

**PATTERN ALTERATIONS:**to compensate for  
**broad shoulders**

Shaped blouses, figure-following jackets and slinky tops are now trendy but they feel constricting for anyone with wide shoulders – individually altered sewing pattern pieces provide the solution!

**Useful  
to know**

► As a rule you should always compare your particular measurements with those on the Burda size charts! In this case note the difference between your own size and the Burda size, then alter your pattern pieces appropriately.

If you have to widen your shoulder width by more than 2 centimetres ( $\frac{3}{4}$ "), you should check your upper arm width too, because broad shoulders usually mean correspondingly large upper arms. Therefore you'll probably also have to widen your sleeves to provide an optimum overall fit.

**Quick and easy steps  
to a perfect fit**

● For **sleeveless** styles and for styles with **set-in sleeves**, draw an alteration line on the front and back pattern pieces about 3 cm ( $1\frac{1}{4}$ ") from the top of the armhole, from the shoulder edge to the waist (figure 1). At waist level, cut into the pattern pieces from the side edge almost over to the

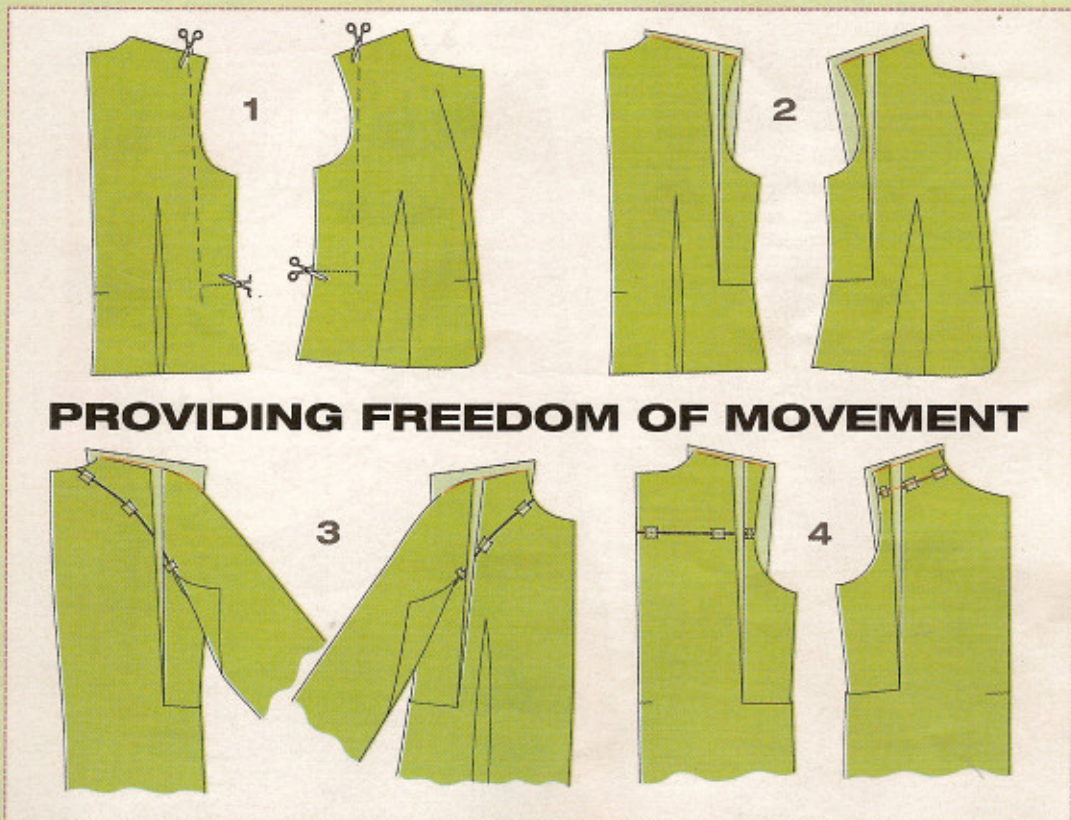
alteration line and along the alteration line from the shoulder edge almost down to the horizontal cut. Place pieces of paper under these cuts. Carefully spread apart shoulder edge of the vertical cut in the pattern pieces by the extra amount you need for your shoulder width – tapering down to the waist – and tape the pattern piece edges onto sheets of paper underneath. Then draw in a new shoulder seam line from the neck to the armhole edge (figure 2).

● For styles with **raglan sleeves**, tape sleeve pattern pieces to the corresponding edges of the front and back pieces. At about 12 cm ( $4\frac{3}{4}$ ") from neck edge, draw a vertical alteration line from the shoul-

der to the waist marking. At waist level, cut into pattern pieces from the side edge almost over to the alteration line and along the alteration line from the shoulder edge almost down to this horizontal cut. Along this vertical cut, spread apart the shoulder edge of pattern pieces by the extra amount needed for your shoulder width, tapering down to the waist. Even off the "gap" on the shoulder edge (figure 3). Then remove the sleeve pattern pieces from the front and back pieces.

● For styles with **shoulder yokes**, tape the yoke pattern pieces to the corresponding edges of the front and back pieces. For shirts with back yokes that extend over to

front, cut yoke piece apart at shoulder notch and tape to front piece (figure 4). Then widen the shoulder width as already explained in figures 1 and 2. Afterwards, remove the yoke pattern pieces from the front and back pattern pieces, taping back yoke pieces back together if necessary.

**PROVIDING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT**

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In our next  
**burda**  
magazine

See how to alter  
sewing patterns to  
fit the proportions  
of a long waist!