Alteration and Tailoring Tools and Equipment

Unit: Science of Textiles and Manufacturing

Problem Area: Equipment Use and Care

Lesson: Alteration and Tailoring Tools and Equipment

Student Learning Objectives.

Instruction in this lesson should result in students achieving the following objectives:

1. **Describe alteration and tailoring tools and equipment.**
2. **Describe ideal alteration and tailoring work environments and conditions.**

Resources.

The following resources may be useful in teaching this lesson:

E-unit(s) corresponding to this lesson plan. CAERT, Inc. http://www.mycaert.com.

"10 Essential Tools Every Sewist Should Have," *Positively Splendid*. Accessed April 3, 2017. http://www.positivelysplendid.com/10-essential-sewing-tools/.

"18th Century Material Culture: Sewing & Tailoring Tools," *Scribd*. Accessed April 3, 2017. https://www.scribd.com/document/212330271/Sewing-Tools-of-the-Trade.

"18th Century Material Culture: Tailors & Seamstresses," *Scribd*. Accessed April 3, 2017. https://www.scribd.com/document/212330184/Sewing-Tailors-Semstresses.

"Basic Clothing Construction," *Weebly.com.* Accessed April 3, 2017. http://phsclothingtech.weebly.com/sewing-tools-and-equipment.html.

Olsen, Maris. "How to Press Fabric: Nine Tools You'll Need," *Craftsy.com*. Accessed April 3, 2017. https://www.craftsy.com/blog/2013/11/how-to-press-fabric/.

"Tailor Tacks Instead of Pins," *Sew for Dough*. Accessed April 3, 2017. https://sewfordough.wordpress.com/2009/07/22/tailor-tacks-instead-of-pins/.

"Tailoring Terms," *Savile Row Bespoke*™. Accessed April 3, 2017. http://www.savilerowbespoke.com/about-us/tailoring-terms/.

"What's the Difference? Tailoring vs. Alterations," *Craftsy*. Accessed April 3, 2017. https://www.craftsy.com/blog/2013/06/tailoring-vs-alterations/.

Equipment, Tools, Supplies, and Facilities

- ✓ Overhead or PowerPoint projector
- ✓ Visual(s) from accompanying master(s)
- ✓ Copies of sample test, lab sheet(s), and/or other items designed for duplication
- ✓ Materials listed on duplicated items
- ✓ Computers with printers and Internet access
- ✓ Classroom resource and reference materials

Key Terms.

The following terms are presented in this lesson (shown in bold italics):

- alteration
- awl
- beeswax
- bespoke tailoring
- custom tailoring
- emery bag
- French chalk
- French curve template
- hem gauge
- hip curve template
- iron
- ironing
- ironing board
- made-to-measure tailoring
- needle
- needle board
- pincushion
- pinking shears
- pins
- point turner
- pressing
- pressing cloth
- rotary cutter
- scissors
- seam ripper
- seam roll or sleeve roll
- sewing gauge or seam gauge
- sewing machine
- shears
- sleeve board
- spray bottle
- steam presser
- tailor
- tailor's bench
- tailor's board
- tailor's clapper
- tailor's ham
- tailor's scissors
- tailor's square
- tailor's tack
- tailoring
- tape measure
- tape measure with handle
- thimble
- thread
- tracing wheel

Interest Approach.

Use an interest approach that will prepare the students for the lesson. Teachers often develop approaches for their unique class and student situations. A possible approach is included here.

> *Tell students that alterations are expensive. While this is true, purchasing new clothes based on trends can be more costly than altering or tailoring an existing wardrobe. With the constant change in fashion trends and highly disposable clothing, people should consider altering their present wardrobe to meet the current trends. If you have the essential tools and equipment along with some*

tricks of the trade, you can alter your existing wardrobe to meet your specific measurements, thus shifting an outdated garment to a more polished and stylish look. In the end, it also saves you money.

CONTENT SUMMARY AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Objective 1: Describe alteration and tailoring tools and equipment.

Anticipated Problem: What are alterations and tailoring? What tools and equipment are required to alter and tailor garments?

I. Alteration and tailoring

A. ***Alteration*** is the process of adjusting an existing garment for a better fit: hemming or increasing or decreasing the width or length of the overall garment or of garment features. Garments can be altered for a more flattering fit, such as lengthening or shortening a pair of pants, adjusting the width of the waistline, adding shoulder pads and elastic, etc. Exact measurements, often between 10 and 15, must be accurately taken to successfully alter a garment for a customer. Alteration changes are less extensive than those conducted by a tailor.

B. ***Tailoring*** is the art of designing, cutting, fitting, and finishing custom garments for a customer. Tailors construct, repair, or alter clothing (e.g., suits, coats, dress shirts, and trousers) to a customer's specific body measurements. Tailoring a custom garment is more expensive than altering an "off-the-rack" garment.

