

# LEARNING UNIT 6

## SLEEVES AND SLEEVE FINISHES

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### Learning outcomes

After studying this learning unit, you should be able to:

- identify the main types of sleeves and the variations of each type
- differentiate between the pattern, the shape of the sleeve head, and the method of setting-in for a standard set-in sleeve and that of a shirt sleeve

This learning unit refers to the following chapters in your textbook:

SHAEFFER, C. (2014). Sewing for the apparel industry. 2nd ed. Pearson Education Limited: **Chapters 14, 17, 18**

### INTRODUCTION

In this learning unit you will learn more about the basic types of sleeves such as *set-in* sleeves, *raglan* sleeves, and *kimono* (also called Magyar) sleeves. A garment may also be sleeveless. You will also learn more about different sleeve finishes such as plackets and cuffs.

#### 6.1 SLEEVELESS FINISH

The garment may be finished with bias armhole or a sleeveless binding, shaped or bias facing (refer to necklines). The application of both is similar to that of a neckline.

#### 6.2 SLEEVES

Study chapter 17 of the prescribed textbook and pay special attention to *Box 1: Sleeve Terminology*. Sleeve shapes follow the general silhouette of the garment. The main sleeve classifications are based on armhole shape.

### 6.2.1 The set-in sleeve

The *set-in* sleeve is the basic standard. It is attached to the body of the garment around the armhole, *See figure 3 on p302 in your prescribed textbook for an illustration of a set-in sleeve.*

The set-in sleeve can be the most slim fitting while retaining freedom of movement. All other sleeve styles are developed from the set-in.

There are three types of set-in sleeves: the standard set-in sleeve, the shirt sleeve and the dropped shoulder sleeve. The sleeve cap of the standard set-in sleeve is higher and more rounded than the medium cap height of the shirt sleeve. The dropped shoulder sleeve basically has no sleeve cap.

In the case of the standard set-in sleeve, the underarm seam is stitched before the sleeve is inserted into the armhole. This method is called putting in the sleeve *in-the-round*. The shirt sleeve and the dropped shoulder sleeve are attached to the armhole and then to the underarm, and the side seams are stitched in one continuous seam from the bottom of the garment to the bottom of the sleeve. This method is referred to as the *flat application*. A puff sleeve is a set-in sleeve with gathers at the sleeve head and at the lower edge.

### 6.2.2 Raglan sleeves

The raglan sleeve is attached with a seam that runs diagonally down from the front neckline to the underarm and up again to the back neckline. In some variations the diagonal seam can be curved, for example the saddle sleeve. This sleeve can be cut as two separate pieces, or it may have a shoulder dart. *See figure 3 on p303 in your prescribed textbook for an illustration of the raglan sleeve.*

### 6.2.3 Kimono sleeves

The kimono sleeve is cut as an extension of the bodice front and back parts. This type of sleeve is also called a “Magyar sleeve”. A gusset is needed if the fit of the sleeve is very tight to introduce lift and more freedom of movement. The kimono sleeve is quick and easy to make; the ideal sleeve for a beginner. *See figure 3 on p302 in your prescribed textbook for an illustration of the kimono sleeve.*

The dolman sleeve is a variation of the kimono sleeve that does not require a gusset. A variation with an even deeper side seam curve is called a batwing sleeve.

## 6.3 SLEEVE FINISHES

The lower edge of sleeves is often finished with cuffs. Sleeve cuffs often require plackets to allow them to accommodate the wearer’s hand. Plackets are also found at necklines to allow the head to pass through the opening of the neck. These plackets can be finished in a similar way as sleeve plackets.

### 6.3.1 Plackets (also called sleeve openings)

A variety of sleeve plackets can be used, namely in-seam plackets, hemmed slash, faced plackets, bound plackets and tailored plackets. Study chapter 14 in the prescribed textbook. Refer to figures 1–5 on pp232–242 for illustrations and applications of different types of plackets. Pay special attention to *Box 2: Evaluation Guidelines for Plackets* on p243.

### 6.3.2 Cuffs

The wrist is an important focal point and a decorative cuff can have a flattering effect. The lower edge of a sleeve may be finished in any of a number of ways: a hem, a shaped facing, a bias facing, a bias binding, a casing into which elastic is inserted, a rib trim, or a *cuff*. Our discussion will focus on cuffs, as the other finishes have been discussed and hems will follow in Learning Unit 8.

A cuff need not always have an opening in order for the hand to slip through. Most cuffs, however, do have plackets. Refer to figures 1–4 on p284 for illustrations of the different types of sleeve cuffs.

#### ACTIVITY 6.1

- 6.1.1 Search for pictures of different sleeves and complete the table below by providing the specific name where possible, together with the category to which it belongs.

Picture	Name	Category

- 6.1.2 Describe how you would distinguish between the three basic types of sleeves.  
 6.1.3 Search for your own pictures of different sleeve cuffs and complete the table below by providing the name of the cuff next to the picture.

Picture	Name