

COMPETENCY #13:

Practice using the principles and elements of design.

CONCEPT: Knowledge of garment construction and design will help students utilize the principles and elements of design.

LECTURE/DISCUSSION

Flat-pattern is one of three methods of making patterns. The other two are DRAFTING on paper from a set of body measurements, and DRAPING fabric on a dress form. The flat-pattern method is based on the use of a simple pattern which is changed or modified by specific directions to create a pattern for a chosen design.

Remember that pattern making is precision work! If you are off 1/4" in the scale, it may mean 1" or more on the garment. Being off this much in the actual pattern may make quite a difference.

PREPARATION:

The equipment you will need is:

- clear plastic ruler
- compass
- sharp pencil
- pen
- eraser
- clear tape (preferably tape you can write on)
- copies of patterns
- packet instructions

The BASIC PATTERN pieces that you will be working with are: Bodice back, bodice front, skirt back, skirt front, and sleeve.

Prepare copies of the basic patterns for students to use. If sets of the basic patterns and French curve are reproduced on tack or construction board they will be more durable for repeated use as students trace their patterns.

If classroom packet sets of instructions were produced and possibly laminated, costs would be kept to a minimum and the packets would also be more durable.

ACTIVITIES:

Have students practice flat pattern design by moving darts, changing sleeves, redesign skirts, etc.

As a special assignment students could design their own garment. Either in class or as extra credit students will construct the designed garment. Display the results of the exercise.