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VEST CUTTING,  
A MANUAL FOR THE  
TAILOR AND CUTTER.

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# VEST CUTTING,

A MANUAL FOR THE

## Practical Tailor and Cutter

—BY—

✓  
CHARLES HECKLINGER,

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AUTHOR OF

“PROPORTIONATE COAT CUTTING,”

“DRESS AND CLOAK CUTTING,” Etc.

NEW YORK, 1883.

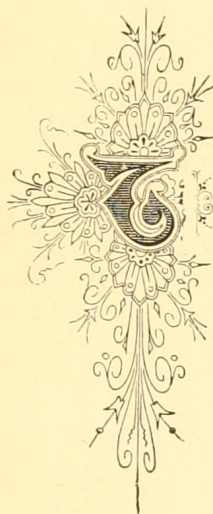


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## PREFACE.



THE following pages form a text book on the subject of Vest Cutting. This I have developed clearly and carefully, so that it may be comprehended by the beginner in cutting as readily as those who have cut for years, and it is especially intended for such who are not satisfied with the system in use.

The descriptions given, and the illustrations I have extended as far as convenient, as giving all that is required to make the work valuable to any one willing to study it.

In the formation of the system, which has been constructed by the slow accumulation of many years, observation and experiments in practical work wherein I always endeavored to keep before my mind, that to be useful to myself in my everyday work, the system must possess such practical points of accuracy and simplicity, as well as adaptation to the different build of form measured.

From the success which attended the use of this system by myself, where I have been called upon to cut some weeks as many as thirty vests and more, and from the good opinions I hear expressed by such who now use it, I am justified in asserting that it is established on a sound basis, and also that it answers for every and all shapes of forms.

I may remark here, that to my knowledge, it is the only system published which can be used, and is both a proportionate and an actual measurement system. This I have clearly demonstrated, so that both can be studied simultaneously.

I have felt years ago that the customary way of cutting vests by simple breast-measure needed very much improving, and this urged me on to these experiments which led to results now in these pages.

That it will produce as satisfactory a result as cutting coats, may be

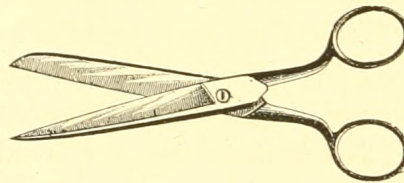
drawn from the fact that it virtually is only my coat system adapted to the cutting of a vest, with such slight changes as are required for a vest.

One prominent point about it is that, used as a proportionate system it differs totally from any other. While all authors in this adhere solely to the breast-measure and its divisions, I use also the blade, or the shoulder measure, as an aid to produce a correct result.

It is found that a division of the breast measure, while proper enough for medium sizes, becomes too large for fat builds and too small on boys—therefore the corresponding blade or shoulder used in addition will so modify the draft, that it will be correct in any and every size, whether large or small.

The figures and diagrams are as correct as pen and ink can draw them, and I flatter myself that my readers will be amply repaid by the study of this work.

THE AUTHOR.



## THE MEASURES.

---

FIGURE 1.



FIRST we take the breast-measure, then the waist; these can both be taken somewhat closer than for a coat.

Next is the length from the socket bone to the opening wanted. From the same point to the full length in front, and from the same point to the level of scye, and at side, at the hollow over the hip. This last ought to have more care, for it, to a great extent, gauges the location of the buckle-strap. If this is too high the person will feel very uncomfortable by the strap pressing on the lower ribs; if too low, the vest will rise up, so that the strap will rest in the hollow of the natural waist.

For a proportionate size these measures would be sufficient, but in order to be secure one more measure will be enough to gain a satisfactory result; and this is either the blade or the lower shoulder measure.

The blade, as every one knows, is taken from front of arm to the centre of the back, and this is on medium size is always one-half inch less than two-thirds of the breast. The shoulder measure is taken from a central point between the shoulders, and over the arm, past the front of and under the arm to the same point.

This should be taken over the vest, and close, so as to get a firm actual size. On comparing this measure with the blade or breast, we find on proportionate forms that one-half of it is always two-thirds of the breast on medium sizes.

Both this shoulder and blade measure, however, vary; and while in good build of any type of form they are equal—in large forms they rate smaller, and in small forms larger to the breast size.

To make these sizes better known and useful to the cutter, I append the table of three sizes. These will, on consultation, be a great aid in general work.



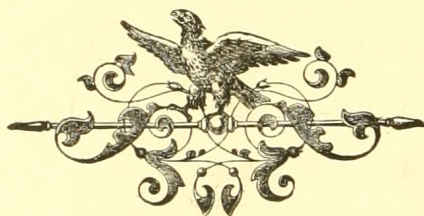
*Fig. 1.*

## Proportion of Sizes.

BREAST.	SHOULDER.	BLADE.
30	22	10½
31	22½	10¾
32	23	11
33	23½	11½
34	24	11½
35	24½	11¾
36	25	12
37	25½	12¼
38	26	12½
39	26½	12¾
40	27	13
41	27½	13¼
42	28	13½
43	28½	13¾
44	29	14
45	29½	14¼
46	30	14½
47	30½	14¾
48	31	15
49	31½	15¼
50	32	15½
51	32½	15¾
52	33	16

When the form varies from an average shape, it will be necessary to have the length of back in addition to those already taken. This should be taken from the socket bone down to the natural waist, as near as possible on a level with the front length taken to the hip.

Thus with these measures we have both the front and back lengths, and the front of arm, and can, therefore, construct a vest for a stooping or erect form as satisfactorily as any average build.



## THE DRAFT.

FIGURE 2.

**W**E will draft a size for practice of breast 36, waist 32, length 26, hip length 20, and shoulder measure 25. Now the shoulder measure being 25, we take one-half of it, which is  $12\frac{1}{2}$ ; from this take one-half inch which leaves twelve. This is two-thirds of eighteen, or equivalent to a 36 breast. In this case, both sizes are even or 36—but seldom does this occur; and in a further article I will show how to use it, when it does not agree with the breast-measure.

In this case bear in mind that the sum total of all the measures agree with a 36 size breast.

In commencing first draw the line O-F.

From O go down to D, one-quarter of the breast (9 inches). Draw lines across both at O and D at right angles with the back line.

Between O and D make a point midway, marked A, and from there draw a short line across the back.

From D, on the line under the arm towards G, is one quarter of breast (9 inches), and 1 inch; draw a line downwards.

From D to R is two-thirds (12 inches) and from R to N is three-fourths of an inch. Draw a line up from N.

From O to L is one-eighth of breast.

From L to J is one-half inch.

From R to L draw a line, also draw one upwards from C where the lines cross to M and downwards to E, at right angles with line C-A.

Now, starting at M, draw the curved line for arm-hole about three-fourths inside of C through R, dropping below breast-line at G one-fourth inch. Draw also the curve for the top of the back one-half inch above O to U, and from U parallel with diagonal line L-R, draw another from U to X.

Now take the distance from D to N, and place it forward on the top line from L to P, which fixes P.



From P downwards draw a line. From P to S is one-sixth (3 inches) and from P to K is one-sixth.

From P to A draw a line, and place the width of the back shoulder from P to B, and finish the armhole by drawing from B to R, touching line at front of arm.

From D forward to T is one-half of breast.

From T to V is 2 inches.

From V down draw line to 4, at right angles with breast-line.

Draw then for centre line from K through V and 4 to 3.

This line represents the actual centre of the breast, and it is evident that for single or double-breasted, additions must be made. Therefore, on a single-breasted we place one-half inch from V to I for lap, and the same all along the front.

Measure from P, deducting the width of back, to 6, the length; and also the hip at 7.

As soon as 7 is fixed, draw a line across at waist; the difference between the breast 36 and the waist 32 is 4 inches; for every inch difference take one-fourth of an inch, equal in this case to one inch, and place it from F to 1; and then draw the back line like the diagram, by starting a little above point D and gradually curving in to 1.

From 1 to 2 is one-fourth of the waist and 1 inch.

From line at 4 is one-fourth of the waist and one-half inch to 7.

Curve lines under the arm. Add 7 to 11 an average of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, or enough to correspond to the whole length of the front and shape of the bottom.

The last is to draw the neck-gorge from P to 14. The latter will be just right for a military, or clergyman's vest, or any other vest desired to button up to the throat.

