

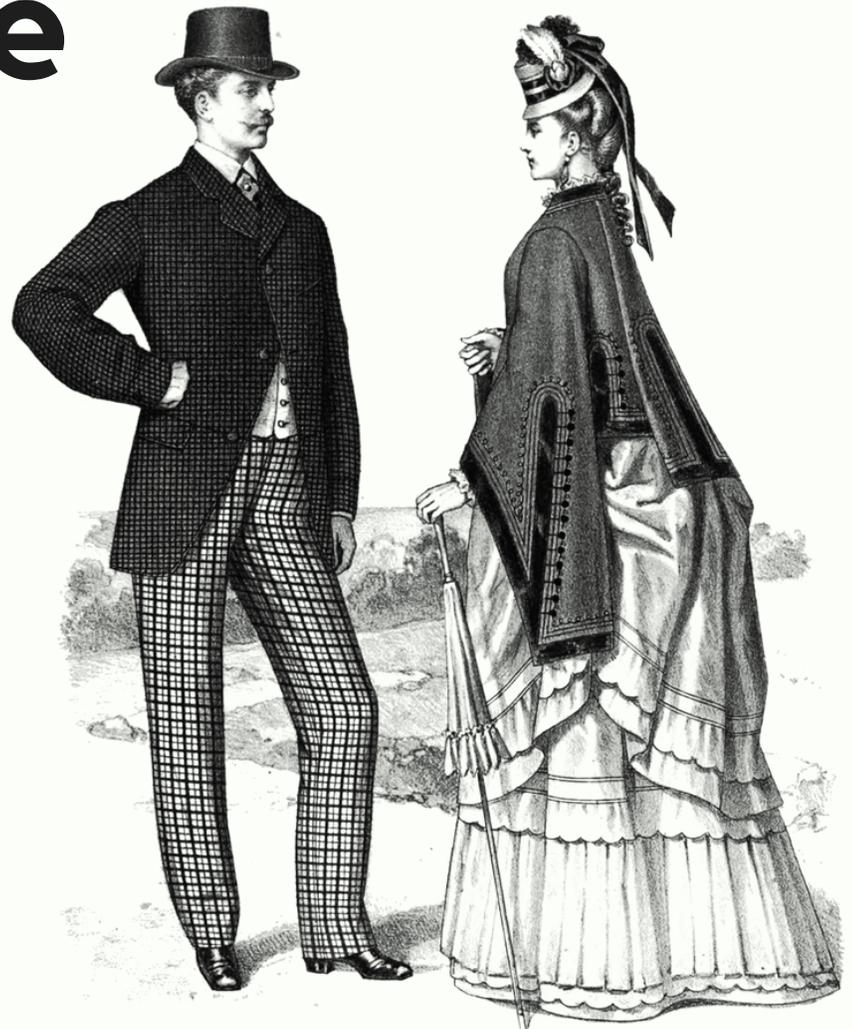
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The Science Behind the Costume

RESOURCES

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WEBSITES

I find these sites by doing a search for **historical patterns**.

historicalsewing.com

- Comprehensive list of pattern companies

reconstructinghistory.com

- They have their own patterns and lots of information about dressing and achieving an accurate historical look.

BOOKS

There are many books out about historic costuming. Trawling through your local library, bookstore or an online search engine will give you a sense of what is available.

The book I specifically mentioned is:

JANET ARNOLD. *Patterns of Fashion 1: Englishwomen's dresses and their construction c. 1660-1860*. (ISBN 0 333 13606 3)

There are three books in this series. I find them very interesting reading. They are available on-line and perhaps as a special order through a local bookstore.

PATTERNS

Laughing Moon Mercantile - www.laughingmoonmercantile.com

Good website with good pictures and descriptions. They are master patterns, which means you get all the sizes and trace off the desired size. Mail shipping is slow at this time, (2021) but a good collection to have if you do more than one costume. They are historically accurate patterns with extensive directions on using traditional methods of construction. (Of course, you can use your own modern methods to get the job done. Some PDF available.

Truly Victorian - <https://trulyvictorian.info>

These patterns come in separate units, bodice, skirt, belt, jacket. They have an extensive selection of hoop patterns and undergarments. The collection is curated by Era, so easy to select the look you want. They are master patterns, so you trace the size you need. Some PDF available.

Folk Wear - <https://www.folkwear.com>

This company has been around for a long time. The older patterns can be smaller (top size 14). The new owner is regrading many patterns for larger sizes. They are master patterns, so you pick the size. Folk wear is publishing more and more PDF patterns. This means you download the pattern, (no waiting for shipping) and comes with a copy shop version for printing or a tiling option for home printing. She also includes some background information about the pattern as well as good construction instructions.

MAKING YOUR OWN PATTERN

For those of you who want to go off the deep end and design your own pattern, I use:

Patternmaker 7.5 - www.patternmakerusa.com/downloads

This is a CAD program, originally developed by a group of costumers who could not find what they wanted commercially. While you can draft from scratch, I tend to use the Macros.

The Macros are a set of pattern collections that you purchase and load into the program. The Measurement forms are specific and when followed produce a pattern which I have found is well fitting with a minimum of fitting.

I mostly use this method to print a sloper, (basic pattern) and use it to accurately size up or adjust another pattern for hard to fit people.

There are many resources out there. This is just a short list of the ones I commonly use. Enjoy exploring them.