

## MEASURING FOR A DEACON STOLE

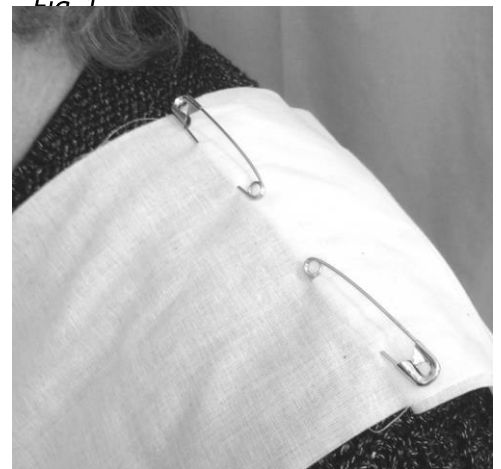
There are three numbers I need to create a custom deacon stole: Drop Length, Top Length, and Shoulder Angle. Here's how to find those three numbers.

### DRAPING THE MUSLIN

1. Have client stand in front of a mirror, full-length if possible, and wearing similar clothes and vestments to those they wear under the deacon stole, if possible.
2. Position muslin strips one across the chest and one across the back, ends loosely crossed over the left shoulder and large pin at the right hip. *(Fig. 1)*
3. Holding pin parallel to the floor, decide where on the hip the hip miter should be positioned. Think about positioning hip miter to allow for pocket access.
4. Holding the big safety pin in place and level, bring the two loose ends together over the left shoulder--wrong sides together--keeping the ends as even as possible.
5. Smooth the muslin strips across the back and the chest.
6. Bring the two strips together at the shoulder line, draping the excess fabric toward the back. *(Fig. 2)*
7. Holding the two strips together, pin one safety pin through both strips, close to the shoulder, on the inside edges of the strips, close to the neck. Position the pin where a t-shirt seam would sit.
8. Repeat the process with the second pin on the outside edges of the strips, away from the neck.
9. Ensure that the two pins create a smooth line along the top edge of the shoulder. *(Fig. 2)*



*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 2*

### FINDING THE DROP LENGTH

10. Take a measuring tape and hang it down from the safety pin at the hip. Adjust the length until it is where you want the end of the stole to hang. While most people choose mid-calf as the preferred length, there is no right or wrong, it's just a matter of taste.

**The length on the tape measure is the DROP Length.**

## FINDING THE TOP LENGTH

11. Keeping all the safety pins secure, remove the muslin strips. Bring the two strips together where the big safety pin pierces the fabric, so those two pin holes are lined up and the fabric strips are laying flat together.

12. Lay the two strips together on a flat surface, with the large safety pin (hip point) at the top left and the two safety pins (shoulder seam) to the right. The strips should lay smooth and even. If the length of the muslin strips from the hip point to the shoulder seam aren't equal, move the shoulder seam to the front or the back until the muslin strips are laying flat and even.

13. Measure the length along the upper edge of the muslin from the large safety pin to the line of the shoulder. The shoulder line should angle out as shown. (*Fig. 3*)

**This is the TOP Length.**

## FINDING THE SHOULDER ANGLE

14. Use the manila envelope as a straight edge right next to the two pins to mark the shoulder line.

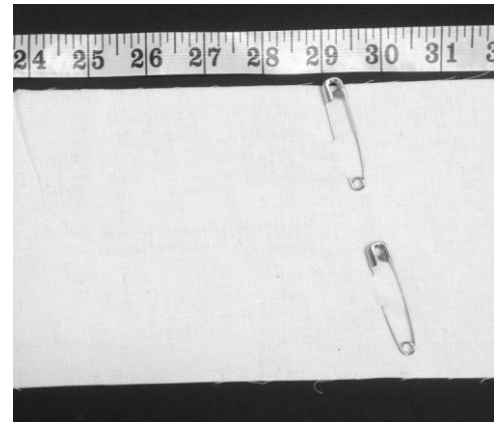
15. Place the compass with red line even with the edge of the fabric, and the small hole where the envelope meets the edge of the muslin strip. (*Fig. 4*)

16. Find the angle created by the envelope. