether the length/height of the object is cut on the straight of grain (lengthwise or crosswise) or on bias. (**CC**)

H

Hem

The bottom of a garment. Also includes sleeves and pants cuffs.

The edge of a piece of cloth or garment folded up and sewn down in order to enclose the cut edge so that it cannot unravel. (**VDFD 132**)

A term to describe the structural characteristics of the hem. (**CC**)

Weighted

Used when fabric is lightweight and prone to flying up or sticking to itself.

Flared

A hem style which is typically much wider than the waist. Differs from A-line styles, as this is more extreme.

Herringbone

A broken twill-weave fabric created by changing the direction of the twill wale from right to left and back again. This creates a chevron pattern of stripes that may or may not be equally prominent. Herringbone fabrics are made in a variety of weights, patterns, and fiber types. (**TXT**)

Hidden zipper

A zipper that is sewn in such a way that it looks as though it is within a seam and not visible from the outside.

Ex: **(PA 314)**

Hook and bar

A fastener type which features a loop and a long straight stick-like bar.

Hook and eye

A fastener type which features a loop and a small curved component, which latch.

Horizontal dart

A dart that extends out horizontally from a seam or across a neckline.

Horizontal placket

Constructed in a horizontal direction, parallel to the opening; provides a low-cost opening.

I

Inseam pocket

A pocket whose opening lies along a seam line.

A pouch sewn in right at the side seam. Ex: **(PA 184)**

Inverted box pleat

Similar to a box pleat, apart from the direction the two separate pleats face.

J

K

Keyhole neckline

A neckline style featuring a keyhole or circular shaped cutout at the neckline, with a button fastener at the top.

Knee length

A garment length which ends at the knee.

Ex: **(PA 179)**

L

Lace

An openwork fabric with yarns that are twisted around each other to form complex patterns or figures. (TXT)

Lapped zipper

A zipper which is sewn like a hidden zipper, except the stitching is visible from the outside, and is not necessarily in a seam.

Only one line of visible stitching on the outside of a garment. (PA 408)

Linen

The bast fiber produced by the flax plant. (TXT)

Lapel

The part of the jacket which extends out from the center front.

The two triangular pieces of cloth that extend from the collar of a suit jacket. (VDFD 150)

The two parts of a garment folded back on the chest, especially a continuation of a coat collar. (AAT)

Peaked lapel

Similar to a notched lapel except this style is slanted upwards.

Notched

When a collar and a lapel come together but have a triangular cut out shape, like the bottom of a 'W'.

Peaked

When the notches of a collar point up.

Knee Length

When a garment extends and stops at the knee.

Maxi

A garment length which touches the top of the foot.

Midi

A garment whose length reaches halfway between the knee and ankle.

Waist length

A garment length which extends to the natural waist or sometimes slightly farther.

Lining

The layer of fabric under an outer shell which hides seams and often creates a more comfortable skin to cloth relationship.

M

Maxi length

A garment which falls either at the floor or just above the floor.

Midi length

Ex: (PA 179)

A garment length which falls slightly below knee, slightly above tea length.

Ex: (PA 179)

N

Natural waist

A waistline which falls at the most naturally thin part of the body.

Neck dart

A neck dart may be used to create a neckline which lies more flat to the body. Eliminates some fullness in the neck and chest area.

Neckline

The part of a garment around the neck, usually referring to the front portion especially.

The part of an upper body garment that circles the neck of the wearer. (**VDFD 176**)

A term to describe the structural characteristics of the neckline. (**CC**)

Halter

A neckline style which extends up from the bust and goes around the neck, attaching again at the bust.

Keyhole

A neckline style featuring a keyhole or circular shaped cutout at the neckline, with a button fastener at the top.

A tear-shaped or round cutout that fastens at the front or back neckline. (**VDFD 176**)

Notched collar

When a collar and a lapel come together but have a triangular cut out shape, like the bottom of a 'W'.

Scoop

A neckline which is characterized by the shape of a "U" around the front of the neck.

A u-shaped neck that falls towards the bust, often showing significant cleavage. (**VDFD 176**)

Sweetheart

A neckline which is shaped like the top of a cartoon-style heart.