1. A ***tailor*** is a person who makes one-of-a-kind garments but also repairs and/or makes alterations to an existing garment. He or she must excel in hand sewing and machine skills and visualize a design. In addition, a tailor needs good pattern making, cutting, and measuring skills. The word "tailor" is from the French "*tailleur*," which means to cut.
2. ***Custom tailoring*** is designing and detailing a one-of-a-kind pattern based on customer measurements. Tailors take 20 to 30 different measurements to ensure the precise fit of a custom tailored garment. The customer has many design options: cuffs, collars, lapels, buttons, pockets, and fabric. Second and third fittings may be required.
3. ***Made-to-measure tailoring*** is a standard pattern fitted to the measurements of the person ordering the garment. This type of garment tailoring often requires a second fitting to fine-tune the measurements.
4. ***Bespoke tailoring*** is the total control of garment fabric, fit, and feature shapes (e.g., lapels, collars, cuffs, buttons, and pockets) by the customer with most, if not all, tailoring work done by hand. The garment is fit precisely to the customer's measurements. Bespoke tailoring is the "gold standard" of tailoring

and is typically conducted by a master tailor. The cost for a bespoke garment is higher than for other types of tailor-made garments because there is no standard pattern to be adjusted; each pattern is created for one specific customer.

5. Tailoring has evolved from men's clothing to women's clothing. Many women who wear petite clothing prefer to have the jacket or trousers patterned in the appropriate measurements. Wool, linen, and silk fabrics are the most commonly tailored. To alter clothing to a client's specific measurements, a tailor needs several tools to complete the job. Selection of the correct tool for each alteration or tailored option is critical to creating a beautifully fitted garment. Alteration and tailoring tool categories include measuring, marking, cutting, sewing, pressing, and other miscellaneous tools.

C. Measuring tools

1. A ***French curve template*** is a drafting and patternmaking tool used to connect points in a smooth curve for common fitting and for pattern alterations or adjustments to necklines, armholes, darts, and other curved lines.
2. A ***hip curve template*** is a tool used in patternmaking to create long, slight curves for hips, thighs, elbows, and lapels. It is also used to make side seam adjustments. One side of the hip curve measures in inches, but the other side measures in centimeters.
3. A ***tailor's square*** is a two-armed, L-shaped ruler used in patternmaking to draft or to scale down an existing pattern. It is often referred to as an L-square in which the long arm measures 24 inches and the short arm measures 14 inches.
4. A ***tape measure*** is a flexible cloth, plastic, or fiberglass ruler with markings in centimeters on one side and English standard inches on the other side. Tape measures allow tailors and alterations specialists to measure around curves or corners precisely.
5. A ***tape measure with handle*** is a tool that gauges the inseam of the pants so taking that measurement is more comfortable for the client and the tailor.
6. A yardstick is a ruler used to measure fabric and hem lengths as well as to check the grain line.
7. A ***hem gauge*** is a short metal rule, approximately 8 inches wide by 4 inches tall, with a flat bottom edge used to measure and create hemline folds. It is used in conjunction with an iron and board to create crisp and accurately creased hemlines.
8. A ***sewing gauge or seam gauge*** is a 6-inch ruler with a movable marker used to mark a desired measurement (e.g., the width of a seam allowance or a hem).

D. Marking tools: Fabric marking tools consist of tailor's chalk, wax and chalk pencils, and fabric pens. All of these marking tools are removable by brushing, rinsing with water, or using a special substance that dissolves in the air after a few minutes or when pressed with an iron. A person must use the correct form of removal to ensure the markings do not become permanent. Some markings become permanent if applied with water or heat.

1. ***French chalk*** (tailor's chalk) is a temporary mark used to locate fabric positions that require cutting, trimming, and/or other alteration. French chalk is easily brushed off fabric once the tailor has completed use of the marks.
2. A ***tracing wheel*** is a blunted saw-tooth or smooth-edge wheel attached to a handle that transfers pattern markings to fabric by use of a special carbon paper. Markings include pleats, darts, buttonholes, pockets, and appliqués. It is also used to trace lines from a draped-muslin or from a ready-made garment.
3. A ***tailor's tack*** is a method of marking two or more pieces of fabric by creating a loop stitch with a double-threaded needle to which the fabric is slightly pulled up and snipped. This method creates a marking with the cut threads left in the fabric. The advantage of a tailor's tack is that no chalk or carbon marking needs to be removed.

