

Proof 1.1

Waistcoat styles

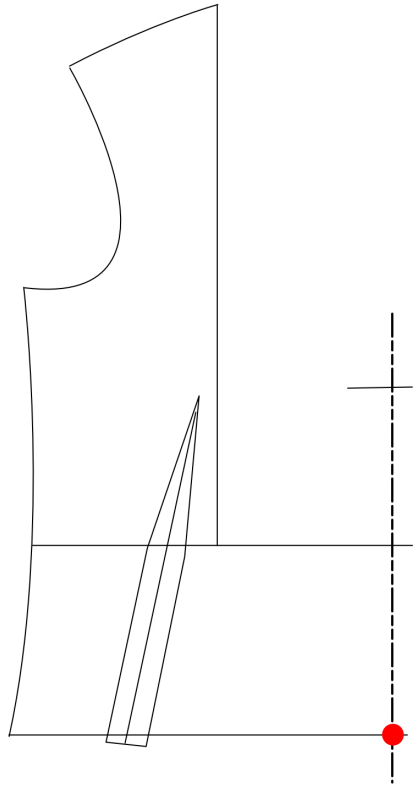
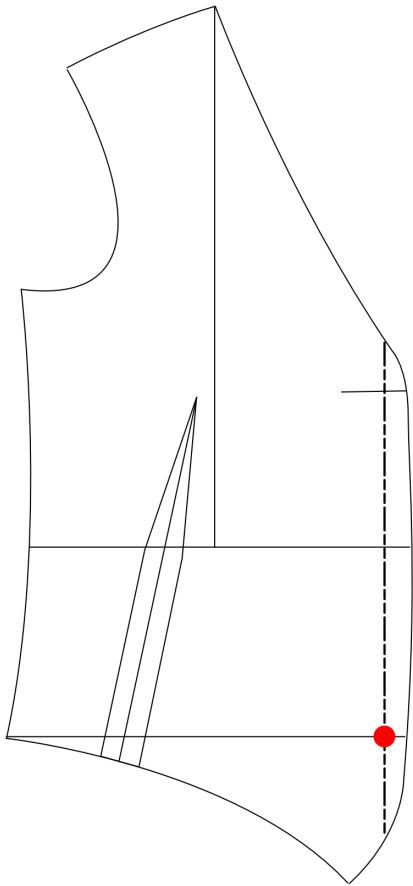
This section covers some waistcoat lapels and forepart styles that cover certain dress codes, or are an alternative style.

When making design changes to a waistcoat pattern; one important thing is making it to match the trousers that it will be worn with. The position where the waistcoat overlaps the waistline of the preferred trousers (Red point). Therefore the proportions of the waistcoat change based on the rise of the trousers. For example, specifically high rise morning dress / white tie trousers may have the shape of the waistcoat across the natural waist, unlike it is presented in my examples. (I don't know what you want to do about multiple trousers and multiple waistlines. Pick a trouser and make do with the rest.)

I'm basing each of these off of a typical waistcoat forepart pattern, as though I were converting a waistcoat block, or one that had been fitted already. The starting point though is always where the centrefront meets the 'front length' point. If you don't know the seam allowance of my original pattern then it's worth checking, because the areas that are being worked with here all don't have a seam allowance. If you are working with a pattern with different seam allowances then you need to account for those.

The basic construction of the waistcoat is all the same. They can all be made with a grown on breakline facing with inlay on the forepart or on the lapel. Similarly the inlay and method of basting for a fitting is all comparable as well.

I'll add styles as I learn them for my own reference as much as anything else too.



Double breasted morning WC

I describe the conversion from the SB to DB as though the original waistcoat forepart was copied onto new paper and the conversion is being made.