Ex: (**PA 180**)

V- neck

Characterized by the shape of a "V" around the front of the neck.

A neckline style which appears to be v-shaped, with the point near the chest and the widest part at the neck.

An open yoke forming a V shape in the bodice. (**VDFD 176**)

Ex: (**PA 180**)

O

Outer shell

The outermost layer of a lined garment.

Overlay

The outer layer of a garment, typically partially see-through.

Over the shoulder

A yoke which attaches to the front and back of a garment as a separate and third piece of fabric.

P

Patch pocket

A pocket formed by attaching one layer of fabric to another.

A pouch sewn on the outside of a garment. (**PA 184**)

Pencil skirt: Similar to a straight skirt except this style is slightly less wide at the hem, creating a tailored silhouette.

Plain seam

Simple superimposed seam. (**PA 367**)

Plain weave

The simplest weave structure in which two sets of yarns at right angles to each other pass alternately over and under each other to form the maximum number of interlacings. (**TXT**)

Pleat

Way of shaping fabric by pinching and sewing together a piece of fabric so that it stays folded over itself.

A fold of doubled fabric that is secured in place (**VDFD 194**)

Box pleats

A pleat which features two separate pleats facing inwards towards one another to form a box shape. (**VDFD 194**)

Ease pleats

Added to linings of jackets and coats to provide adequate room for movement across the back and shoulders. (**PA 450**)

Edge stitched knife pleats

Knife style pleats which lie flat due to the top of them being edge stitched.

Ex: (**PA 186**)

Inverted box pleats

Similar to a box pleat, apart from the direction the two separate pleats face.

Ex: (**PA 186**)

Knife pleats

Pleats which are layered on top of one another neatly, and are extremely straight and which lie flat.

These are sharp and narrow. A series of knife pleats are normally used for gathering material in a garment. (**VDFD 194**)

Ex: (**PA 186**)

Partially sewn knife pleats

Knife pleats which are sewn on the edge but only partially down the pleat.

Ex: (**PA 186**)

Side pleats

A pleat which is in the sides of a garment, likely pointing horizontally.

Where two pieces of fabric, (a side panel and a center panel) are stitched together on the bodice part of a garment. The edge of the side panel is smaller than the edge of the center panel, and as the two are eased together, they create a more conforming shape for the garment.

Q

R

Rayon

A manufactured fiber composed of regenerated cellulose in which substituents have replaced not more than 15 percent of the hydrogens of the hydroxyl groups. (TXT)

Ruffles

A decorative method of shaping fabric which is achieved by making small layers of fabric in a similar way to making a flared skirt, and cutting each succeeding layer shorter.

S

Satin

A strong, lustrous, medium-weight to heavyweight, filament-yarn satin-weave fabric. (TXT)

Seams

The point at which two or more pieces of fabric are joined with stitching. Alternatively, the point at which fabric is joined to itself with stitching.

Sheath

A silhouette style which is fairly straight up and down, apart from a more fitted waist.

Sheath dress

A dress with a mostly straight silhouette apart from a more defined waist.

A slim, straight dress without a waistline. (VDFD 220)

Shirt dress

A silhouette which features a fairly straight up and down shape and looks similar to a shirt.

Shoulder pads

Pieces of foam or fabric placed at the shoulder of a garment to add shape and create a stronger look.

Sometimes used as a shaping device in tailored jackets and coats. (**PA 324**)

Side panel

A separate piece of fabric attached to a center panel, typically to form a more tailored shape.

Side zipper

A zipper which is along the side, typically in the seam of a garment.

Silhouette

The shape of a garment.

Silk

A fiber produced by several varieties of caterpillars, including *Bombyx mori*, *Antheraea mylitta*, and *Antheraea pernyi*. (**TXT**)

Single welt pocket

A pocket style which features a strip of fabric along the top of the pocket to finish it.

Sleeves

An arm covering which extends from the armhole or shoulder area of a garment.

Bell sleeve

A sleeve shape characterized by its bell shape near the cuff.

Cap sleeve

A sleeve style which is typically characterized by its shape, which covers just the shoulder, and typically doesn't close or attach to itself under the arm as a one piece sleeve usually does.