E. Cutting tools

1. A ***seam ripper*** is a tool with a sharp point and a blade used to unpick or remove stitches or seam stitches.
2. ***Pinking shears*** are hand-operated cutting instruments with saw-toothed blades that leave a zigzag pattern on fabric to prevent the fabric from fraying. A pinking shear can be used to finish hem edges and seams. Some pinking shears are bent-handled that makes it easy to cut fabric laying flat on a cutting surface.
3. ***Scissors*** are hand-operated cutting tools with two short 6-inch blades and ring-shaped handles used to trim and clip seams and facings and other excess fabric. ***Shears*** are hand-operated cutting tools, similar to scissors, but with longer 8-inch offset blades that make it easy to snip or cut fabric in one motion. Shears also have specific thumb and finger holes. Some shears are bent-handled, making it easy to cut fabric laying flat on a cutting surface.
4. ***Tailor's scissors*** (trimming scissors) is a small hand-operated cutting tools with 6-inch or shorter blades used to clip threads, make small slits, or open buttonholes. They are used to clip and trim seam allowances.
5. A ***rotary cutter*** is a hand-operated or electric cutting tool with a sharp circular blade used to cut fabric in clean, quick, and precise cuts. A rotary cutter is best at making straight and wide or gradual curves. It also makes cutting through multiple layers of fabric easier (a depth of about one-half the diameter of the blade). However, detailed cuts are trickier to maneuver. Therefore, most tailors prefer shears. Most rotary cutters are used in conjunction with a cutting mat.

F. Sewing tools and equipment

1. An ***awl*** is a hand-sewing tool that has a large handle with a long needle protruding from the top. The thread, which is thick and coated in wax, is wound on a small spool in the base of the handle. The thread is lead through the top of the handle and along a groove in the needle, which is then threaded through the eye of the needle. It can be used for piercing through and stitching two or more layers of thick fabric in place (e.g., leather) as a machine has trouble completing this action.

2. A ***sewing machine*** is a device that stitches together fabric by looping a top or needle thread and bottom or bobbin thread together to create a stitch. Although most tailors prefer hand stitching, a machine comes in handy for portions of the construction process.
3. ***Thread*** is a long strand of numerous fibers twisted together and used to sew fabrics together. It comes in many varieties, colors, and tensile strengths. The most common thread types are polyester, cotton, and silk. When tailoring, silk thread is preferred because it is strong, especially in conjunction with beeswax. Silk thread is good for hand sewing, basting, tacking, hemming buttonholes (silk buttonhole twist thread is preferred), and other tailoring techniques.
4. A ***needle*** is a long slender implement with a sharp, pointed tip and an eye through which thread is passed for sewing. Needles come in different shapes and sizes and are used for hand sewing and machine sewing to baste, attach buttons, sew fabric, and other alteration, tailoring, and mending operations.
    a. Ballpoint needles have a small rounded tip for use with knit and lingerie fabric projects.
    b. Betweens needles are short with a small rounded eye to produce short, fine stitches for tailoring and hand projects.
    c. Curved needles are coarse, semicircular tools with a large oval eye and tapered for use with piping and other curved surfaces.
    d. Sharps needles have a small rounded eye and are typically called "all-purpose" based on their size. Sizes 1 to 5 are for heavyweight fabrics; sizes 6 to 8 are for medium-weight fabrics; sizes 9 to 10 for fine and lightweight fabrics; and sizes 11 and 12 are for sheer fabrics.

G. Pressing and ironing tools and equipment

1. ***Pressing*** is the act of placing a hot iron, usually a steam iron, on fabric and then lifting it repeatedly to complete a sewing detail (e.g., opening a seam, making a crisp corner, creasing, or gently flattening a buttonhole). Tailors, seamsters, and seamstresses follow the practice of "press as you go" to create professionally crafted garments. ***Ironing*** is placing a hot iron on fabric and then sliding it over the fabric to remove wrinkles. An ***iron*** is a piece of equipment, usually electric, used to complete sewing details and to remove wrinkles from fabric. Irons are used both to press (lift and repeat) fabric pieces during construction to create a permanent finish detail (e.g., a cuff) and to iron (slide from side to side) to remove wrinkles from fabric.
2. An ***ironing board*** is a foldable, adjustable-height table, with a heat-resistant surface and an iron rest used to press and iron fabric or garments.
3. A ***pressing cloth*** is an oblong or square piece of muslin, cotton, linen, wool, or silk organza fabric based on the fabric being pressed or placed between an iron and the fabric or a garment being pressed to prevent damage—marking, shining, scorching, or burning. A pressing cloth protects the iron as well as the fabric or garment being pressed, especially when applying fusible interfacing. A pressing cloth ensures that the adhesive will not "ooze out" onto the fabric or onto the iron plate.

