The panels of 1915 Deep Skirted Corset are designed to lengthen the body to create a long slim silhouette. From the collections of Leicester County Council: Symington Collection. England.
1915 Deep Skirted Corset

This deep skirted corset dated 1915 is part of the Symington Corsetry collection held in Leicestershire. The corset is originally from the USA and is stamped ‘R&G D223 rustless boning’, it was possibly purchased as a sample. The corset has fourteen panels and is made from cotton batiste. It has a 7.5cm (3 inch) deep slotted lace trim that goes around the top edge of the corset, with a large decorative bow and pull cords that could be adjusted by the wearer for a better fit under the bust. The corset also has six adjustable suspenders with metal clasps and covered buttons.

The 1915 corset is extremely long 50cm (19 ½ inches) at the centre back and 40cm (16 inches) at the centre front. It is only 10cm (4 inches) above the waist with a long skirt that is 40cm (16 inches) fitting low over the thighs. The bottom of the corset at the centre front has a shorter panel that overlaps allowing more movement whilst worn. The back steels are 44.5cm (17.5 inches) and the centre front has a steel busk with two hooks and eyes sewn below. The waist measurement is 51cm (20 inches), hips 92cm (36 ½ inches).

The fashion for a version of the empire line between 1910 and 1915 resulted in extremely narrow skirts with a higher waistline. Although fashions claimed to liberate women’s waists from the very tight lacing at the waist, the long skirt that stretched over the hips and down the thighs restricted movement of the legs and this made walking with anything more than small steps very difficult.

The corset followed the fashionable line with a deep skirt fitting almost to the knees. The straighter line of the corset meant that the hip and busk gussets from the previous decade were no longer required. The slender figure meant that the corset was often so long and tight that it was not only extremely uncomfortable it was also impossible for the wearer to sit down.
Original 1915 deep skirted corset pattern

The lines on the 1915 historical corset pattern diagram opposite are a guide for drafting the new pattern onto the female basic block. The approximate position of the bust line, waist line and hip line are shown on the diagram, it is also labelled with the CB and CF and lines A, B, C, D, E which are additional guidelines for the position of Panel 2, Panel 3, Panel 4, Panel 5 and Panel 6.

Front lace detail of the 1915 Deep Skirted Corset
From the collections of Leicester County Council: Symington Collection. England.

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Guidelines for the 1915 deep skirted corset pattern

Trace and separate the female basic block pattern following the instructions in Chapter 4, ‘Preparing the Female Basic Block for your Historic Pattern’. Leave a gap of 30cm between the basic block back side seam and basic block front side seam, number each line and draw in the following additional guidelines.

7 to 8  point to point line
The point to point line lies at the base of the bust dart square across from the CB line to the CF line

9 to 10  above knee line
Extend your female basic block pattern by the distance between the waist line (3 to 4) and hip line (5 to 6) to find the above knee line (9 to 10). Square across from the CB line to the CF line

11 to 12  lower hip line
The lower mid-hip line lies half distance (5 to 9) on the CB line square across from the CB line to the CF line

Extend the original side back seam, side front seam and line C down to the above knee line

Line D  mark your traced female basic block original front side seam line D
1915 deep skirted corset measurement tables

The tables below contain measurements for each pattern piece. Find the **bust**, **waist** and **hip** measurements that are the closest to that of your model. The calculation for the size of each panel is recorded horizontally to these measurements.