1. Have the centre front line marked onto the paper for reference. From the front length point measure down 2.5 cm (1"). That is the bottom edge.
2. Measure across 6.5 cm (2.1/4"), and up from there 1.2 cm (1/2"). This is the bottom of the front edge.
3. With the front length point marked horizontally, mark the other two rows of buttons. 2.5 - 3 cm (1"-1.1/4") above the front length and then the same again.
4. At the top button row measure 8 cm (3.1/4") from the centre line. Draw through this point to the bottom of the front edge. Continue that line 0.5 cm (1/4") above the top button row. This is the new breakpoint. Find this same shape on the inside of the centre line, by measuring the same amounts to the opposite sides. This shows what the wrap will be. When the waistcoat is being cut out this can be double checked as well as making sure the hem is patterned correctly by folding the front over the centreline.
5. Join the breakline to the neckpoint. I will join it with a straight line for reference to scoop the line out into a curve. From the middle of the straight I might start with a 2.5-4 cm (1" - 1.1/2") degree, but it can be a case of preference and a lot more. This amount of curve means that only a laid-on lapel is possible.
6. Find the button and buttonhole locations by measuring 1.2 cm (1/2") from the front edge on the button rows. Find where these are on the inside too. These could be found on the finished waistcoat so long as the wrap is marked on.
7. To create the shape of the hem the bottom edge at the button stand and front edge should be a shallow wide convex curve. It needs to be symmetrical, which can be checked when the rest of the pattern is already cut. From the wrap line the curve becomes convex as it meets the sideseam. If this curve seems very shallow then the bottom edge at the centre line or the front edges can be lowered and everything else lowered to maintain proportions. It's also important that these amounts are starting proportions and the same won't work for a 34" and 44" waistcoat. It can also depend on how shallow or exaggerated you want the curve across the hem to be.
8. The lapel is a peak lapel but quite a common shape is used consistently across them. From the neck point measure 12 cm (6") straight down. The width is often about 10 cm (4"). Therefore the shoulder needs to be wide enough to accommodate. The gorgeline slant is about 45 degrees and measure a little less than half the lapel width to make the peak from. The peak can be a little more exaggerated than a jacket lapel. The height of the peak could be a little more than the width. For the collar find two-thirds of the way to the peak and make either a straight or curved line towards the shoulder. I make it a nearly vertical straight line, because that is the style I like. To draw the edge of the lapel you might use something like a varyform curve to create a very shaped lapel. Ensure the peak itself is not tapered.