4. A ***spray bottle*** is a hand tool used to spritz water onto pressing surfaces to encourage steam penetration through fabric or onto a press cloth. Creating steam typically results in a garment that appears more finished.
5. A ***steam presser*** is an electric hand-held or floor-mounted tool with a water tank that emits hot steam to remove wrinkles from fabric without scorching or damaging the fibers or the garment. The handle allows the tailor to steam garments on a model form or on a hangar. It is also used on pile or napped fabrics when pressing or ironing would crush or flatten the fabric surface.
6. A ***point turner*** is a plastic or bamboo hand tool used to push out corners and turn collar, lapel, cuff, and other garment points. It can be used for pressing pointed and curved seams.
7. A ***seam roll or sleeve roll*** is a cylindrical-shaped cushion covered with tightly woven fabric used to press open straight seams in sleeves and other garment areas. These rolls prevent the impression of a seam ridge from appearing on the right side of the garment when seams are pressed. Seam rolls and a tailor's ham typically have a plain cotton fabric side and a plaid wool side. They are stuffed with sawdust to maintain firmness. A ***tailor's ham*** is a ham-shaped cushion used as a mold for pressing and shaping curves such as pleats, darts, sleeves, lapels, hips, and collars.
8. A ***sleeve board*** is a small wooden pressing tool with rounded ends used to open seams and details of small or narrow garment areas (e.g., sleeves, pant legs, and necklines). It resembles two small ironing boards attached atop each other. A sleeve board rests on top of an ironing board or other protected table surface.
9. A ***tailor's clapper*** is a wooden pressing tool rounded at one end and grooved along the sides to provide a handhold and is used to open seams in corners and points, pound creases into heavy fabric after steaming, or gently flatten and create sharp hem lines, cuffs, collars, pleats, and lapels. It is used to press fabrics or garments after steam has been applied.
10. A ***tailor's board*** is a wooden pressing tool with flat, curved, and angled surfaces and a pointed edge to open seams, shape curves (armholes and collars), and shape and sharpen pointed collars, lapels, and pockets.
11. A ***needle board*** is a rigid, flat length of stiff fabric topped by short, blunt, upright wires embedded in the base. A needle board is used to avoid crushing the pile or nap fabrics—velvet, velveteen, corduroy, fleece, Ultrasuede—and to prevent those fabrics from matting or flattening. It prevents the seam ridge from appearing on the right side of the garment when pressed.

H. Miscellaneous alteration and tailoring tools and equipment

1. A ***tailor's bench*** is a workspace with storage for fabrics and tools as well as a large work surface for patternmaking as well as fabric cutting and sewing.
2. ***Beeswax*** is a natural thread lubricant used to make the thread stronger and to make threading a needle easier. It also makes thread less likely to knot when hand stitching. It is used mainly in hand sewing and for attaching buttons.

3. ***Pins*** (straight pins) are usually short, straight, stiff, thin pieces of wire with a pointed and a blunt end used to fasten pieces of cloth together. However, sewing and tailoring pins come in many shapes, lengths, and thicknesses (e.g., all-purpose, pleating, lace, applique, and other specialized types). The type of pin a tailor prefers depends on the weight of the fabric being used. A tailor has several uses for pins, including:
   a. To fit fabric close to the body
   b. To temporarily baste fabric together while cutting or sewing
   c. To mark fabric
4. A ***pincushion*** is a cotton-stuffed cloth or cushion found in different shapes and sizes that stores pins or needles for easy access. Pincushions are designed to be worn on the wrist or are placed on tabletops.
5. An ***emery bag*** is a pincushion that sharpens needles and pins by inserting their tips in and out of the bag. This pincushion is filled with a mineral called "emery" that resembles fine metal shavings. Emery is used on boards to file a person's nails and for other industrial applications. [NOTE: The small strawberry attached to the traditional "tomato pincushion" is the emery pincushion.]
6. A ***thimble*** is a pitted, metal shield, cap, or cup that protects fingers from puncture while pushing a needle through cloth.

Teaching Strategy: *Many techniques can be used to help students master this objective. Use VM–A through VM–H. Assign LS–A and LS–B.*

Objective 2: Describe ideal alteration and tailoring work environments and conditions.

Anticipated Problem: What are ideal alteration and tailoring work environments and conditions?

II. Alteration and tailoring work environments

A. Environment: Trusting relationships with clients, job motivation, job satisfaction, flexibility, and good communication between tailor/alterations specialist and client play important roles in a good work environment. These professionals depend on good customer service and satisfaction to build clientele and satisfy clients.

B. Working conditions: Good working conditions are essential to a tailor, a seamster, and a seamstress. These professionals work 40 hours per week or more—perhaps many more hours if they operate their own shops. Spring and fall are their busiest seasons, and they often work more hours during those fashion-specific seasons. Some tailors choose to work in a factory or small shop in a store, while others prefer to work out of their home. Several items to consider when constructing a suitable workspace and environment are:

   1. Lighting: A variety of lighting types are beneficial for specific tasks: natural, artificial, and task lighting.

a. Natural lighting is best for meeting clients because it is warmer and more inviting to the customer. So it is important to have windows near work surfaces to reduce the eyestrain of the tailor, seamster, and seamstress.
b. Artificial or general overhead lighting helps avoid dark spots in the working studio and at the tailor's workbench. This type of lighting is especially beneficial when working into the late evening or on gloomy, dark days when natural lighting is limited.
c. Task lighting provides direct light to illuminate a workspace, and magnifiers enhance the ease of any hand-sewing tasks or other detail work.

2. Equipment: Factory or store equipment can be noisy, and this type of loss of concentration can add stress to the task. If someone chooses to work from home, that stress can be reduced or eliminated. However, some commercial equipment is beneficial, such as:
   a. Industrial sewing machines reduce work and work time versus hand stitching an entire garment.
   b. Ergonomic lifts and/or platforms ease a sewing job when measuring, making alterations, or finishing a garment. These devices place less strain on the alterations or tailoring professional by lifting a client from the floor, which reduces repetitive kneeling and/or squatting to take measurements or to pin alterations.
3. Layout and décor
   a. Bright and bold items create energy and can help define a space.
   b. Neutral items create a calm atmosphere that can lead to a less stressful environment.
   c. Partitioned or separate work and fitting rooms are beneficial for different construction tasks. However, an open space can be inviting and creative.

> **Teaching Strategy:** *Many techniques can be used to help students master this objective. Use VM–I and VM–J. You may find it useful to take a class field trip to a local tailor shop and/or to ask a tailor to give a presentation or demonstration about machine- and hand-tailoring tasks. Perhaps he or she could discuss how the workspace layout and lighting contribute to an ideal work environment.*

- **Review/Summary.** Use the student learning objectives to summarize the lesson. Have students explain the content associated with each objective. Student responses can be used in determining which objectives need to be reviewed or taught from a different angle. If a textbook is being used, questions at the ends of chapters may be included in the Review/Summary.

- **Application.** Use the included visual master(s) and lab sheet(s) to apply the information presented in the lesson.

- **Evaluation.** Evaluation should focus on student achievement of the objectives for the lesson. Various techniques can be used, such as student performance on the application activities. A sample written test is provided.

Answers to Sample Test:

Part One: Matching

1. e
2. d
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. f

Part Two: Multiple Choice

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. a
5. d
6. b

Part Three: Short Answer

1. Answers will vary but should be similar to the following differences between tailoring and alterations.
   a. Tailoring is the art of designing, cutting, fitting, and finishing custom garments for a customer. Tailoring a custom garment is more expensive than altering an "off-the-rack" garment. Tailors take 20 to 30 different measurements to ensure precise fit of a custom-tailored garment.
   b. Alteration is the process of adjusting an existing garment for a better fit—hemming or increasing or decreasing width of the overall garment or of garment features. Garments can be altered for a more flattering fit, such as lengthening or shortening a pair of pants, adjusting the width of the waistline, adding shoulder pads and elastic, etc. Exact measurements, often between 10 and 15, must be accurately taken to successfully alter a garment.
2. Answers will vary but should be similar to the following differences between pressing and ironing.
   a. Pressing is placing a hot iron—usually a steam iron—on fabric and then lifting it repeatedly to complete a sewing detail: opening a seam, making a crisp corner, creasing, or gently flattening a buttonhole. Tailors, seamsters, and seamstresses follow the practice of "press as you go" to create professionally crafted garments.
   b. Ironing is placing a hot iron on fabric and then sliding it over the fabric to remove wrinkles. Irons are used to press (lift and repeat) fabric pieces during construction to create a permanent finish detail (e.g., a cuff) and to iron (slide from side to side) to remove wrinkles from fabric.

Sample Test

Name _____

Alteration and Tailoring Tools and Equipment

Part One: Matching

Instructions: **Match the term with the correct definition.**

a. alteration
b. ironing
c. pressing
d. custom tailoring
e. tailoring
f. bespoke tailoring

_____1. The art of designing, cutting, fitting, and finishing custom garments for a customer
_____2. Designing and detailing a one-of-a-kind pattern based on customer measurements
_____3. The process of adjusting an existing garment for a better fit
_____4. Placing a hot iron, usually a steam iron, on fabric and then lifting it repeatedly to complete a sewing detail
_____5. Placing a hot iron on fabric and then sliding it over the fabric to remove wrinkles
_____6. The total control of garment fabric, fit, and feature shapes by the customer with most, if not all, tailoring work done by hand

Part Two: Multiple Choice

Instructions: **Circle the letter of the correct answer.**

1. A wooden pressing tool with flat, curved, and angled surfaces as well as a pointed edge to open seams, shape curves (armholes and collars), and shape and sharpen pointed collars, lapels, and pockets is a _____.

