

Designed By You

Fashion Studio

Real Fabrics • Real Fashion • Real Fun

Have you every dreamed of becoming a fashion designer? With this ultimate set, you can show-off your unique sense of style and turn your dreams into dresses... or skirts....or whatever fun fashions you can think up.

This kit will give you an overview of the fashion design process. If you want to learn even more, check out your local library, chances are; you will find some great books to help you out.



Safety First

Please work carefully. Your set includes real scissors, sewing needles and pins. Place the pins and needles in your pincushion when not in use. Keep out of the reach of small children and pets. Adult supervision is recommended.



Where do I begin?

Many fashion designers work as part of a team. Some designers work on sketching out the designs, while others may select the fabrics or make patterns. Skilled seamstresses and tailors work with the design team to sew the samples and final runway pieces.

You will begin by sketching your designs and experimenting with real trims and fabrics on a miniature mannequin. Imagine all the unique outfits you can come up with as you sketch, measure, cut, drape, pin, baste, glue and embellish.

 **WARNING:**
FUNCTIONAL SHARP POINT/EDGE

Fashion Illustrations - Dream it, Sketch it

Let's start at the beginning and learn a few fashion illustration basics. Grab a pencil and your sketch book and follow along.



Start with a Simple Sketch

You can draw your fashion figure from life, copy a pose from a magazine, or use your imagination. Sketch lightly and quickly. It's important to capture the pose of your figure first, then work on proportions and details later.

1. Fashion figures are typically eight heads high. You can begin your sketch by lightly drawing 8 "egg-shaped" ovals.

2. Use the top oval to block in the head. Notice the tilt or angle of the head.

3. Next draw the angle of the shoulders.

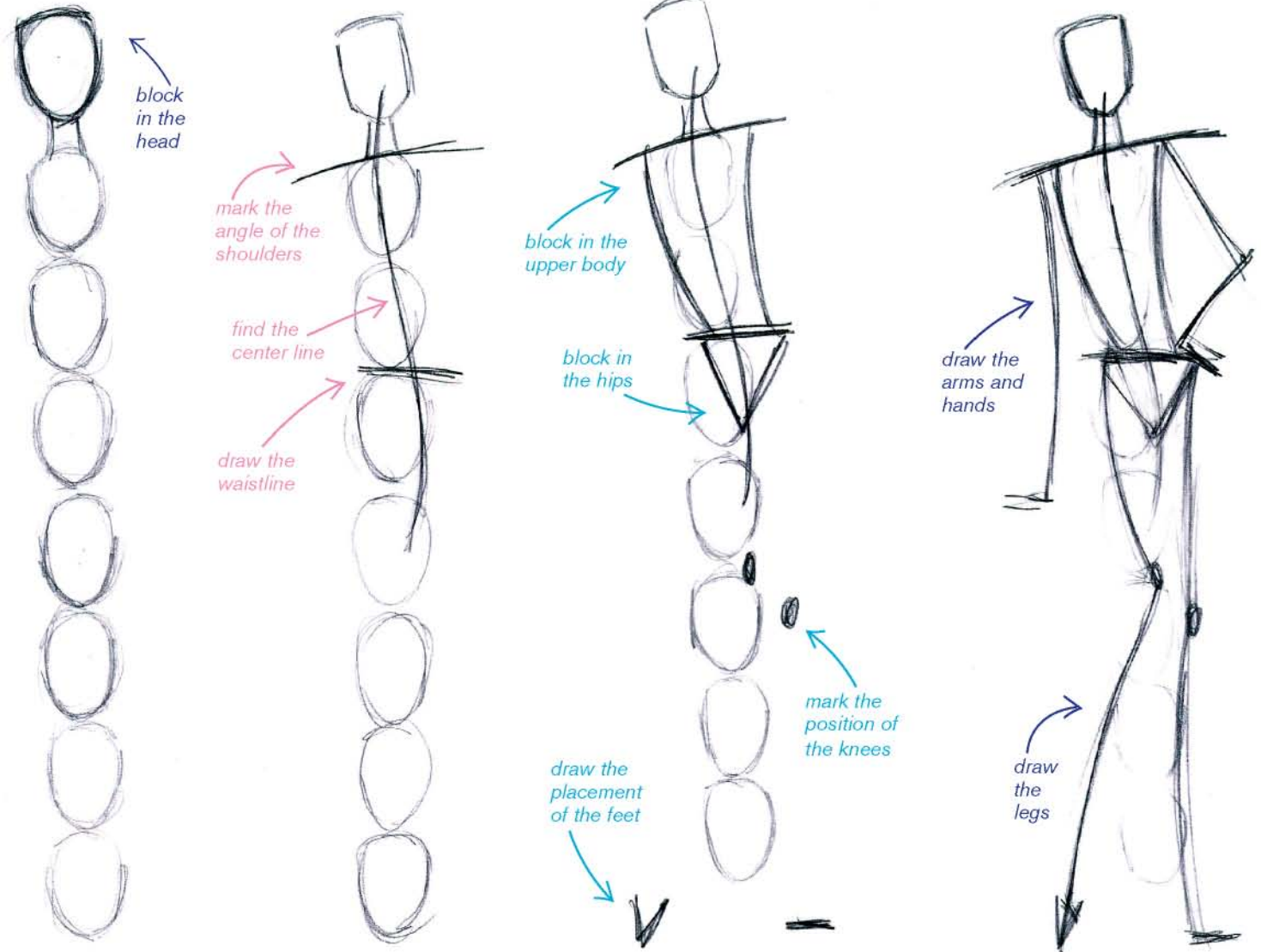
4. Define the center line or "spine" of the figure. Use a thin line to mark it. Sometimes, the center line is curved, sometimes it is straight. It all depends on the pose.

