

# Education

Wardrobe Planning  
by Laura Simmons



I like to think of wardrobe planning the same as website planning.

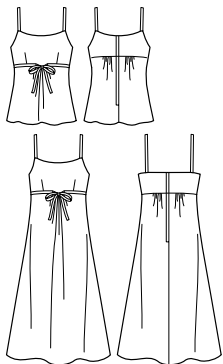
The home page is the gathering area and from there you would find sub-pages: one for casual wear, one for office wear, one for evening wear, you get it. Within the "office wear" page there might be more sub-pages broken down by seasons, colors or even weights and textures.

If you've ever written website content (and if you haven't, you can probably imagine), you can really grow to appreciate the old "cut and paste" option. The same goes for a wardrobe: if you have a top that can go from casual wear to office wear or a jacket that can be blinged up to transition from office to evening, your sewing time will be reduced.

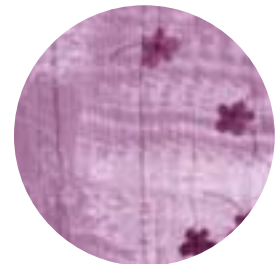
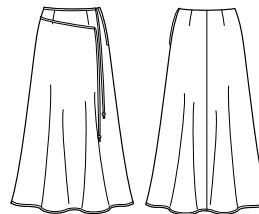
Try to plan your new fabrics so they will coordinate well with your current clothes. To have the most versatility with the fewest items, mix and match your colors. Choose one or two solid colors. For a classic look, use neutral colors such as black or beige; for a more trendy look, choose the rich hues or soft pastels of the season. With coordinating colors, two tops and two bottoms can make six outfits instead of two. Bright, multi-colored tops can make neutrals more lively and seasonal.

With four patterns that give five garments, you can make eight different combinations with four fabrics by layering the long-sleeved blouse over the sleeveless top. By pulling one pair of solid black pants from your closet, you add three more possibilities. Careful planning and a healthy respect for color can go a long way to optimizing your possibilities and reducing your laundry!

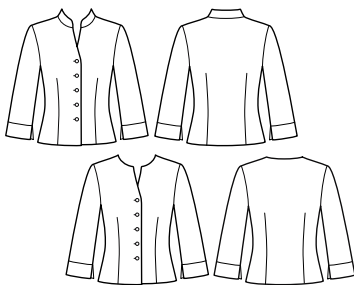
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