

Lutterloh Patterns Newsletter

No 42 - August 2012

Sewing fills my days, not to mention the living room, bedroom and closets

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Dear Sewers

It's still nice and cold weather on our side of the world, would love some more snow but hopefully, it will arrive soon!

I've covered a bit on styles and ease in our previous Newsletter, so this time I want to elaborate on selecting a style (pattern) that will be flattering to your shape. What's great about the current state of pants is the choice. Nearly every length, width, style and fabric imaginable is now an option - from long and loose to short and sweet or narrow - so it's the perfect time to add a variety of new looks below the waist.

In this issue we are having a look at different trouser styles, general body shapes with pants and discussing the second part of fitting trousers. Also promoting hands-on Workshops in Brisbane and Melbourne and you can have a look at the latest supplement. (#286)

Happy sewing. Sonja

Lutterloh Trousers

Flattery counts more than fashion! It's definitely time that YOU wear the pants rather than the other way round! Ladies choose your shape. A good idea is to draft each style in your size and fit the paper pattern, make some comparisons. Sometimes you'll be presently surprise at the outcome. Some ladies like to do some fitting in "Ready to wear" shops. Personally I don't, just because I don't find pants that fit me period.

Leggings - #109 (MMX) - are still in the running.... They are wild in patterns, sizzling colours; even dazzling sequins at night. Leggings are in two lengths, have elastic waists and stitched hems, so very easy to sew. The longer leggings #25 (MMXI) can be scrunched up at the hemline.

Skinny/Slim Pants - #70 (MMX) or FF #27 (MMXI) - From those stretchy leggings that are a wardrobe staple to those super-sleek jeans, it is a bit updated to extra-long lengths that cover the top of the instep, which is also a very flattering visual trick to elongate your legs. Wear longer, more forgiving shapes on top such as a long-line vest, easy jacket or tunic to balance your silhouette. This extra-long, skinny shape is terrific for most petites.

Straight-legged/Tapered, Tailored Pants - #219 (MMX) or FF #237 (MMX). This is our smart

or casual trousers pattern, a must in every wardrobe. It suits almost every shape; you can dress it up or down.

Wide-legged Pants - #33(MMXI) or FF #275(MMIX) - don't place elastic in the bottom hemline- These trousers have been on the fashion radar for several years now, thanks to their figure flattering capabilities, especially for curvier or fuller body shapes. Feminise these further with your tops, a lush long-line cardigan or softly ruffled bowed blouse. Wide legs won't stunt shorter women if the volume is balanced by heels and defined shape on top. Pass on those too-full palazzos and go for a straight line from thigh to ankle that will balance out your shape, especially if you have large hips and thighs. Waists are also rising and can give flattering, curvy shape to boyish/angular figure types.

Flared Pants - The hip-minimizing and leg-elongating boot cut or slightly fuller flared shape. They may be the easiest of all current silhouettes to wear for the widest variety of figure types. Their leg-lengthening lines adds inches to petites. Whilst their fitted-on-top/full=below-the-knee shape won't add bulk to pear-shaped physiques as wide-leg styles might.

Cropped Pants - #94 (MMX) or FF #81 (MMX) - The new shape is definitely crisper, cleaner and sleeker, to fit in with the more elegantly tailored mood. The length can be anywhere from mid-calf to just above the ankle, depending on your own height. (The shorter you are the longer the length should be, as a general rule of thumb.)

General body shapes with pants.

Short Legs - To make your short legs appear longer you need a tapered style. This is when the hem appears narrower than the width of the hip. A print or vertical stripe is OK.

Heavy Legs - To make your heavy legs appear longer and thinner, you need a slightly tapered leg and a medium to dark coloured fabric. A fabric containing stretch spandex is more comfortable. Avoid pockets at all costs.

Long Legs - You may add a design feature that will add width; for instance cuffs, pockets, yokes. Contrast colour bands or pleats. You can wear printed or plaid and lighter colours are OK. Drawstring linen pants are another suggestion.

Slim Legs - You look best in pants that have some width or flair but the fabric needs to be soft. You can wear a fabric that has a print or plaid. A lighter coloured background is best.

