

Truly Victorian
1872 Vest Basque- TV405
(Fits over a bustle)

Introduction

This bodice is designed from a garment as shown in the November 23, 1872 issue of Harper's Bazar Magazine. The longer, layered look below the waist lend the term "Basque" to this bodice. Many similar bodices were shown throughout 1872 and on into 1875. It has a simulated "vest" portion in the center front, closing with buttons to the waist, and diamond-shaped neckline framed with a rolled collar. The back has a tail with a pleat at each side-back seam. The side-backs are loose below the waist and overlap the back tail. The fitted sleeve is in 2 pieces, and has a wide cuff. Undersleeve is not included in this pattern.

The bodice is drafted based on a tailoring method actually used in the 1870's. Each size is hand drawn, not scaled, with all of the bodice seams true to the era. This bodice is designed to fit snugly over a corset, with a bustle.

For this pattern, please disregard any attempt at standard sizing. Everyone is unique in body type and size, and we have come up with a completely different way of managing patterns. We have included comprehensive directions on how to size and adjust this pattern for a good fit. Although we can't fit everyone, we have tried to do some of the guess work for you. These methods are a little different than what you may be used to, so please read them carefully, before cutting out pattern pieces.

It is strongly advisable to make a mockup of the bodice, before cutting out your fashion fabric, to check fit.

Yardages

Fabric: 2½ yards, all sizes. For pattern matching (stripes, prints, etc.) more fabric may be required.

Vest, Collar, Cuffs: 2/3 yard, all sizes.

Collar and Cuffs, if different fabric: ½ yard, all sizes.

Lining: ¾ yards, all sizes. Use a light/medium fabric like heavy broadcloth, silesia, or poplin.

Interlining: 2½ yards, all sizes. Use a medium/heavy tightly woven fabric like twill or denim.

Size Chart

SIZE	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Bust	30"	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"	42"	44"	46"	48"	50"	52"	54"	56"
Waist	22"	24"	26"	28"	30"	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"	42"	44"	46"	48"
Back Length	15 ½	15 5/8	15 ¾	15 7/8	16"	16 1/8	16 ¼	16 3/8	16 ½	16 5/8	16 ¾	16 7/8	17"	17 1/8
Back Width	12"	12½	13"	13½	14"	14½	15"	15½	16"	16½	17"	17½	18"	18½
Adj. Back	15.5	16.25	17	17.75	18.5	19.25	20	20.75	21.5	22.25	23	23.75	24.5	25.25
Adj. Front	14.5	15.75	17	18.25	19.5	20.75	22	23.25	24.5	25.75	27	28.25	29.5	30.75
Arm Hole	15½	16"	16½	17"	17½	18"	18½	19"	19½	20"	20½	21"	21½	22"

**Yardages given are with nap, 45" wide fabric.

Notions: Ten ¼" steel bones (stays); Buttons or hooks and eyes for closure.

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Taking your Measures

For this pattern, you will need to take a few body measures. It is best to have someone take these measures for you, (and to take them several times), to make sure that they will be correct. Be sure to take measures over your corset and any underclothes that you will be wearing under your bodice. The measures you need are:

1. **Back Width** - Measure across back, while standing naturally, from the socket of one arm to the socket of your other arm. Do not take too wide.
2. **Back Length** - Take this measure from the nape of neck, down the spine to the waist.
3. **Bust** - this is the full measure around your body. Make sure that the measure is taken over the fullest part of bust and around (not under) shoulder blades.
4. **Hip** - Take this measure around the fullest part of your hip, over your petticoats and skirts.
5. **Arm Hole** - This measure is for your sleeve size. Take measure close under arm and over point of shoulder.



