

+ J.M.J. +

## Measurement Form for Square-Neck Alb

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fabric Choice: ( ) lightweight linen ( ) medium weight linen ( ) cotton

*(Be sure to read my notes below, under the heading, "helpful notations.")*

Style: ( ) gathered ( ) gathered with front opening and tie ( ) pleated

*(Be sure to read my notes below, under the heading, "helpful notations.")*

Lace: ( ) no lace ( ) on skirt only ( ) on skirt and sleeve ( ) around neck/front opening  
skirt lace # \_\_\_\_\_ sleeve lace # \_\_\_\_\_ neck/opening lace # \_\_\_\_\_

Measurements are taken: ( ) from an existing alb or surplice ( ) of self, wearing my cassock

*Please refer to the letters and arrows of the picture drawing on page 2 for each measurement.*

*There are also some very helpful additional notes for some of the measurements under the picture.*

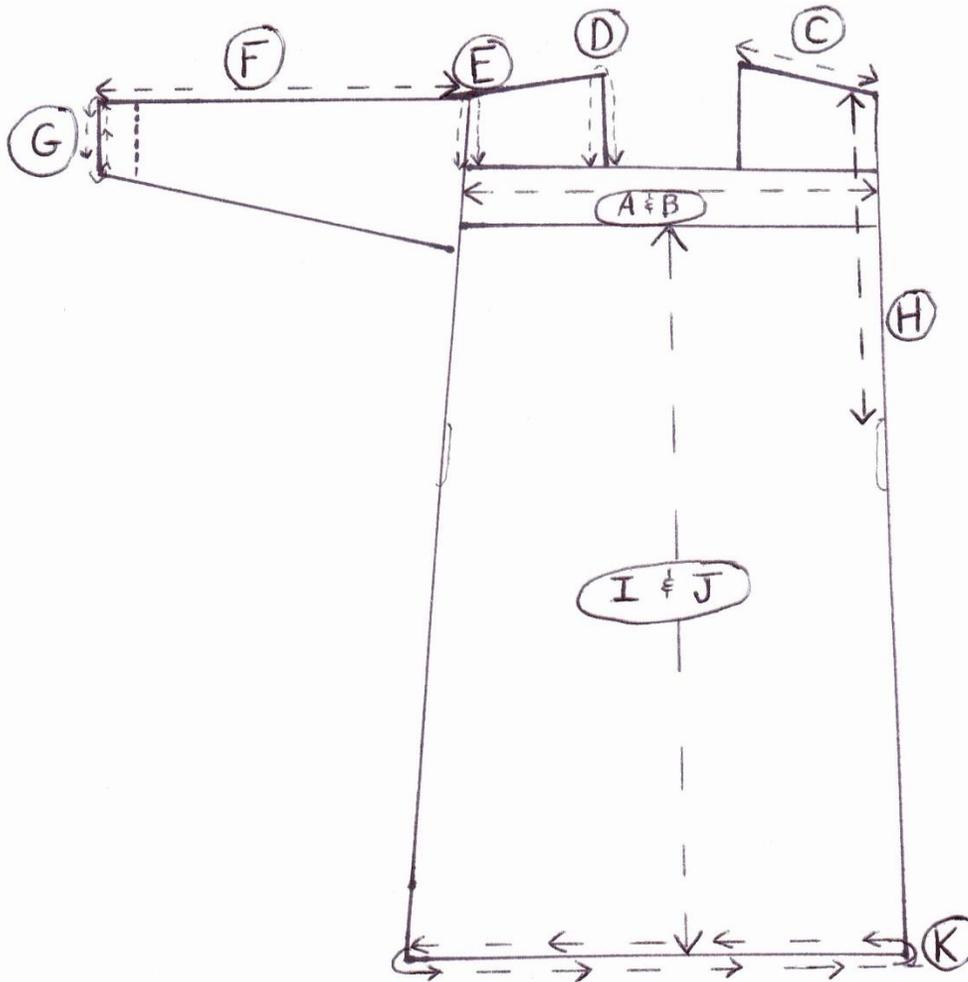
- A) \_\_\_\_\_ Front Yoke – from sleeve seam to sleeve seam across the chest
- B) \_\_\_\_\_ Back Yoke – sleeve seam to sleeve seam across the back *(This is usually the same as A.)*
- C) \_\_\_\_\_ Shoulder Band width – from bottom of Roman collar to the sleeve seam minus 1" to 1.5"  
*(note: this measurement is usually about 4" to 5")*
- D) \_\_\_\_\_ from the top of the 'back' yoke band to the top of the 'front' yoke band near the neck
- E) \_\_\_\_\_ from the top of the 'back' yoke band to the top of the 'front' yoke band near the sleeve
- F) \_\_\_\_\_ Sleeve Length – from the shoulder seam to the bottom edge of cassock sleeve hem with your arms hanging down at your sides
- G) \_\_\_\_\_ Sleeve Circumference - measure around cassock sleeve at hem edge and add one inch
- H) \_\_\_\_\_ Pocket opening – from the top of the shoulder, near the sleeve seam, down to the top of the pocket opening on your cassock - - - or - - - N/A for no pocket opening
- I) \_\_\_\_\_ Back length – down the center back *(be sure to read the note for this measurement)*
- J) \_\_\_\_\_ Front length – down the center front *(be sure to read the note for this measurement)*
- K) \_\_\_\_\_ Circumference of skirt at edge of hem *(usually about 80" - 86" for small build; 86" - 90" for medium build; and 90" - 94" for large build)*

