



LEADING LINES OVERHEAD TRANSPARENCY COMMENTARY GUIDE

Lines are used to create designs. They also create optical illusions. A line leads the eye from one point to another. Lines can be used to help emphasize height, conceal weight, or draw attention. Because of these factors, it is possible to select a garment design with lines that form a becoming illusion in relation to one's body size and shape.

One's apparent size and shape can be changed by creating optical illusions. It is accomplished because the eye is influenced by the:

- direction of lines
- arrangement of lines
- relationships of the lines to each other

I-II-16 Vertical or horizontal? Does it make a difference? Study these two illustrations. Horizontal lines direct the eye to go across the person, and the vertical lines direct the eye in an up-and-down motion. These two striped shirts show the difference. Also, the bolder (wider) the stripe, the more dominant it is and consequently, the draw of the eye is stronger.

I-II-17 Vertical lines lead the eye up and down, emphasizing height. Vertical illusions tend to make one look taller and, in turn, thinner. Therefore, to look taller, the eye must continue to move upward in a vertical direction. Likewise, to look thinner, the eye must continue to move upward in a vertical direction.

I-II-18 The wider center panel creates a wide stripe that draws the eye down but also adds some width to the illusion. This is especially true if the center panel is a different color or fabric than the rest of the garment. If someone is exceptionally thin, this would be a good way to add some width to an otherwise up-and-down line.

I-II-19 Horizontal lines move across the body, making it appear wider. Horizontal illusions tend to make one look wider and, in turn, shorter. To look shorter, the direction of the eye moving upward must be interrupted. And to look heavier or more rounded, the eye must move horizontally.

These horizontal lines of contrasting colors bring the eye straight to the lines. Notice how the eye tends to stop with the horizontal line on the male but travels downward with the horizontal section on the female. The addition of diagonal lines keeps the eye moving.

I-II-20 A horizontal line in the center can be an asset or a liability in appearance. This female has a slim waist, so the dark belt becomes a focal point or point of interest, and it is very flattering. However, if the female had a thicker waist line or a waistline that was thicker than the hips, the illusion would look somewhat like