Sizing Your Pattern

Our unique method of sizing patterns is designed to allow all body types to use our patterns. Most other patterns can only accommodate B-cup sizes. Choosing Fronts and Backs separately will allow people with different cup sizes to fit themselves better. To choose the correct pattern, follow the instructions below:

1. Choose pattern **Back**, **Side Back**, and **Side** according to your **Back Width** measure. (These pieces are not interchangeable)
Example: Back Width measures 14", cut out size E Back, Side Back, and Side.
2. On size chart, find **Adjusted Back** correlating to your Back pattern size.
Example: Size E Adjusted Back is 18.5".
3. Subtract Adjusted Back from Bust measure. This is your **Adjusted Front**.
Example: Bust measure is 40". $40''(\text{Bust}) - 18.5''(\text{Adj. Back}) = 21.5''(\text{Adj. Front.})$
4. Choose **Front**, **Vest**, and **Collar** pattern piece that correlates to your Adjusted Front. (If Adjusted Front is between sizes, choose the larger size.)
Example: Adjusted Front 21.5" would be size G Front pattern.
** If your Front is a smaller size than the Back, cut shoulder longer to equal Back shoulder length.
5. Choose **Sleeve** and **Cuff** pattern according to your **Arm Hole** measure. The sleeve length is 17", armpit to wrist, for all sizes. Lengthen or shorten as needed, both above and below the elbow equally.

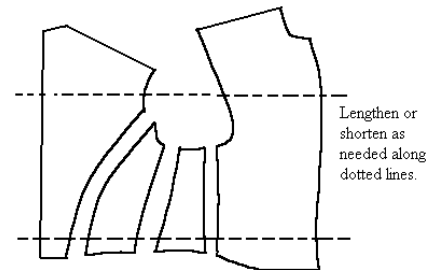
After choosing your pattern pieces, make a Mockup of your bodice. With someone to help you, check the fit of your bodice. Pin the Mockup on you down the center front with a 1" allowance ($\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance and $\frac{1}{2}$ " for closure) on each side. Make changes to your pattern as described below.

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Customizing Your Pattern

1. Length

When fitting your bodice, the bottom of the arm hole should fit snugly under your arm. Adjust the length to your waist by shortening or lengthening each pattern piece equally, just above the waist. Adjust the height of the Back to reach $\frac{1}{2}$ " above the nape of your neck, by folding out the excess evenly across entire back. Fit the Front smoothly from bust point to nape of neck by shortening or lengthening Front, above the arm hole as needed. Make the same changes to the length of the collar piece as well.



2. Arm Hole

Move arm hole on Front forward or back as needed. The arm hole should fit snugly around your arm, but should not be binding.

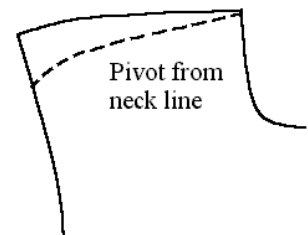
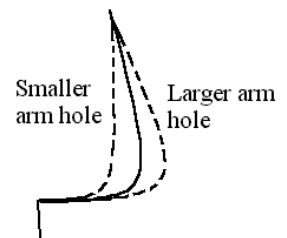
3. Shoulder

The bodice should fit over point of shoulder with a small amount of ease. Take in or let out shoulder, on Front only, by pivoting the shoulder seam from the neck edge.

Match shoulder seams at neck edge and cut shoulder on Front to match shoulder on Back.

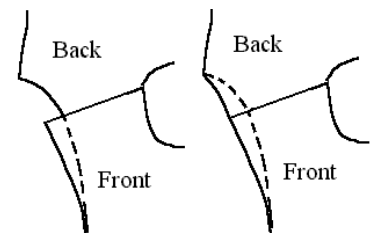
Adjust shoulder length on both Front and Back as necessary. (edge of fabric should be $\frac{1}{2}$ " past point of shoulder.)

If you are making a lot of changes to the shoulder and arm hole, you may wish to measure around your finished arm hole to get the correct size for your sleeve. Hopefully, your changes will result with a snug bodice and the arm hole will be correct to your body.



