# Vincent's Systems of Cutting all kinds of Tailor-Made Garments.

PART I.

DEALING WITH THE CUTTING OF VARIOUS STYLES OF

*TROUSERS, BREECHES,*
*KNICKERS, PANTALOONS,*
*LEGGINGS AND GAITERS,*
*AND WAISTCOATS.*

BY

W. D. F. VINCENT,

Author of "The Cutters' Practical Guide," and many other Scientific and Practical Works for Tailors, Editor of "The Tailor and Cutter," "The Ladies' Tailor," and other Trade Publications.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

FOR THIS EDITION

This restored edition brings together, in one volume, all five parts of *Vincent's Systems of Cutting all kinds of Tailor-Made Garments*, by W. D. F. Vincent, printed and published in 1903 by The John Williamson Co., Limited, of 42 Gerrard Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, the firm behind *The Tailor and Cutter*. Vincent issued the work in parts, numbered continuously from page 1 to page 254, and in his preface he calls it "this book, or series of books."

He meant it to be his most practical work. "The present version is simpler than any preceding one," he writes, "and being based on the ripest and most matured experience, it will, I think, be acknowledged to be a marked advance on my previous works." It was "printed in a handy size" and "offered at a very moderate price, so as to be within the reach of all." His method is to let the diagrams do the work: "I have resorted to the use of diagrams freely, believing that more can be conveyed in that way than in pages of descriptive letter press." Throughout, the text page faces the diagram plate it explains, and this edition keeps that arrangement.

The five parts cover the whole of the tailor's trade:

- **Part I** (pp. 1–44): trousers, breeches, knickers, pantaloons, leggings and gaiters, and waistcoats, including clerical and military mess vests.
- **Part II** (pp. 45–128): lounges, reefers, Norfolk and other jackets, morning, frock and dress coats, and livery, clerical, police, military, naval and court body coats. Vincent notes that his system "has been adopted by the Military authorities as the best for Master Tailors to study."
- **Part III** (pp. 129–174): Chesterfields, raglans, ulsters and all kinds of overcoats, including naval, military and livery coats, with dressing gowns, flannel shirts and professional robes and gowns.
- **Part IV** (pp. 175–218): ladies' garments by Vincent's "Direct Measure Method": bodices, jackets, blouses, ulsters, capes, cycling, walking and riding skirts, breeches and bloomers, ending with "the laws of ornamentation."
- **Part V** (pp. 219–254): the working cutter's other business: grading, cutting from the cloth, quantities of material, dealing with workmen, making up, trying on, defects and their remedies, model patterns, disproportion, and useful hints from cleaning fluid to costing.

This 2026 edition keeps the original's full structure and adds:

- Optical character recognition with line-by-line verified correction, checked against a second, independent reading;
- Retypesetting that keeps every page, heading, diagram and caption where it was in the original, so that each plate still faces its text;
- Faithful reproduction of all diagram plates, tables and the card of relative proportions from a cleaned scan;
- A glossary of period tailoring terms, editorial notes on the main sections, and a note on the

text.

Vincent's spelling and usage ("vest" for waistcoat, "scye," "sideseam," "&c.") are kept. Plain printer's errors have been corrected silently.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William D. F. Vincent (1860–1926) was the leading writer on British tailoring of his day. 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. The title pages of this work also name him as editor of *The Ladies' Tailor*. He headed the Tailor and Cutter Academy, was Managing Director of the business from 1912, and retired in 1924. He died in June 1926. He is best remembered for the many volumes of *The Cutter's Practical Guide* and for these *Systems*.

"Do your work well," he wrote at the close of Part V, "and ever strive to do better with each successive experience." May this edition serve today's tailors, pattern cutters, costumers and historians as well as it served the cutters of 1903.

**THE HUMBLE EDITOR.**

*2026*

# Author's Preface.

IN this book, or series of books, I have aimed at clearness and conciseness of description, with the object of giving information in the most helpful form to those who desire to master the intricacies of the science of cutting.

