

COSTUME TERMINOLOGY - PATTERNS

PATTERNS/SEWING

Seam Allowance - The area between the edge and the stitching line on two (or more) pieces of material being stitched together. Typically, 5/8" on Commercial Patterns.

Ease - The amount of room a garment allows the wearer beyond the measurements of their body.

Basting - The action of sewing a temporary stitch which is easily removed once you do the permanent sewing

Fitting - The action or an act of fitting a costume to the wearer's figure, especially for a theatrical or film role; an appointment at which an actor is fitted with a costume.

Bodice - The part of a woman's dress (excluding sleeves) that is above the waist.

Basic Block – Cardboard pattern pieces for a bodice without seam allowances, used in drafting patterns.

Mock-up/Muslin/Toile – An early version of a finished costume made up in cheap material so that the design can be tested and fitted before cutting out in the expensive final fabric.

Interfacing - a moderately stiff material typically used between two layers of fabric in collars and facings.

Lining - an additional layer of different material attached to the inside of a garment to make it hang better.

Flatlining – Sewing the pieces of fashion fabric to identical pieces of stronger fabric before sewing the garment to add strength.

