The

Cutter's Practical Guide

TO CUTTING

Livery Garments

IN ALL THEIR VARIETIES, INCLUDING COATS, VESTS, TROUSERS, BREECHES AND GAITERS, AS WORN BY :: :: LIVERY SERVANTS :: ::

By

W. D. F. VINCENT,

Editor of "The Tailor and Cutter," "The "Ladies' Tailor," and numerous Works on Cutting, Practical Tailoring, &c.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

FOR THIS EDITION

It is with real respect for the craft and history of British tailoring that I offer this restored edition of *The Cutter's Practical Guide to Cutting Livery Garments*. W. D. F. Vincent wrote it, and The John Williamson Company Limited published it from 42 Gerrard Street, London, as a revised volume of *The Cutter's Practical Guide*. Its title page promises livery garments "in all their varieties, including coats, vests, trousers, breeches and gaiters, as worn by livery servants", and the book delivers all of them.

Unlike the martial dress of Vincent's military volume, livery belongs to a different, though no less exacting, tradition: one that signals status, function and loyalty to a house and its hierarchy. Livery tailoring called for its own kind of excellence, garments that were durable rather than merely decorative, respectable rather than flamboyant, and made to custom rather than to fashion. Vincent did not compile the book alone. In his preface he says that he "gladly availed" himself of "a large circle of trade friends, many of whom are engaged in some of the most noted Livery trades in this great City of London", and their practical knowledge shows on every page.

The book opens with a short history of livery, from the household badges of the Middle Ages to the statutes and licences of the Tudor monarchs, followed by the rules for choosing livery colours, the customs of supplying livery, and a specimen price list of the London trade. Vincent then works through the whole establishment of a great house: the coachman's driving suit, full-dress suit, stable suit, riding trousers, overcoat, mackintosh and capes; the old box-coat; the chauffeur's suit and overcoat, the newest livery of all; the groom's suit and the pad groom's frock; the postillion's jacket; the footman's livery suit, full-dress suit, overcoat and pantry jacket; the butler's dress coat; the page's and keeper's suits; breeches, leggings and gaiters; and the huntsman's frock coat and the stable jacket. An appendix covers the making-up of breeches and the placing of their buttons, the measures, the patrol jacket, hotel and bank porters' uniforms, royal and sheriffs' liveries, cockades, and the liveries of the coach guard, the bellman, the rink attendant and the winner of Doggett's Coat and Badge.

This edition keeps every figure, plate and diagram where it stood beside its text, and every page in its original order.

A NOTE ON MISSING PAGES

The only copy of this edition available to the editor is a single scan, and it is imperfect in three places. Folio 6 was scanned twice, and the second copy, which turns up between folios 33 and 34, has been left out. Folio 37, the page on the Butler's Vest, survives only as a thumbnail too small to read. Folio 41, the Diagram of Breeches and Shooting Coat, is missing altogether. Each of these two pages is marked by a placeholder page in its proper place, so that the openings of the book are as Vincent's readers saw them. Every other page is present.

I looked for a second copy to supply the lost leaves. The copy in the HathiTrust Digital

Library (University of California) proved to be an earlier and different edition: it adds court dress, carries an earlier Drury Lane imprint and has a different index, so its pages cannot stand in for those of this revised edition. Rather than borrow pages from another book, I have left the gaps marked. Should a complete copy of the Gerrard Street edition come to light, the two pages will be restored in a later printing.

This 2026 edition aims to keep the original's full structure and technical clarity while adding:

- Optical character recognition, checked line by line against three independent readings of each page, for an accurate text;
- Retypesetting that keeps every page, column, figure and caption where it was in the original;
- Faithful reproduction of Vincent's full-length figures, drafting diagrams, photographs and the publisher's original advertisements, cleaned and enlarged for print;
- A new glossary of period livery tailoring terms, and editorial notes on the principal sections.

Corrections have been made with care, without bringing in modern terms or losing historical nuance. Archaic spellings and period usage ("scye", "postillion", "&c.", "C.P.G.", "do." for ditto) are kept wherever they do not obscure the meaning. Plain printer's errors have been corrected silently. The aim is an edition that serves the scholar and the user alike: the working tailor, the social historian, the costumier and the enthusiast.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William D. F. Vincent was a leading figure in British tailoring. The title page of this volume calls him "Editor of 'The Tailor and Cutter,' 'The Ladies' Tailor,' and numerous Works on Cutting, Practical Tailoring, &c." He is best known for his work at that journal and for the instructional volumes of *The Cutter's Practical Guide*. He was born at Yeovil, Somerset, on 18 June 1860 and served his apprenticeship there. He joined *The Tailor and Cutter* in 1887 and edited it for twenty-nine years from 1895. He also headed its cutting academy and was Managing Director of the business from 1912 until he retired in 1924. He died in 1926.