   a. tailor's clapper
   b. tailor's board
   c. tailor's bench
   d. tailor's ham

2. A hand-operated cutting instrument with saw-toothed blades that leave a zigzag pattern on fabric to prevent the fabric from fraying is a _____.

   a. rotary cutter
   b. shears
   c. pinking shears
   d. tailor's scissors

3. A drafting and patternmaking tool used to connect points in a smooth curve for common fitting and pattern alterations or for adjustments to necklines, armholes, darts, and other curved lines is a _____.

   a. French curve template
   b. hip curve template
   c. tailor's square
   d. sewing gauge

4. A plastic or bamboo hand tool used to push out corners and turn the points of collars, lapels, cuffs, etc. in a garment is a/an _____.

   a. point turner
   b. awl
   c. seam roll or sleeve roll
   d. thimble

5. A method of marking two or more pieces of fabric by creating a loop stitch with a double-threaded needle to which the fabric is slightly pulled up and snipped is a/an _____.

   a. awl
   b. tailor's square
   c. tracing wheel
   d. tailor's tack

6. A blunted saw-tooth or smooth-edge wheel attached to a handle that transfers pattern markings to fabric by use of a special carbon paper is a _____.

   a. French chalk
   b. tracing wheel
   c. needle board
   d. pinking shears

Part Three: Short Answer

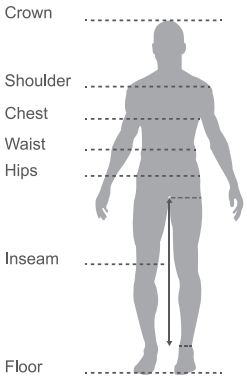
Instructions: **Answer the following.**

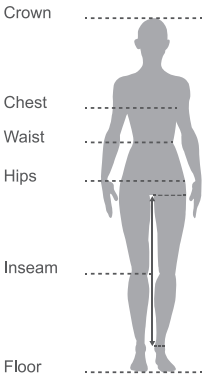
1. Differentiate between tailoring and altering a garment.

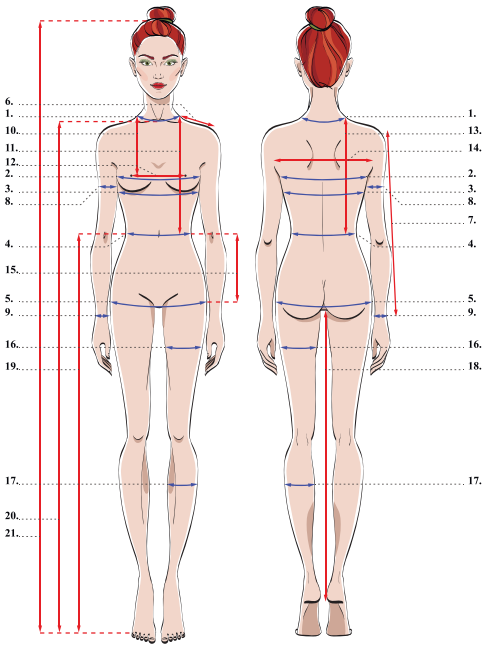
2. Differentiate between pressing and ironing tasks.

ALTERATIONS

Alteration is the process of adjusting an existing garment for a better fit—hemming or increasing or decreasing width of the overall garment or of garment features. Garments can be altered for a more flattering fit, such as lengthening or shortening a pair of pants, adjusting the width of the waistline, or adding shoulder pads and elastic. Exact measurements, often between 10 and 15, must be accurately taken to successfully alter a garment. What are other reasons you might make alterations to a garment?





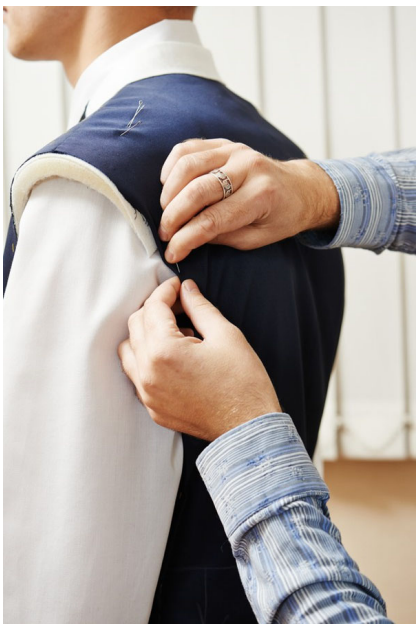


Measurement Chart

1.	Neck	
2.	Bust	
3.	Under bust	
4.	Waist	
5.	Hips	
6.	Shoulder	
7.	Arm length	
8.	Bicep	
9.	Wrist	
10.	Bust height	
11.	Shoulder to waist (front)	
12.	Bust separation	
13.	Shoulder to waist (back)	
14.	Back width	
15.	Hip height	
16.	Thigh	
17.	Calf	
18.	Leg length	
19.	Waist to floor	
20.	Neck to floor	
21.	Total height	

