

TRADITIONAL CHINESE DRESS (QIPAO/ CHEONGSAM) CONSTRUCTION

Cross-Shaped One-Piece Cheongsam Pattern Design

(1) Style Description

This style was popular during the 1920-30s, and the cutting method follows the traditional Chinese cross-shaped flat structure.

For the summer cheongsam, the length extends below the knees up to floor length. It features a right-side overlapping front, a semi-fitted waist along the side seams, a standing collar, and integrated front and back panels with short sleeves. The front and back are cut in one piece without shoulder seams. There are low slits on both sides below the knees. The cheongsam has a total of nine buttons, a slightly tapered hem, and a curved lower edge. The collar, sleeves, front overlap, hem, and slit openings are all trimmed. This style inherits the characteristics of traditional Chinese robe, adopts a cross-shaped flat structure, and is easier to cut than the 1960's fitted version (see Figure below)

(2) Fabric

The fabrics are usually cotton, printed fabric, silk, brocade, and satin.

(3) Key Points for Pattern Making

The main structure includes the standing collar, whole body of the garment, and a right-side under piece along the buttoned area..

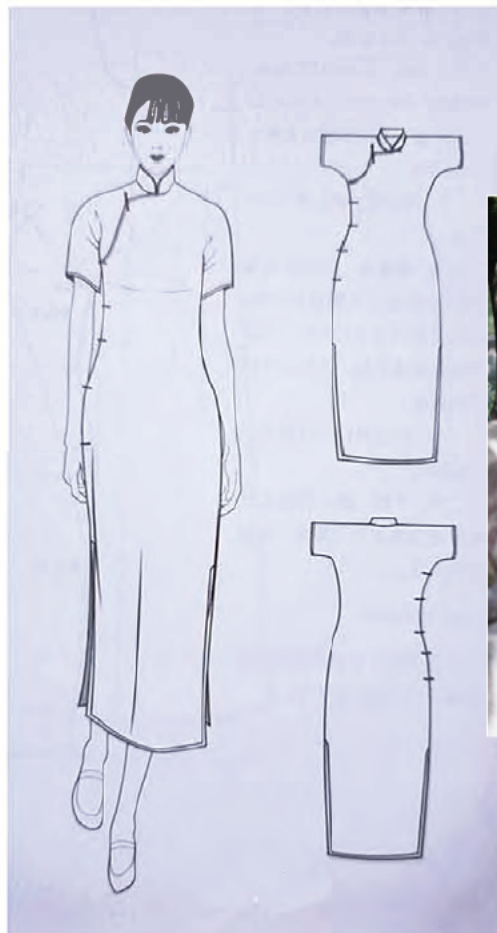
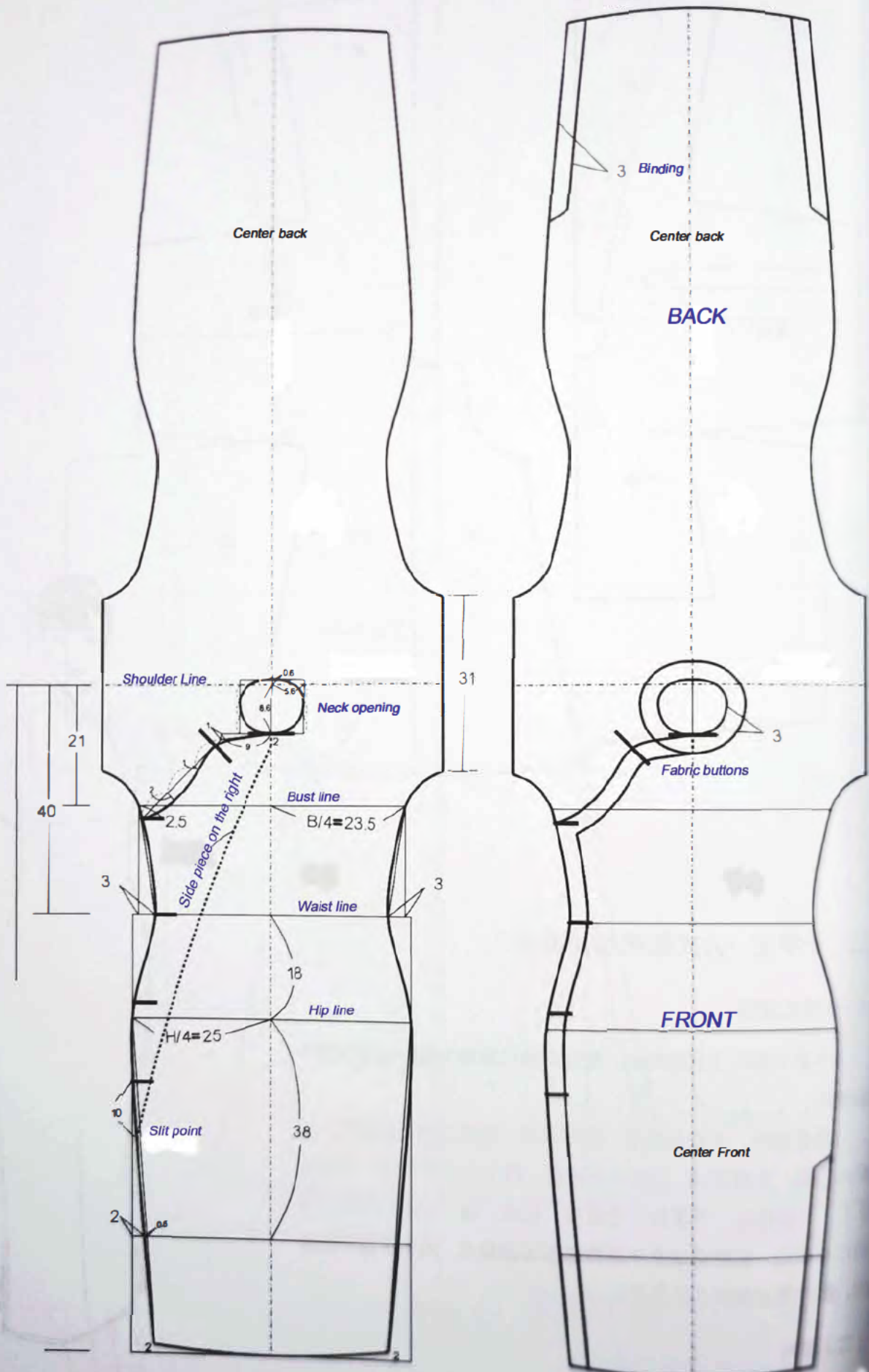


