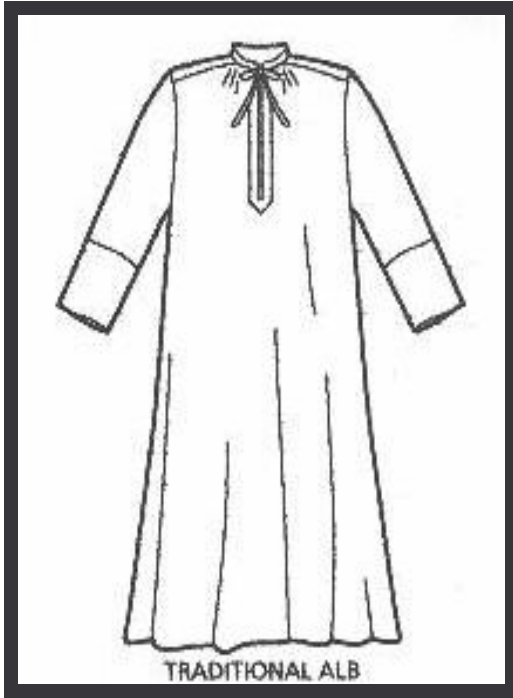


# Making a plain, full length traditional linen alb



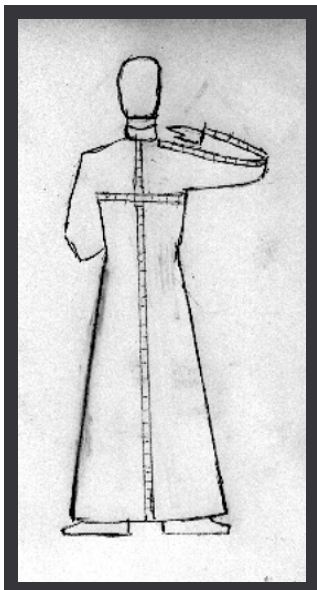
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## Measuring for an alb

### Notes:

1. When measuring the priest for an alb I have found it best to take the measurements below. When measuring for the sleeve length, measure from side collar seam where it meets the body of the cassock down the shoulder and arm to the wrist. This give you a more accurate measurement rather than using their shirt sleeve length which is measured from the middle of the back.



### Priest's Alb Measurements

1. Height \_\_\_\_\_
2. Suit size \_\_\_\_\_
3. Back cassock length plus 1" \_\_\_\_\_
4. Front cassock length plus 1" \_\_\_\_\_
5. Neck--around cassock collar \_\_\_\_\_
6. Chest \_\_\_\_\_
7. Waist \_\_\_\_\_
8. Sleeve length--measure from side neck  
seam down the shoulder to the wrist. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Alb size chart**

<u>Size</u>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Back Length</i>	<i>Shirt Sleeve Length</i>	<i>Sleeve- neck shoulder to wrist Length</i>	<i>Shoulder length</i>	<i>Neck band</i>
X-small	5'3" - 5'5"	54"	(31")	29"	6 1/2" +flat felled seam	19"
small	5'6"-5'8"	56"	(32")	30"	6 5/8" +flat felled seam	19"
medium	5'9"- 5'11"	58"	(33")	31"	6 3/4" +flat felled seam	20
Large	6'0"- 6'3"	60"	(34")	32"	6 7/8" +flat felled seam	21"
Ex-large	6'4"& over	62"	(35")	33"	7" +flat felled seam	21-22"

## **Making a pattern**

When making patterns it is best to make a master pattern from which you will trace a working pattern. The master pattern is a permanent pattern and the working pattern is the one used to cut your material. The master pattern should be made on a heavy paper such as brown wrapping paper about 30" wide or a sign paper with a 1" grid may be bought from a sign company. For the working pattern buy the gridded pattern tracing material that is available at a local fabric store.

*If using a plain paper measure a piece of paper 6" longer than the measurement required. Assuming that the lengthwise edges are straight, the top and bottom edges maybe straightened by turning down a short section of paper, make sure the side edges match exactly. Crease and cut along fold. It is very important that all the edges are straight.*

*Beginning at the upper left hand corner mark the paper at 1" intervals. Using these markings draw a 1" square grid on the entire paper.*

Using these gridded papers you can to begin making your master pattern.

## **Sources for alb patterns**

In order to make the pattern an old alb which can be taken apart maybe used. Press and starch the pieces and pin them to the gridded paper. Trace around the pieces in pencil. Unpin the pieces. With a straight edge and a curved ruler refine the drawings and mark your seam allowances. A 1/2 " seam allowance except at the neckline 3/8 "and a 3" hem allowance is usually used.

