

TAKING YOUR MEASUREMENTS

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The warm, gentle breezes of summer are almost here. Soon, Model A's and their devoted owners will gather together at the National Convention in Sparks-Reno, various regional meets and local club activities. Events like these offer the perfect opportunity to dress as though we belong in the Model A era. But how does one achieve that look?

Start by getting your measurements. Your measurements are useful in selecting and sizing your pattern, sewing your garment, and measuring garments before trying them on. Some of the meets offer a Fashion Boutique where you can purchase era or era image clothing. Before you try on an era garment, measure the shoulder, bust, waist and hip areas of the garment. Doing so will not only save you the frustration of trying on a garment that is too big or too small, it can save the garment itself.

If you are looking for an era pattern, check out the Pattern Project, found at the [MAFCA website](#) under Fashions. There you will find a large assortment of patterns available for purchase. You will also find a great article entitled *The Sizing of Model A Patterns* written by Peggy Gill, the current Era Fashion Committee Chairperson, that will help you choose your pattern size. It really is a "must read" before you get started.

The following measuring instructions for women, men, and children are from *The Art of Dressmaking*, published by Butterick in 1927. The lovely thing about taking your measurements is that the method of doing so doesn't change with the year.

WOMEN AND GIRLS

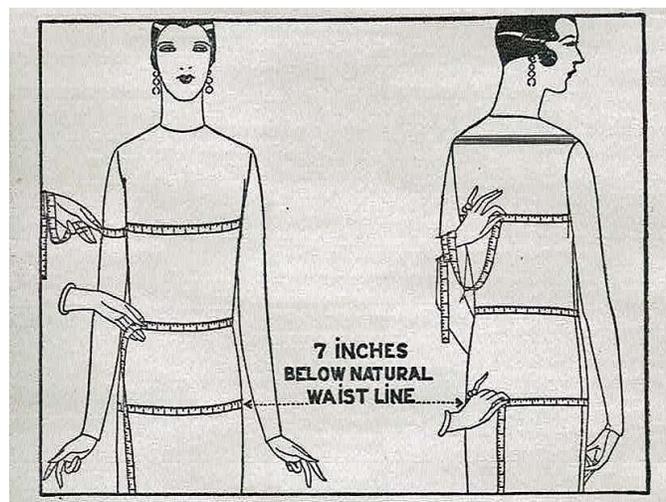
BUST - The bust measurement should be taken from the back. Measure over the fullest part of the bust, close up under the arms and straight across the back. If the tape is held too high at the back, the measure will be too large; if too low, it will be too small.

BACK - Measure across the back, about 2" below the neckline.

WAIST - Take the waist measurement at the natural waistline.

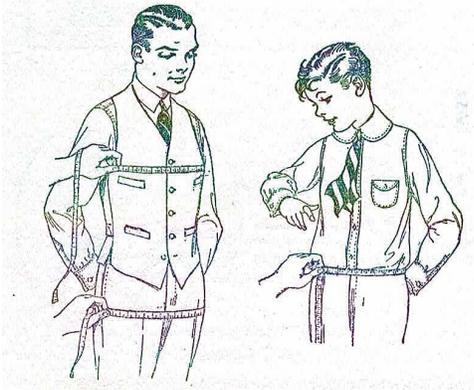
HIP - The hip measurement should be taken from the back. Measure about seven inches below the natural waistline.

ARM - Take the arm measurement around the largest part of your arm, about one inch below the armhole. For arm length, measure from top of your arm to your wrist, with your arm slightly bent.



NOTE - In taking the bust, waist, hip and arm circumference measurements, the tape should be close, but not tight.

MEN AND BOYS



CHEST - Take the chest measurement around the body close under the arms.

WAIST - Take the waist measurement at the natural waistline.

HIP - Take the hip measurement around the fullest part of the hip. The tape should be easy, not snug.

NOTE - For both the chest and waist measurements, the tape should be snug, but not tight.

At least once this summer, have fun dressing up, just like you did when you were a kid!
Wouldn't it be grand to see everyone dressed in era style at a Grand Tour?

Wishing you all a safe, wonderful and amazing touring season!

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