The Systems described are the results of long practice and much careful experimenting, and my endeavour has been to produce a simple method that shall be reliable for all kinds of garments for all sorts and conditions of customers.

My former pupils tell me I have been eminently successful in this, and I know that in my own hands the systems herein contained produce the best results that could be desired by the most exacting critics.

The present version is simpler than any preceding one, and being based on the ripest and most matured experience, it will, 1 think, be acknowledged to be a marked advance on my previous works. It is printed in a handy size, and is offered at a very moderate price, so as to be within the reach of all.

W. D. F. VINCENT.

# INDEX.


| | DIA. | PAGE |
|---|---|---|
| Introduction | — | 1 |
| The Measures for Trousers | — | 2 |
| ,, ,, for Breeches | — | 2 |
| ,, ,, for Gaiters | — | 2 |
| Points to Remember | — | 3 |
| Trousers Normal | 1 | 4 |
| The Registered Square | 2 | 6 |
| Trousers, Corpulent | 2 | 8 |
| Bell Bottoms | 3 | 10 |
| Riding Trousers | 4 | 12 |
| Livery Breeches | 5 | 14 |
| Continuations | 7 | 14 |
| Gents' Breeches and Pantaloons | 6 | 16 |
| Dress Breeches | 8 | 18 |
| Spats | 10 | 18 |
| Knickers | 9 | 20 |
| Cavalry Pantaloons | 13 | 22 |
| Mounted Infantry Knickers | 14 | 24 |
| Livery Gaiters | 17 | 26 |
| Bishops' Gaiters | 18 | 27 |
| Loose Leggings | 20 | 27 |
| Close Leggings | 21 | 28 |
| Waist Bands | 22 | 28 |
| Cross Pockets | 23 | 7 |
| Hip Pockets | 25 | 4 |
| F. F. and Side Pockets | 26 | 7 |
| French Bearers | 27 | 8 |
| Whole Falls | 28 | 10 |
| Bilston Bearers | 36 | 25 |
| Split Falls | 31 | 20 |
| Strap Buttons | 29 | 12 |
| Vest Back System | 37 | 30, 37 |
| Vest Forepart System | 38 | 31, 38 |
| Step Collar Vests | 39 | 32 |
| D. B. Step Roll | 40 | 33 |
| S. B. No Collar | 38 | 34 |
| Dress Vests | 42 | 35 |
| New Style D. B. Vest | 43 | 36 |
| Footman's Striped Vests | 44 | 33 |
| Sleeve Vests | 45 | 37, 39 |
| Clerical Vests | 47 | 40 |
| Clerical Cassock Vests | 48 | 41 |
| Mess Vests | 49 | 42 |
| Corpulent Vests | 50 | 42 |
| Various Styles of Military Vests | 51 to 58 | 43 |
| Other Styles of Vests | 59 to 64 | 44 |

VINCENT'S

# SYSTEMS OF CUTTING

# Trousers, Breeches, Gaiters, and Vests.

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The object of this work is to provide the student and the experienced cutter alike with a maximum of information in the most concise manner.

A book that shall explicitly describe and practically illustrate every garment they may be required to cut and make in every day experience.

To accomplish this object I have resorted to the use of diagrams freely, believing that more can be conveyed in that way than in pages of descriptive letter press.

Special attention has been given to the details so that our readers may rely upon them with the fullest confidence.

My description of the diagrams is terse and to the point, leaving theorising and debating for other channels, and devoting the pages exclusively to the practical and helpful.

I follow the same course as is usually followed in teaching the student, taking the simpler garments first and advancing to the more complex.

Thus the opening pages are devoted to the treatment of Trousers and Breeches, which are followed by Gaiters, Leggings and Vests.