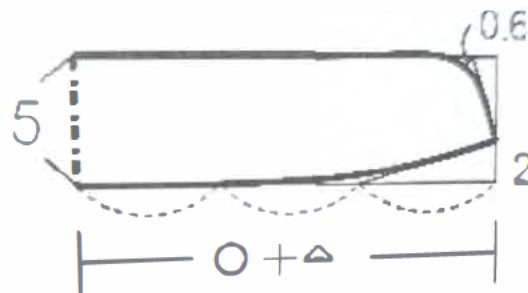
photo from the web for illustration

PATTERN LAYOUT AND DIMENSIONS



STAND UP COLLAR

Center back



$$\text{Half COLLAR} = \text{neck circumference} / 2$$

Hope you enjoy this information as a taste of Chinese style dress!

This is a guideline of the construction and drafting of the pattern of the garment. The user is encourage to use this as a reference based on actual body measuements to draft a wearable garment that fits specific body size.

For those who are interested in physical, in person classes to learn how to draft the patterns, cut and sew the garment from beginning to end, can attend our courses in Hong Kong. In person learning classes are held in our studio in Central, Hong Kong all year round, taught in English and Chinese. We are also rolling out online classes soon for students all over the world, conducted in English.

Our courses are not limited to this traditional Cheongsam styel. We teach a variety of the modern style Chinese Qipao (Cheongsam).

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