

## SEWING TIP: The ABCs of Fitting

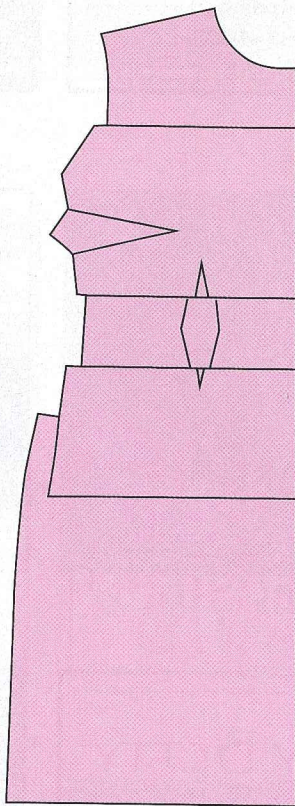
When fitting any pattern, remember your ABCs. L comes before W in the alphabet, and when fitting and altering garment patterns. That means always adjust length (L) before making changes to width (W).

By first altering a pattern for correct length placements (bust, waist, and hip levels), you ensure that width changes are made in the correct places. Also, changing a pattern's length to correct its bust, waist, and hip levels may affect the change needed to the pattern's widths in these and other areas.

For example, if you shorten the pattern's bodice length 1 inch, the hip level also moves up 1 inch and may fit your curves better. Perhaps shortening the bodice length 1 inch requires lengthening the pattern below the waist to drop its hip level to match your hip depth.

If you make width changes before length changes, you'll need to correct the pattern's width again after adjusting for length.

*By Jacque Goldsmith, who lives in Seattle, Washington, and teaches ready-to-wear sewing techniques.*



*Note how shortening the pattern's length changes its major width placements and makes other changes necessary.*

## TEACHER'S CORNER: Meet the Sewing Educators Alliance

Sewing instructors provide invaluable teaching services locally and nationally. It makes sense that there should be an organization to support their professional endeavors.

The Sewing Educators Alliance (SEA) was founded in 2002 by the Vacuum & Sewing Dealers Trade Association (SDTA/VDTA). Many SDTA/VDTA members sell sewing machines and repair services, and offer sewing, quilting, and machine embroidery classes. SEA offers its members networking and educational opportunities to help expand their businesses and build their technology and teaching skills.

Once established as a member of SEA, sewing instructors receive a variety of benefits

and services. Members may also participate in annual retreats, cruises, regional meetings, and roundtable discussions, and they are encouraged to mentor aspiring professionals in the home sewing industry.

Each year, SEA publishes the Sewing Educators Yearbook, a directory of its members, which is sent to sewing dealers and other related businesses who offer workshops to their home sewing customers.

SEA members can pursue the organization's Certified Sewing Educator designation by completing 30 education points. Certification must be maintained through ongoing professional education. Learn more at [SewingEducators.com](http://SewingEducators.com).

## Workshops/Events

### July 19–20

**Weekend with Kenneth D. King**, Janie's Sewing Corner, Cleveland, Ohio. Saturday's sessions are "Dirty Little Secrets" and "Cool Tricks for Embellishments;" Sunday's is "Working with Faux Furs." Cost: single day \$70; both days \$130. [JaniesSewingCorner.com](http://JaniesSewingCorner.com)

### July 24–28

**American Sewing Guild National Conference**, St. Louis, Missouri. This year's keynote speaker is Nancy Zieman. Workshops, seminars, and lectures for a range of sewing interests and every level of sewing skill. Cost: \$495 (members)/\$595 (nonmembers). [ASG.org](http://ASG.org)

### July 31–August 4

**Costume College 2014**, Woodland Hills, California. Hosted by Costumer's Guild West, this educational conference spans costuming topics ranging from historical to science fiction and fantasy, with workshops, special social events, and a vendor hall. Cost: \$115 (guild members)/\$175 (nonmembers); extra fees for special events. [CostumeCollege.net](http://CostumeCollege.net)

### September 16–21

**Smocking Arts Guild of America Convention**, Orlando, Florida. Many popular SAGA teachers and other sewing experts teach classes in pattern alteration and drafting, soft-bag construction, smocking, embroidery, and fine hand- and machine sewing. Class fees start at \$95. [Smocking.org](http://Smocking.org)

### September 21–28

**San Francisco Sewing Retreat with Sandra Betzina**, San Francisco, California. Five full seminar days focused on pattern selection for figure flattery, a personal-fit formula, pattern alteration, and more. Cost: \$2,625 (shared hotel room)/\$3,350 (private hotel room). [PowerSewing.com](http://PowerSewing.com)

### September 27–October 1

**Vashon Island Sewing Retreat**, Vashon Island, Washington. The Stitching Girls Society's annual Vashon Island Sewing Retreat at Camp Burton offers a minivacation with classes in garment sewing and quilting. Cost: \$395 (society members); \$420 (nonmembers). [VashonIslandSewingRetreat.com](http://VashonIslandSewingRetreat.com)