TAILORING

Tailoring is the art of designing, cutting, fitting, and finishing custom garments for a customer. Tailoring a custom garment is more expensive than altering an "off-the-rack" garment. A tailor is a person who makes one-of-a-kind garments, but he or she also repairs and/or makes alterations to an existing garment. The tailor must excel in hand sewing and machine skills. In addition, he or she must be able to visualize a design.

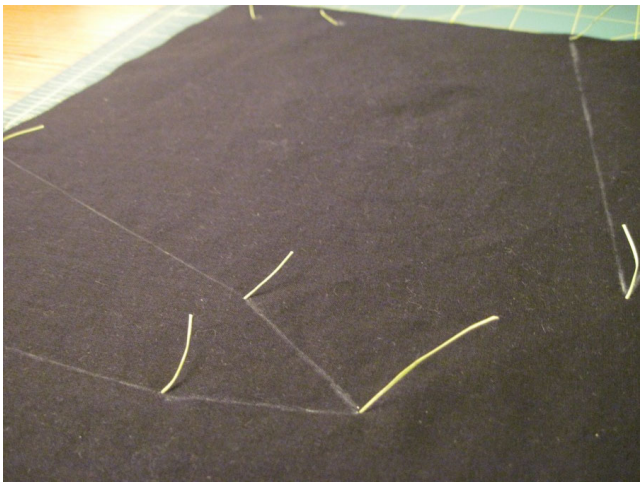


MEASURING TOOLS

Identify the measuring tools pictured here.

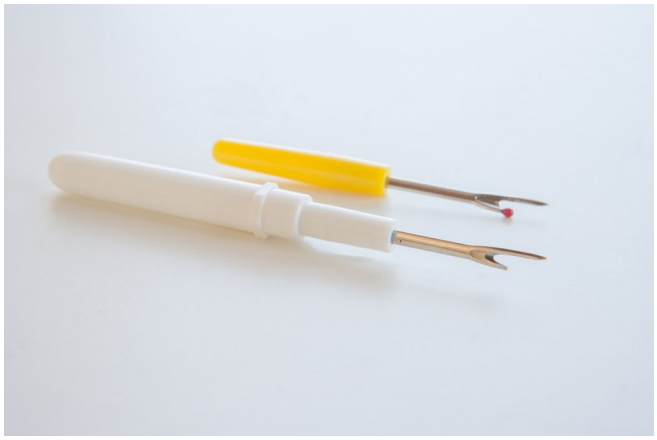
MARKING TOOLS

Why do tailors and alteration specialists use mark tools? Which marking tools are pictured here?



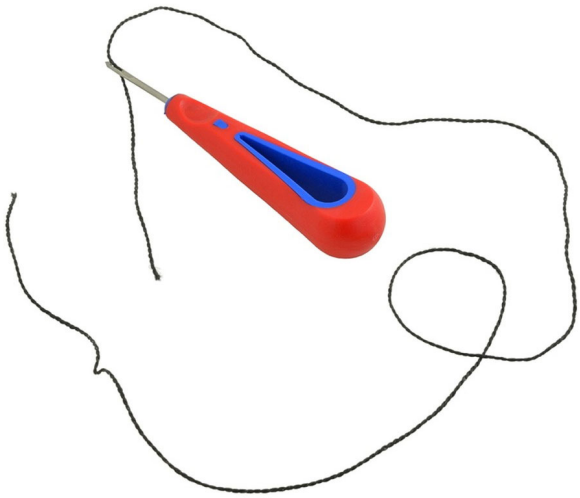
CUTTING TOOLS

Identify these cutting tools.



SEWING TOOLS

Identify these sewing tools.

