

Oregon Agricultural College Extension Service

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Gummed Paper Tape Dress Form

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I. MATERIALS NEEDED

1. **Dress Form Set.** These sets consist of a shirt made especially for dress forms and enough gummed paper for one form. They can be secured from local merchants or from firms whose names can be obtained by writing to the Extension Service. Some sets cost 75 cents, others \$1.00, postpaid.

The shirt and paper may be bought separately.

Shirt. If the shirt manufactured especially for this form is not available, any tight-fitting shirt may be used (for a 42 bust measure, size 36 is large enough) if the buttons and facings are cut off the front and a piece of the sleeve is sewed on for the collar with the ends lapping in the back.

Or a tight fitted French lining extending 10 inches below the waist, made of flour sacks, muslin, or other similar material may be used.

Paper. Paper tape should be 1½ inches wide and of the 35-pound weight, evenly gummed. One 800-foot roll is enough for one form.

2. Equipment.

Needle
Thread
Scissors
Sponge
Basin for water

Tapeline
Yardstick
Pencil
Towels

Water, preferably warm
Board or heavy cardboard
to make the base for the
form at largest part of the
hips.

II. GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

The model should wear few and smoothly fitting underclothes, a corset laced 1 to 2 inches smaller at the waist than usual, and a brassiere.

At least four women should work in making the form so as to reduce the length of time the model must stand. One woman may moisten the paper. Others may paste, and tear paper as needed. Model should not laugh or talk. That will loosen the paper and ruin the form.

III. PREPARATION FOR PASTING

1. Cut the gummed paper tape into strips as follows:
 - (a) Strips (about 20) long enough to reach from the neck to the waist line.
 - (b) Strips (about 150) long enough to reach from the waist line down eight or nine inches below the waist.
 - (c) Strips (about 80) long enough to extend from bust diagonally under arm to waist.
 - (d) Strips (about 40) to reach from bust or shoulder blade to shoulder.
 - (e) Strips for collar, and short strips for sleeve caps may be cut as needed.
 - (f) Strips for second layer vary in length according to their position on the figure and are more conveniently torn as needed if enough women are working.
2. Sew model into shirt. Shirt must fit absolutely smooth. If necessary take a seam to remove fullness under the arm.
3. Take these measurements and record them.
 - (a) Neck.
 - (b) Bust (around fullest part of bust and up over shoulder-blades in back).
 - (c) Waist.
 - (d) Hip, 8 or 9 inches below waist.
4. Model must stand in natural position without movement until form is removed.

IV. CONSTRUCTION

Moisten paper only as needed.

Paper must be well moistened, pasted on smoothly without twists or wrinkles and overlap about one-half its width. All edges and ends of the paper must be stuck tightly.

1. First Layer.

Procedure for the front and back is the same and may be carried on at the same time if enough women are working.

(a) Pull shirt down well and paste strips tightly around waist, bust, and hips, lapping ends.

(b) Paste strips diagonally on front and back from neck to waist, and from waist to hip line, Fig. 1, a. These hold shirt in place.

(c) Paste overlapping strips down center to waist line, front and back, beginning at top of collar line, Fig. 1, b. Paste strips from the center strip on each side until paper will no longer fit on smoothly. Only a few center strips can extend up on the collar. Fullness of the figure determines how far these strips may be used. Paste strips in similar way from waist line to hip line, Fig. 2, a.

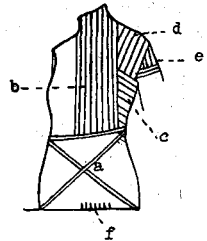


Fig. 1

(d) Use shorter strips. Paste strip from right bust, diagonally, close under the arm, downward and backward toward the waist at the center back, Fig. 1, c. Then paste a strip from right shoulder in back, close under arm, downward and forward toward waist in front. Continue to alternate these strips, working downward, fitting over the waist and hips to the lower hip line. The ends of these strips should meet the straight strips on the side front and side back. These side body strips should cross under the arm, from the arm to hip.

(e) To build out the shoulder from the straight strips in front and back, paste short strips from bust up over shoulder and from shoulder-blade up over the shoulder, overlapping the ends on the shoulder, Fig. 1, d.

- (f) Complete the second half of form in similar manner.
- (g) Collar. Short strips of paper cut to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch width are best for the neck. Begin at the body of the form, front and back, and build up to highest comfortable point on the neck. Fill in sides of neck in the same way.
- (h) Shoulder Cap. Paste strips across the arm about 4 inches below point of shoulder and attach these to the body of the form, front and back, to form the sleeve cap. Use short strips to fill in between the shoulder and the cap line, Fig. 1, e.

