



*Man's Coat*, France, 1790–95, silk and cotton plain weave and silk satin stripes, center-back length: 49 in. (124.46 cm), purchased with funds provided by Suzanne A. Saperstein and Michael and Ellen Michelson, with additional funding from the Costume Council, the Edgerton Foundation, Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer, Maureen H. Shapiro, Grace Tsao, and Lenore and Richard Wayne, M.2007.211.802, photo © 2010 Museum Associates/LACMA

This handsewn silk tailcoat, with its high collar, wide lapels, short front, and long back exemplifies how French fashion extremists (*incroyables*) adopted and exaggerated traditional wool riding coats from England. The sleeves of this tailcoat, set unnaturally close together, forced the wearer to hold his shoulders back and thrust his chest forward to create a “pouter pigeon” silhouette which was fashionable in the late eighteenth century.

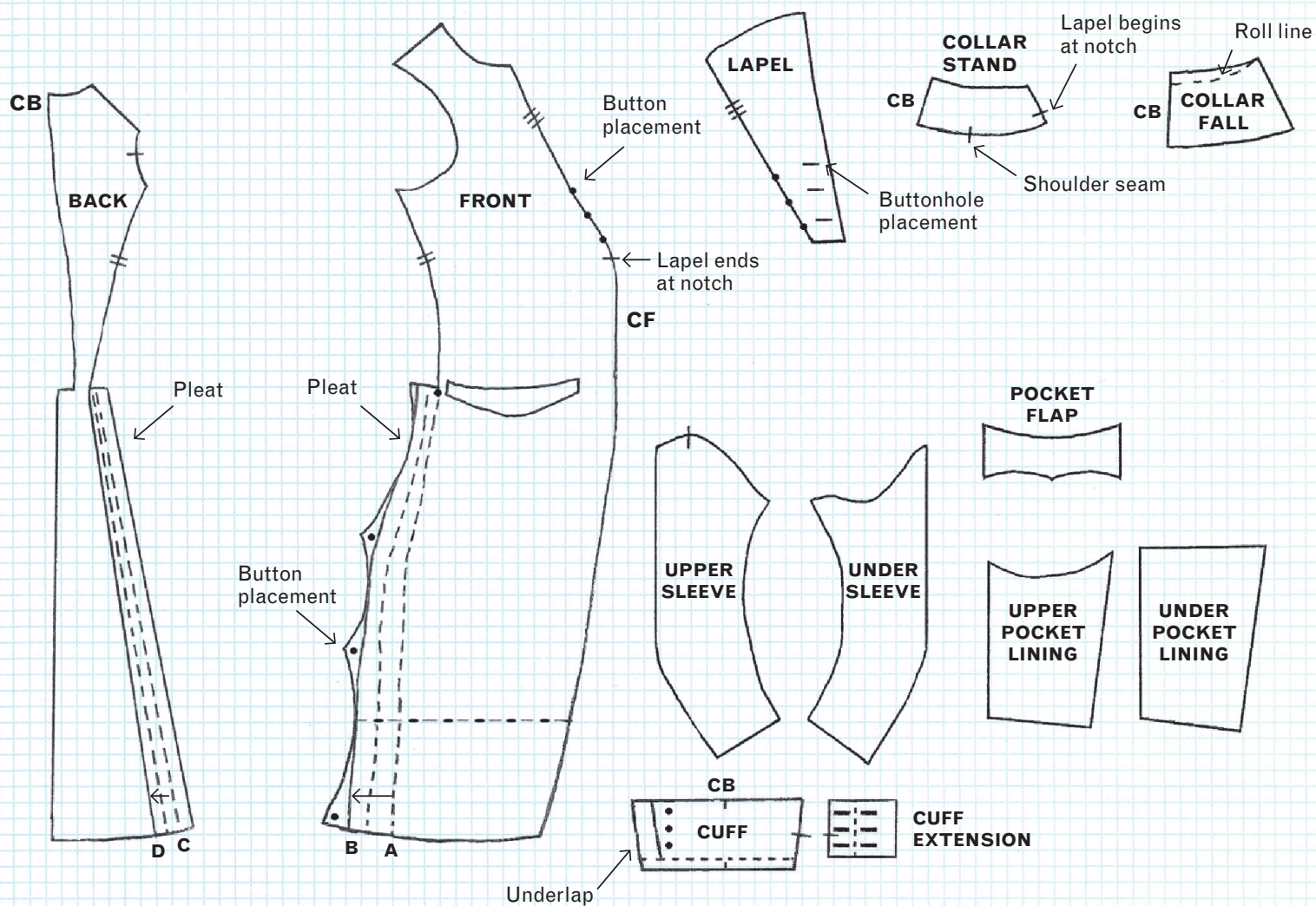


## NOTES:

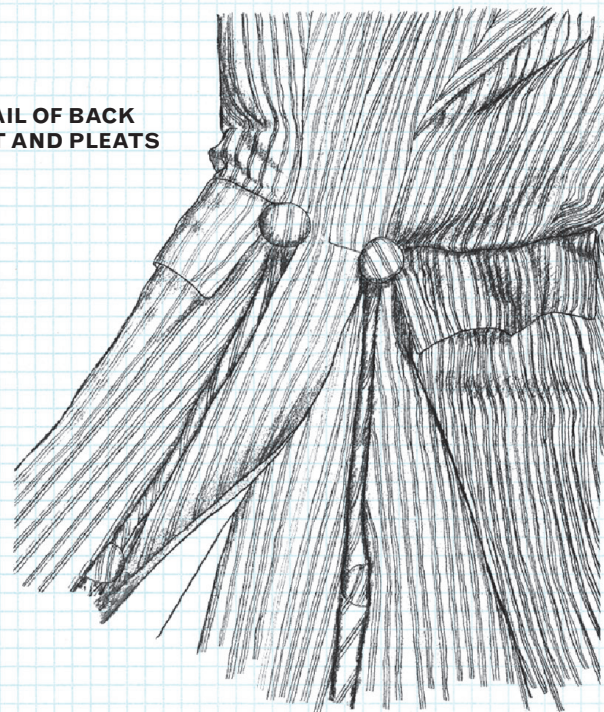
1. Fabric grain follows vertical lines of graph paper.
2. Pattern pieces are drawn without seam allowance.
3. Six 1⅞-inch-diameter self-covered buttons with six 1¼-inch-long buttonholes create a double-breasted front.
4. The collar fall is tacked to the collar stand ¼ inch from the top of the roll line at the center front.
5. Each sleeve cuff is secured with three ¾-inch-diameter self-covered buttons and three ⅞-inch-long buttonholes. The cuff is finished with a ¼-inch folded edge. The buttonholes are on a cuff extension, sewn to one side of the cuff and folded under to create a buttonhole facing.
6. Pocket flaps have a running-stitch ¾ inch from the top of the pocket-flap seams.
7. Side seams end at the waist; below waist, fold line A of the front coattail is lined up with line B, and fold line C of the back coattail is lined up with line D. One button reinforces the pleats at the top of each tail, while three additional buttons are placed along the scalloped edge, tacking the front and back coattail edges creating a pair of vertical pleats at either side of the center-back coattail vent.
8. The coat is lined with silk plain weave; the upper back, sleeves, and pockets are lined with linen plain weave. The collar stand is lined with the same silk-and-cotton fabric that makes up the coat.



# Man's Coat



DETAIL OF BACK VENT AND PLEATS



1:1 Inch

**CF** = Center front

**CB** = Center back

----- = Pieced fabric

----- = Fold line