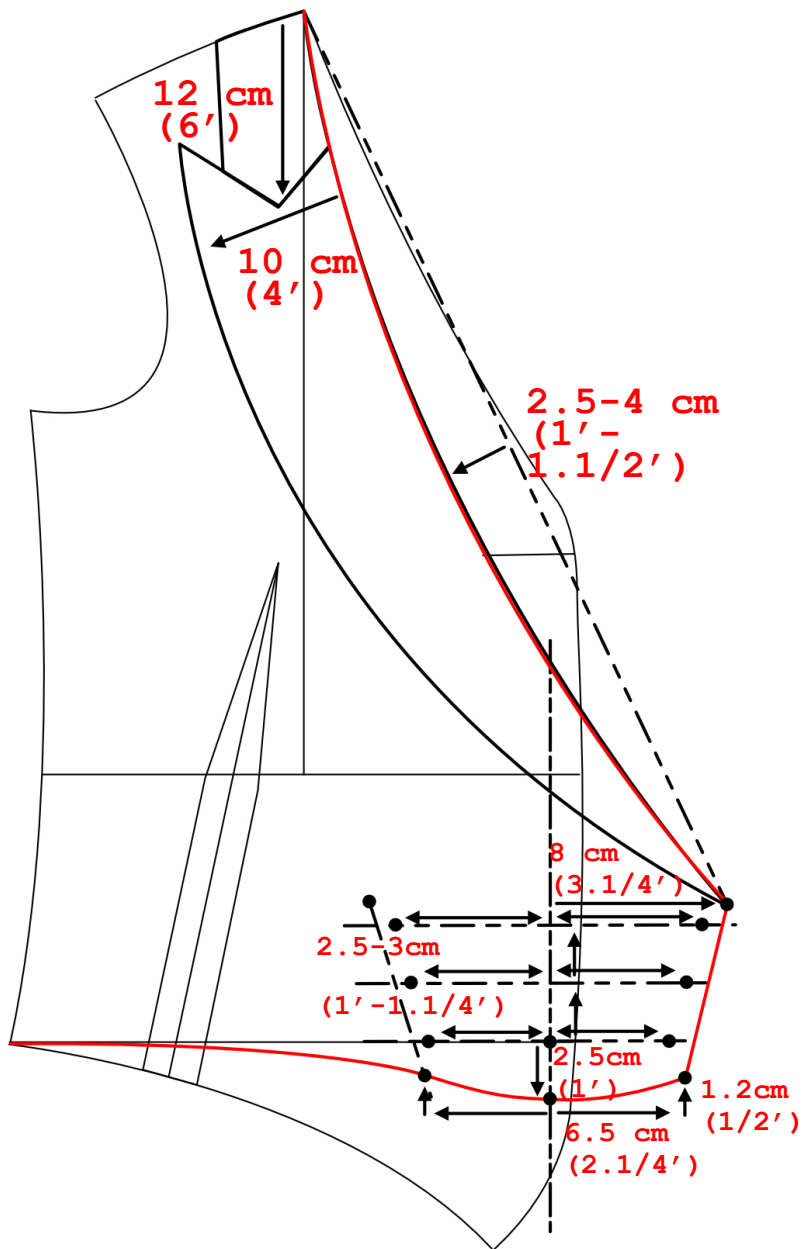
The lapel could be drafted on the vest and copied off or the pattern piece could be cut out and the lapel drafted on a different piece of paper to start with. It's important to see it as a whole though.

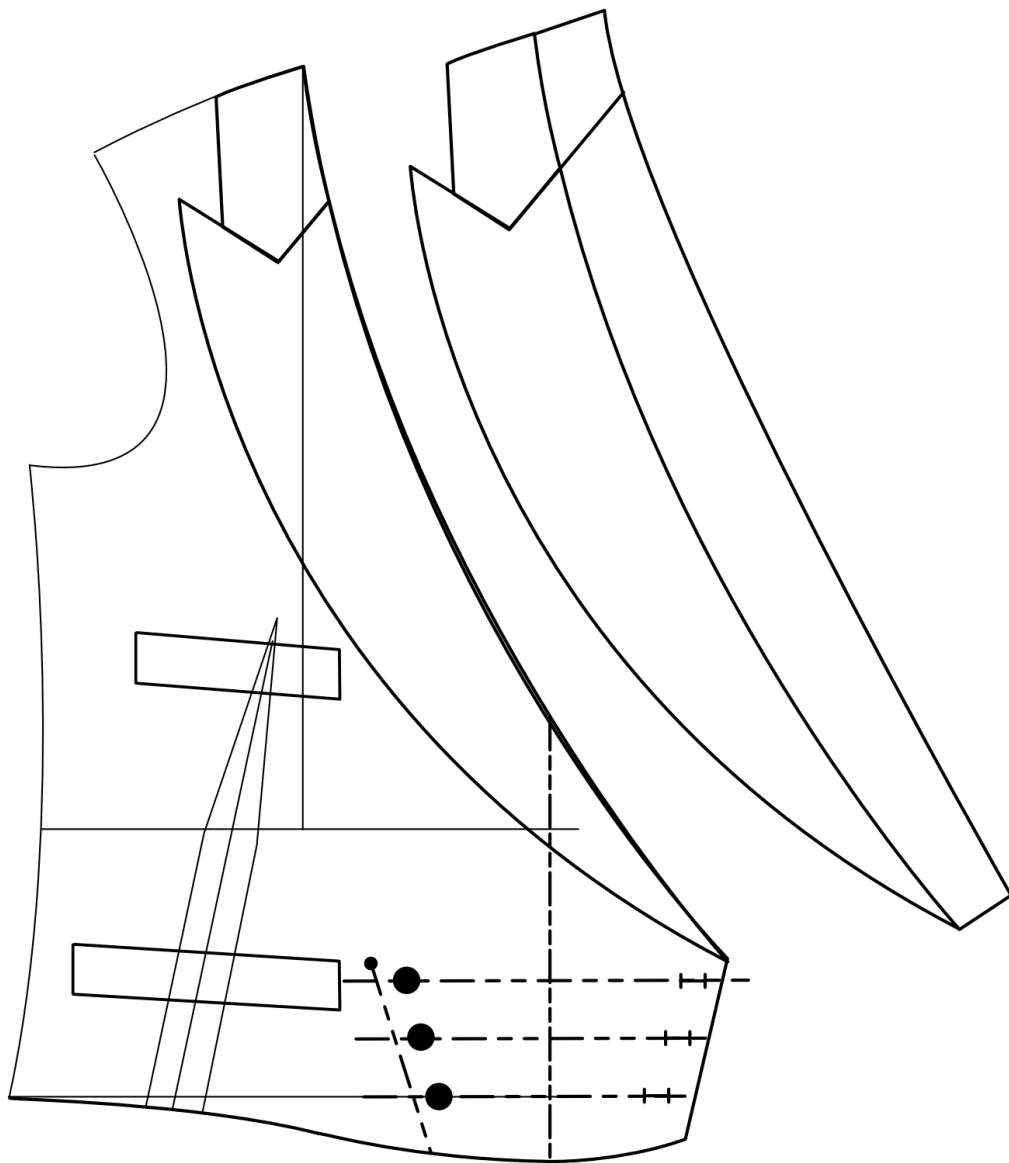
Even if the original waistcoat is fitted it's important that the double breasted version gets fitted separately as well. Due to the extra cloth the shoulder may need to be straightened or picked up to account for the extra cloth over the front.