(\_\_\_\_) Please put an "X" here if you are of a larger build so that I will add extra room around the upper sleeve for a better fit.

You may make a copy of this form, fill it out, and send it to me via email, or just send the measurements through the email (*i.e.*: A – 17", B – 17", C – 5.5", etc.). I only go to the quarter of an inch.

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Oct. 2017



**It's much more accurate** if you can take the measurements from an existing alb or surplice that fits you well, most especially if it fits across your chest nicely. You can tell if it fits well by looking at the shoulder bands. The top of the armhole seam should pretty much match up with the armhole seam of your cassock.

- If the shoulder band is hanging down off your shoulders, then the "yoke bands" are too wide. So decrease the measurement you write for A and B accordingly.
- If it's kind of tight when you raise your arms, then the yoke bands are too short. So increase the measurement you write for A and B accordingly.
- However, if the alb or surplice really doesn't fit very well, don't use it! Measure yourself while wearing your cassock.
- If the sleeve or hem lengths are not perfect, just add or subtract accordingly.

**If you will be taking the measurements of self, wearing your cassock:**

- Put a piece of masking tape across your chest either above or below the second button of your cassock, and another strip across your back at the same level down from your shoulders as the tape on the front. This really helps take a more accurate measurement for D, E, I, and J.

- For measurement D: Begin in as far in as your measurement C is. So, if “C” is 4”, then begin and end measurement “D” four inches in from the armhole seam. “D” is usually about 2” larger than “E,” depending on the slope of your shoulder.
- For measurement F: It’s helpful to begin by measuring from the inside edge of the shoulder band and measuring all the way down to the hem. So again, if “C” is 4”, then put the 4” mark of the measuring tape at your armhole seam. Measure to the bottom hem of your sleeve, then subtract 4”. This sounds crazy, but trust me, it’s a more accurate way to get the sleeve length correct.
- For measurement I and J:
  - Measure from the “top” of the masking tape to bottom of cassock hem; then subtract 2” for the yoke band width and give me this number, or
  - measure from the “top” of the masking tape to the floor and subtract 4 inches (2” for the yoke band and 2” off the floor) and give me this number.
  - Also, the length for I and J should be the same. They both begin at the same level across your chest and back, and are cut out as a rectangular piece – length x width. So, if you happen to measure something a little different, settle on a number in-between so they’re both the same. The only exception will be if you are of a larger build, then the back might be a longer length.

### **Some helpful notations:**

Lightweight vs. medium weight linen:

\*\*\* The medium weight linen will obviously last longer than the lightweight because of the density due to the high thread count. Medium weight linen is especially recommended for an everyday alb since it will need to be laundered more often than a high feast alb that is worn occasionally.

\*\*\* The lightweight linen is especially recommended in three situations: a) if you’ll be having hip-to-hem lace on it; b) if you’ll be having delicate lace on it; or c) if you get overheated easily.

\*\*\* The 100% no-iron cotton is especially nice on surplices. It has a wrinkle resistant agent on it so it’s virtually iron free.

\*\*\* Pleats are very sharp and crisp looking, but will require more work to keep them looking that way. Pleats on a garment made of man-made synthetic fibers like polyester hold very well. But this is not true for the 100% natural fibers such as the linen or the cotton that I use. The pleats will stay in nicely at the top, but eventually will not hold the creased lines as it goes down. It will just fall into soft folds. And this is especially true of the cotton that I use because it is treated with an anti-wrinkle agent, so it will naturally resist any permanent folds. So be aware of this if you are ordering a pleated alb or surplice.

**Caring for your garment:** I have some detailed information on another document, “Caring For Your Linen Garment” and “Caring For Your Cotton Garment.” These can be found in the menu bar.