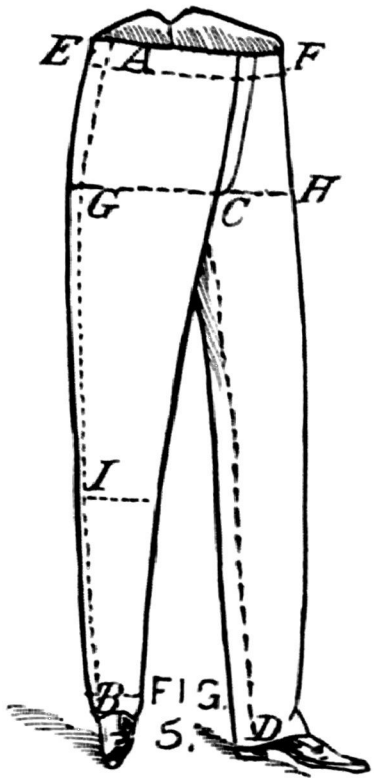


FIG. 5.

## MEASURESFOR TROUSERS.

Before measuring obtain a clear idea of what is required, as large bottom trousers must be longer in the legs than small bottoms.

The following order is the usual one: Side length, A to B; leg length, C to D; Waist, E, F: Seat, G, H; Fashion size of Knee, I; and bottom, B; thus:

44, 32, 30, 36, 18, 17.

## FOR BREECHES.

The side length may be taken to the full length only.

The leg length taken from fork to knee, fork to small, fork to calf, fork to full length.

The tight size of knee: Small; calf and bottom should be taken over the bare leg.

Here is a sample set of measures :—

39, side to bottom; 15, 17, 20, 27, leg lengths.

30, 36, 14. 12. 14, 10, widths.

## FOR GAITERS.

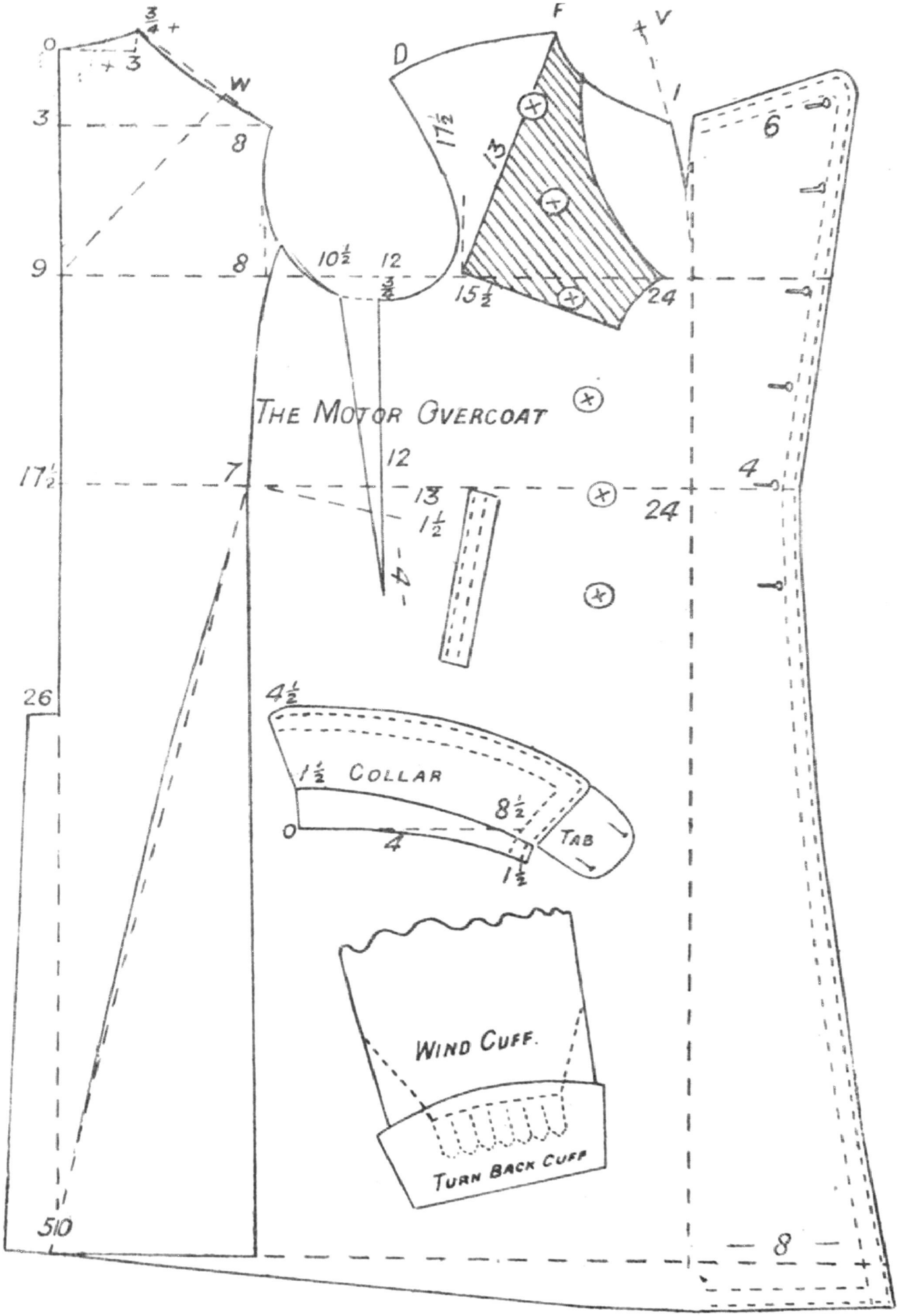
The necessary measures are length, size of calf, ankle and bottom.

