

## How to identify professional dress form

Dress forms are structures that look like the human body. To be able to select a proper one for the draping exercises you must understand the difference between various types of dress forms and identify the professional type.

Display dress forms



Display dress forms or retail dress form are used in clothing stores, window display and show room to show, exhibit a garment. They are light weight and cheap. The proportions of these dress forms are unrealistic and thus can not be used for actual draping and pattern making.



## Adjustable dress forms



Lightweight dress forms with more realistic proportions. These dress forms has dials which allow to adjust the size - the measurements (bust, hips, waist and neck); once you start turning the dials, the panels begin to expand away from each other, creating gaps at the seams. This type can not be used for draping, it is mainly used to verify the fit of the garment or prototype achieved through 2D pattern making.

## Professional dress form. Tailor(sewing) dress form

*Pinnable(!)* dress with form with collapsible shoulders so garment can be easily put on and removed. Normally it has stable iron base, various types of stand and adjustable height. The dress form has fabric cover (often cotton canvas) - off-white or black. It comes in variety of sizes - SS, S, M, L, XL, XXL and it is important to communicate with supplier to find out the measurements of a particular size. Sometimes the size comes in numbers: 82, 84, 88, 92, etc.; the number indicates the bust measurement - the bust circumference. Sometimes in such numbers as: 6, 8, 10 12, etc; the number points out the clothing size of specific country (USA, UK, etc)

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PROFESSIONAL TAILOR DRESS FORMS

Professional (suitable for draping) dress forms can be found online:

eBay: [https://www.ebay.ca/sch/i.html?\\_nkw=professional+dress+form&\\_sop=12](https://www.ebay.ca/sch/i.html?_nkw=professional+dress+form&_sop=12)

Amazon: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dressmaking-Mannequin-Pinnable-Universal-Clothing/dp/B08RYS9ZPR/ref=sr\\_1\\_13?crid=26VR6D7IVPDEZ&dchild=1&keywords=dress+forms&qid=1612979208&s=kitchen&sprefix=dress+forms%2Ckitchen%2C230&sr=1-13](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dressmaking-Mannequin-Pinnable-Universal-Clothing/dp/B08RYS9ZPR/ref=sr_1_13?crid=26VR6D7IVPDEZ&dchild=1&keywords=dress+forms&qid=1612979208&s=kitchen&sprefix=dress+forms%2Ckitchen%2C230&sr=1-13)

Alibaba:

[https://www.alibaba.com/product-detail/adjustable-mannequin-manufacturer-Dress-form-tailoring\\_1600051421700.html?spm=a2700.themePage.5238101001085.1.7bcd233dBHrHVO&byypass=true](https://www.alibaba.com/product-detail/adjustable-mannequin-manufacturer-Dress-form-tailoring_1600051421700.html?spm=a2700.themePage.5238101001085.1.7bcd233dBHrHVO&byypass=true)

[https://www.alibaba.com/product-detail/Cheap-Fashion-mannequin-half-body-Female\\_1600145660090.html?spm=0.wholesale.0.0.29887af02trYmD&byypass=true](https://www.alibaba.com/product-detail/Cheap-Fashion-mannequin-half-body-Female_1600145660090.html?spm=0.wholesale.0.0.29887af02trYmD&byypass=true)

Fiberglass type, not pinnable, but has good shape and can be considered for draping work.

PGM dress forms: <https://www.pgmdressform.com/Professional-female-dress-form-collapsible-shoulder-PGM-Dress-Form-Canada>

The Shop Company: <https://theshopcompany.com/professional-female-dressform-w-removable-shoulders.html>

Dress forms USA : <https://dressformsusa.com/>

Customizable dress forms: <https://www.fabulousfit.com/>

Watch video on YT - how to make/adjust the dress form for own measurements:

Custom dress form with duct tape DIY: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFqtWcDxDsI>

Dress form exactly for your measurements DIY: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pvut42Dh-Mo>

Tools, materials and equipment for draping:



Learn with us!

EWST fashionlab Draping Courses Online - from basic to advanced:

<https://www.ewstfashionlab.com/online-courses>