Once a master pattern has been made traced a working pattern onto the gridded tracing material.

## **Preshrinking the linen**

Linen shrinks 1" to 2" per yard. It therefore must be preshrunk before cutting. For a medium size plain alb 5¼ yards linen is need. When shrunk it will be about 5yds. For a taller priest additional yardage may be needed.

One method to shrink the linen is to fill the washing machine with hot water and let it soak until the water cools. (You then have the option of putting it in the dryer on medium heat. When dry, refill the washer to wet the linen again) Spin out the water. Remove from washer and put in a plastic bag and put it in the refrigerator for a few hours. Iron the linen while quite damp. Fold in half and roll it on a fabric board obtained from a fabric store so that it will be neat and easy to work with.

## **Cutting the alb**

### **Constructing the Alb**

Use ½" seams and a medium stitch length unless otherwise stated.

1. Fold the front facing piece in half lengthwise right sides together and stitch a ¼" seam along the bottom edge. Turn the facing to the right side so that the bottom edge forms a point. Next fold in half lengthwise, right sides together and mark along the crease with a basting stitch. Lay the piece flat and measure and mark ¼" either side of the centerline at the neckline. Measure down the the centerline 11" and place a mark. Draw a line from the marks at the neckline to about 1/16" either side of the bottom mark. These are your stitching lines.
2. With wrong sides together fold the alb front in half lengthwise and press down the front about 18" to mark center front. Pin the right of the facing to the wrong side of the alb front matching the center lines on the alb front and front facing. Baste along the centerline. With a short stitch length, stitch along stitching lines. Slash down the center front to stitching. Turn to the right side and press along the placket edge. Measure over 1" from the placket edge, mark and turn the raw edge under. Pin facing in place and stitch close to the edge.
3. With wrong sides together pin and stitch the front alb to the back of the alb. Press seam open. Fold shoulder yoke piece in half lengthwise and crease to mark the center line. Press under the seam allowances on the two long edges. On shoulder, place wrong side of yoke on the right side of alb. Match center line of yoke to shoulder seam line of alb. Pin and stitch close to edge of yoke.
4. Mark the center back at the neckline. Run a gathering stitch 3/8" from the neck edge on the front alb between the front facing and the shoulder yoke and on the back alb between the shoulder yokes. Run a second row 1/4" from the neck edge.
5. Turn under the short ends of the neck band 1/4" and then turn under again 1". Stitch along the folded edge. Fold neckband in half and mark center back. Fold in half again and crease. Then measure back toward the center back 1/2" and mark. This is your shoulder mark. Place the right side of collar to the wrong side of alb neckline matching center back and shoulders. Pin and stitch band to alb with a 3/8" seam. Press seam toward band.
6. Press under 3/8" seam allowance on raw edge of band. Fold band to right side of alb and pin to just cover

the seam line. Stitch down close to the edge.

7. Sleeves: Fold the sleeve in half and place a center mark at the shoulder. With wrong sides together match the center mark of the sleeve to the center of the shoulder yoke and pin. Pin the remainder of the sleeve to the alb. Stitch sleeve to alb with a 1/2" seam. Trim the sleeve seam allowance only to 3/16" and press seam toward sleeve. Turn the alb seam allowance under about 3/16" to 1/4". Stitch close to edge to form a flat felled seam.

8. If a pocket opening is desired turn the pocket extensions under to form a 1/4" hem. Stitch. With right sides together, matching the sleeve seam pin the underarm sleeve and side seams. Stitch with a 1/2" seam from the hem to the pocket opening and from pocket opening up the side and the sleeve. Overcast the seam with a serger seam or with a zig-zag stitch. (The side seam may also be made with a french seam or a flat felled seam if a serger isn't available.) Press seam toward the alb front and tack the seam in place at the end of the sleeve and at the hem. Tack the pocket flaps down at the top and bottom of the opening.

9. With right sides together fold, pin and stitch the cuff along the underarm seam. Press seam open. Measure to make sure sleeve length is correct. Pin right side of cuff to wrong side of sleeve edge and stitch in place. Press seam toward sleeve. Press under the seam allowance along top of cuff. Turn cuff to outside. Pin and stitch close to upper edge of cuff.

10. A narrow 1/4" lace may be applied along the top of the collar band, the neck opening and the edge of the cuff to keep these edges from wearing.

11. Turn under hem at desired length and press. Finish with a 2" machine stitched hem.

12. Cut a 1 1/2 yard length of 5/8" cotton/rayon grosgrain ribbon and thread it through the collar opening.

13. Press entire garment.