### 1915 deep skirted Corset Measurement table for the bust

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bust Measurement</th>
<th>Reduced Bust Measurement</th>
<th>Half reduced Bust Measurement</th>
<th>Panel 1</th>
<th>Panel 2</th>
<th>Panel 3</th>
<th>Panel 4</th>
<th>Panel 5</th>
<th>Panel 6</th>
<th>Panel 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80cm</td>
<td>77cm</td>
<td>38.5cm</td>
<td>6cm</td>
<td>5.3cm</td>
<td>5cm</td>
<td>3.8cm</td>
<td>3.6cm</td>
<td>5.2cm</td>
<td>9.6cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82cm</td>
<td>79cm</td>
<td>39.5cm</td>
<td>6.2cm</td>
<td>5.4cm</td>
<td>5.1cm</td>
<td>3.9cm</td>
<td>3.6cm</td>
<td>5.3cm</td>
<td>10cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86cm</td>
<td>83cm</td>
<td>41.5cm</td>
<td>6.5cm</td>
<td>5.7cm</td>
<td>5.4cm</td>
<td>4cm</td>
<td>3.8cm</td>
<td>5.6cm</td>
<td>10.4cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90cm</td>
<td>87cm</td>
<td>43.5cm</td>
<td>6.8cm</td>
<td>6cm</td>
<td>5.6cm</td>
<td>4.3cm</td>
<td>4.2cm</td>
<td>5.8cm</td>
<td>10.8cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94cm</td>
<td>91cm</td>
<td>45.5cm</td>
<td>7.1cm</td>
<td>6.3cm</td>
<td>5.8cm</td>
<td>4.5cm</td>
<td>4.4cm</td>
<td>6.1cm</td>
<td>11.3cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>97cm</td>
<td>48.5cm</td>
<td>7.6cm</td>
<td>6.7cm</td>
<td>6.3cm</td>
<td>4.7cm</td>
<td>4.6cm</td>
<td>6.6cm</td>
<td>12.1cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106cm</td>
<td>103cm</td>
<td>51.5cm</td>
<td>8cm</td>
<td>7.2cm</td>
<td>6.6cm</td>
<td>5cm</td>
<td>4.9cm</td>
<td>7cm</td>
<td>12.8cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112cm</td>
<td>109cm</td>
<td>54.5cm</td>
<td>8.6cm</td>
<td>7.5cm</td>
<td>7cm</td>
<td>5.3cm</td>
<td>5.1cm</td>
<td>7.4cm</td>
<td>13.6cm</td>
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<tr>
<td>118cm</td>
<td>115cm</td>
<td>57.5cm</td>
<td>9cm</td>
<td>8cm</td>
<td>7.5cm</td>
<td>5.7cm</td>
<td>5.5cm</td>
<td>7.8cm</td>
<td>14.2cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124cm</td>
<td>121cm</td>
<td>60.5cm</td>
<td>9.4cm</td>
<td>8.3cm</td>
<td>7.9cm</td>
<td>6.1cm</td>
<td>5.8cm</td>
<td>8cm</td>
<td>15cm</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### 1915 deep skirted Corset Measurement table for the Waist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full waist measurement</th>
<th>Reduced waist measurement</th>
<th>Half reduced waist measurement</th>
<th>Panel 1</th>
<th>Panel 2</th>
<th>Panel 3</th>
<th>Panel 4</th>
<th>Panel 5</th>
<th>Panel 6</th>
<th>Panel 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62cm</td>
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<td>28.5cm</td>
<td>5.2cm</td>
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<td>4.1cm</td>
<td>3.6cm</td>
<td>3.4cm</td>
<td>2.5cm</td>
<td>6.3cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64cm</td>
<td>59cm</td>
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<td>3.6cm</td>
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<td>3.7cm</td>
<td>3.5cm</td>
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<td>6.5cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4.4cm</td>
<td>3.8cm</td>
<td>3.7cm</td>
<td>2.7cm</td>
<td>7.2cm</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6.1cm</td>
<td>4cm</td>
<td>4.7cm</td>
<td>4cm</td>
<td>3.9cm</td>
<td>2.9cm</td>
<td>7.7cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76cm</td>
<td>71cm</td>
<td>35.5cm</td>
<td>6.5cm</td>
<td>4.3cm</td>
<td>5.2cm</td>
<td>4.3cm</td>
<td>4.3cm</td>
<td>3.1cm</td>
<td>7.8cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82cm</td>
<td>77cm</td>
<td>38.5cm</td>
<td>7.1cm</td>
<td>4.8cm</td>
<td>5.8cm</td>
<td>4.6cm</td>
<td>4.4cm</td>
<td>3.4cm</td>
<td>8.4cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88cm</td>
<td>83cm</td>
<td>41.5cm</td>
<td>7.7cm</td>
<td>5.3cm</td>
<td>6.2cm</td>
<td>4.8cm</td>
<td>4.6cm</td>
<td>3.6cm</td>
<td>9.2cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94cm</td>
<td>89cm</td>
<td>44.5cm</td>
<td>8.1cm</td>
<td>6cm</td>
<td>6.4cm</td>
<td>5cm</td>
<td>4.8cm</td>
<td>3.9cm</td>
<td>10cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100cm</td>
<td>95cm</td>
<td>47.5cm</td>
<td>8.7cm</td>
<td>6.3cm</td>
<td>6.8cm</td>
<td>5.7cm</td>
<td>5.4cm</td>
<td>4.1cm</td>
<td>10.5cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104cm</td>
<td>99cm</td>
<td>49.5cm</td>
<td>9cm</td>
<td>6.4cm</td>
<td>7.2cm</td>
<td>6.1cm</td>
<td>5.7cm</td>
<td>4.2cm</td>
<td>10.9cm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Create a table of measurements for your model

