

Robert Alatorre

### CAD for Patternmaking – AMM 3900 Reflection

This course serves as the foundation to the senior capstone experience for production students; it strengthens fundamental knowledge and skills for apparel pattern making and assembly. Professional instruction demonstrates how to use industry CAD pattern-making software, TukaCAD – to create pattern blocks with appropriate pattern markings, modify blocks into patterns, create detailed pattern cards and measurement charts, grade patterns and revise patterns for accurate fit. We were assigned two projects during the term. Project one involved developing an original skirt design using Adobe Illustrator, with corresponding patterns, pattern cards, measurement chart, and graded nest using TukaCAD. The required design elements were darts on the waist, waistband, zipper closure, and two additional design elements of our choice. Project two practiced manipulating segment lengths to increase dress blocks from a size six to eight.

For project one, I pulled inspiration from a beloved aesthetics of mine, 1950's brutalism. I designed a maxi length skirt that features an inverted box kick-pleat on the front, two-inverted box pleats on the back, inserted seam pockets, and the other required elements. Each inverted box panel featured contrasting fabric, which I initially overlooked when developing my pattern. Even though I satisfied almost all of project one requirements, I believe there is plenty of room for improvement that will demand a significant amount of time and effort. I want to establish high quality in the products I develop throughout my career. I need to practice ensuring that specific segment lengths, such as side seams, are equal lengths. I intend to improve my comprehension of various garment constructions to better understand the garment shapes and would also like to improve my familiarity with TukaCAD tools and other CAD programs for patternmaking.

Project two involved reading POM dimensions to develop a size-6 pattern block for a women's dress, then increase to a size-8 by using an alternative grading technique. The project required the use of numerous tools, such as the extend-parallel and move-point tools, to manipulate the contour of the dress without distorting its shape. This process has drastically improved my skills with the TukaCAD system and my understanding of the principles behind pattern grading. I'm now more confident with reading POM measurements and applying the dimensions to patterns in the CAD program. I believe I excelled in this project, yet I know more practice with other garment types to minimize distortions to the block's contour by using tools correctly.

In conclusion, I'm very fortunate to have studied under a highly accomplished instructor who's shared an abundance of knowledge and experience; I feel confident with entering the senior capstone experience and future careers. I improved many patternmaking skills, such as reading POM dimensions, creating accurate pattern blocks, modifying blocks into patterns, grading, and revising patterns to achieve the best possible fit. Learning these methods through TukaCAD has advanced my understanding of garment contours as individual patterns. I am very proud of my achievements in this course, as patternmaking is a skill I intend to master. I now realize the level of detail required in making patterns for production-ready garments. I will apply what I learned to develop apparel patterns, evaluate apparel fits to determine pattern revisions and verification. I am eager to learn more about apparel product development with more practice and real-world application to expand my career choice options.