When booking orders especial care should be taken to record all the details so that customer's expressed wishes may be carried out.

# VINCENT'S CARD OF RELATIVE PROPORTIONS FOR MALES.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chest. | 22 | 24 | 26 | 28 | 30 | 32 | 34 | 36 | 38 | 40 | 42 | 44 | 46 | 48 | 50 |
| Waist. | 23 | 24 | 25½ | 27 | 28 | 28½ | 29½ | 32 | 34 | 37 | 39½ | 42 | 46 | 50 | 54 |
| Seat. | 23 | 24½ | 26½ | 28¾ | 31 | 33 | 35 | 37 | 39 | 41 | 43 | 45 | 47 | 49 | 51 |
| Scye Depth. | 5¼ | 6 | 6¾ | 7¼ | 7¾ | 8¼ | 8⅝ | 9 | 9⅜ | 9¾ | 10⅛ | 10½ | 10¾ | 11 | 11¼ |
| Natural Waist. | 10 | 12 | 13½ | 14¾ | 16 | 16¼ | 16½ | 17 | 17¼ | 17½ | 17¾ | 17¾ | 18 | 18¼ | 18½ |
| Full Length Lounge. | 17 | 20 | 22½ | 24 | 26 | 27½ | 28¼ | 29 | 29½ | 30 | 30½ | 31 | 31½ | 32 | 32 |
| Full Length Frock & Dress | | | | | | 37 | 37½ | 38 | 38½ | 39 | 39 | 39½ | 39½ | 40 | 40 |
| X. Back. | 4⅜ | 4¾ | 5⅛ | 5½ | 6 | 6½ | 6¾ | 7¼ | 7⅝ | 8 | 8⅜ | 8¾ | 9 | 9¼ | 9½ |
| Elbow. | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 21¾ | 22½ | 23 | 23½ | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Cuff. | 15½ | 19½ | 22½ | 25¼ | 27½ | 29½ | 30¾ | 32 | 33 | 33½ | 33½ | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 |
| X. Chest. | 4⅝ | 5¼ | 5¾ | 6¼ | 6¾ | 7¼ | 7⅝ | 8 | 8½ | 9 | 9½ | 10 | 10½ | 11 | 11½ |
| Front Shoulder. | 8⅝ | 9¼ | 10 | 10½ | 11 | 11½ | 12 | 12½ | 13 | 13½ | 14 | 14½ | 15¼ | 16 | 16¾ |
| Over Shoulder. | 11½ | 12¾ | 13⅝ | 14¼ | 14⅞ | 15½ | 16¼ | 17 | 17¾ | 18½ | 19¼ | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| Vest Length. | 16¼ | 17¾ | 19 | 20¼ | 21¾ | 23 | 24 | 25 | 25½ | 26 | 26½ | 27 | 27½ | 28 | 29 |
| Side Trousers | 22½ | 27½ | 32½ | 36½ | 38½ | 40 | 42 | 43½ | 44 | 45 | 45½ | 46 | 46½ | 47 | 47½ |
| Leg. | 15½ | 19½ | 23¼ | 26½ | 28 | 29½ | 30½ | 31½ | 32 | 33 | 33½ | 34 | 33½ | 33 | 32½ |
| Knee. | 10½ | 11¼ | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15½ | 16½ | 17½ | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 21½ | 22 | 22½ |
| Bottom. | 10 | 10¾ | 11½ | 12½ | 13½ | 14 | 15½ | 16½ | 17½ | 18¼ | 19 | 20 | 20½ | 21 | 21½ |
| Tight Knee. | 8¾ | 9½ | 10¼ | 11 | 12 | 12½ | 13½ | 14½ | 15½ | 16 | 16⅜ | 16¾ | 17⅛ | 17½ | 18 |
| Small. | 8 | 8¾ | 9½ | 10¼ | 10¾ | 11¼ | 11¾ | 12¾ | 13¼ | 13¾ | 14¼ | 14¾ | 15¼ | 15¾ | 16¼ |
| Calf. | 8½ | 9¼ | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 15½ | 16 | 16½ | 17 | 17¼ | 17½ | 18 |
| Neck. | 11½ | 12 | 12½ | 13 | 13½ | 14 | 14½ | 15 | 15½ | 16 | 16½ | 17 | 17½ | 18 | 18½ |
| Size. | 000 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | COPYRIGHT | | |