Create an individual table for your model to isolate the specific measurements required to draft your historical pattern. See example table below.

### 1915 Deep skirted corset individual measurement table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Full measurement</th>
<th>Reduced measurement</th>
<th>Half reduced measurement</th>
<th>Panel 1</th>
<th>Panel 2</th>
<th>Panel 3</th>
<th>Panel 4</th>
<th>Panel 5</th>
<th>Panel 6</th>
<th>Panel 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bust</td>
<td>86cm</td>
<td>83cm</td>
<td>41.5cm</td>
<td>6.5cm</td>
<td>5.7cm</td>
<td>5.4cm</td>
<td>4cm</td>
<td>3.8cm</td>
<td>5.6cm</td>
<td>10.4cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waist</td>
<td>76cm</td>
<td>71cm</td>
<td>35.5cm</td>
<td>6.5cm</td>
<td>4.3cm</td>
<td>5.2cm</td>
<td>4.3cm</td>
<td>4.3cm</td>
<td>3.1cm</td>
<td>7.8cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hip</td>
<td>112cm</td>
<td>112cm</td>
<td>56cm</td>
<td>8.2cm</td>
<td>7.6cm</td>
<td>10.6cm</td>
<td>10.6cm</td>
<td>6.2cm</td>
<td>3.6cm</td>
<td>9.2cm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Begin plotting the 1915 deep skirted corset onto your traced basic block pattern.

When drafting the 1915 corset pattern the bust measurements are plotted onto the point to point line and the hip measurements are plotted onto the hip line. When this does not apply it is highlighted within the pattern instructions.

Panel 1
- 3 to 13 waist measurement
- 7 to 14 bust measurement
- 5 to 15 hip measurement
- 13 to 14 connect with a straight line
- 13 to 15 connect with a temporary straight line

Panel 7
- 4 to 16 waist measurement
- 8 to 17 bust measurement
- 6 to 18 hip measurement
- 16 to 17 connect with a temporary straight line
- 16 to 18 connect with a very shallow concave curve

Panel 4
- 19 lies at the junction of the waistline (3 to 4) and line C
- 19 to 20 waist measurement
- 21 lies at the junction of the point to point line (7 to 8) and line C
- 21 to 22 bust measurement
- 23 to 24 hip measurement distribute one third hip measurement to the left of line C and two thirds hip measurement to the right of line C
- 19 to 22 connect with a straight line
- 22 to 20 connect with a straight line
- 19 to 23 connect with a slight convex curve
- 20 to 24 connect with a slight convex curve

Draw in the following additional guideline

Line A on the waistline mark half measurement point 13 to the original back side seam - square up to bust line and down to above knee line.
Plot Panel 2 and Panel 3 of the 1915 deep skirted corset

Panel 2

25 to 26  waist measurement distribute equally either side of line A

27 to 28  bust measurement distribute two fifths bust measurement to the left of line A and three fifths bust measurement to the right of line A

