WHAT’S NEW AT PALMER/PLETSCH

To me, the most exciting thing happening is that we have been doing an accumulation of projects that are putting The Palmer/Pletsch Tissue-Fitting Method on the map. Honestly, we had never even thought that we were creating a brand, but only Palmer/Pletsch teachers teach it. We want to start promoting it and YOU more.

We are getting the word out about The Palmer/Pletsch Tissue-Fitting Method by doing Craftsy classes, a new fit pattern for McCall’s, and a two-page spread we wrote for the back of the McCall’s catalog on how to buy the right size pattern. (They missed some art, but will add it back for the next catalog. I have put what we submitted below.)

First, a little history. We (Marta and I) were the first (after James McCall) to advocate buying a pattern by the high bust measurement. We didn’t invent tissue-fitting, but it had not been developed into a system of fitting. Early examples of tissue fitting showed a tissue on a woman, but said nothing about what to do next. In one 1940s sewing book, it was used to check proportions (length and width) of the design on your body. Then all fitting was done using a muslin, which was slashed and spread to fit the body.

What Marta and I have done is to skip the muslin and do all the width, length, and slash-and-spread right on the tissue. We have spent about 40 years perfecting this and we are feeling really good about its success. Our next major project will be to do a new fit book that encompasses what we have learned since 1995. I have stuffed my revision copy with sticky notes and welcome anything you would want to add to the new book. Read on to find out more.

Happy Sewing,

Gati Palmer

Remember, all past issues of this newsletter can be read online at: www.palmerpletsch.com/teachers_newsletter.htm
This is the first new fit dress since 1983. The former, M2718, was good for the shape of the pieces, but that was all. It looked nothing like our new patterns. It was single-sized, had no alteration lines on the tissue, and no tissue-fitting in the guide. And it was special order only.

The new pattern has sizes 6-22 in one envelope with a set of only three sizes per sheet. It can become your road map to the alterations you’d need to make for the most fitted design you’d sew. Plus, we added some fashion details so it can also be a great fitted sheath dress.

THE CATALOG PAGES

I wish the dress had been fitted to this model since she does not need front skirt darts, except that McCall’s has to make it up according to the pattern details. When the photo goes a bit sour, I cry a lot since this pattern has taken hundreds of hours and many people’s time. But guess who is the most critical!!

THE NEW FIT PATTERN

Palmer/Pletsch Certified Sewing Instructors will be receiving a free copy soon. If you are not a CSI, take a look at our teacher list on our website. We’ve added photos, your website if you have one, business name and contact information. There is an application form on the teacher resources section of the website: www.palmerpletsch.com
Melissa Watson designed the catalog page and the envelope to emphasize the alteration lines printed on the tissue, and the new logo promotes The Palmer/Pletsch Tissue-Fitting Method. If you would like that logo for your use in promoting your fit classes, write to Linda Wisner at wizbiz@wisnercreative.com.

Check out the press release we sent out about this new fit pattern. It’s on our website.

Here are the “Buy the Right Size” pattern pages that will be at the back of the McCall’s catalog:
NEW CRAFTSY CLASS ON FITTING KNITS

Melissa and I have been working with Craftsy and have immediately introduced the tissue concept to thousands worldwide. We also just completed a Fitting Knits class for Craftsy. It should be available soon.

Some of you have said that our first two classes—Easy Fitting the Palmer/Pletsch Way: Shirts and Tops and Easy Fitting the Palmer/Pletsch Way: Pants—caused some who bought the class and liked tissue-fitting to get in touch with local teachers. In all of the classes we have mentioned finding a Palmer/Pletsch teacher near you for hands-on classes—the ultimate learning experience.

CREATIVELIVE.COM

Creative Live is a San Francisco and Seattle-based company that specialized in photography classes and is moving into sewing. One of our past fit workshop students, Marianne Madriaga, has a daughter who is in charge of the new sewing division, and Marianne recommended us highly to her. I was asked to do the class and then convinced Marta that we needed to do it together to leave a legacy.

We left for Seattle Tuesday morning to film a three-day fit workshop for CreativeLive.com. If we are terribly thorough and show our newest methods, it will be a great refresher for you for teaching fit. We will also be promoting our teachers both online and in the class handouts because, again, there is nothing better than hands-on.

Nancy Seifert is facilitating the class and offered her studio for us to prefit the students/models. Nancy herself will also be fitted. We will fit four women in the new basic dress fit pattern and will fabric-fit one of them in it. We will tissue-fit tops on the other three and in fabric as well. I am so glad Marta is willing to do this, even though she is cutting back, since she is the fit guru most of the time. And then I am good at putting on paper what I learn from Marta. But we also “invent” together and have a blast doing it!