May this edition carry on the legacy of *The Cutter's Practical Guide*, and serve today's historians, craftspeople, costumiers and enthusiasts as well as it once served the livery tailor.

THE HUMBLE EDITOR.

London, 2026

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A CORRECTION. We regret to find a mistake was made by our engravers when making the block of the lay for the Livery Overcoat given on page 14, where it states 2½yds, it should have read 2¾yds. We shall be obliged if our readers will please note this, as when writing the description we had the print before us, and unfortunately repeated the error.

THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THE Work we have now revised and brought up-to-date, and which will be placed before the members of an intelligent profession, is in a large measure the outcome of practical experience in high-class livery trades. But as the experience of one on so wide a topic as all kinds of Liveries must of necessity be of a limited nature, we have gladly availed ourselves of a large circle of trade friends, many of whom are engaged in some of the most noted Livery trades in this great City of London. Many of these have materially helped in the preparation of this Work, for which we extend to them our hearty thanks, feeling assured that the ideas and hints gained from such sources have such a practical bearing on the subject of Liveries, that the value of the Work has been largely enhanced thereby. We have spared neither trouble nor pains to make this work as complete as possible, and trust it will supply a felt want in tailoring establishments.

W. D. F. VINCENT.

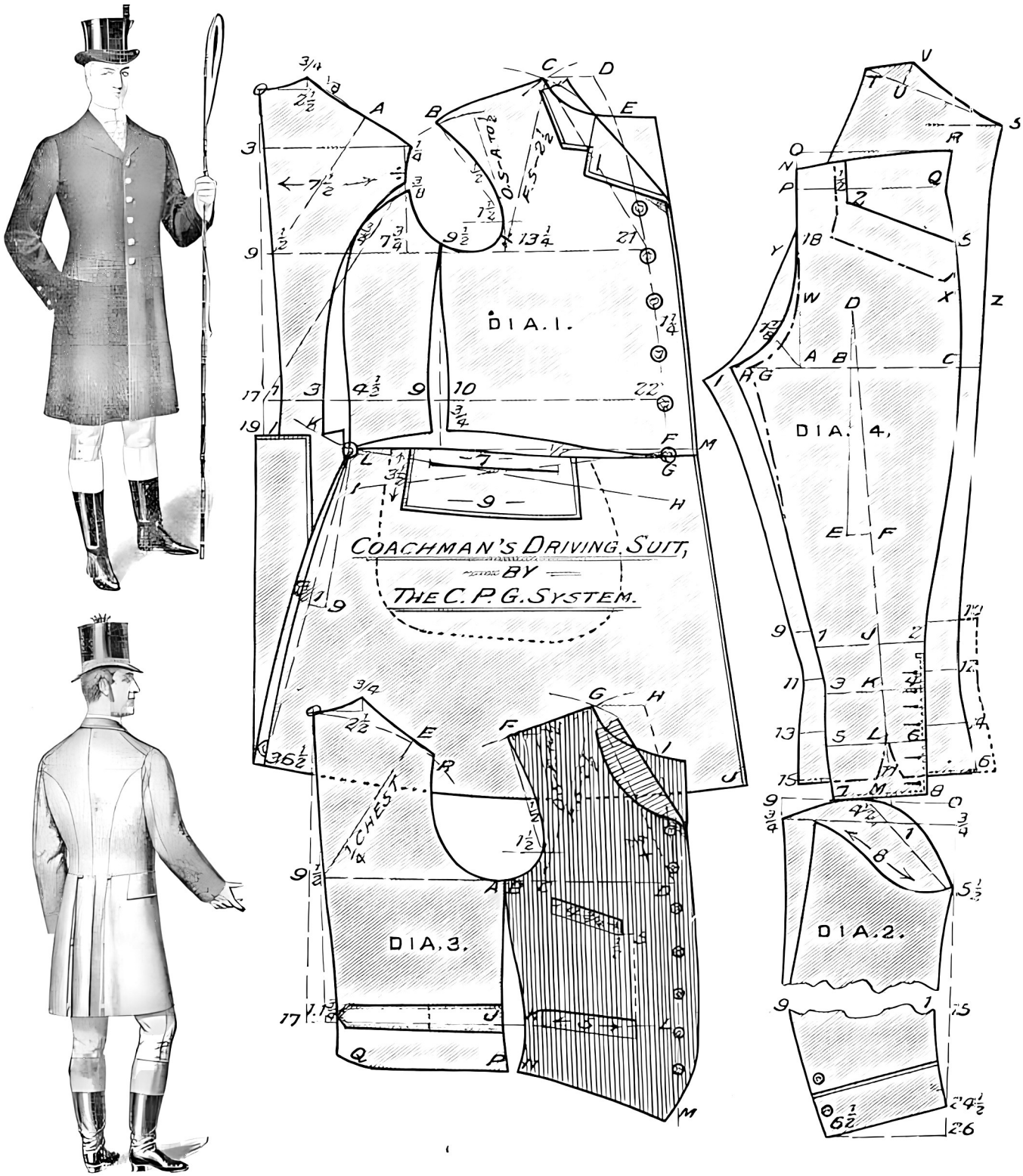

DIA. 1.
DIA. 2.
DIA. 3.
DIA. 4.
COACHMAN'S DRIVING SUIT,
BY
THE C. P. G. SYSTEM.

PLATE I.

THE FRONT.

9 to 20½ half-chest plus 2½ inches.

20¼ to 12½ the across-chest as taken on customer.

Use 12½ as a pivot, and sweep by front shoulder less width of back neck, in the direction of C.

Add ½in. to this quantity, and sweep from 20¼.

Where segments cross locates neckpoint, C.

To find point B, sweep by the overshoulder less ½ to A of the back.

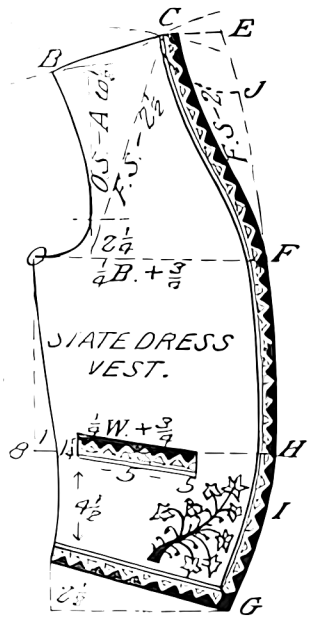
C to B is a trifle less than ½ to ¾ of the back, and the scye is shaped from B round up to j.

C to D one-twelfth breast less ½ in.

D to E one-twelfth breast.

Draw breast line from D to 20½.







THE SIDESEAM.

Take out ¼in. at top, and 1½in between 3 and 4½.

½ to 9 is one-fourth breast, less ½ in.

Take out 1 inch between 8½ and 9½, and measure up waist to measure plus 2 inches.