Breeches length to Small = half leg length: Knee 2 inches higher Calf 3 inches lower.
Waist for Breeches & Trousers 1 inch less than for Coats, Morning Coats 3 inches shorter than Frocks.


THE MOTOR OVERCOAT
COLLAR
TAB
WIND CUFF.
TURN BACK CUFF

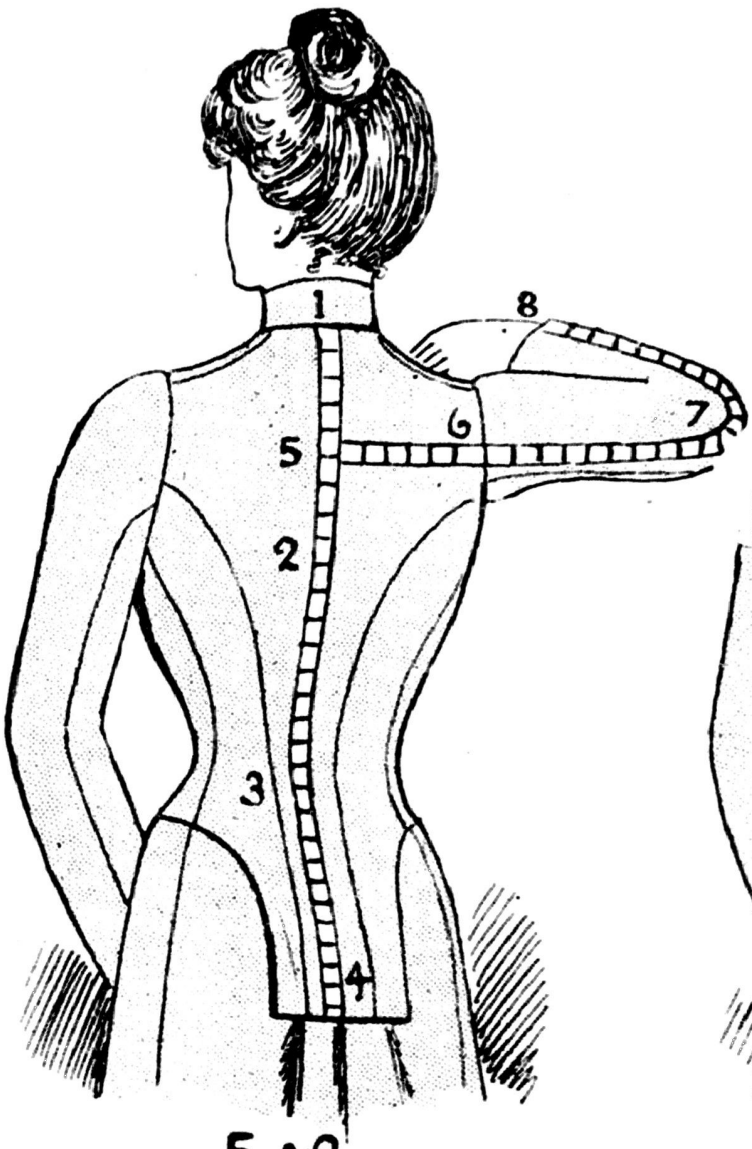



Fig. 2.