The quantity of one-sixth down from point P will always give 14 in the correct place for a vest to close at neck. So I may caution my readers to be careful to start from K, which is one-sixth from P in drawing the front line; as this will never produce a vest too large at the front line from I up to 14.

Add on above line O  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to U on all medium or small sizes.



## LARGE SIZE DRAFT.

FIGURE 3.



It is always found in measuring any large form, that the shoulder or the blade measures are smaller in proportion to the whole breast. So all the lengths from the scye upward vary and give a less distance in comparison to the whole size around.

Before it is advisable to commence to draft, we must reduce these measures in every case to a breast size so as to keep the proportions most suitable for the shape.

Every cutter who cuts a large, fat man's vest by any ordinary breast-measure system, knows that it will be too large when using the divisions in the same manner as in drafting a 36 breast; and various ways have been suggested to modify this, but with little success.

It is well known that on a size of 36 breast-measure, the lengths and widths are equal; therefore, in that case it would be immaterial which size was used, as either would produce a draft suitable.

But on large sizes especially when they reach anything above 43 breast, the same is not the case, for the length and width of shoulders are less in proportion to the breast.

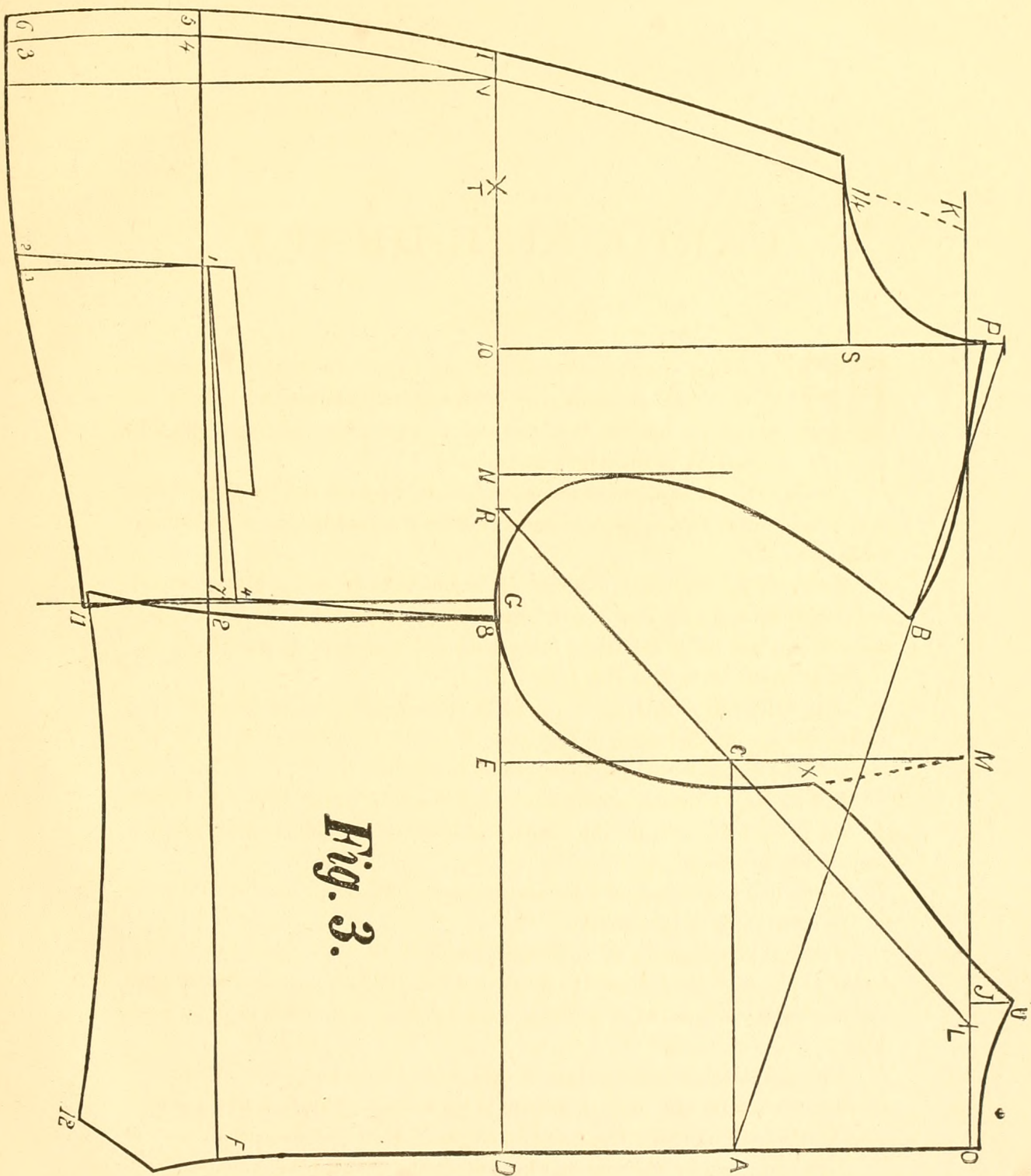
So we find in the case of a breast-measure of 48 inches the shoulders to be 31. (See table of measures.)

This last size, namely, 31 inches, is found to be only equal to a breast-size of 45 inches. The problem as we work it out, remains the same on all sizes and no change is required in drafting, as the system is elastic and self equalizing to every measure.

The shoulder-measure being, in this case, 31 inches, we first halve it which gives  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches. One-half inch is taken off, and the remainder, which is 15 inches, will be found equal to two thirds of 45 breast-measure.

This last, then, is the size used to draft the lengths by, and regulates also the size of the width back of arm-hole.

In drafting, first draw the line O-F.



*Fig. 3.*

From O to D is one-quarter of 45, equal to  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Draw a line from O over to P and from D to V.

From D to G is one-quarter, and 1 inch.

From D to R is two-thirds, or equal to 15 inches.

From D to T is one-half of the whole breast-measure, or 24 inches.

From R to N is three-fourths of an inch.

From O to L is one-eighth of 45, and to J is one-half inch.

Above O place only a seam and curve to U which is three-fourths inch above J.

Draw a line from L to R.

Halve the distance O-D which gives A, and from this draw a line over to C.

From C, where the diagonal line crosses, draw one up to M.

Starting at M curve the scye line past X to about three-fourths inch inside of C to G, directly on line and not dropped below it.

Draw a line from U parallel with diagonal line to X.

Take the distance D to N and place, it from L forward on top line, which produces P.

From 10 on the breast-line up to P is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of full breast or 12 inches, and from there to A draw a line for height of shoulder.

From P to S is one-sixth of full breast, and the same from P to K.

Draw neck from P to 14.

Make the width of the front shoulder the same as the back from U to X, and finish armhole by drawing from B to G.

From T forward to V is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches on all sizes above 43. Draw a line down from V.

Measure the length from P down, taking into account the top of back, and fix the length on the straight line near 3. Also apply the side length to 7, and when it is located draw waist line, and the depth of scye.

We will now use a waist of 48 inches. The waist being equal to breast, there will be no cut to come out. This is also the case when the waist is larger. Therefore start from F and place forward one-quarter of the waist, and one inch to 2, and from 2 forward to 4 is also one-quarter and one-half inch.

Then draw the front line from K through 14-V and 4 to 3.

Draw also the bottom line, and finish by adding on the lap in front for a single or a double breasted.

The diagram (fig 3), shows lap for a single breasted.

Draw also curve under arm and shape the bottom.

It must be borne in mind that (see Fig. 2) on the top of back above dotted line, there is one-half added; and to make the shoulder even the same amount is added on that.

The blade-measure, as given on our table, has already one-half inch added to it; but when using the same measure as is taken on the body, we must add to it one-half inch to bring the full size required. This is needed; because in taking this measure it will close in so firmly to the arm-hole, and be too small if used just as taken.

The mode of using it is the same as the shoulder-measure; that is, reducing it to a breast-size. For example: suppose we have a blade of  $12\frac{1}{4}$ , we add to it one-half inch making  $12\frac{3}{4}$ . Now,  $12\frac{3}{4}$  is equal to two-thirds of 38; and, therefore, the heights and widths of the back portion of the vest are drafted by a proportion of a 38 size.

These calculations are readily found on any square, and, therefore, need cause no trouble to any one.