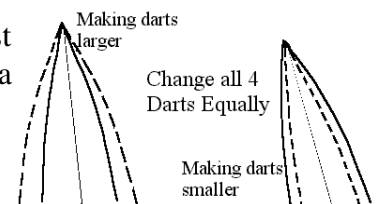
4. Waist Size

Most waist size adjustments are made to the Front darts, after the rest of the bodice is fitted. For this bodice, the front most dart has been converted to a seam for addition of the "Vest." Treat this seam below the notches as if it were a dart. Take in or let out all darts (and seam below notch) equally to fit waist. Example: if you have an excess of 4" at the waist, make each dart larger by 1" at the waist, tapering to the point and extend past hips parallel to old dart line. Sometimes, the darts may need to be sewn to a different shape, either more pointed or more rounded, to more closely fit the wearer.



5. Hip Size

This pattern is designed to have a hip size of 12" greater than the waist measure, regardless of changes made to waist size at the darts, plus room for a bustle. Adjust for hips by letting in or taking out any or all seams below the waist as needed.

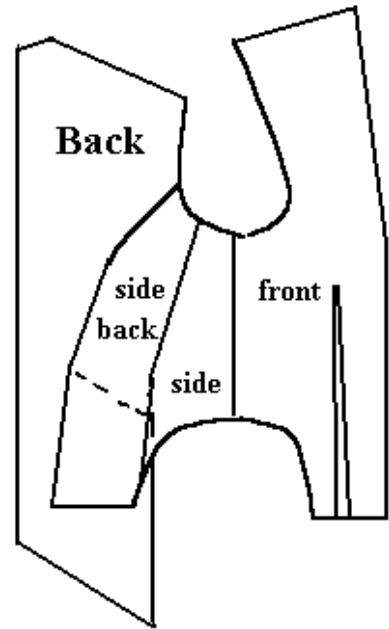


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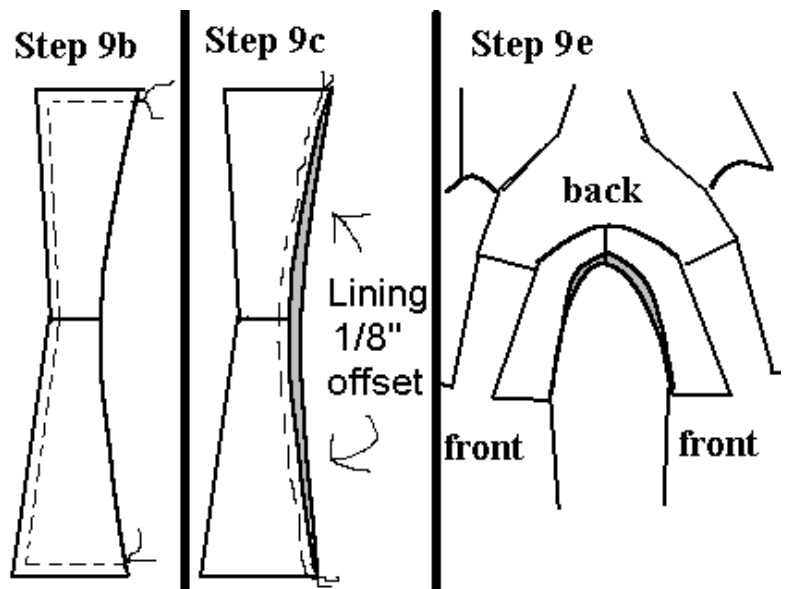
Sewing Instructions

Note: 1/2" seam allowance is given on all pieces.

