

Back to basics

Autumn is a time for getting back to the fundamentals. Children are back in school, and the busy summer is over. Consider filling the gaps in your wardrobe with staple garments. This pattern group includes classic pieces and updated designs to take you through the fall.

Swing into cooler days with Petite Plus Patterns' Swing Coat. Designed especially for women with narrow shoulders, a full bust, and a rounded middle, this coat is sure to flatter.

Next is a chic blouse from Marfy patterns. Its scarf collar and detailed bishop-style sleeves give it a neat, elegant look.

J. Stern Designs' Khaki Pants put you in control with personalized touches and custom fitting options. This is a basic must-have for any wardrobe.

Perfect for the fall months is a classic jacket from New Look. With a simple silhouette and princess seams, it can be dressed up with trim or other embellishments.

Next is a stunning Donna Karan dress. This stylish

design features unique tucks, darts, and seams that come together to flatter and stand out.

Include in your wardrobe a versatile high-waisted skirt that buttons down the front. Depending on fabric selection, this skirt is a perfect multiseason piece.

Finally, you'll find an ensemble by Connie Crawford for Butterick. This jacket-and-pants set is available in misses' and women's sizes. The pants are basic and flattering with front pleats and back darts. The blouse-like jacket has a full and flowing lapel and self-fabric belt.

These wardrobe basics will update your closet and take you fashionably through the season.

Anna Mazur is a couture sewer from Avon, Connecticut.

LOOK FOR THESE ICONS ON THE PATTERN REVIEWS

- ✦ Includes sizes 24 and up
- Fast and easy
- ▲ Challenging techniques
- Petite options
- ★ For knits

An elegant coat

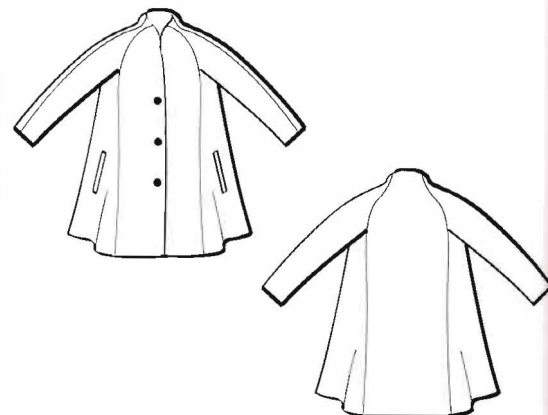
Petite Plus Patterns Swing Coat 250

(PetitePlusPatterns.com)

This lined, trapeze-style, swing coat is fitted through the neck, shoulders, and bust, and is loose through the hips. It falls gracefully and ends approximately 2 inches above the knee. The two-piece raglan sleeves have a slimming effect due to the outer seam running slightly forward of the center. The vertical seams, raised neckline, single-welt pockets, and bound buttonholes give it a tailored, clean-cut look. A variety of midweight fabrics are appropriate, from brocade to denim. Recommended fabrics include wool, silk, linen, and mixed blends in flannel, tweed, or crepe.

(Sized 12-24 for busts 38-50 in. and hips 40-52 in.) ✦ ■

—Tested by Marion Imbruglio, Portland, Connecticut



STYLE TIP: Pipe the seams with contrasting fabric or leather to accentuate the slimming effect.

THREADS-APPROVED Every pattern you see here has been sewn and tested. We keep a close watch on fashion trends and select patterns that reflect the latest looks. Each one is then sent to a talented tester, who sews it in muslin to evaluate the proportions, style, and pattern instructions.