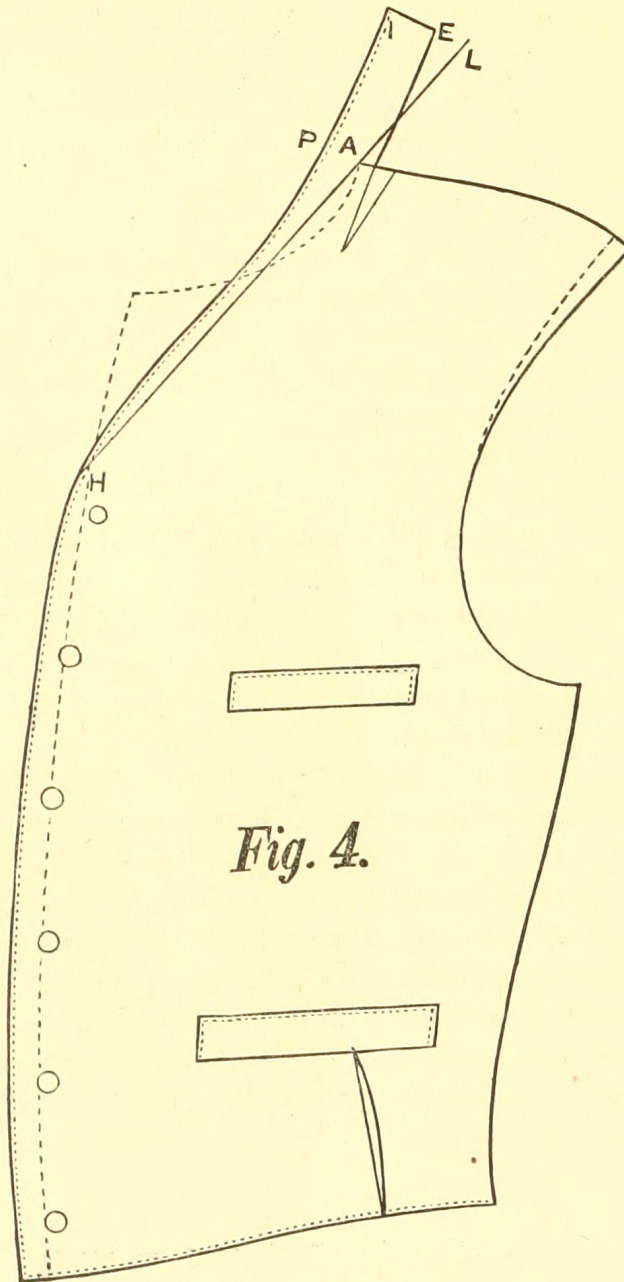
At the front of Diagram 3 is found a cut. This is put in only on firm goods that will not bear any shrinking.

The same effect however can be gained by cutting in from 7 through the pocket, and taking out a cut of one-half inch between 7 and 4; but in this case, the same amount must be added at the bottom of side from 11 forward to keep the original shape.

In the foregoing, the draft is so far produced only proportionately, with the addition of the shoulder or the blade measure; but we have also the length from socket bone to the depth of scye and to the hip.

In applying these, when the back line is drawn (see fig. 2), point O fixed, and everything drawn, to point D, we apply the measure from D to F—for example, the front measure may be 12 inches to depth of arm, and 21 to hip. Place 12 on D, and measure to F 21, which makes the distance from D to F 9 inches; then from 7, or a little in front of it, measure up to above P 21 inches, and come down from last point to P, less the width of the back, and finish the draft like the foregoing.





*Fig. 4.*

## Single-Breasted No Collar.

FIGURE 4.



MARK down from A the length of opening wanted to H, and from this latter point to A draw the break-line. Add from A upwards the width of top of back to E.

From the straight line L go over to E one inch, and draw from E to shoulder. This should be one-quarter inch from point at A, thus adding a seam for the back to be felled on.

From E to I is one inch.

From A to P is three-quarters of an inch.

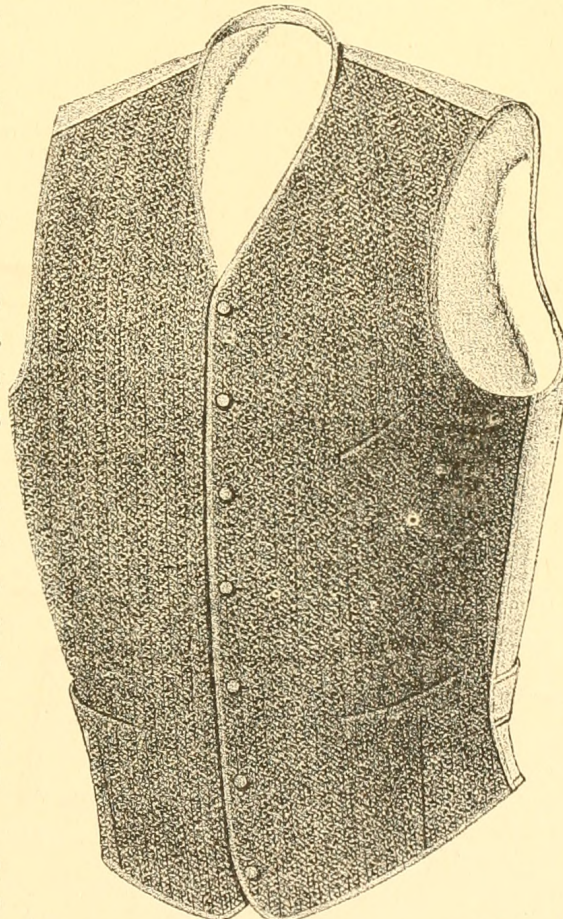
Now draw the edge from I past P to H, keeping the line a seam's width outside of break line, as the amount in turning in, requires this.

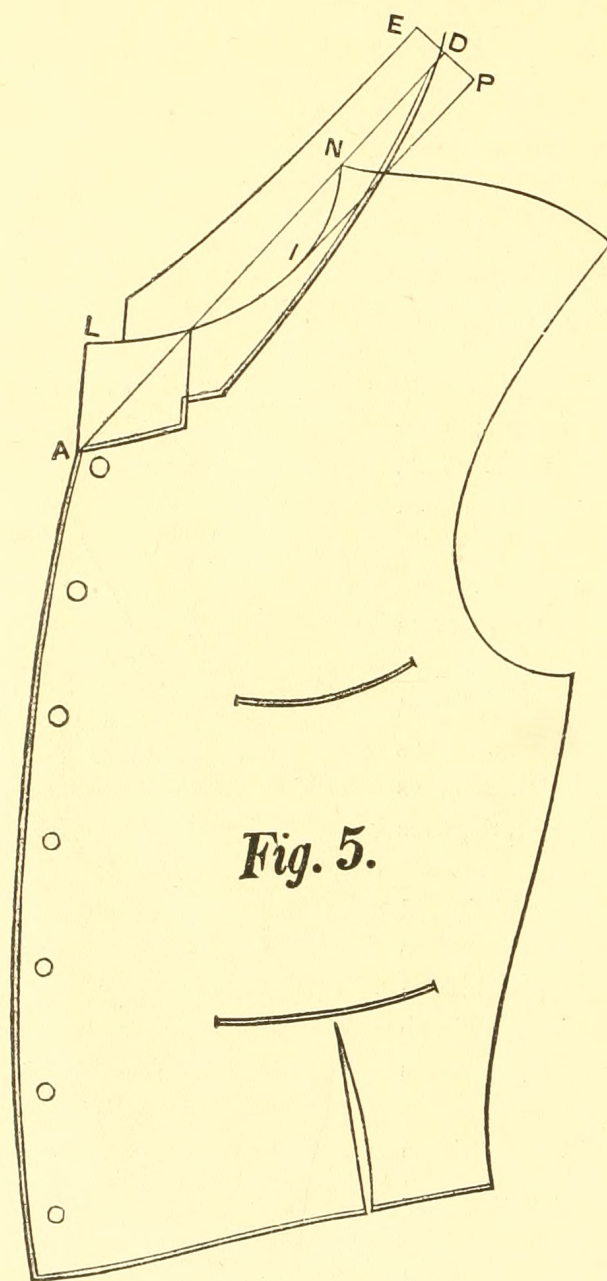
Always add in front of dotted line, which represents the centre of breast; the amount of button stand, three-quarters for a single breasted, and from 2 to 3 inches for a double-breasted.

In placing the buttons, have them just back of the original centre line.

Our button spacer, which we have sent to every tailor in the country, will be found the most ingenious and economical instrument that can be found on the cutting counter.