1. Cut 2 of Back, Side Back, Side, and Front out of fashion fabric, lining and interlining. Cut 2 of Vest out of second fabric, lining, and interlining. Cut 2 of Outer Sleeve and Inner Sleeve out of fashion fabric and lining. Cut 2 of Collar and Cuffs out of fashion fabric and lining.
2. Flat line fashion fabric with interlining. Flat line by laying matching interlining onto wrong side of fashion fabric and carefully baste around all edges. Do not stretch fabrics or allow them to bunch. Once the fabrics are sewn together, treat them as a single piece. **Do not skip this part.** It is very important to give your fashion fabric a firm base.
3. With fashion fabric, sew dart into Fronts.
4. Sew Backs to Side Backs along curved seam. End stitching at the natural waistline, which is marked with a dot on the Back.
5. Sew Sides to Side Backs at side seam.
6. Sew Fronts to Sides at side seam.
7. Sew Backs to Fronts at shoulder seam.
8. Clip and press all seams.
9. Collar



- a. With fashion fabric, sew collar halves together along center back seam, right sides together. Repeat with collar lining.
- b. With right sides together, sew collar lining to collar along outer edges. Clip edges, turn right-side out, and press.
- c. Along bodice edge of collar, offset the lining so that the lining edge extends 1/8" past fashion fabric edge. Baste bodice edge of collar and lining together. This will help the collar roll smoothly.
- d. Decorate collar as desired.
- e. Attach collar to fashion Back and Front along neck seam line, wrong side of collar to right side of bodice, matching center backs.



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10. Vest

- a. Sew Vest lining to fashion fabric along top, bottom and center front edge with 1/2" seam allowance*. Leave side seam edge open.
 *If using hook and eyes as closure, make the right-hand side center front edge a 1" seam allowance, and left-hand center front edge 1/4" seam allowance. This will place the right side edge in the exact center, with the left side under lapping 3/4".
- b. Clip edges, turn correct side out, and press.
- c. Baste side seam edge closed.
- d. In right hand side Vest piece, sew button holes 1/2" in from center front edge, spaced approx. 1 1/4" apart. Start button holes 1/2" front top edge and end button holes at, or near, natural waist.

Step 10b



Step 10c,d



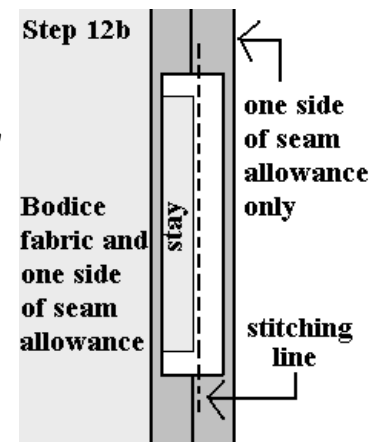
11. Sew Vest to Front, fashion sides together, matching notches. Vest will overlap Collar.

12. Boning (stays).

- a. Select the length for your stays: Dart stays should extend from point of dart to 3-4" past waistline. Vest seam stays should extend from notch to 3-4" below waistline. Side seam stays should extend from 1 1/2" below arm hole to 3-4" below waistline. For curved side back seam, use spiral boning, and end stays at 1/2" above natural waist.
- b. Make casings for the bones (vest seam stays do not need a casing): cut 1 1/2" wide strips out of lining material. Fold material around bone and, using a zipper foot, sew bone tightly into casing.
- c. Baste bone casing to seam allowance only, as close to seam and bone as possible.
- d. For vest seam, the seam allowance itself can be used as the casing. Simply sew the bone into the entire seam allowance, and sew across top of bone at notch, along outside edge of allowance and the bottom of the bone to hold in place.



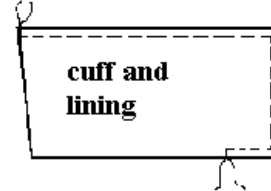
Step 12b



13. Two-Piece Sleeves

- a. Sew Cuff lining to Cuff, along outer edges. Leave wrist edge open to where marked on pattern. Clip corners, turn correct side out and press. Trim cuff as desired.
- b. With fashion fabric, Sew Inner Sleeve to Outer Sleeve along front side seam only (shorter seam). Clip and press.
- c. Match Cuff to Sleeve along side of inner sleeve and wrist edges, wrong side of cuff to correct side of sleeve. Baste in place, making sure to leave outside back section of Cuff free from stitching.