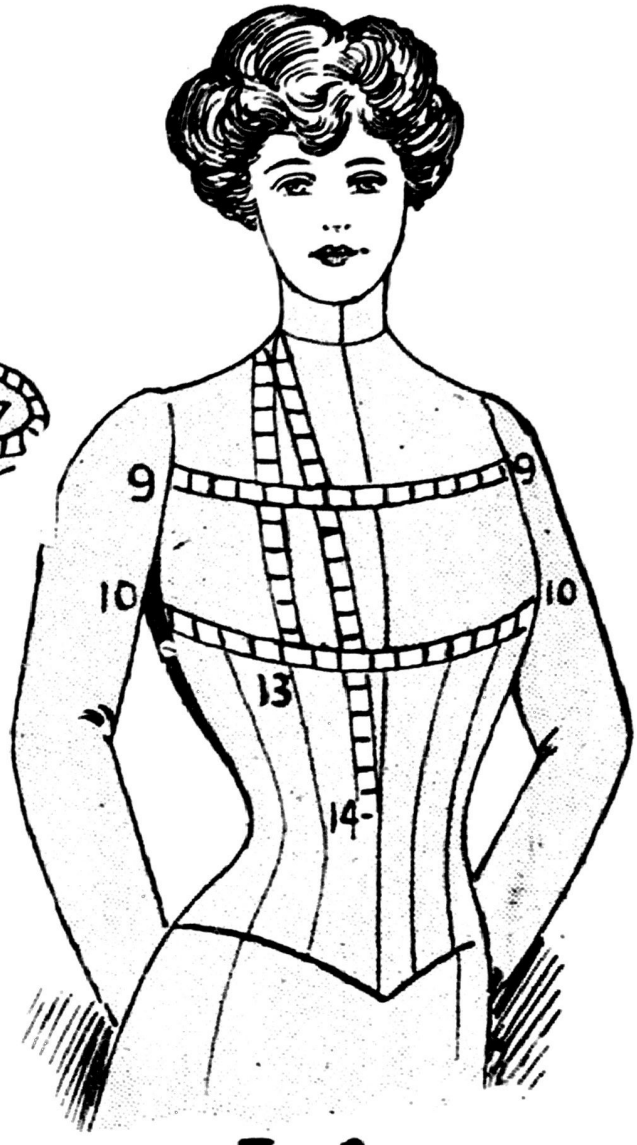
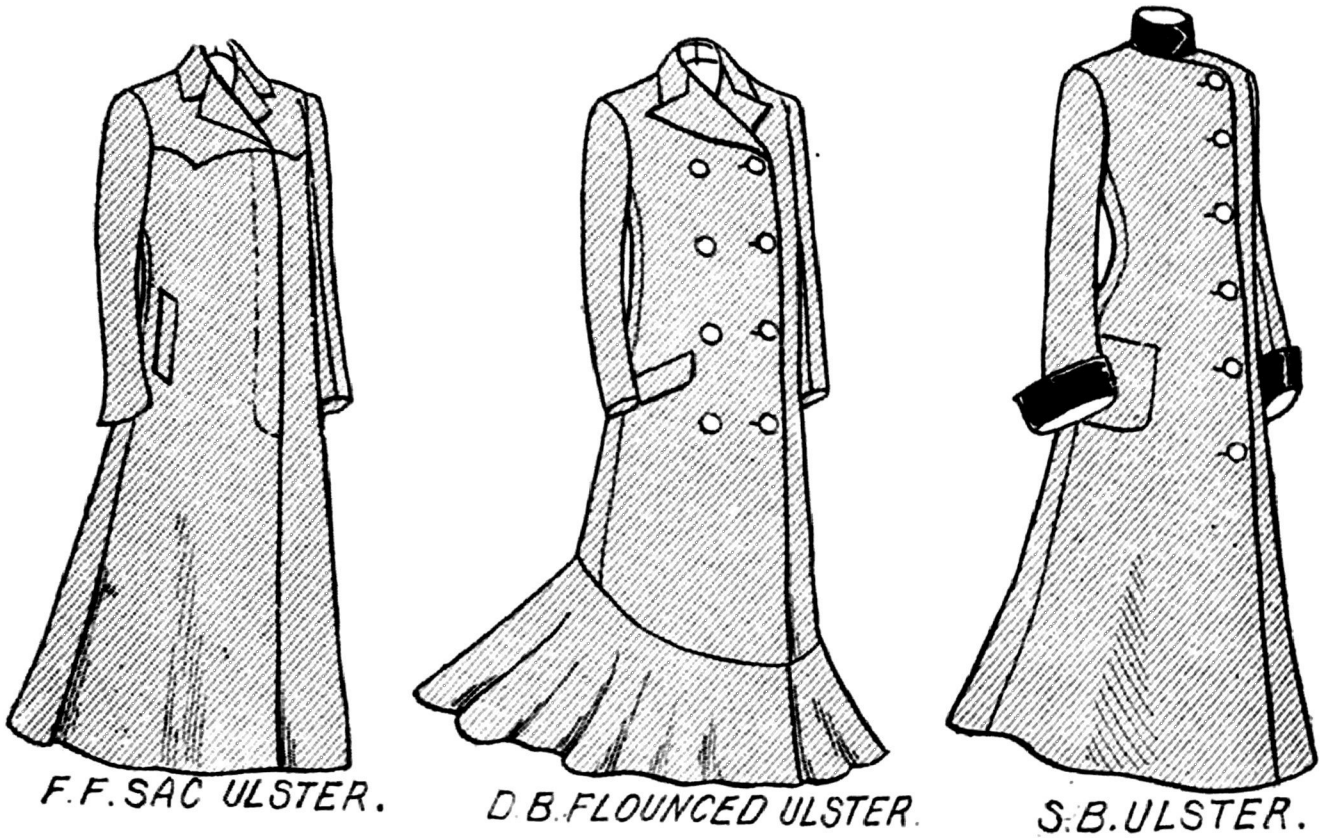



Fig. 3.

For the convenience of those cutters who may have to cut from other measures, we herewith give a

