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## A Vintage Reality Check

*Wednesday, May 27, 2020*Voted Featured Blog Post  
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One benefit of my new normal – my house is becoming super organized. Yesterday, I tackled my “vintage closet” where I have saved clothes that hold special memories for me.

One surprise way in the back was a box of patterns. I used to sew a lot back then. Maybe I should give it a try again?

This one is dated 1974. Size 8 - Oh boy! I wear a size 8 now.

Oops, maybe not - WAIST 24 INCHES? YIKES!



What size would I need? Size 14?

Or if I wanted to breathe comfortably, size 16

MISSES' SKIRTS.						
Metric Conversion Chart given on enclosed direction sheet.						
Extra fabric is needed to match plaids, stripes or one-way designs. Not suitable for obvious diagonal fabrics.						
STANDARD BODY MEASUREMENTS	(Waist Hip - 9" below waist)	24 33½	25 34½	26½ 36	28 38	30 40
Fabric required		Sizes	8	10	12	14 16

I always knew that clothing manufacturers over the last 40 years have been gradually adding inches to each size as we have added inches to our bodies. The pattern industry has not done that.

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Note: "Sizing Creep" is different from the vanity sizing that has always occurred between manufacturers. Still, it was quite a wake up call to see it in black and white.

Oh well, acknowledging reality is no reason to be discouraged and one reason to explore this closet is to remember good times past.

I bought this pattern when DH sent me some "real silk" from Vietnam in 1970. While "real silk" wasn't a practical material for a new mother whose life revolved around a colicky infant, I wanted to show him I appreciated the gesture. So I bought this pattern



I wanted to make the middle view but there wasn't enough material so I made the jacket without sleeves. AND HERE IT IS!



I bought a blouse which had lovely embroidered sleeves to compensate for the lack of jacket sleeves.



It was a sad, scary time. I wondered then if we would ever go out together again so I could wear it.

We were more fortunate than many. I thought a lot about that over the Memorial Day Weekend.

Whenever I feel down about my new normal, I remember those who never got to live this new normal & resolve to do the right thing.

Stay safe. Stay well.

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**DARCY-B**

Thank you. We are fortunate as well. Thank you both for your dedication and sacrifices.  
257 days ago

[v](#)



**JULIJULINN**

Beautiful work.  
348 days ago

[v](#)



**METAFUKARI**

I was born in the 70's and never cared for the styles of the decade. I do appreciate good workmanship and quality though~  
360 days ago

[v](#)



**NANCYPAULINE**

I love vintage sewing patterns. And yes, I've experienced the up-sizing.  
370 days ago

[v](#)



**BEESELL8**

how beautiful that outfit and material are!  
371 days ago

[v](#)



**MWHIGGINS**

:)  
372 days ago

[v](#)

**HARRIETT14**

I use to do a lot of sewing too. I also went to a lot of yard sales. Well, about five years ago I hit the jackpot and went to one which the owner of a fabric store closed it. She had four tables of

[v](#)



fabric and each one was nicer than the other. My DH told me to stop looking and buy them all. He offered her a ridiculous price and she accepted it. I made loads of stuff for the Gkids, myself and gifts. I donated a lot as well. I still have two dresser draws full. What fun!!!!  
375 days ago



**DIANNEMT**

Love the patterns and that silk outfit is lovely!!  
375 days ago



**THOMS1**

A vintage closet and I for one could certainly fill one. Always good memories and if you wait long enough everything sooner or later comes back into style. I try to go through my closet whenever I come home from a trip and it is a very hard job to do. We certainly become attached to our clothes. I know I have a younger sister and when we visit she always has to go through her closet and we help her determine what she should keep and what to donate. She appreciates our



input as it is a big help. Have a great day and enjoy the weekend.  
376 days ago



**HAYBURNER1969**

I think your Size 10 dress pattern says "Bust - 32.5 inches". Makes sense because I fit in Grandma's formal gown from the 1960s(?) and it's a 10.  
376 days ago



Comment edited on: 5/29/2020 8:28:23 AM



**CD15653250**

Lovely blog...and the walks down memory lane.  
376 days ago



**2DAWN4**

I actually remember the first pattern. I use to sew for 4-H but haven't sewn clothes in many years!  
376 days ago



**ELSCO55**

Nice  
376 days ago



**MARKSMOM3**

I LIKE GREAT IT! JOB! Well Done!

376 days ago



**GETULLY**

Love the silk suit!  
376 days ago



**BUTTONPOPPER1**

A beautiful story. How wonderful that you saved these treasures to bring back cherished memories from your life. And what a blast from the past for me, too--I remember going "downtown" in our small Southern town of 3000 and buying Simplicity patterns at the variety store. But I never progressed to your skill level--you did a fantastic job on that outfit! So glad your story had a happy ending. I pray that our new normal will be even better than the old.



376 days ago



**STORKBYTE**

I too found 2 patterns from when my boys were young. So at least 20 to 25 years ago. I had made a pair of shorts, which I actually wore and a summer dress which I didn't finish. When I looked at the size on the pattern envelopes I felt sad. They too were size 8 patterns. Those days are long gone. Even with hard work and exercise, our menopausal bodies will only change so much. And genetically, I'm not a size 8 at 59. Just want to say, a vintage closet is such a great idea.  
377 days ago



**RACHNACH**

KEEP SPARKING!