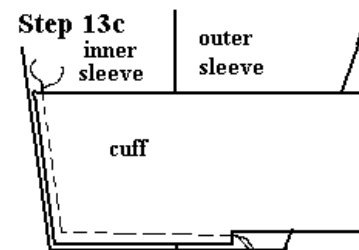
Step 13a



Step 13b



Step 13c

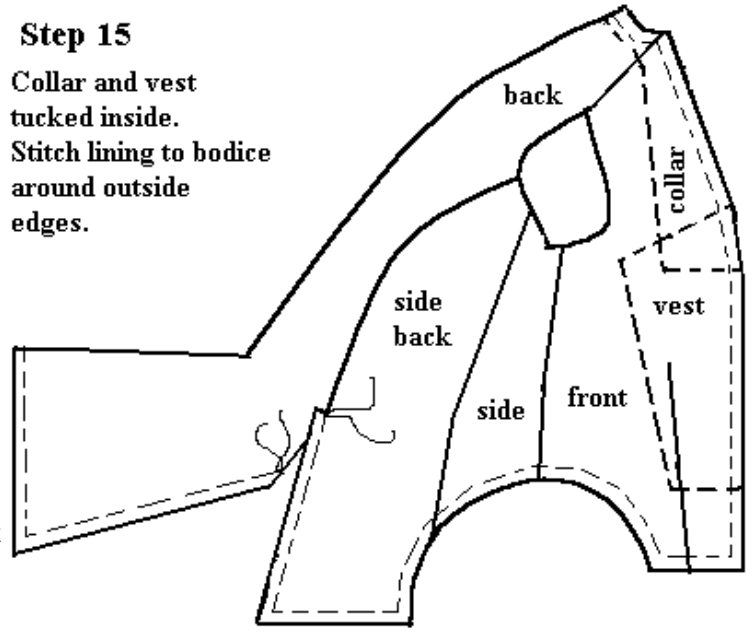


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- d. Sew back side seam of Inner Sleeve and Outer Sleeve. Be sure to leave end of Cuff free of stitching.
 - e. Sew sleeve linings together along both side seams.
 - f. With right sides together, sew lining to sleeve at wrist. Make sure that back section of Cuff is free of stitching.
 - g. Turn right sides out and press. Baste lining to fashion fabric along top arm hole edge. Run ease gather stitches along top curve of Outer Sleeve.
 - h. Sew sleeve into arm hole of bodice, right sides together, matching notch on sleeve to shoulder seam of bodice, and front sleeve seam to lower front corner of armhole. Ease sleeve top curve to fit arm hole. Make sure sleeve's elbow curves toward front.
14. Repeat steps 3-8 with bodice lining fabric.

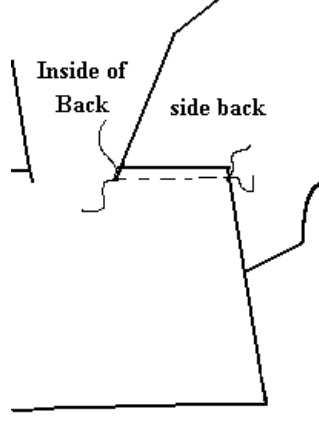
Step 15

Collar and vest tucked inside. Stitch lining to bodice around outside edges.

