

How to Take Measurements for your Custom Pattern

We realize that we ask for a lot of measurements. Proper fit is very important to us and we want to give you the best product possible, so we appreciate the effort you put into making these accurate. Please email us with any questions; we'd rather clarify than build you an ill-fitting pattern!

1. The dancer should wear thin, fitted, non-bulky clothing such as a camisole and leggings or athletic shorts. They should wear the same bra they wear to perform.
2. Never attempt to take your own measurements. Always have a second person measuring.
3. The dancer should stand up straight with arms at sides, as they would when dancing. Ears, shoulders, and hips should form a straight, vertical line when viewed from the side.
4. Tie a ribbon, string, or shoelace around the waist and dropped waist (see page 2 for placement). You will be measuring between these points, not just their circumference. Make sure the strings are parallel to the floor all the way around the body. They should be snug enough not to move or shift, but not so tight that they change the measurement they are marking. If you are having trouble keeping the strings in place, try securing them to the shirt with a bit of tape.
5. Keep in mind that many measurements share start or end points. It's recommended that you mark common measurement points (ex: shoulder point, middle of shoulder) with painter's tape to know that's you're always measuring from the same spot.
6. Please take all measurements in inches. Be as precise as possible.
7. Please include a photo of dancer, front and back. This helps to clear up most questions we may have about the measurements you send.

Refer to the following diagrams when taking measurements.

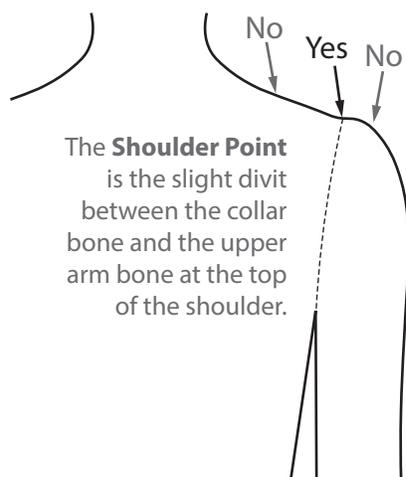


Diagram: Shoulder Point

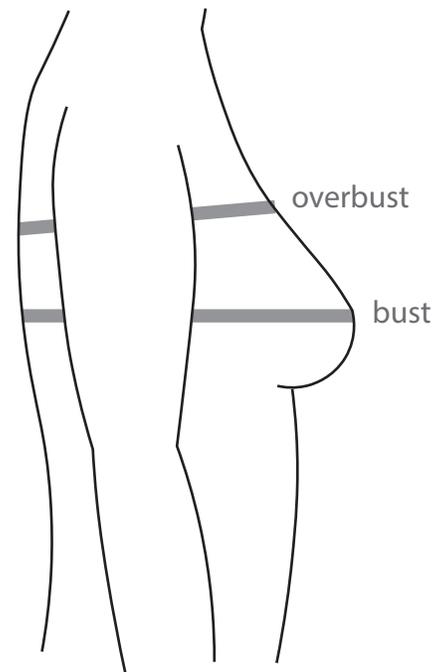


Diagram: Bust vs. Overbust

Circumference:

A. High Chest - Wrap the tape measure around your chest; under your arms but above the main part of the breast. Pull the tape measure snugly. It may not be parallel with the floor. Youth dancers without a developed bust can skip this one. (see diagram on previous page)

B Full Bust - Across the fullest part of the chest. Don't pull the tape measure too snugly, or you will end up underestimating the measurement.

C. Natural waist - Circumference, above hips but below ribs. Parallel to the floor.

D. Abdomen- Circumference of abdomen at the bottom of the bodice. Parallel to the floor. For teens and adults, the dropped waist should sit about 4.5" below the natural waist. For children, 3-4" below.

E. Hips - Around fullest part of hips and butt, parallel to the floor.

Bodice:

