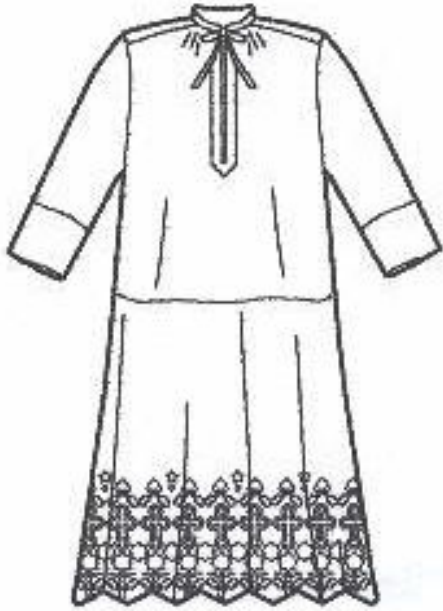


Making a traditional linen alb with lace bottom



ALB WITH LACE SKIRT

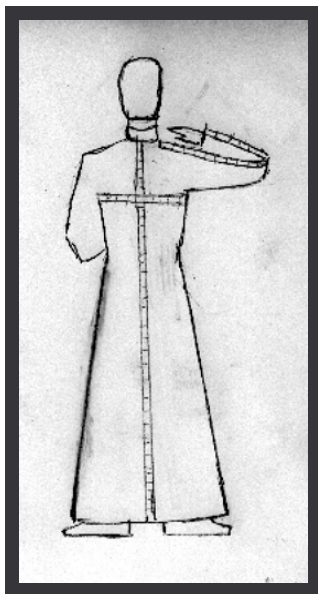
Contents:

1. Measuring for an alb
2. Size chart
3. Making the pattern
4. Preshrinking the linen
5. Fabric required
6. Cutting an alb
7. Alb construction

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 cassock body down the shoulder and arm to the wrist. This give you a more accurate measurement rather than using the priest's shirt sleeve length which is measured from the middle of the back.



Priest's Alb Measurements

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 5. Height | _____ |
| 6. Suit size | _____ |
| 7. Back cassock length plus 1" | _____ |
| 8. Front cassock length plus 1" | _____ |
| 9. Neck--measure around cassock collar | _____ |
| 10. Chest | _____ |
| 11. Waist | _____ |
| 12. 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 ½" +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 ½ " seam allowance and a 3" hem allowance is usually used. For a lace the length of the top will have to be adjusted according the length of the lace.

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

Fabric required

3 yds linen

3 yds lace (2 3/4 yds is about the minimum yardage for the lace bottom so that the priest can genuflect without a problem) (preshrink lace)

3 yds. cotton or linen twill tape

1 1/2 yds of 5/8" white grossgrain ribbon (preferably a cotton/rayon)

Preshrinking the linen, lace, and snap tape.

Linen shrinks 1" to 2" per yard. It therefore must be preshrunk before cutting. For a medium size albtop 3 1/4 yards linen is need. When shrunk it will be about 3 yds. 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.

It requires **2 3/4 yds to 3 yards** of lace before shrinking to be full enough for the priest to genuflect properly. To preshrink cotton lace bottom and cotton snap tape, soak in very hot water and then lay on towels to dry.

(Nylon or polyester embroidered does not need preshrunk.)

Cutting the alb

Cotton Snap Tape

Snap Tape spaced 1 1/2" apart before shrinking

32" wide alb top at hem = snaps

34" wide alb top at hem = 48 snaps

36" wide alb top at hem=

42" wide alb top at hem = 58 snaps

Constructing the lace Alb

Use 1/2" seams and a medium stitch length unless otherwise stated.

1. Fold the front facing piece in half lengthwise right sides together and stitch a 1/4" 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, wrong sides together and mark along the crease with a basting stitch. Lay the piece flat and measure and mark 1/4" either side of the centerline at the neckline. Measure down 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 1" from the placket edge. 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 to 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 $\frac{3}{8}$ " 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the neck edge. (The pleater attachment to the sewing machine may also be used to do the gathering.)

5. Turn under the short ends of the neck band $\frac{1}{4}$ " 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and mark. This is your shoulder mark. Place the right side of collar to the wrong side of alb neckline matching center back and shoulder seam. Pin and stitch band to alb with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam. Press seam toward band.

6. Press under $\frac{3}{8}$ " 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam. Trim the sleeve seam allowance only to $\frac{3}{16}$ " and press seam toward sleeve. Turn the alb seam allowance under about $\frac{3}{16}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Stitch close to edge to form a flat felled seam.

8. With right sides together, matching the sleeve seam, pin the underarm sleeve and side seams. Stitch with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam from the hem up the side and along 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.

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 plus $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ " cotton 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. Be sure to preshrink this lace.

Lace skirt

11. *Note: Press the alb top along the lower edge before measuring the width for the skirt. The linen tends to stretch when pressed. If you don't press the alb top before you measure the skirt could be too small.* Measure and preshrink the a fine cotton twill tape, preshrunk snap tape to desired size. Preshrink the lace

for alb bottom if it is cotton.(*note: the lace is wider[usually about 2 ½ to 2 ¾yds wide], than the tapes and is pleated to fit.*) Join the ends of the twill tape at the desired size. Join the ends of the male side of the snap tape. The lace maybe sewn together at the side seam with a french seam or a serged seam. This may depend upon the lace which seam to use. *Note: there is only one side seam in the lace.* Lay the lace out flat along the seam and mark at the top of the fold--this will be placed at the other side seam of the alb. Fold again matching the side seam to the previous mark and mark the folds center front and back. Do the same with the twill tape and snap tape. With right sides together pin twill tape along the upper edge of the lace matching center and side seams. Pleat lace to fit twill tape. Baste and stitch. Turn the tape down to the wrong side of lace and stitch along the lower edge of tape. Pin the snap tape to the right side of the lace along the lower edge of the tape. *The upper edge of the lace will be sandwiched between the snap tape and the twill tape.*

12. Lay the alb top face down and place the lace bottom along the bottom edge of the top .Move the lace up until you are at the required back length. Pin so it doesn't move. Mark the alb top 1/4" below lower edge of the snap tape. This will be the length of the top. Turn under a 1" hem at this length and press. Starting at the side seam pin female side of snaps along folded edge and join the ends of the snap tape. Sew the snap tape and alb top hem at the same time.

13. Cut a 1 ½ yard length of 5/8" cotton/rayon grosgrain ribbon and thread it through the collar opening.

14. Press entire garment.