If any one does not receive such a one, let him write to us and enclose a three cent stamp, and we will forward one by mail.





**Fig. 5.**

## Single-Breasted Notch Collar.

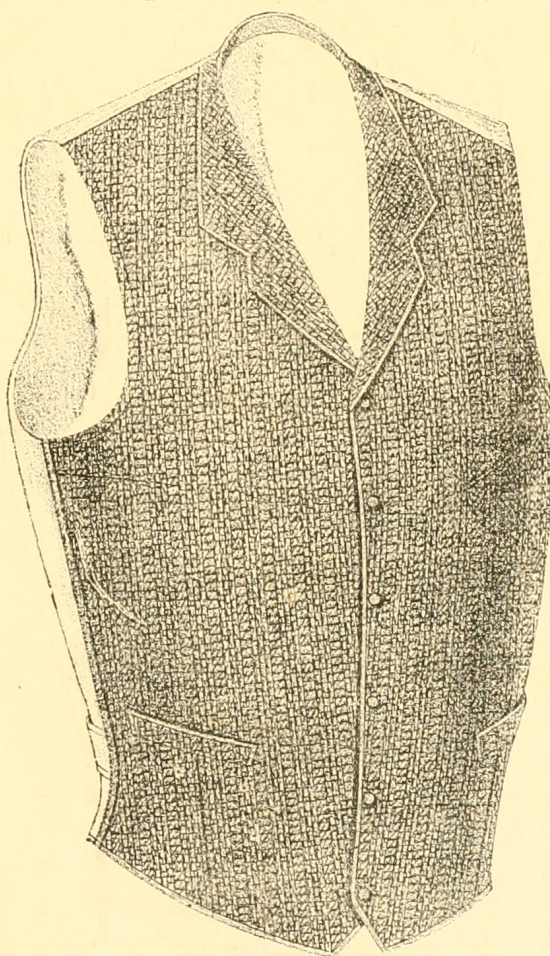
FIGURE 5.



WHEN the front is drawn out and the lap for button stand added, then measure down and establish the length of opening.

A is, in this case, where the collar ends ; from this point to the shoulder point draw a line to D.

Curve the neck from N past I to L, which last may be for a short notch



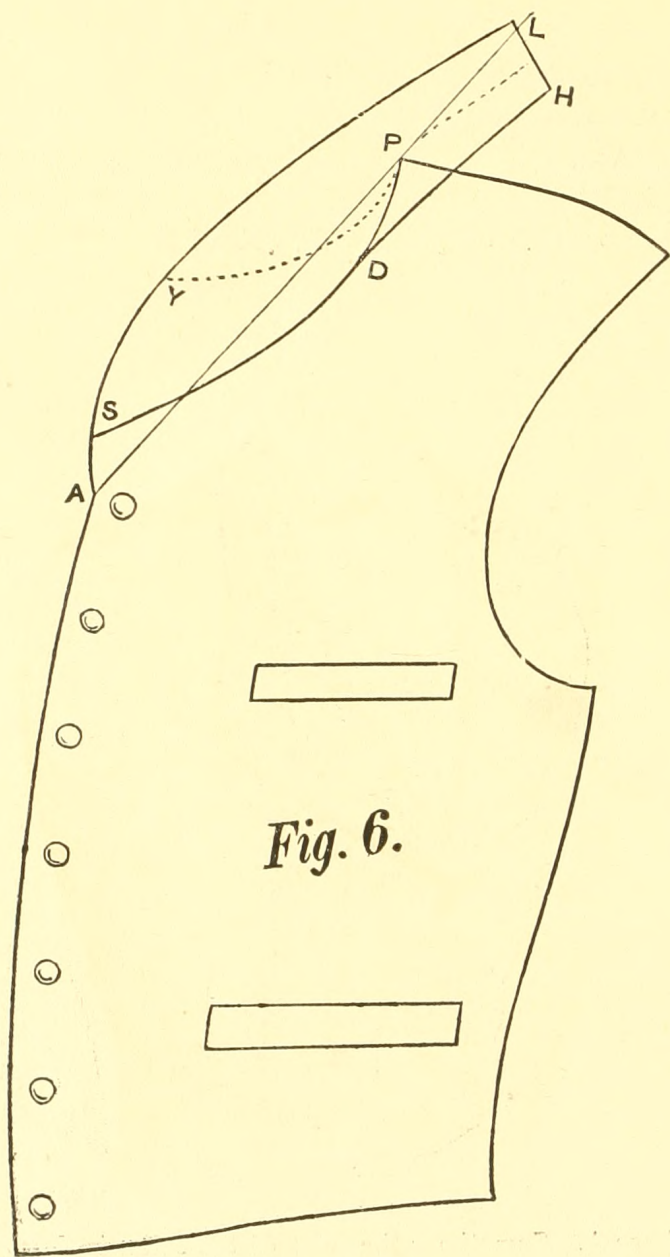
$2\frac{1}{2}$  inches above A. Sometimes the seam of the collar is drawn nearer to A, and in this case the notch cut into the collar.

From N to D is the width of the back.

From D to P is the stand three-quarter inch.

From D to E is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Shape the collar like the diagram.

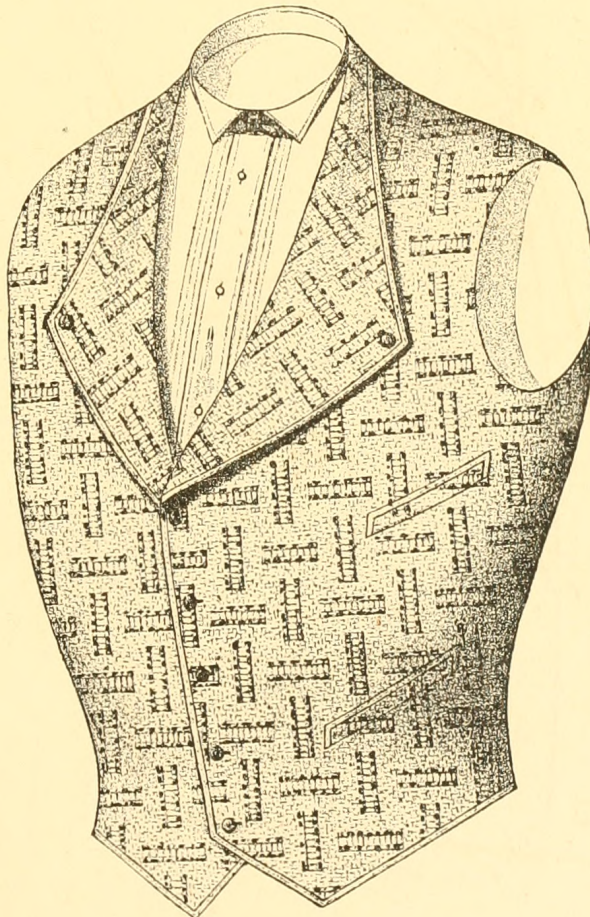


## Single-Breasted Curved Collar.

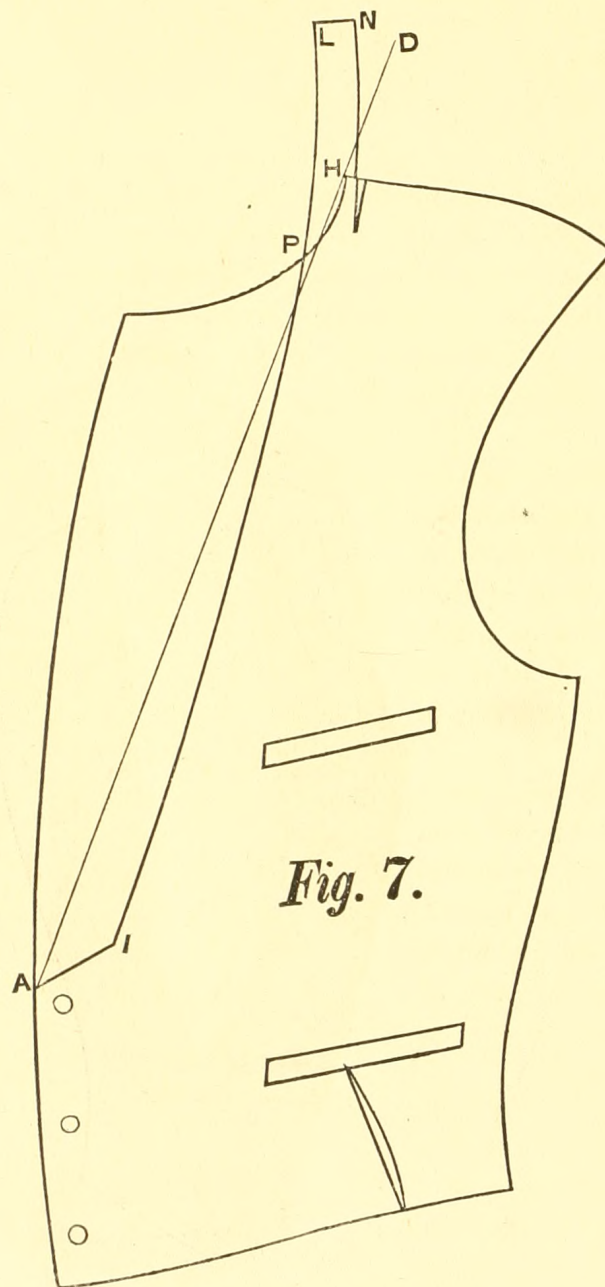
FIGURE 6.