This DB requires 7 or 8 buttons. 3 to close, 3 for show and 1 or 2 inside as jigger buttons. This kind it's a lot more wasteful to make the facing go the whole height of the forepart, so it's best to leave inlay and use the lapel to create the grown-on facing along the breakline.

The pockets are in essence placed in the same way using the centre line as a reference, not the front edge. The front edges might be close to the wrap, but so long as they aren't being interfered with by the buttons then it should be fine. You may have to move them a little bit closer to the side seam but they are in nearly the same position.

Double breasted waistcoats don't need the extra seam on the right-hand-side foreparts like single breasted, because the wrap already covers the inside of the buttonholes of course.





Dress waistcoat

The dress waistcoat is often worn with white tie as a marcella waistcoat, or as a matching waistcoat with black tie.

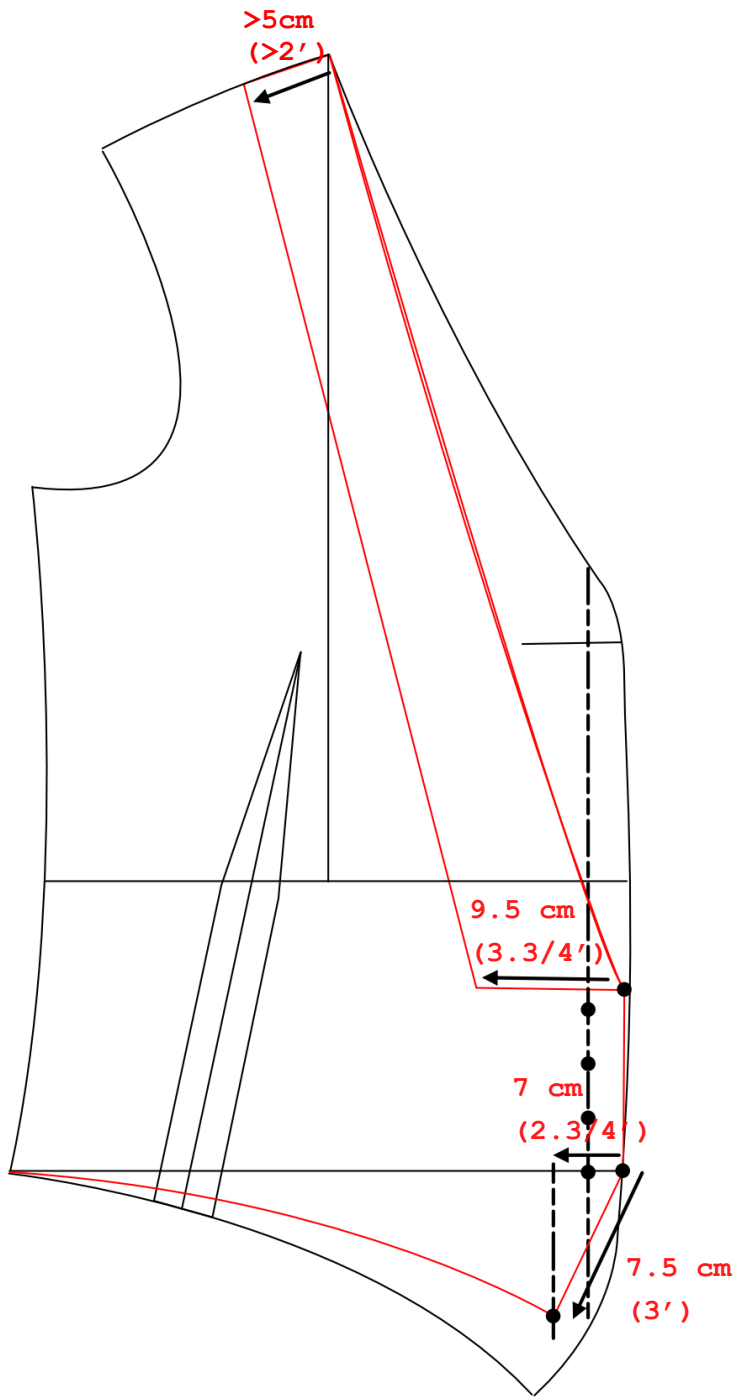
1. The front edge is 1.2 cm (1/2") in front of the centreline. It should be straight and vertical. The bottom button is on the front length point and the buttons are 2.5 cm (1") apart.

