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How to Measure Your Garment

Wondering what size figure or form to fit your costume? Read on.

IMPORTANT:

- **First:** For all clothing, remember to allow at least 2- 4" ease in chest, waist, hip measurement between our figure chart and your garment. Our Museum Figure measurements can be found at <https://www.museumfigures.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Realistic-Both-SizingSpecs.pdf>

Our Conservation Form measurements can be found at <https://www.museumfigures.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Conservation-SizesSpecs.pdf>

- **Second:** Button or zip your garment and lay it flat on a hard surface and smooth the fabric out so that there are no wrinkles.

1. Chest

Place the measuring tape on the fold of the body of the shirt/jacket under the sleeve where it attaches to the body of the shirt (i.e., the armpit), and measure across to the same point on the other side of the shirt. Don't worry if you measure beyond the seams on the shirt, just measure the shirt flat across from fold to fold. **Double it to get the chest circumference.** The shirt shown below measures 21" across, so it has a **42" chest circumference.**



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2. Waist

Find the narrowest part of the garment, which should be about halfway between the armpit and the bottom of the shirt (or around the 5th button on a man's dress shirt). Measure straight across from fold to fold as above. The shirt shown below measures 19 7/8" " for a **39 3/4" waist circumference** .



3. Garment Length (shirt, blouse, jacket)

Button/ zip/tie up the garment front and lay it flat, with the back of the garment facing up. Place the measuring tape at the seam where the collar band attaches to the yoke (the fabric that sits across the shoulders) and measure straight down the middle of the back to the hem. The measurement in the shirt photo below is 31 5/8".



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4. Shoulder Width

With the garment laid flat, back facing up, place the tape measure on the sleeve seam up near the top as shown and pull it straight across to the other sleeve seam. Like for other measurements, smooth out the fabric and pull it tight without stretching. The correct measurement in the example photos is 17".



5. Sleeve Length (Center Back to cuff)

Lay the shirt flat with the back facing up. Extend one sleeve out to the side and smooth it out as much as possible. Start the tape measure at the center back (CB), just below the collar band and measure out to the seam where the sleeve begins. Place a finger on the measuring tape at that sleeve seam to keep it in place, and then pull the tape measure taut to the end of the cuff as shown. Record the measurement to the nearest 1/4". The correct measurement in the example photos is 33".



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6. Cuff Circumference

Button the cuff and smooth out flat. Measure from side fold to side fold. Double this measurement for the circumference. The cuff shown measures 4 5/8" across, so **it has a 9 1/4" circumference**. You will only need this if it's a small cuff and you have chosen a large hand. For example, some Victorian dresses have a 6" circumference cuff with no buttons.



7. Shirt Collar Size

Open up the shirt and lay it flat on the table, face up. Open the collar and spread it as flat as possible, pulling snug so that you straighten out any curve. Measure from the center of the button (you should see the stitching) to the middle of the opposite buttonhole. Record the measurement to the nearest 1/4". The correct measurement in the example photos is 16".



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8. HIP

Lay the pants flat on a hard surface (same as above). Measure down 8" from the waist and at this point measure across from side fold to side fold. The pants shown measure 22" across; double it to see **the circumference is 44"**.



Again, **remember your garment should be 2-4" larger** in circumference than our form measurements.

Our form measurements can be found at
<https://www.museumfigures.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Realistic-Both-SizingSpecs.pdf>

And

<https://www.museumfigures.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Conservation-SizesSpecs.pdf>