UNDERSTANDING MODEL A ERA PATTERN SIZING By Jeanie Adair

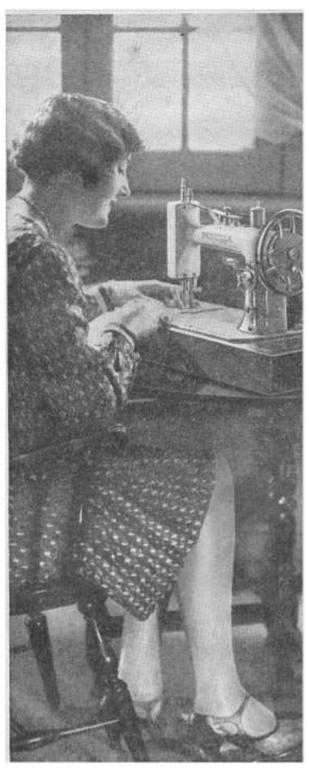
What a treasure and resource we have with the new *Model A Era Fashion Pattern Catalog* that has been published by MAFCA. (Check out the MAFCA STORE on the web site if you haven't seen it.)

I thought some comparison of the sizing of patterns was in order. You might think you are a size 14, so you pick up an era pattern that has "Size 14" clearly marked on it. You take the pieces out of the envelope and right away notice they look rather small. You're very observant!

So let's analyze the situation a bit. Looking in the old catalogs can be confusing with the different women's size charts listed. To complicate things further, different companies had different standards. Or maybe the problem was the lack of standard sizing from one company to another. Here are examples from a 1931 National Bellas Hess catalog:

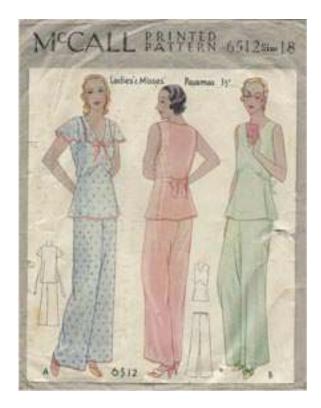
<u>JUNIORS</u>									
SIZE		13	1	5	1	7	1	9	
BUST		31	33	3	3!	5	3	7	
<u>MISSES</u>									
SIZE		14	16		18	18		20	
BUST		32	34	4	36	6	3	8	
WOMEN	<u>S</u>								
BUST	36	38	40	42		44	4	-6	
STOUT V	VON	<u>1ENS</u>							
BUST	39	41 43	45	47	49	51	53	55	

These do not compare with sizing we are familiar with today as Juniors, Misses and Women's sizes in our stores, catalogs and patterns. We have more standardization today than they did during the Model A era. (Of course we all know sizes do <u>still</u> vary a little from one manufacturer to another.)



Do not let today's sizing influence you when thinking in terms of era pattern sizes. They just are not the same!

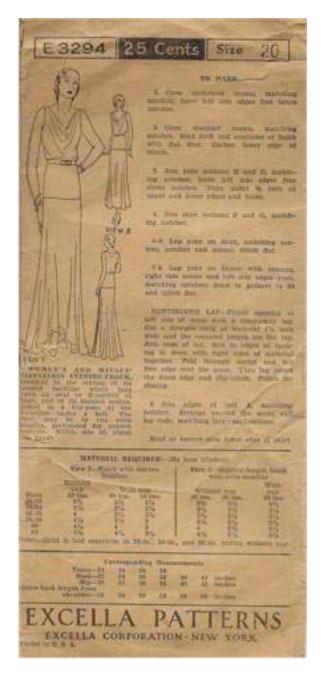
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This McCall's era pattern clearly states it's a size 18, however when checking the corresponding measurements on the back of the pattern envelope it shows that size 18 has a bust measurement of 36. (See the chart below.) This would be a Misses' size, meaning for the young miss. You will note the pattern does say "Ladies' & Misses" on the front.

MATERIAL REQUIRED Sie	14.	10	18	34
Clear 3 - With Con Street Charles Manual (Without and) Charles	#16 #16 #16 #16 16	45 All 16	25-62	一次は かって
View BWidout Shaves	100	64	44	65
12 ban Marcial (Webser san)	315 276	机		

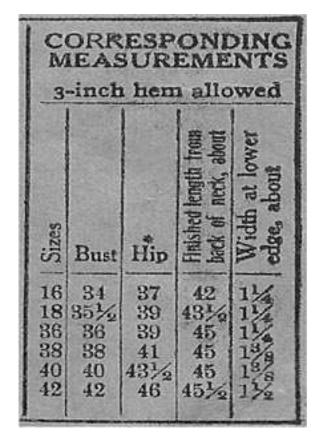
McCall's era pattern 6512, size 18.



This Excella pattern is marked size 20 with the corresponding measurements chart listing that as a bust size of 38 and hips 41. Note the chart also says "Years" for the size. The era catalogs also used 'years' for sizing. This is another inconsistency with pattern sizing.

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Sometimes the bust size was the pattern size. Check out the following chart from McCall's pattern 4867. Note it lists sizes 16 and 18, but also 36, 38, 40 and 42 with corresponding bust measurements.



Are you confused yet??? Be careful and study the pattern envelope thoroughly before purchasing a pattern. Compare the era size charts to figure out what your closest era size will be. Keep in mind you may need to make some adjustments to the pattern so it will fit you. By researching the sizing issues of era patterns I think we can consider the "Junior" and "Misses" sizes are for the younger ladies and "Women's" and "Stout Women's" sizes would be for the more mature figured ladies. Enjoy the hunt as we learn more about the fashions of our Model A era.



Here are two examples of patterns where the bust size is the pattern size.