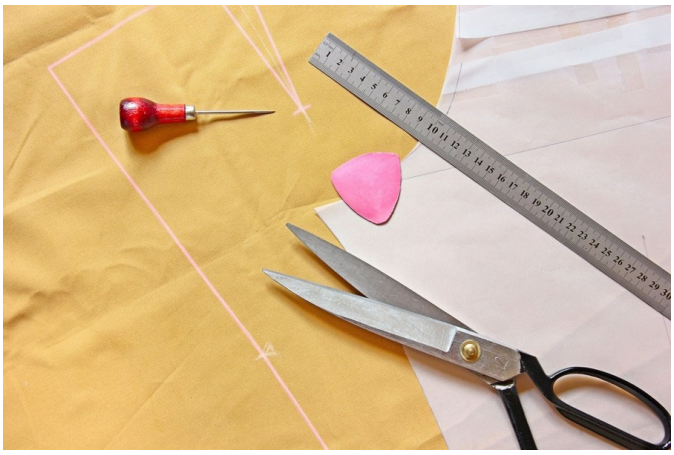


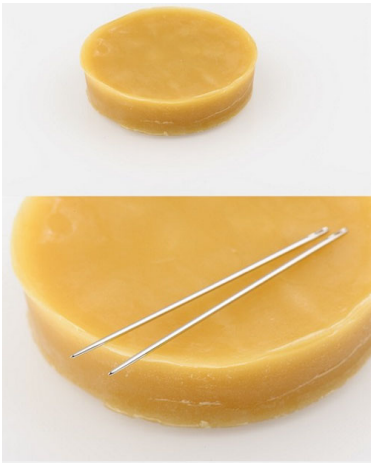
PRESSING TOOLS

Pressing is placing a hot iron, usually a steam iron, on fabric and then lifting it repeatedly to complete a sewing detail: opening a seam, making a crisp corner, creasing, or gently flattening a buttonhole. A tailor is following the “press as you go” practice at his tailor’s workbench. Which other pressing tools are pictured here?

MISCELLANEOUS ALTERATION AND TAILORING TOOLS

Identify these tailoring and alteration tools. What is found in the “strawberry” attached to the tomato pincushion? What is the use of that substance?





TAILOR SHOP LAYOUT

Describe the layout of this tailor shop? Is it good or bad? Would you change anything?

A platform that lifts the client alleviates repeatedly kneeling to alter and/or pin a garment.

TAILOR SHOP LIGHTING

Describe the types of task lighting in these tailor shops? What would you change? For which tasks would an alterations speciailist or tailor use magnified tabletop lighting?

LS–A

Name _____

Professional Tailor's Tack

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to sew a tailor's tack as a marking tool.

Objectives

1. Use tailoring tools and equipment.
2. Sew a tailor's tack.
3. Receive feedback from your instructor.

Materials

- lab sheet
- class notes
- device with Internet access
- thread (preferably a contrasting basting type—a rougher thread that breaks easily)
- needle
- thimble
- shears or tailor's scissors
- two layers of fabric
- dart template (or any other pattern piece that requires the transfer of markings from a pattern to fabric)

Procedure

1. Review your class notes about alteration and tailoring tools and equipment and tailor's tacks. Then view the short YouTube video clip on "How to Make Professional Tailor Tacks in Seconds" by the English Couture Company at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zVh-kyEKco.

2. Construct the tailor's tack.

    a. Place two layers of fabric under the dart template.
    b. Create long running (basting) stitches about (1 inch apart) along the template dart lines.
    c. Snip each of the stitches halfway between the next stitch, being careful not to cut your fabric or to clip too close to the fabric.
    d. Lift the template (pattern piece) away from the fabric.
    e. Gently pull the first layer of fabric upward carefully. (Do not pull the threads through the first layer).
    f. Clip each tailor's tack between the two layers of fabric.
    g. Gently separate the layers of fabric.

3. Carefully analyze your fabric. You should have now created a tailor's tack and should have created thread markings on both layers of fabric.

4. Show your tailor's tacks to your instructor for any feedback.

Name _____

Tailor a Baggy Shirt to Specific Measurements

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to tailor a shirt to specific measurements.

Objectives

1. Use appropriate tailoring and alteration tools for alterations.
2. Take measurements.
3. Pin the shirt according to measurement details.
4. Stitch.
5. Try on and adjust any stitching.
6. Press and finish seams.
7. Receive any instructor feedback.

Materials

- lab sheet
- paper
- writing utensil
- device with Internet access
- VM–A women's measurement chart
- baggy shirt
- pins
- chalk

- sewing machine (with needle and bobbin)
- hand sewing needle
- thread
- tape measure
- thimble
- shears
- pinking shears
- serger (optional)

Procedure

1. Take and record your measurements (or have someone take the measurements for you). Use the basic body measurement chart found in VM–A.
2. Compare the measurements of the shirt you are tailoring to your measurements. Identify what needs to be tailored to your measurements.
3. Turn the baggy shirt to be altered inside out, and pin at the seams to fit your measurements. Next, watch "How to Tailor Your Own Shirt" at http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-tailor-your-own-shirt/.
    a. Adjust any pin placements, as needed.
    b. Sew new seams following your marks.
    c. Try the shirt on, and adjust as needed.
    d. When your adjustments are final, trim the seam allowances using pinking shears, or serge new seams.
    e. Press the seam open, or serge to one side.
4. Turn the shirt right side out. Then give it a final press.
5. Receive any feedback from your instructor.