29 to 30  hip measurement distribute equally either side of line A

25 to 27  connect with a straight line

26 to 28  connect with a very shallow concave curve

25 to 29  connect with a temporary straight line

26 to 30  connect with a slight convex curve

Panel 3

31 to 32  waist measurement distribute equally either side of line B

33 to 34  bust measurement distribute three fifths bust measurement to the left of line B and two fifths bust measurement to the right of line B

35 to 36  hip measurement distribute three fifths hip measurement to the left of line B and two fifths hip measurement to the right of line B

31 to 33  connect with a very shallow concave curve

32 to 34  connect with a straight line

31 to 35  connect with a slight convex curve

32 to 36  connect with a slight convex curve

Draw in the following additional guideline

Line B on the hip line mark half measurement (30 to 23) square up to bust line and down to above knee line
Plot Panel 5 and Panel 6 of the 1915 deep skirted corset

Panel 5

37 to 38  waist measurement distribute equally either side of line D

39 to 40  bust measurement distribute three fifths bust measurement to the left of line D and two fifths bust measurement to the right of line D

41 to 42  hip measurement distribute half hip measurement plus 0.5cm to the left of line D and half hip measurement minus 0.5cm to the right of line D

37 to 39  connect with a straight line
38 to 40  connect with a straight line
37 to 41  connect with a slight convex curve
38 to 42  connect with a straight line

Draw in the following additional guideline

Line E  on the waistline mark half measurement (38 to 16) square up to bust line and down to above knee line

Panel 6

43 to 44  waist measurement distribute equally either side of line E

45 to 46  bust measurement distribute equally either side of line E

47 to 48  hip measurement distribute equally either side of line E

43 to 45  connect with a straight line
44 to 46  connect with a temporary straight line
43 to 47  connect with a straight line
44 to 48  connect with a straight line
Extend the bottom of panel 1 to panel 3 of the 1915 deep skirted corset pattern.

**Panel 1**

49 half measurement (11 to 9) on the CB line
15 to 50 extend line (13 to 15) to above knee line to find point 50

15 to 51 0.5cm
13 through 51 to 50 connect with a slight convex curve
50 to 52 measure one third distance between lines (11 to 12) lower hip line and (9 to 10) above knee line to find point 52

30 to 56 square down to the above knee line and across 0.5cm towards the CF to find point 56
26 through 30 to 56 connect with a slight convex curve
56 to 57 1.5cm

**Panel 3**

35 to 58 square down to the above knee line and across 0.5cm towards the CB to find point 58
connect with a slight convex curve

Measure line 26 through 30 to 57 on Panel 2 transfer measurement to Panel 3 from point 31 through 35 to find point 59
Ensure that line (26 through 30 to 57) is the same length as (31 through 35 to 59)

36 to 60 square down to the above knee line and across 0.5cm towards the CF to find point 60
connect with a slight convex curve

60 to 61 2.5cm

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Extend the bottom of panel 4 to panel 7 of the 1915 deep skirted corset pattern

Panel 4
23 to 62 square down to the above knee line and across 0.5cm towards the CB to find point 62 connect with a slight convex curve

Measure line 32 through 36 to 61 on Panel 3 transfer measurement to Panel 4 from point 19 through 23 to find point 63
Ensure that line (32 through 36 to 61) is the same length as (19 through 23 to 63)

24 to 64 square down to the above knee line and across 0.5cm towards the CF to find point 64 connect with a slight convex curve

64 to 65 measure one third distance between lines (11 to 12) lower hip line and (9 to 10) above knee line to find point 65

Panel 5
41 to 66 extend line (37 to 41) to above knee line to find point 66

Measure line 20 through 24 to 65 on Panel 4 transfer measurement to Panel 5 from point 37 through 41 to find point 67
Ensure that line (20 through 24 to 65) is the same length as (37 through 41 to 67)

42 to 68 extend line (38 to 42) to above knee line to find point 68
68 to 69 measure two thirds distance between lines (11 to 12) lower hip line and (9 to 10) above knee line to find point 69