ESTABLISH first the length of opening where you wish the vest to open. Then draw a line past shoulder point from A to L. Fix the length from P to L, the same as the width of the back, and drop the break below L one inch. Then shape the outside edge one-quarter above line at L, past Y to A.



From H which is three-quarters of an inch below the break to D, and curve the seam to S.



*Fig. 7.*

## Single-Breasted Open Cut.

FIGURE 7.



THIS illustration represents a modern dress vest, cut very open without a collar. To give it that neatness so essential, it must contain one condition which should be strictly attended to.

First, the length of the front must be governed and regulated by the coat, as it should in no case show below the bottom of the coat.

The edge of the opening over the breast must set close to the figure, whether in a standing or a sitting position, neither should it bulge out or break. All this can be obviated by careful attention to working in of the front edge.

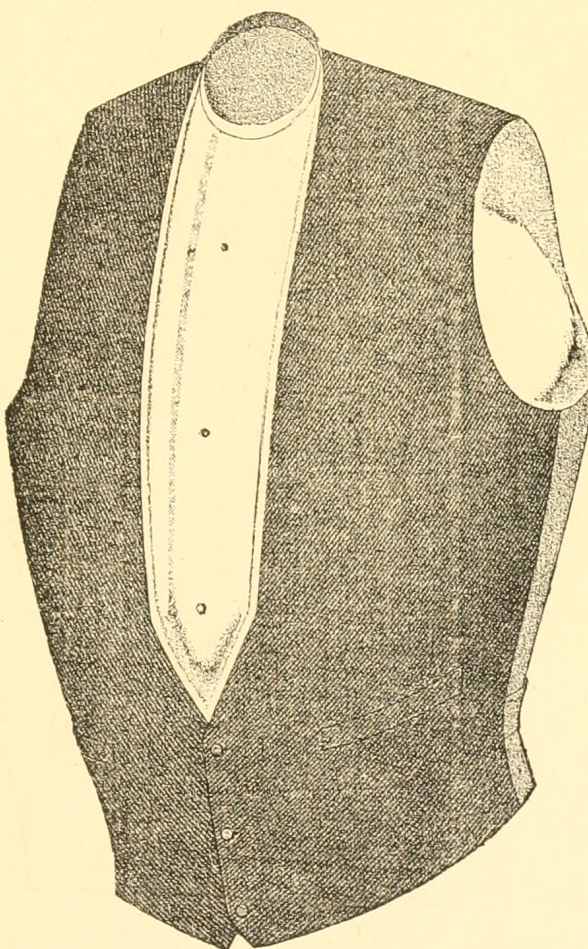
The diagram shows almost a straight line, but this will when made properly and drawn in to the form, appear more curved.

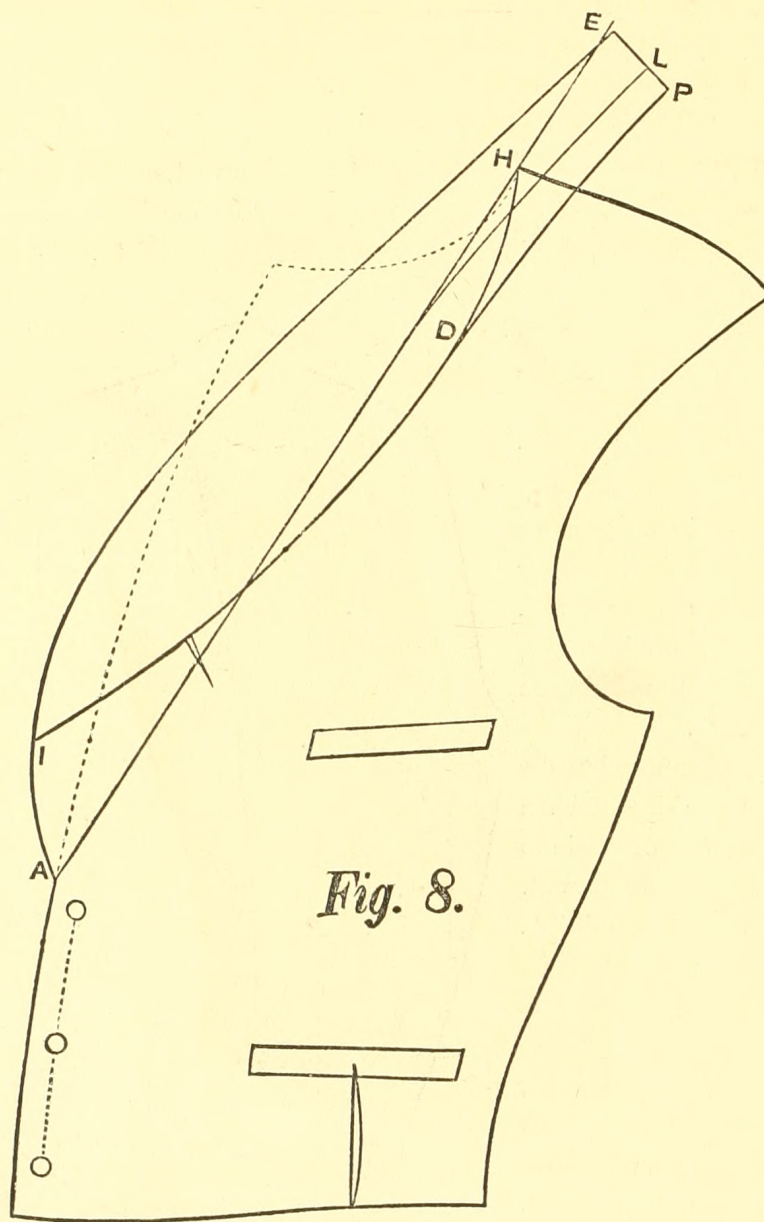
Locate the opening point A. Add from shoulder point H, the stand similar to a vest as illustrated on Figure 4.

Go up from D to N 1 inch, and draw the line to within one-quarter of an inch to H.

Add the width of stand to L, and draw from L through P the edge to I. The distance from A to I is 2 inches.

Insert a V at side under the pocket and on firm goods, which does not allow of stretching; insert in a small piece at neck, as shown on diagram, to give spring to the neck band.