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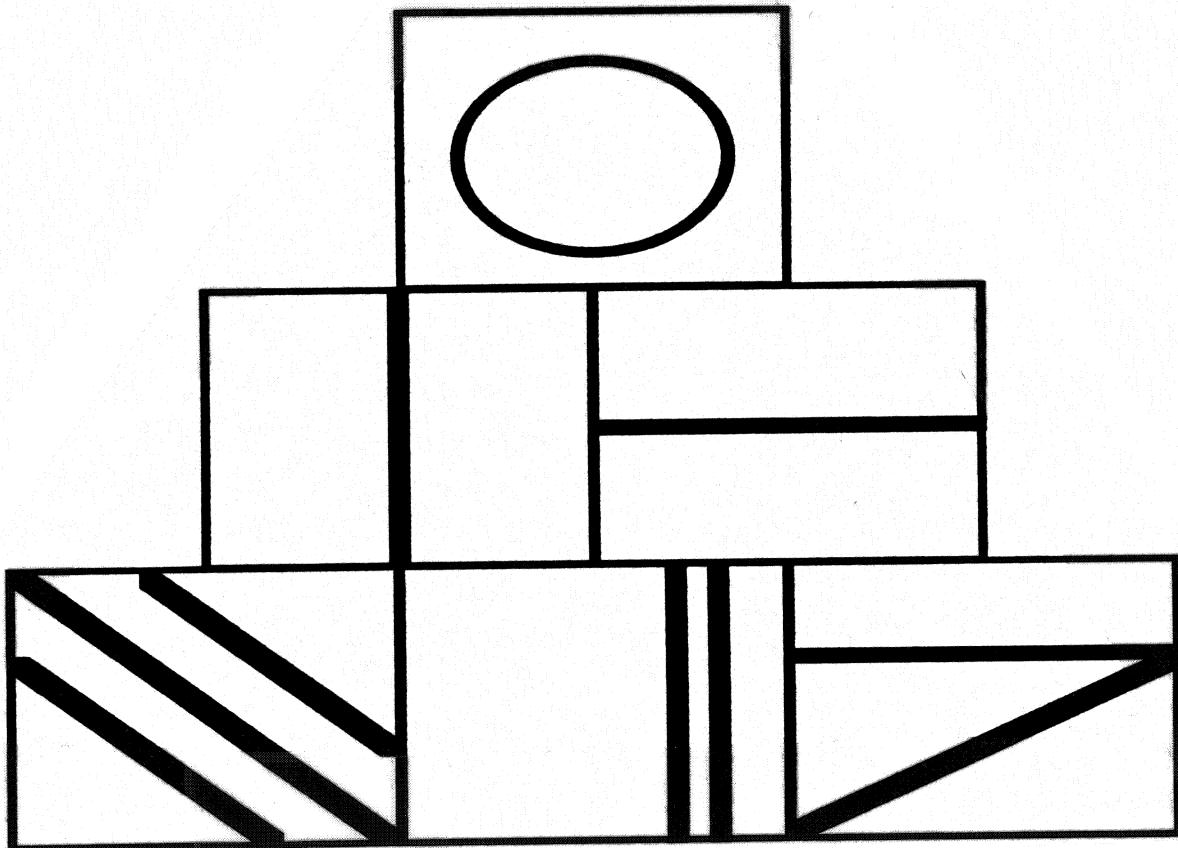
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- Humpty Dumpty. On the male, there is an abrupt change at the waist line. But, because his pants are long, it is not a half-and-half image but rather an example of how the Golden Mean works to visual advantage.
- I-II-21 A horizontal line can be created at the hipline or lower by wearing jackets and pants of different colors. If a person has small hips, the line can be flattering if it changes right at the base of the hip. However, if a person has large hips and doesn't want to draw attention to them, the line should be several inches below the base of the hip. Technically, if coats and pants are worn together, and the line changes at the hipline, this image is more of a 50/50 image than when the lines change at the waist.
- I-II-22 Horizontal lines and vertical lines used together can make a complementary combination. The addition of the opposing line adds interest to the pattern established by the dominant lines. At the neckline on both of these illustrations, the horizontal line is slightly rounded, which makes for a softer appearance.
- I-II-23 Diagonal lines suggest movement and action. They go across the body at an angle, leading the eye with the line. The more vertical the line, the taller and thinner the person will appear. The more horizontal the line, the wider and shorter the person will appear. Diagonal lines may be used in combination with either vertical or horizontal lines to divert attention or accent an area. They can be used very creatively and add an element of class to a garment.
- I-II-24 This is a combination of a horizontal line combined with a slightly rounded diagonal line that draws the eye more up and down than across. In addition, the necklace offers a rounded line just below the face. The horizontal line is carried further by the length of the sleeve.
- I-II-25 Here are three illustrations of diagonal lines added to a vertical line, with the diagonal lines drawing attention away from the face.
- I-II-26 In contrast, these diagonal lines draw the eye directly to the face. In the image on the right, there are two sets of diagonals that draw the eye upward, one set that draws the eye down (neckline), and a strong horizontal line at the waist.
- I-II-27 When the color is basically one color, a plain silhouette is presented and is only accented by the outline. The simplicity of this image can be very flattering for a number of types of body contours.



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- I-II-28 A rounded line gives the feeling of softness and can be very flattering. Sometimes it is considered to be quite feminine, although that's not necessarily so. However, a person with a rounded face needs to avoid this line as it does tend to make things appear wider.
- I-II-29 This is an illustration of three different skirt lengths and the illusion that can be created from them. The model on the left appears to be the tallest, and the figure on the right appears to be the shortest. Basically, they are the same height, This illusion is simply created by the skirt length. To add height to one's silhouette, add length.
- I-II-30 These are examples of how multiple lines and patterns can change the illusion, add width, or softness. On the left, the non-fitted jumper pants with the circular patterns certainly add width to what may or may not be a slim person. In the center figure, we see how the use of several layers at the neck, two of them being rather busy, bring the eye to focus on the neckline and certainly add width to the center area of the body. On the right is an example of a combination of round, vertical, and horizontal lines, as well as how the Golden Mean works and makes for attractive dimensions.



I-II-15C