5. Mark the waistline, block the upper body and the hips.

6. Mark the angle of the feet and position of the knees. Draw thin lines for the legs.

7. Mark lines for the arms and hands. Lightly block in the shape.

You can carefully erase the body ovals as your drawing progresses. Keep the top oval for your figure's head.



Now you have a simple figure sketch. Open the booklet to learn how to build on your drawing...

Building Up Your Drawing

Now that you have a good pose, you can develop your figure, add clothes and details.



Draw the outline of the figure. Sketch the torso, arms, and legs. Add as much or as little detail to the hands and feet as you want.

Draw a center line in the head. Half way down this line, mark where the eyes should be placed. Mark a line for the nose and mouth. Add in the facial features, and give your figure a funky hairstyle too.

Decide what your figure is going to wear. Will it be a long flowing gown or a form fitting skirt? Does the top have puffy sleeves or skinny straps?

Look at the fabric included in your kit. Flip through the fabric sample swatch booklet and get some ideas for pattern and color. Use your own markers, colored pencils, pastels or crayons to add color and fabric detail to your design. Don't forget to add the sequins and trims to your illustrations.



From Paper to Fabric

Since the focus of this kit is on fashion design, we will just touch upon a few sewing basics. If you would like to learn more about pattern making and sewing techniques, check with your local fabric store. Many offer sewing classes for beginners.

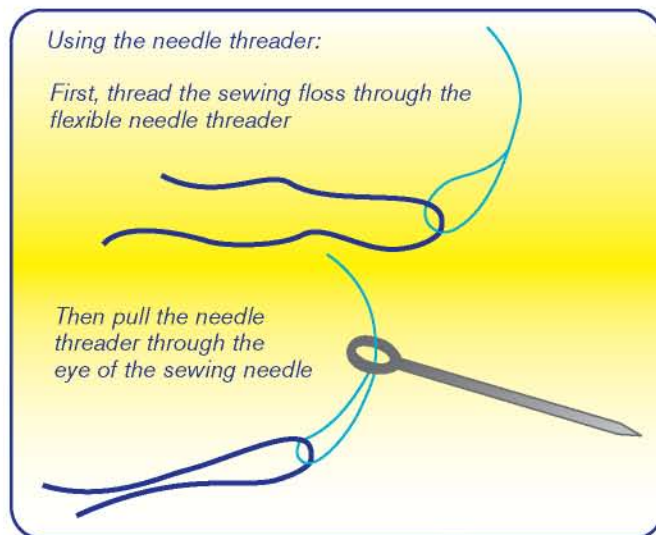
Tape measure– this is a must-have tool for getting accurate body measurements. You can also use it to measure your trims and fabrics.

Dressmakers Pencil – Use this white pencil to lightly mark your fabric. These marks show you where to cut, pin and sew your fabric.

Pins and Pincushion – As you drape and sew your fabric, place this on your wrist to keep your pins and needles handy.

Needle Threader – Use this to help thread your sewing needle

Thimble - Usually worn on your thumb or forefinger. Use it to push and pull the sewing needle through your fabric.



From Basic to Ball Gown

We have included a simple satin dress to get you started. Use the fabrics, sequins, trims and accessories to turn this basic dress into a spectacular designer original. Get creative by cutting, stitching and gluing the trims, fabrics and accessories onto the dress. If you need design ideas; check out the photos and illustrations on the box.

Once you have finished your satin dress, you can display your "haute couture" on the mini hanger and store it in the garment bag, or try it on one of your dolls.

"Haute Couture"- Is a French term used to describe the most fashionable and influential designs.



Get Ready for the Runway

Now it's time to experiment with all the fun fabrics and accessories included in your kit and create your own designer collection.

Helpful Hint -To reuse your fabric, you can just pin your designs onto the mannequin. This way you can change your designs over and over. If you want to sew it, lightly stitch or baste it in place so that you can easily remove it from your mannequin when you are finished.



As you experiment with your designs, here are a few basics for you to know:

Draping – Designers use this technique when they want to see the look and feel of the fabric.-Wrap the fabric around the mannequin and pin it in place. If you want to add trims, glue or lightly stitch them to your fabric.

Basting – this loose running stitch is often used to hold the fabric in position.

Applique – Cut out patterns and pieces of fabric into various shapes, glue or sew them onto your design.

Embellishment – These are the finishing details that make your designs special and unique. Use the trims and sequins to transform your designs from ordinary to extraordinary!

If you need more fabric, you can purchase inexpensive remnants at most fabric stores. You can also recycle old clothes –just get adult permission before cutting them up.

Debut your Collection

When you are all finished, gather your designs and sketches and then invite your friends and family to your runway debut. (A *runway* is a raised platform used to present a fashion show.)



Visit your local toy retailer to see more Creativity for Kids® kits.

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