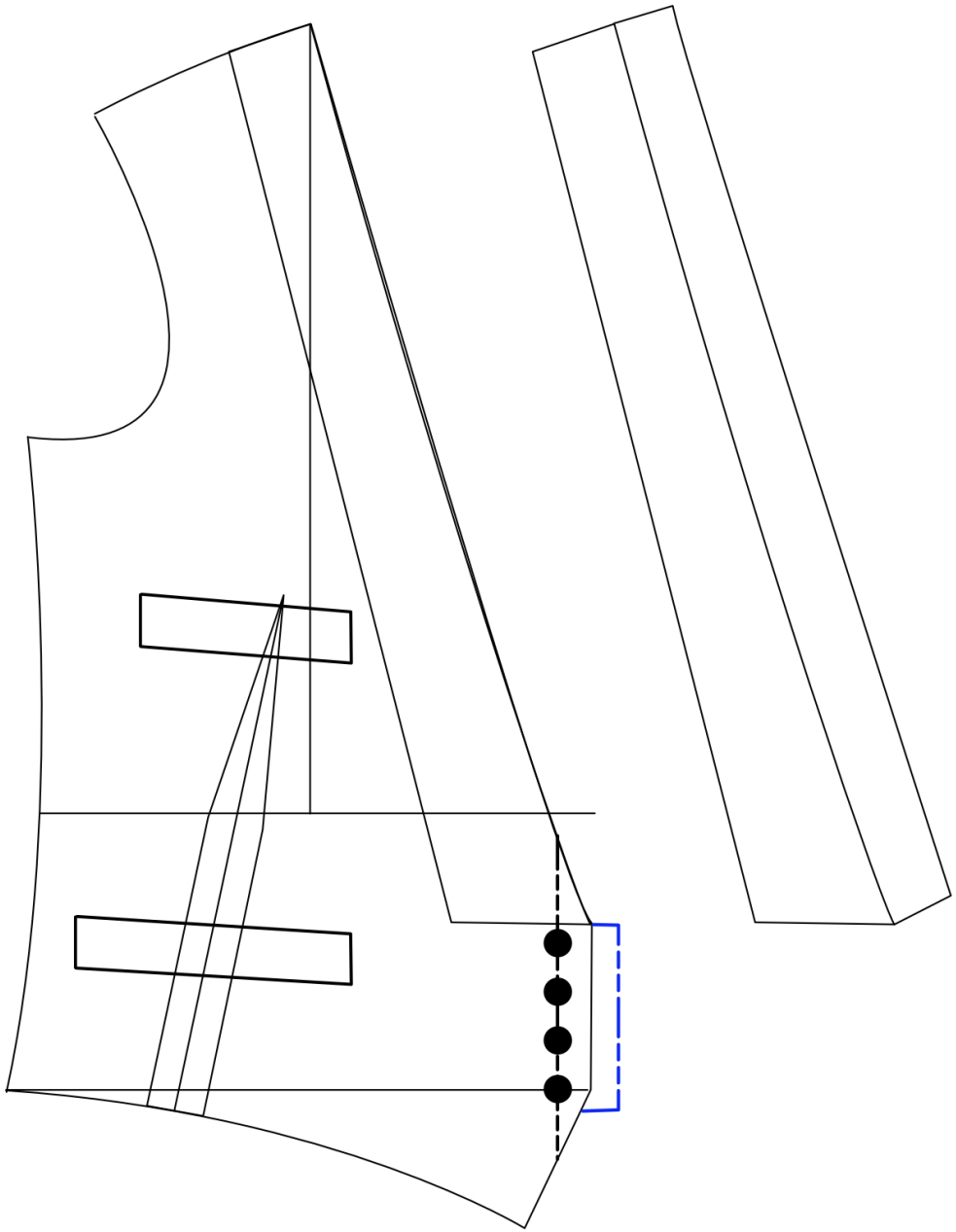
2. Measure 0.5 cm (1/4") above the top button onto the front edge for the breakpoint and it can be joined to the shoulder. It can have a slight convex curve.

3. The hem can be shaped in many ways, but it is usually made into a wide point. Measure 4.5 cm (2.3/4") from the front edge and create a vertical line downwards a few CMs or inches long. From the bottom of the front edge make a line to the new vertical line with a length of 7.5 cm (3"). Join this to the sideseam in a curve. Make the line quite straight for the first few CMs, inch or so, from the point before curving. The line can be further from the front edge or the wedge can be shorter or longer creating a more shallow point, but I think this is a healthy start.

4. The lapel is a very simple shawl style. At the shoulder it starts 5 cm (2") or a little more from the neckline. From the breakpoint make a horizontal line and measure 9.5 cm (3.3/4"). Join this point and the point on the shoulder in a straight line.

This style of vest, as it's single breasted still benefits from the extension on the right-hand-side forepart





5x2 waistcoat

This is an example of a normal SB waistcoat style that can be used instead of what I use as a default option.

1. Along the front length point measure 2" or 5 cm from the front edge, or 1.1/2" from the centreline. Mark vertically down a few inches.
2. From the front edge on the front length line measure 5" or 12.5 cm and find where that hits the first vertical line. Draw a straight line between those points.
3. Join this point to the sideseam. It is a very steep angle and you might not want to curve it too much because the cloth might not be able to fold up the hem.
4. The remainder of the front edge can be maintained or made into sharper angles as well.

With some cloth though it will have to be made with a hem-facing, because generally vegetable fibres won't be able to stretch enough to fold up over the curve.