377 days ago





**\_BELINDA**

v

Wonderful blog. I remember those patterns very well.  
377 days ago



**DONNALEE-53**

WOW. My goodness, they have changed. The outfit is very pretty. I wish I had leaned to sew like that.

v



377 days ago



**VESPAGIRL1027**

Cute vintage patterns!!! Yes - keep on sewing!!!  
377 days ago

v



**AZMOMXTWO**

what a fun blog to have all the then and now the good the bad the happy the sad

v

and oh my the way the sizes have changes wow  
377 days ago



**FITNIK2020**

That is an eye opener for sure. The skirt was really a classic.  
377 days ago

v



**UPTOIT59**

Your blog really hit me for some reason this morning- I think it was when you never knew if you would have an opportunity to wear it out. I am struggling with that now with the quarantining and social distancing. I am lucky because it has taken a long time to drag me down, but it has and

v

today I will also go through some memories to make me feel better! Have a great day.  
377 days ago



**LAURALLANCE**

What an eye opener those patterns are! I don't think I've used a pattern (don't sew very often now) for decades. Thanks for sharing the info. I should probably check out those patterns too! Enjoy your vintage clothes.

v



377 days ago



**MSLZZY**

I also sewed my own clothes before raising a family took my leisure time away and replaced it with so much more. I have a few patterns left too.  
377 days ago

v



**ALICIA363**

What a beautiful outfit!  
And a treasure. So glad your DH returned and you've had a wonderful life together.

v



377 days ago



**PLCHAPPELL**

great memory  
377 days ago

v



**RHOOK20047**

I remember my mother made her own clothes and used patterns. She did okay for herself, but her attempts to make shirts for my brothers and I were not a success! A blast from the past seeing those patterns from Simplicity.  
377 days ago

v



**GRAMPIAN**

Lovely jacket.  
377 days ago



v

v

**SUNNYBEACHGIRL**

I let a box of old patterns go when cleaning a closet. Brought back memories of when I was a young mother.


377 days ago

[v](#)**PAMBROWN62**

Thank you for sharing such a lovely memory.

377 days ago

[v](#)**OSHEONA**

What a beautiful outfit!  for sharing such a sweet memory.

377 days ago

**NASFKAB**

What a lovely story such special memories. Stay healthy, safe & well. Happy that you have had all these year s together after his service.Thank you.

377 days ago

[v](#)**KITTYHAWK1949**

377 days ago

[v](#)**PHEBESS**

Love the color of the silk.

We have all lived through scary times, to varying degrees. But we are still here, and at this point, each day is a gift.

Stay in, stay healthy!

And virtual hugs to you!

377 days ago

[v](#)**QUARTERMASTER3**

Nice trip down memor lane.

377 days ago

[v](#)**DOVESEYES**

Wonderful thanks for sharing :)

377 days ago

[v](#)**BJAEGER307**

Another talented person with the sewing machine. I missed that gene when it came time to create me. I never had the patience to finish sewing anything. That's why I flunked that part of Home Economics way back when they taught you things like sewing and cooking. My teacher just shook her head when it came to my pitiful jumper I tried to make.

Thanks for the memories tonight. Already did the organizing of the house this winter, helped pass those very longs days stuck in the house.

Take care

377 days ago

[v](#)**SUSIEMT**

Good job at organizing! When I get home at the end of summer I will make a concerted effort to get rid of what I don't need or use! Thank you for the reminder!



377 days ago

[v](#)**KANSASROSE67**

Beautiful color and design--I love the blouse with it. Your blog is very on point. Thank you to your husband for his service.

377 days ago

[v](#)**ALEXSGIRL1**

377 days ago

[v](#)[v](#)



**FRAN0426**

The material is still beautiful, and the blouse looks lovely with the skirt an sleeveless jacket. Both of the patterns look familiar, I think I bought both of those and made outfits. Look at the price of those patterns, very affordable without needing a pattern sale to want to buy a pattern. Sadly to say, those outfits are gone, out grew them after my second child was born. The size was about the smallest you could buy back then. I do like the patterns these days with multiple sizes, but haven't bought a pattern in several years. I do have a few here, that I never used, and several children's patterns. I hang on to them in case I want to sew clothes again. I have moved my sewing into other endeavors lately.

377 days ago



**SWEETNEEY**

wonderful reflections.

377 days ago



**POLSKARENIA**

I also have a 'vintage' collection, great fun!

377 days ago



**WATERMELLEN**

What a pretty outfit you sewed!! And yes, my mother was always very happy to be a size 16 ("like Marilyn Monroe!!!") : and that's what I'd be too. I am the broader shoulders/narrow hips and pretty much no waist body type!!

377 days ago



**SPICY23**

Nice perspective. I appreciate a good dose.

Peace and Care

378 days ago



**HEALTHYANDFIT27**



Thanks for sharing!

378 days ago



**POINDEXTRA**

Ohhh, the memories! My first big sewing project was gaucho pants. What ever were we thinking with those?!

378 days ago

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