Ex: (**PA 182**)

Elbow length sleeve

A sleeve style which ends at the elbow.

One-piece sleeve

A sleeve which simply attaches to itself in one seam under the arm to form a barrel shape.

Puffed sleeve

A sleeve which features prominent volume in the shoulder area, achieved through gathers.

Ex: (PA 182)

Raglan sleeve

A sleeve style which connects the sleeve to the bodice in such a way that eliminates the shoulder seam by attaching the sleeve to the garment along a diagonal line extending from the neck to the underarm.

Set-in sleeve

A sleeve which is put into the shoulder seam using ease.

A tube hanging from the armhole (PA 181-2)

Sleeveless

A garment which does not have sleeves.

Two- piece sleeve

A sleeve style which uses ease to bring together a larger and smaller sleeve part, creating a more tailored look.

Snap

A closure which uses two pieces of plastic or metal, one of which squeezes shut to fit inside the other, then expands once inside, forming a locked closure.

Prevent garment openings from gaping and can be used to hold temporary garment pieces in place. (PA 316)

Split front

A round neck cut with a small V in the center (VDFD 176)

Spaghetti strap (camisole)

A very thin shoulder strap used on garments such as camisoles, cocktail dresses, and evening gowns. (VDFD 224)

Ex: (PA 178)

Stitching

Different ways in which to weave and loops threads through fabric to decorate or attach fabrics together.

Refers to portions of thread left in fabric or another material by the in and out movement of a threaded needle through the thickness or surface of the material. (AAT)

Topstitch

A decorative row of stitching close to the garment seam or edge on the outer side of the fabric to create a strong seam. (VDFD 225)

Visible, decorative stitching done on the outside of a garment. (PA 401-2)

Blanket stitch

A stitch used around the edges of a piece of fabric to finish it characterized by its crisscross shape.

Buttonhole stitches worked on the edge of a blanket or other material too thick to be hemmed. (AAT)

Blind stitch

Joins layers of fabric without the needle thread fully penetrating the top layer, and it should be imperceptible, or nearly so, from the outside of the garment. (PA 341)

Chain stitch

Made using only a needle thread with no underthread. (PA 340)

Connecting loop stitches that form links, as in a chain. (AAT)

Lockstitch

Composed of a needle thread interlocked with a bobbin thread. (PA 342)

Safety

Combine a row of overedge stitches with a row of straight lockstitches or chain stitches. (PA 349)

Straight lengthwise

Runs parallel to the selvage. (**PA 140-1**)

Straight skirt

A skirt silhouette which stays the same width and shape from waist to hem.

Straight waistband

A waistband attached to a skirt or pair of pants which does not curve with the shape of the waist or hips.

Strapless

A bodice style which does not have sleeves or straps attached.

T

Taffeta

A general term that refers to any plain-weave filament-yarn fabric with a fine, smooth, crisp hand. (**TXT**)

Tea length

A skirt length which hits somewhere around mid-calf.

Ex: (**PA 179**)

Thread buttonhole

A buttonhole finish which features threads which finish the raw edges of the buttonhole.

Ex: (**PA 459**)

Twill weave

A weave in which each warp or filling yarn floats across two or more filling or warp yarns with a progression of interlacings by one to the right or to the left, forming a distinct wale. (**TXT**)

U

Underskirt

The underneath layer(s) of a skirt. Different from a lining, as an underskirt is typically at least partially visible through the outer skirt.

V

W

Welt pocket

A slit allows access to a pouch in the lining; single lip usually no more than about ½ inch wide. (PA 184)

Waist

The thinnest part of a shirt, dress, or jacket, or the top of a skirt or pair of pants.

Waist treatment

The way in which a waist is finished or defined.

Waist peplum

A short, flared piece extending outward from the natural waist.

Waist seam

A seam which connects the bodice of a garment with the skirt of a garment.

Waist length

A garment which ends at the waist.

Wool

Refers to fiber from various animals including sheep, Angora and cashmere goats, camel, alpaca, and llama. (TXT)

X

Y

Yoke

A shaping method which brings a larger and smaller piece of fabric together using ease, pleats, or gathers.

Z***Zipper front***

A closure which features a zipper in the front of a garment, such as a jacket or pants.