Sweep by top of sideseam from the bottom of the sideseam of the back to the side-body, and square across to the front, and hollow waist-seam ¾in.

Drop front about ½in., so as to give a fairly good appearance of length to the front.

Continuo breast line to 20, and shape front to taste.

THE SKIRT.

Square down to 9, 9 inches, and from this point mark back 1 inch; draw a line through this, and add on ½in. of round.

Make the width of the skirt at the bottom about one-third of the breast and shape front as shown.

HINTS ON MAKING.

It is usual to cut velvet with the pile to run up, but there are some firms who resort to the other plan, claiming that it catches the dust less with the pile running down. The seams are first sewn, and then the garment is sent to the embroiderers, who return it to the tailor, and he fits it and finishes in the usual way.

THE LIVERY STATE DRESS VEST.

This is practically the same for both coachmen and footmen. It is cut in the no-collar style, sharply cut away at the bottom, and of good length. The edges are trimmed with gold lace, and the fronts are fastened with hooks and eyes. The bottom of the forepart is embroidered in gold, in keeping with the contour. It is made of cassimere, usually of a light shade, often of white. Sometimes the pockets are put in with pointed flaps, but in that case the entrance to the pocket is at the back of the flap, and not under it.

LIVERY DRESS BREECHES.

Those are made moderately close-fitting at fork and thighs, similar to ordinary trousers.

Measures : 30½, 15, 17, 18½, 30, 36, 14, 13, 14.

These are worn by livery servants for full dress, by officials of various kinds, and for unofficial court dress.

They only reach to just below the small of leg.

They are usually finished with a garter and buckle.

0 to 12, body rise.

COACHMAN'S OVERCOAT.

D.B., with separate lapels; six buttons each side; close waist; full skirts, reaching to the middle of the upper portion of top-boots, or 46 inches long for a 5ft. 8in. figure; flap pockets are placed across the waist, and a half-moon jetted ticket pocket is put in just above the waist-seam. Side edges are placed in pleats, and made 12 inches long. The body-part is lined tweed, and the skirts with shalloon. Sleeves with five rows of stitching; seams slated and double-stitched. Material: Devon box-cloth. Out in two styles: (1) button to neck, (2) open front with revers.

THE SYSTEM.

Draw line O 46, and square out to 3, one-twelfth of cloth.