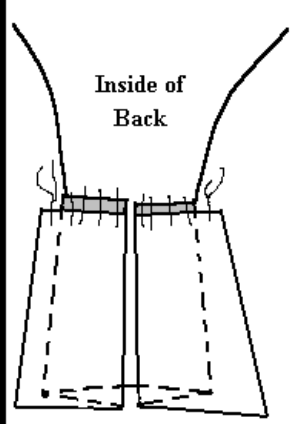


15. With right sides together, sew lining to fashion fabric along the outside edges. Collar and Vest should be tucked inside. Be careful not to run over boning, or loose edges of Vest or Collar. For the Back, sew lining to bodice along the side and bottom edge of tail section, leaving the pleat edge open. For Side Back, sew along bottom and back edge, ending at natural waist. (clip in seam allowance to stitching line at natural waist to help smooth out fabric)
16. Clip all edges. Turn bodice right-side out through arm hole. Press all edges flat.
17. With pleat edge of Back, baste lining to fashion fabric, matching edges. Fold pleats as marked on pattern piece.
18. Baste the pleat in place to the LINING ONLY of the bodice, so as to not see stitching on the fashion side.
19. Hand baste lining to arm holes.
20. On Vest, place buttons on the left-hand side, 1/2" in from front edge, along center front edge, matching the button holes on the right-hand side. If using hook and eyes, place them so as to have a 3/4" overlap when closed.
21. If desired, baste cuff to sleeve to help hold in place.

Step 17



Step 18



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- ✿ **Ruches** - To make a ruche, cut strips of material to desired width plus extra for hems. Sew all the strips together at ends making 1 long strip. Finish both top and bottom edges with a very small hem. Machine pleat or gather near center of strip, lengthwise.
 - a. Sew ruches onto edges of overskirts, necklines, sleeves.
 - b. Sew 1-3 ruches around underskirts, even with hem line.
 - c. Sew ruches in patterns around skirts and bodices.
 - d. Add a ribbon or small bias strip over the ruche for a layered trim look.
- ✿ **Ruffles** - make ruffles out of self fabric, contrasting fabric, or lace. Ruffles can be made with a top edge (like a ruche), or without. Cut strips of material desired width plus the hem. Sew all the strips together and hem bottom edge. Pleat or gather near the top edge.
 - a. Sew 1 - 8 ruffles around skirt, same colors or contrasting.
 - b. Sew ruffles in swag patterns onto skirts or sleeves.
 - c. Layer different materials in the same ruffle for layered effect.
 - d. Trim ruffles with ribbon or lace.
- ✿ **Ribbon**
 - a. Sew ribbon onto skirts and bodices in patterns.
 - b. Make ruches out of the ribbon.
 - c. Make ribbon flowers and put them on garments in bouquets.
- ✿ **Braids**
 - a. Sew braid over seams to either hide or accentuate lines.
 - b. Sew braid on in patterns.
 - c. Sew onto skirts around the hem.
 - d. Sew onto edges of bodice and sleeves.
- ✿ **Fringe**
 - a. Sew onto any edge.
 - b. Sew over shoulders on bodices to simulate shawl.
- ✿ **Puffings** - make a puffing like a ruche, except gather lightly near both the top and bottom edge. Then sew onto material at top and bottom, slightly narrower than the puffing.
- ✿ **Stripes** - cut strips of contrasting material. Cut on the bias if going around curves. Fold under raw edges and sew to garment.
- ✿ **Reveres** - a revere is a flipped-over effect of fabric, usually simulated with a contrasting fabric. Cut out triangles of fabric, trim outer edges, and sew onto skirts and bodices to give a “corners pulled back” look.
- ✿ **Van Dyke** - a van dyke is a wedge shaped cutout at the bottom edge of skirts, sleeves, or bodices. Fill in a Van Dyke by putting a ruffle under the area where the Van Dyke is.
- ✿ **Embroidery and Beading** - put it anywhere.
- ✿ **Appliqués** - buy or make appliqués out of lace, contrasting material, velvet, or anything else.
- ✿ **Add bows, silk flowers, buttons, buckles, and anything else.**
- ✿ **Simulate layered skirts, tabliers, vest fronts, or yokes with any trim or trim combination.**
- ✿ **Mix and match any of the above trims. The more the merrier. Trim the trims, too. Don't worry, anything goes.**