McCALL’S BLOG POST ON FIT

Meg Carter Blog for McCall’s asked a question about RTW vs. pattern sizing. This was a hot topic. Meg cut off comments after 150 posts so they could review and learn from what was said. I couldn’t help adding my own comments based on experience and in some cases to correct misconceptions. You may want to read what was said. Education is so important. That means YOU are important. Here is the link.

http://blog.mccall.com/2015/10/08/discussion-topic-pattern-sizes-vs-rtw-sizes/#comment-178686

sample comments from McCall’s blog:

[Image of comments from McCall’s blog]
You know that young people are the whizzes of social media. Well, finally the PP Facebook page is blossoming and attracting new likes on a daily basis because Melissa is posting. Also the new blog, which has replaced Fashion for Real People, is gaining followers. She is doing Instagram and many other things to keep Palmer/Pletsch in the forefront. I sincerely hope this will help you as well. If you are using the Palmer/Pletsch name, logo, new tissue-fitting logo, CSI logo etc. in your own promotion, I think our growing presence will help you too. Linda Wisner just created a list of all of our links so you can follow us:

Blog:
palmerpletschblog.com

Instagram:
@melissawatson4palmerpletsch
@palmerpletsch

Facebook:
Palmer/Pletsch Fashion Sewing

Pinterest:
https://www.pinterest.com/mwmelissawatson/

Twitter:
https://twitter.com/MWMelissaWatson

Patterns:

And of course the Palmer/Pletsch website.
www.palmerpletsch.com

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our Facebook page:
SHEER GENIUS

September 14, 2015

Using Perfect Fuse Sheer I was able to manipulate a sheer silk gingham into a wearable skirt (without lining!) from my McCall’s skirt and top pattern - M7166.

I haven’t sewn with a lightweight silk in a long time, not to mention a sheer, NOT to mention GATHERS.

BELOW ARE THE TECHNIQUES I USED IN FITTING AND SEWING TO MAKE MY SKIRT THE BEST QUALITY CUSTOM “MADE TO MEASURE” GARMENT:

1) Used Perfect Fuse Sheer fusible interfacing- to make the yoke area of the skirt opaque (and modest!).

2) French seams in the side seams.

3) A little tip on gathers.

4) Tissue fitting/fabric fitting.
NEW PRINCESS FIT DRESS PATTERN

We are doing a princess dress with alteration lines and our latest princess fit techniques. It will be out in the spring catalog, which comes out in February. It is a shoulder princess dress. M7352. It will be a great pattern for the very busty, since shoulder princess works better than an armhole princess for these women.

VIEW B
3/4 SLV
ROYAL BLUE
2” ABOVE KNEE

PHOTO
VIEW A
LONG SLEEVE
MID CALF
BURGUNDY

VIEW C
SLEEVELESS
ANKLE LENGTH
DARK PRINT

TEACHER RESOURCES

Don’t forget to take a look at all of the teacher resources on the Teacher Resource section of our website. There may be things you could use in teaching. I will be creating new fit slides based on the new pattern. Yesterday we photographed Marta fitting me in the dress for an interim slide presentation that will be fine-tuned on a model for the new book. But if you are about to teach a fit workshop, let me know and I will send you the new PowerPoint slides.

Request at patipalmer@aol.com.
NEWS FROM YOU

Remember, you earn CSI Professional Development Units for submitting articles to this newsletter.

From Carolyn Williams, Newport News, VA

I wanted to tell you about the exciting fit class I was able to teach at Hancock Fabrics in Hampton using Palmer/Pletsch fitting methods. It was so much fun working with the ladies and showing them how their bodies differed from commercial patterns. Once the participants signed up for the class, they were supplied with a list of the various supplies needed for the class and detailed instructions on how to take a high-bust measurement to obtain the correct pattern size. I asked them to bring M6750 in their size with the front and back pieces for the sleeveless version cut out. Since the class was small (there were three students), I was able to measure everyone and, to their amazement, reveal their true size. All three had been buying the wrong size!

Everyone took advantage of watching each other as they completed tissue fittings and adjustments even if the changes were not adjustments needed for themselves. We were even able to complete the sleeve adjustments with the time that was left in the class. We accomplished a lot in one day. We got to see the tissue fitting done, manipulate the patterns, check measurements, use the book, and one of the students even went home and made a jacket that evening.

They all seemed to really enjoy the day and I got lots of positive feedback. They were really fantastic ladies and I am looking forward to doing it again!

From Beverly Vance, Garland, TX

Pati, I am, indeed, having lots of fun. Just finished a week-long sewing camp for kids on behalf of the Baby Lock dealer where I give adult lessons. It was truly rewarding to watch that group of girls find out what they could do with a sewing machine! I’m absolutely exhausted, but so proud of what the kids accomplished! I truly appreciate your taking time to view my website—it’s only a beginning, but I had a wonderful person to work with to get me started on the technology end, so it’s a work in progress. And thank you so much for the link in the newsletter.

At the risk of sounding a little sappy, I truly would not have had the confidence to embark on this adventure before coming to the workshop last summer. I’m anxious to get to one of the fit workshops in order to incorporate that in my teaching, so I’m saving up for a trip back to Oregon or to Pamela’s session in Philadelphia. Thank you for the information about the Beginning Fit that I can access online. Much appreciated! Also, Linda did send me the logo last year in 2 different formats, so I used that for the website and for my business cards—forgot to attach a photo of that with my renewal app, so it’s attached here. (see below)

Thank you again for all your support,
Beverly

NOTE Beverly took Beginning Sewing Teacher Training in June 2014. Her website is excellent promoting her classes. Take a look!
http://sewsosimply.com/classes.html
From Kathleen Swanson, 
Valley Center, CA 
sewqueen56@icloud.com

Hi Pati,

I wanted to share the final results of my Fitted Princess Jacket class. The ladies surprised me with a second jacket.

The jackets are fabulous! And they fit!

Pati Says: Kathleen, these photos prove you are a great fit teacher and tailoring teacher. WOW!