LESSON V.

Supply yourself with a plain, two gore skirt pattern as near your waist and hip size as possible. After your measures have been taken, compare them with the measures of your pattern and alter your pattern so that it will exactly correspond with your measures taken.

When you have your pattern properly altered, you are ready to cut your skirt. Fold material on double lengthwise; fold and lay the straight side of the front gore of your pattern to the fold of your material; pin securely. Do the same thing with the back gore. Now cut carefully and you are ready to pin and baste.

Full directions have been given in Lesson II on the buying and sponging of material, altering patterns, cutting, fitting and finishing of the Five Gore Skirt. These directions apply in general to the making of any kind of skirt, therefore it is quite unnecessary to repeat them here. But it is most essential that we follow some special details in the making of each of the several kinds of skirts given in these lessons.

The Two Piece Skirt may be closed on the left side, and have a seam on the right; or it may be closed directly down the center, front or back, and have the sides left plain. This all depends upon the style of skirt you wish. The placket of these skirts may be either long or short or the skirt may be closed all the way down with large buttons and buttonholes. Such a skirt as this is usually finished up quite plainly, the effect desired is strictly tailored and to attempt any trimming outside of buttons would tend to destroy the tailored lines. The front gore may lap over the back with a wide tuck that is stitched ¾ in. from edge. A straight narrow belt may be stitched to the skirt; or if the high waist line is fashionable, then make your skirt high waist if you prefer that style and it is in keeping with your figure. The short, stout woman should never cater to this fashion if she does not want to accentuate her abbreviated condition. To effect the high waist style,
cut your skirt about 2 in. higher than the normal waist line. Curve skirt slightly in at waist.

For those desiring to cut skirts from actual measurements we will give you full directions and you can cut your own patterns. The same measurements are taken for every skirt and when once you have grasped the principle involved in the skirt drafting, you will have no trouble to cut a well fitting garment.

For a Two Gore Skirt one-half the hip measure is divided by two; so is the waist measure. Drop for a 2 in. curve at top on both gores. The width of the back gore is about 4 inches wider than the front. If the skirt is to be 2 yards around the bottom then one-half of this is 1 yard or 36 in. If the back is to be 4 in. wider than the front then we will make the front gore at the bottom 18 in. and the back 22 in. If wide skirts are in fashion, then these figures must be increased accordingly.

See Figure 43 for 38 hip, 24 waist, 38 length front, 39½ length side, 39½ length back. This is the average skirt and these figures will be used for all skirts in these lessons.

The length of a skirt for the average person is 1½ in. longer on side and back than front, therefore in cutting you must measure down from waist to hem from center front to back and mark the length of your skirt—each measure you will notice gets a little longer until it reaches directly over the hips, then it remains the same across the back, as is the hip length.

In cutting any skirt be sure to allow for the desired width of hem, also allow ¼ in. for seam at top and bottom and ½ in. on each gore for seams, unless there is a wide overlapping seam desired, then allow the amount on each seam that is desired for the overlap.

The Three Gore Skirt is cut on the same principle, only the proportions are different, as there are three pieces in the garment. Drop front gore at top 1 in. for curve, the back gore 2 in. One-half the hip measure is divided to make the three gores. This style of skirt usually has a wide panel in front and the other two gores join with a seam directly down the center back. The panel for the front should be cut the width that is the proper proportion for skirts at the time this lesson is learned. Styles change so rapidly that it is almost impossible to give any set rules to follow in the cutting of such garments, but when you
have once learned the principles for the cutting of certain garments it is an easy matter to adjust them to fit the mode of the moment. The gores are sloped in from the hip line, which is 6 in. below the waist line, to the waist until we have the waist size. Great care should be taken here to have the lines correct. Be sure not to have them drag toward the back. These lines should be one straight line from waist, through hip to hem. See Figure 44.

Drafting of Four Gore Skirt. This skirt consists of four pieces, panel front and back and one gore on each side. Drop front gore 1 in. at waist, side gore 1½ in., and back ½ in.

To get the proportions of such a skirt, you take one-half the hip measure and divide it according to the several pieces. The panel for front is marked off the width determined by the prevailing fashion; so is the width of back gore determined. The balance of the one-half hip measure is given to the side gore. The waist size is gotten in the same manner as in the other skirts, so is the bottom. The back panel should always be narrower at hips than the front and wider at bottom than front. If a Four Gore Skirt is to be 2 yards around or 36 in. for the one-half then we will make it 8 in. front at hem, 16 in. for side at hem, and 12 in. for back at hem. See Figure 45.

Drafting of Nine Gore Skirt. There are six side gores, one front gore and two back gores, or three gores on each side and one back gore on each side with seam down center back. Drop each gore ½ in. at top. The width of the front gore at hips is determined on, the back gores are a little narrower at hips and the remainder of the one-half of hip measure is divided equally among the three side gores. The first side gore at bottom can be narrower than the other two. See Figure 46.