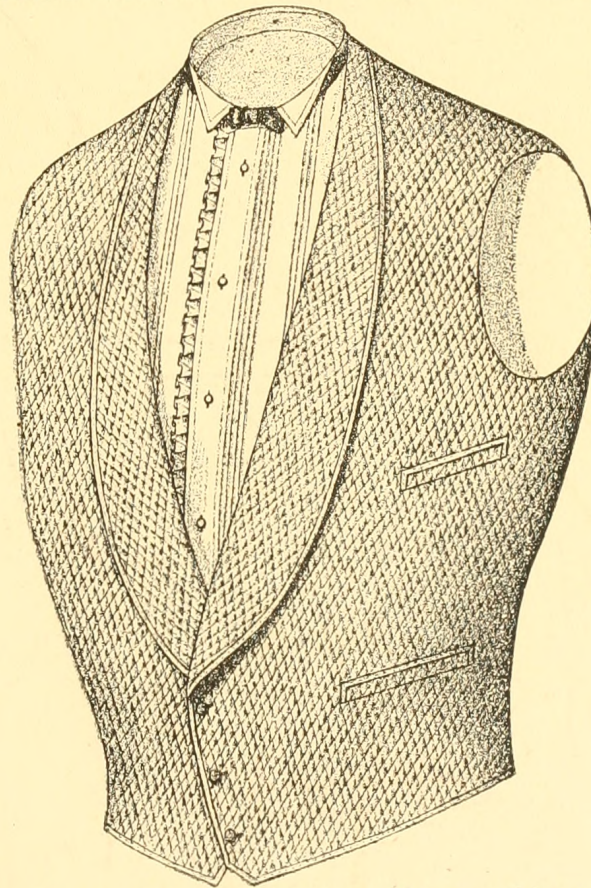


*Fig. 8.*

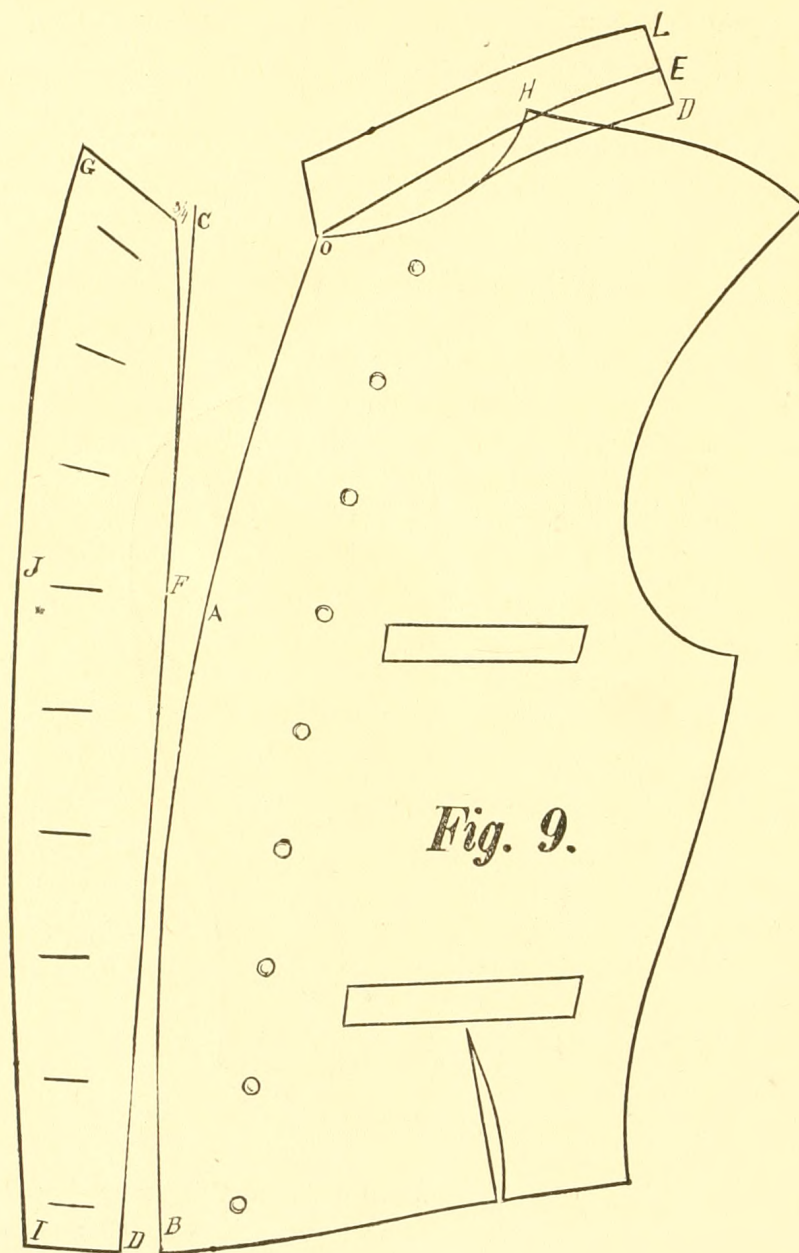
## Long Roll Dress Vest.

FIGURE 8.

**D**RAW the break line from the opening to the shoulder point.  
 Go below the line from E to L  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and then fix also point  
 P three-quarter inch below L.  
 From L to D re-draw the break line.  
 Now curve the seam of collar from H-D to I, which last is made one  
 or more inches above A.  
 Curve the outside line from E to A and finish. On such long roll it is



judicious to put in a V or two, but in doing this one thing must be attended to ; V's tend to hollow an edge, therefore when put into a collar seam on a vest, like the one under consideration, the line from D to I should be much straighter than when no V is put in. The curve of the collar, however, must remain as drawn on our diagram. If this is not done, as soon as the V is sewed up there will be a space between collar and front across the V, and the collar would not go on naturally or fairly, but would require forcing.



## Double-Breasted Vest.

FIGURE 9.



THE fronts of all double-breasted are drawn as described by figure 2, and therefore the front line O-A and B is the same as the line 14-V and 4 on Figure 2.

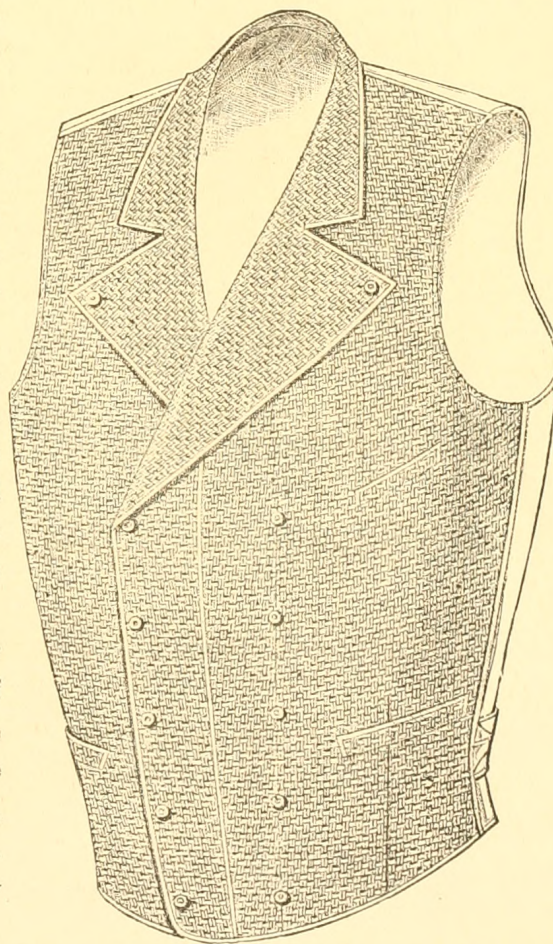
In this vest a separate lapel is added. Draw a straight line like C-D. This must be the same length from D up to C as the front edge of the forepart.

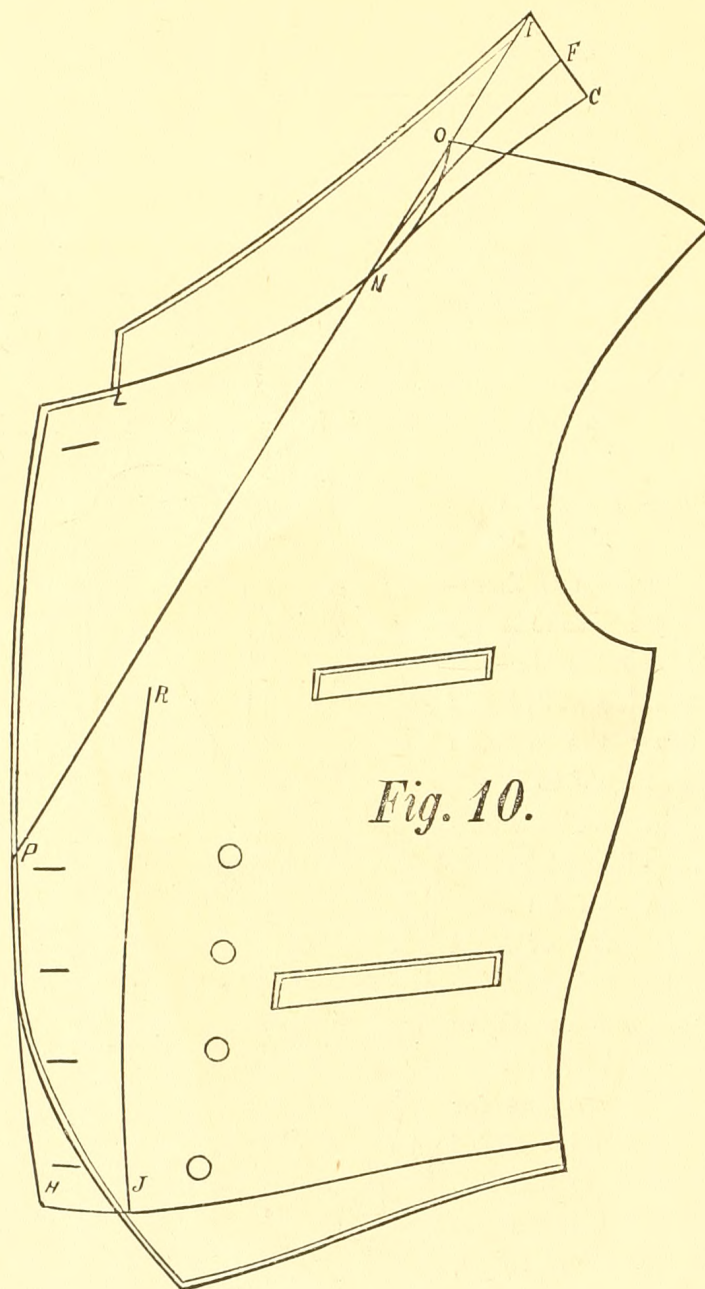
Go into a curve from C three-quarters of an inch. Make it any size to taste, 2 inches at bottom is about right, and 3 at J,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  at top. Then draw the outside curve from G through J to I.