Raise ¾in. and shape the back neck.

O to 3 one-third depth of scye.

O to 9 depth of scye.

O to 17½ waist length and ½in.

O to 19½ generally 2 inches below hollow of waist.

Mark in ¾in. at 17½, and shape to O.

Apply the width across back at 2 inches below 3, and square the line at back scye.

Spring out tin. on shoulder and.

Draw to 3, and hollow line near the neck.

Make width of back at scye and at wrist one-ninth of scale plus ½in., and after having ruled from 2½ to 17½, shape the side seam with ⅝in. of round at U.

Make from I to J 1¼in., and shape sidebody round, nipping in ½in. at top.

From ¼ to 9* mark one-fourth of chest, and then make J to K ½in. loss than U to 9½.

Sweep from 1 to 2, pivoting at 2½, and square across from 2.

From ¼ to ⅜ measure half-chest plus 3½ inches, or more, according to stubbornness of cloth and thickness of lining.

Go back to B the across-chest plus ½in., or more.

Raise 1½in. at B.

Sweep E from B by the front-shoulder measure, less the back neck, and make A to O ¾in. more than that measure.

Sweep C from B by the over-shoulder measure less the distance from D to ½.

E to C ¼in. less than ⅜ to ¼ of back.

Rule to 1½, and shape the scye ½in. in advance of line C 1½, and ½in. below breast line, as shown.

E to F one-twelfth of chest, and down to G a similar quantity.

Curve over to A.

Take out 1 inch at K L, and measure up the waist, allowing about 3½ inches over the half measure, and so find H..

Add ½in. beyond line F, A, H.

Drop Z ½in., and curve waist-seam ¾in. over fashion waist line.

Add 1½ at 19¼, and rule edge of back-skirt through from O to length desired. Also add 1 inch to 1½in. on inside of back-skirt, drawing the edge parallel to the centre line.

From Z to P mark 3½ inches, and square from 2 to S by 2 P.

From 2 to S always 9 inches.

S to T 1 inch, or more for an extra large seat.

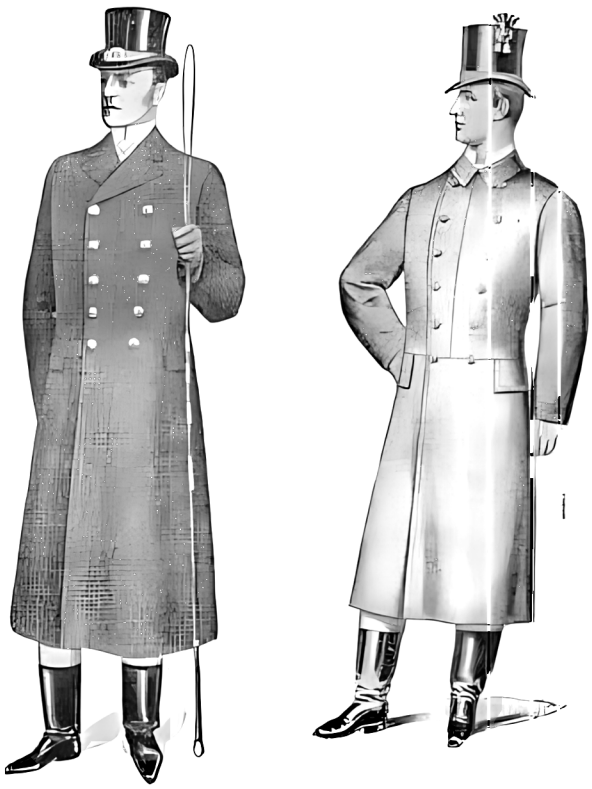
Draw from 2 to 46, and add ½in. of round at T.

Go out 2½ inches to Q, and square from Q to P by N, which latter point is 3 inches down from 2.

Make Q R equal to 2, 46.

Make W touch line, but lower same ¾in. where front seam crosses the line.

Place the back of the pocket 1 inch from sidebody-seam, and arrange the length of the flap or cuff with chest and 1 inch.



The lapel is simply a repetition of the shape of forepart, therefore it is better to cut out the body and mark round as per dotted lines. Make the width at the top and bottom 2½ inches, and at the breast 3¼ inches.

PRUSSIAN COLLAR. DIA. 2.

Measure round gorge and back neck ¼in. away from edge, and apply this length at O to A, on Diagram 2.

A to B the difference between the stand and fall

B to C always ½in.

Curve up from O to B; also curve from 1½ to C, denoting the top edge or crease row of collar.

Make up the fall as desired, adding ½in. of spring at c.

For a 2½-inch fall at back-seam, mark 3 inches at side, and 3 inches from B to A.

Add 1½in. beyond D.