Bow Legs - When you have bow legs you need to straighten the inside leg seam to give the knee area a straighter look. 7/8th or full-length pants are best.

Ok, we've chosen the style and pattern, draft it to your hip size. Remember we only use the hip measurement for trousers.

Tip: Before you cut the paper pattern out check your waist measurement to the patterns waist. If you need adjustment, do it before you cut the paper pattern out.

Ready to fit, with paper pattern on your body, **run through this checklist:**

- Is the crotch long enough?
- Is the waist wide enough?
- Do you like the length of the trousers?
- Are the legs too wide or too narrow around the legs?
- Do you like the shape of the legs?

From this point on if you need any alterations, do it on the paper pattern. Fit again, till you are

satisfied. If you're satisfied we are ready to sew some fabric. *(If you're still a bit unsure use an old sheet as fabric or use cheap fabric and sew it together to use as a sampler. Personally I don't do this because I find the differences in ease of the fabric just gives us so many variations.... that said, if you spend too much time on the cheap fabric and get it all sorted you still need fine tuning on the normal fabric.)*

I know if I checked my **checklist** on my paper pattern, my pattern is ready to cut and sew in my main fabric. I rather do some final fine-tuning on my main fabric otherwise I just overfit the pattern.

These are the main patterns I've been working with this time round if you get your fabric ready for our next newsletter we will discuss the fine-tuning. One of my favourite patterns I used with elastic and a bit of a different look was #123 (MMXI) I made in summer cotton and looking for a warmer fabric to do it now. It was very easy quick to do and comfortable and the fit really looked good. I did a few minor design changes at the bottom of the trousers though.



Please....if you have a minute to spare....share your latest trouser story. Pictures and pattern number would be great!

Workshops

We are planning Hands-on Pattern Making Workshops in **Brisbane & Melbourne**, Australia:

Brisbane: 13 or 15 October - Indooroopilly Bowling Club (Cnr Clarence & Allwood Roads, Indooroopilly, Brisbane)

Sonja will be covering **Blouse & Trousers** designing projects on both days; you can enrol for the Saturday or the Monday. We will kick-off with a pattern from the Lutterloh Pattern collection (our master pattern) and apply some simple design changes.

Total cost for the day will be **A\$95** per person (including patterns, drafting paper, Card board rulers, CD with instructions and notes, coffee/tea and you will be fitted individually) To book, please phone **Sckafs Fabrics** at **(07) 3378 8591**. For more info please email: bezzy@xtra.co.nz . Numbers are limited to 12 students. Pack your own lunch.

Melbourne: 31 October & 1 November - Michelle's Sewing Basket (2/54 Wantirna Rd, Ringwood, Melbourne)

Due to popular demand, Sonja will be covering **Blouse, Trousers, Skirt & T-Shirt** designing projects over the two days. We will kick-off with a pattern from the Lutterloh Pattern collection (our

master pattern) and apply some simple design changes.

- Wednesday 31 October: Trousers & Blouse designing
- Thursday 1 November: Skirt & T-Shirt Designing

Total cost per day will be **A\$99** per person (including patterns, drafting paper, Card board rulers, CD with instructions and notes, coffee/tea, lunch and you will also be fitted individually) To book, please phone **Michelle's Sewing Basket** at **(03) 9870 0011**. For more info please email: bezzy@xtra.co.nz .. Numbers are limited to 12 students

**We are also planning Hands-on Workshops in 2013 in Sydney (Australia) and hopefully the Western states of the USA. Watch this space!*

Supplement # 286 (Autumn/Fall)

The most recent Supplement # 286 (Autumn/Fall) has also arrived.

If you click on the following link on our website: http://www.dressmaking.co.nz/lutt_patterns.htm scroll down to Supplement Nr 286 and then click on the "**Model Preview**" you can view the patterns in this supplement

The 40 patterns are available at US\$22 plus shipment. You can also subscribe for a full year and receive 4 supplements of 40 patterns each for US\$66 plus shipment. To order, please go to the ORDER link and follow the instructions on our SECURE website.

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