Space the buttons and button-holes. To get the line of button row take the distance from front of hole to inside edge of lapel and place the same back from the front edge of vest, which will give the place they should be put.

From O to H draw a line for collar break, add the length of back from H to L, drop below L 14 inches to E, and curve the break line, add the stand to D, and curve seam from D to O. Add also the lay-down and draw the outside edge.

This vest is very much desired by such men whose age or pursuits call for comfort more than style.





*Fig. 10.*

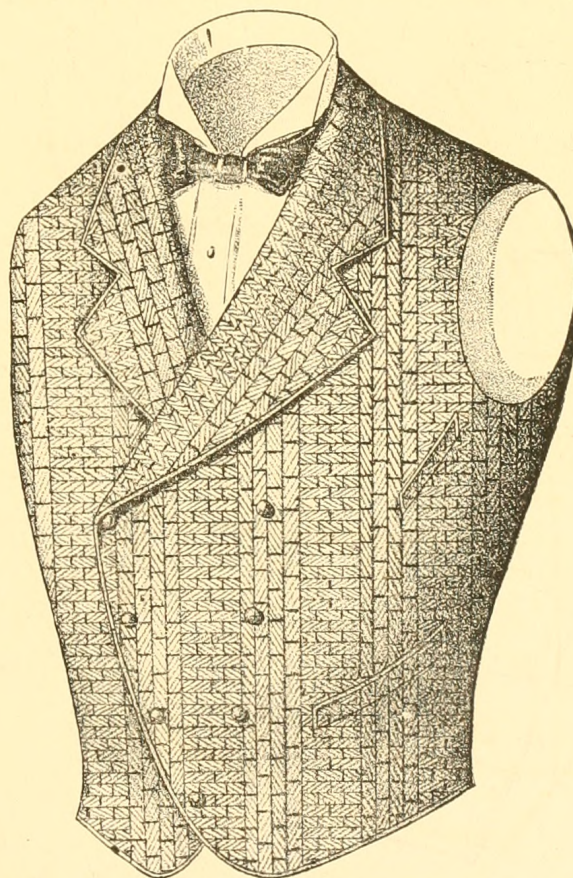
## Double-Breasted Vest.

FIGURE 10.

**I**N adding to the front for lap there is no seam lost, so less addition will do. I have always found the majority of cutters to make the lap on these vests too great, and the consequence was a long open roll, gaping away from the breast.

Add on at bottom from I forward 2 inches and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to P.

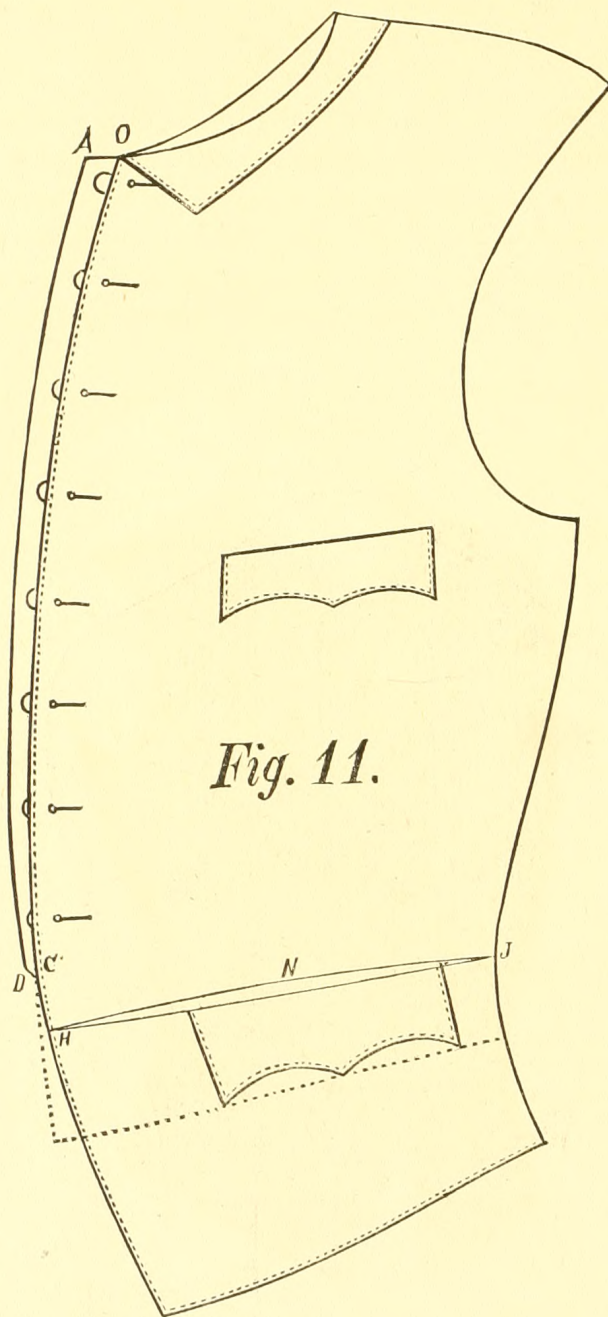
Draw the front edge and extend it up in such shape as appears suitable for



the style wanted; place the buttons and holes, and form the collar by the same methods as already sufficiently described.

For a cut-away, curve what is desired, and lengthen the front more.

A short cut-away would not be a desirable vest to wear.



*Fig. 11.*

## Footman's Vest.

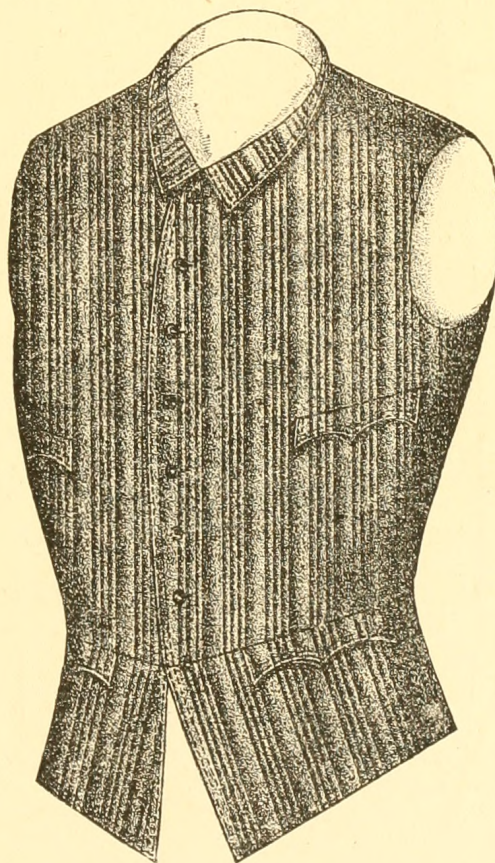
FIGURE 11.

**T**HESE vests are made generally extra long, to cover the hip well. Like livery-coats they button up high, and must fit neat and clear, not only about the shoulders, but in the back also.