Panel 6
47 to 70 extend line (43 to 47) to above knee line to find point 70
Measure line 38 through 42 to 69 on Panel 5 transfer measurement to Panel 6 from point 43 through 47 and extend line to find point 71
Ensure that line (38 through 42 to 69) is the same length as (43 through 47 to 71)

48 to 72 extend line (44 to 48) to above knee line to find point 72
73 lies at the junction of line (11 to 12) lower hip line

Panel 7
12 to 74 one fifth (12 to 6) on the CF line
Shape the top of the 1915 deep skirted corset pattern

Panel 1
7 to 75  1.5cm
14 to 76  1cm

Panel 2
Measure line 13 to 76 on Panel 1 transfer measurement to Panel 2 from point 25 to find point 77
Ensure that line (13 to 76) is the same length as (25 to 77)

Panel 3
Measure line 26 to 78 on Panel 2 transfer measurement to Panel 3 from point 31 to find point 79
Ensure that line (26 to 78) is the same length as (31 to 79)

Panel 4
Measure line 32 to 80 on Panel 3 transfer measurement to Panel 4 from point 19 to find point 81
Ensure that line (32 to 80) is the same length as (19 to 81)

28 to 78  1.5cm

22 to 82  2cm
Shape the top of Panel 5 to Panel 7

Panel 5
Measure line 20 to 82 on Panel 4 transfer measurement to Panel 5 from point 37 to find point 83
Ensure that line (20 to 82) is the same length as (37 to 83)

40 to 84 1.8cm

Panel 6
Measure line 38 to 84 on Panel 5 transfer measurement to Panel 6 from point 43 to find point 85
Ensure that line (38 to 84) is the same length as (43 to 85)

44 to 86 half measurement line (44 to 46) to find point 86
86 to 87 square across 0.5cm

46 through 87 to 44 connect with a shallow concave curve
46 to 88 1.2cm

Panel 7
16 to 89 half measurement line (16 to 17) to find point 89
89 to 90 square across 0.5cm
17 through 90 to 16 connect with a shallow concave curve

Measure line 44 through 87 to 88 on Panel 6 transfer measurement to Panel 7 from point 16 through 90 to find point 91
Ensure that line (44 through 87 to 88) is the same length as (16 through 90 to 91)

8 to 92 one quarter measurement (8 to 4) on CF line

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Connect the top and bottom of the 1915 deep skirted corset

1915 Corset top line
Panel 1  75 to 76  connect with a slight convex curve
Panel 2  77 to 78  connect with a slight convex curve
Panel 3  79 to 80  connect with a very slight convex curve
Panel 4  81 to 82  connect with a straight line
Panel 5  83 to 84  connect with a straight line
Panel 6  85 to 88  connect with a slight convex curve
Panel 7  91 to 92  connect with a slight convex curve

1915 Corset Bottom line
Panel 1  49 to 52  connect with a shallow concave curve
Panel 2  55 to 57  connect with a very slight convex curve
Panel 3  59 to 61  connect with a very slight convex curve
Panel 4  63 to 65  connect with a very slight convex curve
Panel 5  67 to 69  connect with a very slight convex curve
Panel 6  71 to 73  connect with a very slight convex curve
Panel 7  18 to 74  connect with a temporary straight line
           18 to 93  two thirds measurement (18 to 74)
           93 to 94  square down 1.3cm
           18 through 94 to 74 connect with a continuous curve
Draw the bone channels on your completed 1915 deep skirted corset pattern

Use the diagram as a guide to draw in your corset bone channels. The bone channels for the 1915 deep skirted corset are 1cm wide with a 0.7cm wide bone. The centre back has two bone channels with a central eyelet channel that is 1.3cm wide on both sides for lacing up the corset. The busk channel at the centre front is 1.3cm wide.

When tracing your pattern mark the number on each panel and the waist position to help you identify them accurately and align each piece when sewing your corset together. Each half of the corset connects in numerical order as they are seen on the pattern.