F. Across shoulder front - Shoulder point to point, across front. See diagram on previous page.

G. Across shoulder back - Same as F, across back

H. Front length - Base of neck (collarbone divit) to waist

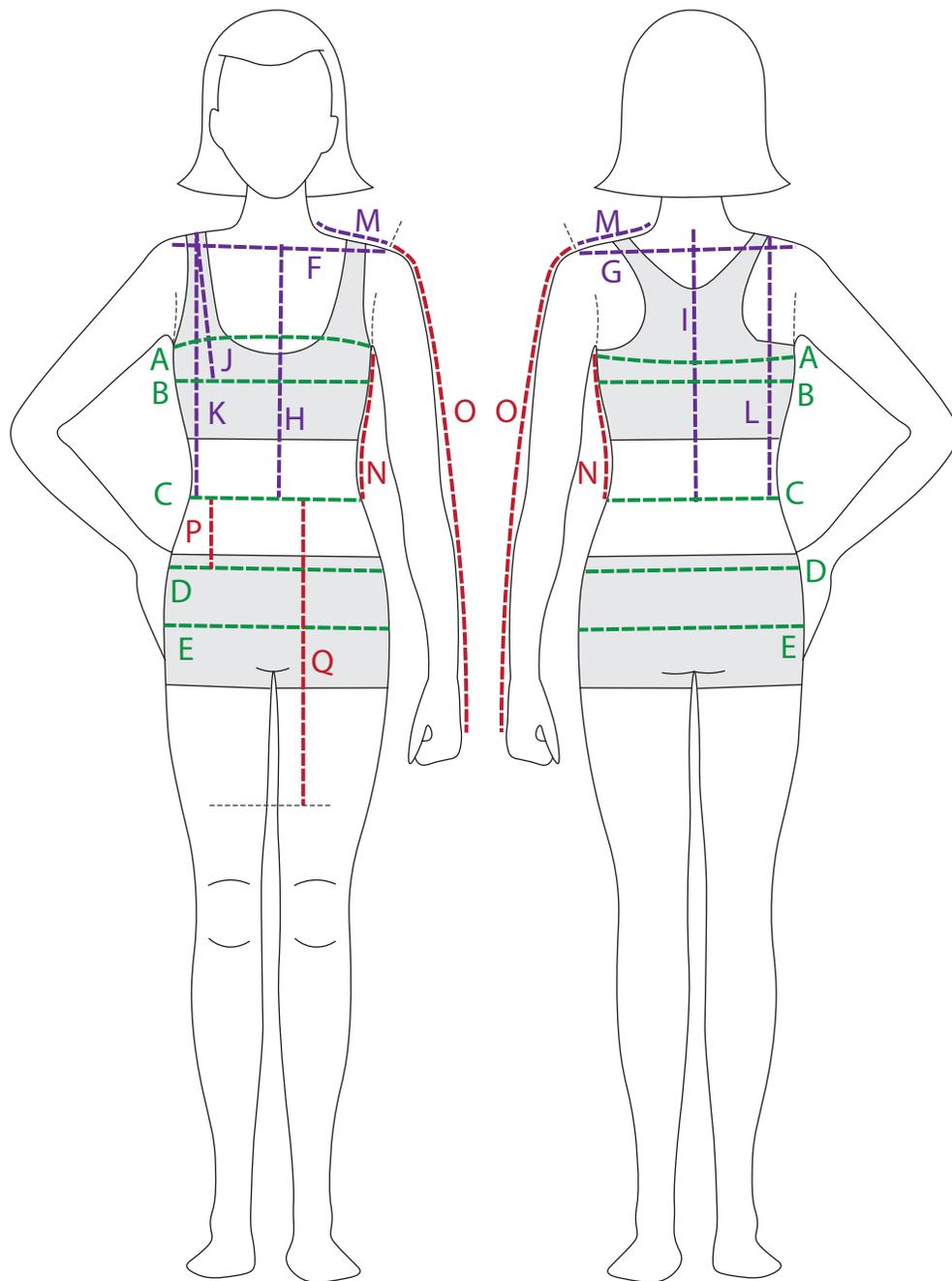
I. Back length - Base of neck (dress neckline without collar) to waist

J. Shoulder to bust - Middle of shoulder to apex of bust (make sure J, K, and L start from the same spot)

K. Front shoulder to waist - Middle of shoulder over the bust and straight down to waist

L. Back shoulder to waist - Middle of shoulder straight down to waist

M. Shoulder length - Base of neck (dress neckline) to shoulder point (shoulder seam)



Length:

N. Side length - From 1/2" below armpit to waist.

O. Sleeve length - Shoulder divit to desired length (recommended: 1" above knuckles when hand is curled in a fist as shown. Make sure to start at the same point at which you ended for measurement 'M'.

P. Depth of abdomen - Distance between waist and abdomen (measure in the front)

Q. Desired dress length - Measure from the front waist straight downward to the desired length. If you are unsure, we are happy to advise.

R. Height