They are also often worn with sleeves: and in that case the armhole will require to be made somewhat smaller, and an ordinary coat-sleeve set in.

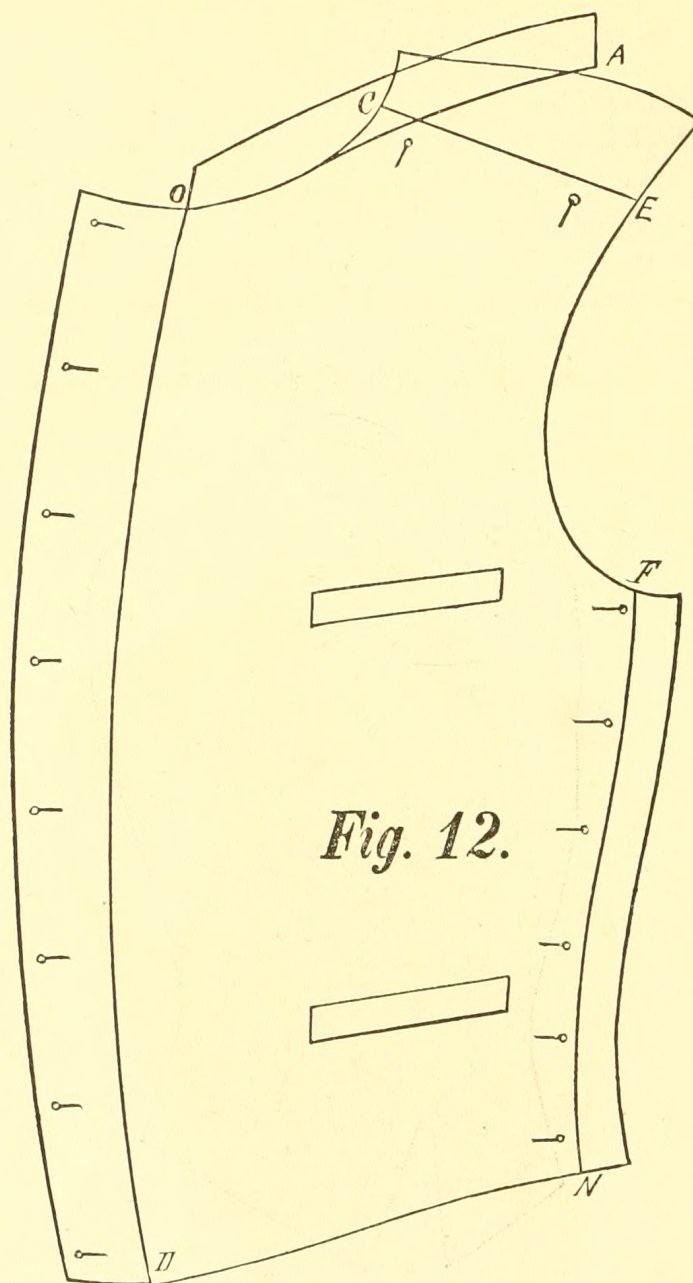
A turn-down collar and pointed flaps are customary finish for these garments.

That they may fit better over the hips, when made very long, it is much



superior work to cut them across as shown on the diagram, and in such a case a cut is taken out one-half inch in size at N, thus creating a spring over the hips.

The diagram also shows the extra lap for button-stand, added on in front, which should be on every single-breasted vest of whatever style.



## Clergymen's Vest.

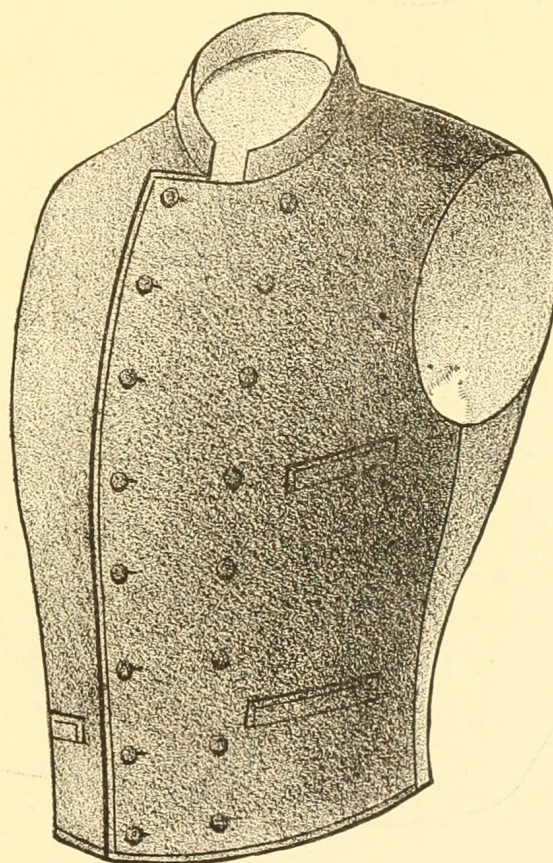
FIGURE 12.



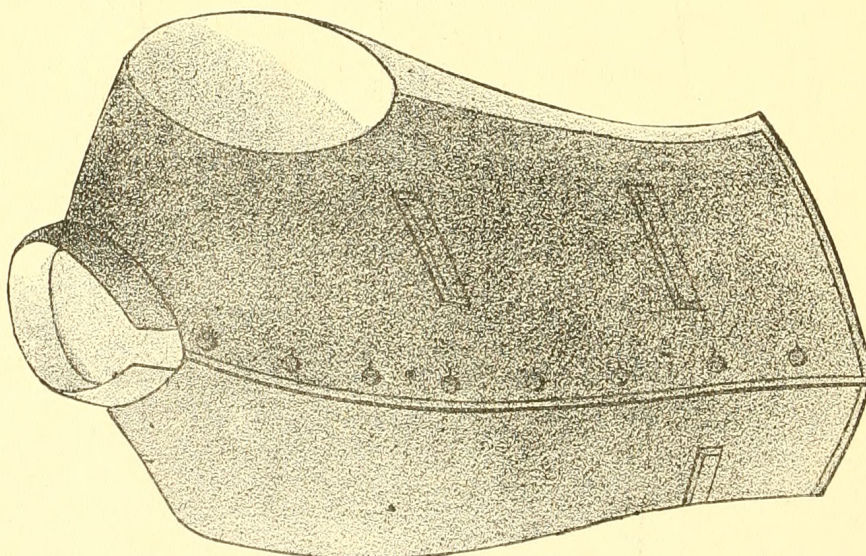
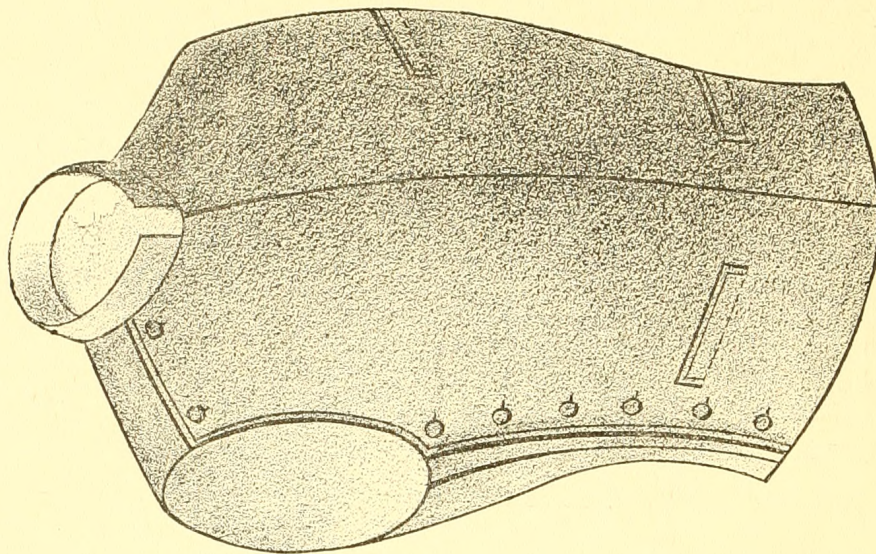
HIS form of vest is entirely confined to priests or clergymen of the several denominations.

They are difficult to cut, especially in the hands of the inexperienced cutter.

We have illustrated three different styles, namely: the single-breasted,



which has already been explained. The double-breasted, and the full front.













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