

Shoulder Spike

Katelyn Hall, Iowa State University

Design, Patternmaking, Spike, Angle

Shoulder Spike is a dress that addresses interesting patternmaking techniques. This particular technique was based upon the exploration of the Pattern Magic books by Tomoko Nakamichi and his experimentation with 3D shapes.

Materials

The materials I used were chosen to emphasize the shape of the dress and not take away from the shape of the spikes. The fabric is a 100% wool lightweight weave that holds the dress stiff and works well with the heavy-weight interfacing seen in the picture. I also used a ½ inch curtain rod ring as a



mechanism to thread the string through with an upholstery thread being the pull. I choose upholstery thread because it was a thinner option that still had a great amount of strength for its function.

Process

Originally the spiked accordion piece was meant to stand from the collar line, using this I found an appropriate neckline measurement that would work as the inside radius for the circle, then determined how far I wanted each angle to stick out. Using one pattern piece that had the correct dimensions, I

Page 1 of 2

created pattern pieces with increasing from 1 to 14 angles. After stabilizing these with a heavy-weight interfacing, I sewed the front and backs of each angle together to create the accordion then serged the joints of each angle. Experimenting with placement of the accordion after it was constructed allowed me to see the movement that could possibly be associated with the garment. The sleeve provided a functional and interesting area to integrate this movement into the design taking it one step further. I explored different techniques of creating this movement and decided an apparatus similar to a roman shade would be the best fit for the design. I sourced ½ inch curtain holder rings and sewed 3 on each seam created from sewing each angle to each other. I then sewed 3 threads of upholstery thread on the seam joining the sleeve to the garment and threaded the threads through each respective line of rings. Once threaded I was able to tie a knot at the end and pull the thread to successfully create movement. The string is then wrapped around a hook located on the opposite side of the body to hold the piece in the upright position. This garment won 2nd place in the Iowa State Fashion Show 2014.