## SCALE OF AVERAGE MEASURES FOR LADIES.

| | Ins. | Ins. | Ins. | Ins. | Ins. | Ins. | Ins. | Ins. | Ins. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chest .. .. .. .. .. | 28 | 30 | 32 | 34 | 36 | 38 | 40 | 42 | 44 |
| Waist .. .. .. .. .. | 23 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 26 | 27½ | 29 | 31 | 32 |
| Seat .. .. .. .. .. | 30 | 34 | 36 | 38 | 40 | 42 | 44 | 46 | 48 |
| Scye Depth .. .. | 7¼ | 7½ | 7¾ | 8 | 8¼ | 8½ | 8¾ | 8¾ | 9 |
| Natural Waist .. .. | 13½ | 14 | 14½ | 15 | 15½ | 15½ | 15½ | 15¾ | 15¾ |
| Across Back (half) .. | 5¼ | 5½ | 5¾ | 6 | 6¼ | 6½ | 6¾ | 7 | 7¼ |
| Full Length Sleeve .. | 25 | 25½ | 26 | 26½ | 27 | 27½ | 28 | 28½ | 29 |
| Average across Chest.. | 6 | 6½ | 7 | 7½ | 8 | 8⅜ | 8¾ | 9⅛ | 9½ |
| Front Shoulders .. .. | 10 | 10½ | 11 | 11½ | 12 | 12½ | 13 | 13½ | 14 |
| Over Shoulders .. .. | 13 | 13¾ | 14½ | 15 | 15¾ | 16½ | 17¼ | 18 | 18¾ |
| Neck .. .. .. .. .. | 6 | 6½ | 7 | 7½ | 7½ | 8 | 8½ | 9 | 9½ |




## DIFFERENT STYLES OF ULSTER.

On the above illustrations I show some of the newest styles of Ulster.

The F. F. Sac Ulster is cut as Diagram 303 extended to length desired. If a yoke is arranged cut it to the shape wished and then add two seams (½ inch) to the underpart.

The D. B. Flounced Ulster is cut as Diagram 306 extended to length desired, the flounce is produced by cutting off the bottom of the pattern and then cutting it up about every 3 inches and inserting V's at the bottom, and so producing the flare.

The S. B. loose fronted Ulster is cut as Diagram 307, but without a dart being taken out of forepart, and the amount of overlap adjusted to taste. The sleeve is here illustrated cut about 15 to 16 at cuff, the extra width being added to hind arm.

# GLOSSARY OF PERIOD TAILORING TERMS

**&c.** — *et cetera*; "and so on."

**Aliquot parts** — exact fractions of a measure (a half, a third, a sixth); Part V gives a table of them.

**Balance** — the relation between the front and back lengths of a coat, which makes it hang straight.

**Breast measure** — the chest measure, taken round the body under the arms.

**Card of relative proportions** — Vincent's table of average measures for each chest size.

**Chesterfield** — a plain, knee-length overcoat with no waist seam, often with a velvet collar.

**Continuations** — livery trousers or breeches cut to continue the line of the gaiter.

**Corpulent figure** — a stout figure with a prominent stomach.

**D. B., S. B.** — double-breasted, single-breasted.

**Dia.** — diagram.

**Direct measures** — measures taken from point to point on the body, used in Vincent's system for ladies' garments.

**Dress coat** — the tailcoat cut away square at the front, worn for evening.

**Forepart** — the front section of a coat or vest.

**Frock coat** — a knee-length coat with a full skirt all round.

**Gaiters, leggings** — coverings for the lower leg, buttoned or strapped.

**Grading** — enlarging or reducing a pattern from one size to another.

**Inverness** — an overcoat or cloak with a cape over the shoulders.

**Livery** — the uniform of a household servant: coachman, footman, groom, page or butler.

**Lounge** — the lounge jacket: a short coat with no waist seam.

**Morning coat** — a coat with skirts curving away from the front, worn for day dress.

**Newmarket** — a long, close-fitting coat, originally for riding.

**Norfolk jacket** — a belted sporting jacket with box pleats.

**Pantaloons** — close-fitting trousers or breeches, often strapped under the foot.

**Raglan** — an overcoat whose sleeve runs in one piece up to the neck.

**Reefer** — a short, usually double-breasted jacket of naval origin.

**Registered square** — Vincent's patented tailor's square, marked with graduated scales.

**Scye** — the armhole. "Depth of scye" is measured from the nape to the level of the armpit.

**Sideseam** — the side seam of trousers, or the seam under the arm of a coat.