Drafting of the Fifteen Gore Skirt. Drop each gore ¼ in. at top. This skirt has six side pieces cut double for the two sides, has a front gore and a back gore. The width of front gore is determined on, the back is made slightly smaller and the remainder of the one-half the skirt measure is divided equally among the six remaining gores. They are all the same size, and the ones over hips and back are 1½ in. longer than front. You see each gore is ¼ in. shorter in front at top than on sides at top; if they were ½ in. shorter it would give too much curve to the skirt at top and the skirt would not hang well. The greater number
of gores, the less the curve at top. See Figure 47.

The Five Gore Skirt is a very popular model, as it is suitable for both outside skirts and for slips. This skirt has a front gore, one side gore, cut double, and back gore cut double. The width of front gore is determined on, and the back gore is made a little narrower than the front, the remainder of one-half the front gore is given to the side gore. You must thoroughly understand that the width of front and back gores depend entirely upon the fashion of the moment, and there are no set rules as to width of hem. Supposing the hip measures 38 in. One half of this is 19—we always use one-half the hip measure because we are cutting only one-half of the skirt pattern. The style at the time these lessons are arranged calls for a wide front, in fact, all skirts at this time have few gores. Then we will make the front gore 5 in., the back 4½ in., as it is always narrower than the front. You have used 5 in. for the front, 4½ in. for the back and you then have 9½ in. taken up in these two gores; then 19 in. less 9½ in. leaves 9½ in., for the width of the side gore at the hip. The waist measure we will suppose is 24 in. The front gore will run about 4 in. at waist, the back 3½ in., leaving 4½ in. for the side gore at waist. Supposing the bottom is 2 yards around, then 36 in. is one-half of this. The front gore we will make 8 in. at bottom portion, the back 10 in. at lower portion and the side gore will then be 18 in. You must remember that each gore is dropped 1 in. in the cutting at waist to give the required curve at top.

The Eight Gore Skirt is the same as the Nine Gore Skirt except there is no seam down center back; the material for back gore is folded on double and cut same as front gore, only it is a little narrower at hip.

All pattern measurements should be tested thoroughly before you attempt to put the scissors to your material. Always be sure you have allowed for the ½ in. seam at top and bottom, the amount necessary for a hem, and the seam allowance on each gore. Be very sure that the pattern is properly pinned to the cloth, and that the sizes of each gore taken together will measure the amount required either around hips, waist, or bottom of skirt.

ADVICE TO THE LEARNER.

If learning dressmaking consisted only of mastering the cutting of patterns accurately, it would be a comparatively
easy task to learn the art. Each preceding lesson has given you an idea of the measurements necessary for the cutting of patterns, also how to cut these patterns so they will properly fit the person for whom you are making these garments. But there is much more to learn—you merely have been given the rudiments of plain and simple things which will eventually lead you on to the more complicated affairs of a woman’s wardrobe.

Beginners in dressmaking are apt to make large stitches in sewing and their work will look mussy and unfinished. Endeavor always to make your stitches of even length and measure the width of all seams. If you have made one side of a garment or a design, then lay the other upon the finished side that the two may be exactly alike—for nothing so destroys the appearance of a garment as to have it uneven or out of proportion. If trimmings are applied be very careful that they are even in every particular, that they are applied artistically and that they are securely fastened. Buttons or ornaments applied should be of even distance apart and made secure to the garment. All hooks and eyes and bones must be well put on. It is these small details that go to make the well finished garment. Exercise patience in sewing. If a seam has been wrongly stitched or any mistake whatever has been made, be not afraid to rip it out, and do it again until the work is properly done. Learners are apt to get impatient in a desire to “get on,” that they may make high-class gowns. Speed is not the beginner’s test as to her progress; principles must be learned first; material must be obtained before the house can be built.

Carefully correct all your finished work if you have no teacher according to your own ideas. Criticise your own work, for in so doing the principles are more securely impressed upon your mind.

FIVE RULES TO REMEMBER.

1. Stitching Seams. If you have your seams stitched on the outside, leave one seam open until all your other seams are finished.

2. Short walking skirts should be even distance around from the floor—the distance depending upon the fashion and upon the taste of the wearer.
3. When making a ribbon belt put feather bone in the front, sides and back of it.

4. Open and press waist seams; if cloth dampen, if silk do not.

5. Yokes should always be fastened either in the back or on shoulder, never in front.

QUESTIONS.

1. Draw a diagram of a two-piece skirt and illustrate how you would go about to draft a pattern that will exactly fit yourself?

2. How many side gores in the nine gore skirt?

3. Why do you consider it important to test measures before cutting out your cloth?

4. What is the difference between the eight and nine gore skirt?

5. From what you have learned in this lesson, cut and make a model of a fifteen gore skirt, stitching and finishing hem and placket as it should be finished.

6. Explain how to obtain the proportions of any gored skirt.

7. What difference is there between the front, side and back of a skirt for the average person?

8. Why is it essential to give especial care to the lines from hip to waist?

9. Describe in detail the making of a Nine Gore Skirt—from the buying of the material to the finished garment.

10. Why is it essential to give so much attention to the Gored Skirt?