2. Second Layer.

- (a) Paste diagonal bracing strips the same as for first layer.
- (b) Paste strip from right shoulder downward across front, and end close up under left arm. Paste strip from left shoulder downward across front, and end close up under right arm, crossing the first strip in center front, Fig. 2, b. Continue, alternating strips from each side, downward to bottom of form.
- (c) Put the second layer on the back in the same manner.
- (d) If these strips from front and back overlap down the side under the arm, additional strips for a second layer under the arm are not necessary. If they do not overlap, make a second layer for the sides under the arm like the first layer.
- (e) Paste over sleeves and collar as in first layer.

V. MEASUREMENTS OVER DRESS FORM

Take and record the same measurements as were taken before pasting the paper.

Bust
Neck

Waist
Hip

VI. MARKING FORM

1. Skirt Length. Use yardstick. Measure up from floor in back to the fullest part of the hip; mark a line on the form at this distance from the floor all around the hip line. Record this measurement for use in making the standard the correct height.

2. For cutting to remove. Mark a line lengthwise down the center front and center back as a guide for cutting.

3. For joining. Mark lines across center front and back lines at intervals of 3 or 4 inches from neck to hip line. These marks are guides in joining the two halves of the form together properly.

4. Mark the bust line. This is helpful in using the form.

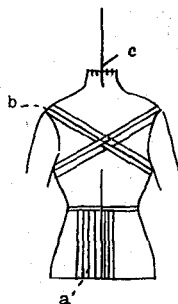


Fig. 2

VII. REMOVING FORM AND TRIMMING

1. Using razor blade, cut front and back on the lengthwise line. Remove form in two sections. If the figure is very slender it is not necessary to cut the front open.

2. Trim sleeve caps evenly. Trim neck evenly. Trim skirt on marked hip line.

3. Compare measurements of form with model's measurements and determine whether or not the form needs to be altered. The form

may vary slightly from the model's measurements, depending upon size of the individual, firmness of flesh, and amount of underwear, and amount of paper used. If form runs larger than is desired, trim on lengthwise line center front and back, cutting from each edge $\frac{1}{4}$ the amount necessary to reduce the form to the model's measurements.

VIII. PUTTING SECTIONS TOGETHER

1. With strong thread baste the two halves together matching the cross pencil lines in front and back.
2. Paste strips of paper about 2 inches long across this seam, placing the strips about 1 inch apart.
3. Then reinforce the form inside and out with strips of paper, pasting lengthwise over these strips short strips from the neck to the bottom of the form.

IX. FINISHING

1. With short strips, bind edges of collar, sleeve caps, and lower edge of form, overlapping as usual, Fig. 1, f, Fig. 2, c.
2. Paste lengthwise strips on side, under the arm, from the arm hole to base to cover the ends of the strips.
3. An entire third coat may be put on if it will not make the form larger than the model's figure. Generally it is better to reinforce by pasting strips inside the form.
4. Place the form on a sheet of paper and draw outline of base. This gives a pattern for a cardboard bottom. True the curves. On the average figure they are practically the same on the two sides. Cut on the line. Cut cardboard by this pattern and fasten into base of form by short strips of paper such as were used in joining halves together.

X. PLACING ON STANDARD

For the standard use a pole supported by cross pieces at the bottom. At the upper end of the pole, a board the same shape as the cardboard base but about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch smaller may be nailed and on this the form may set and be tacked.

The pole should be of such length that the hip line on the form, when the form is on the standard, is the same distance from the floor as when it was marked. This gives the form the same height as the individual.

A banana crate or high kitchen stool may be utilized in making a standard.

Four yardsticks may be tacked on for standard.

SUGGESTIONS FOR USING DRESS FORM

Shellac or floor-varnish may be used to coat the form and prevent the edges of paper from loosening. This also makes it more easily cleaned.

A worn undervest or a cover made of old stockings may be slipped over the form as a basis for pinning. Corset cover lines, becoming neck lines, shoulder lines and waistlines may be marked on the form to aid in design and fitting of garments.

An old stocking may be padded out to the right arm girth and tucked up inside cap of the sleeve as a foundation for sleeve fitting.

A separate paper sleeve can be made and used to advantage for fleshy models.

Home-made skirt gauges made of rules or yardsticks may be attached to the standard.

The form may be stuffed with excelsior or paper.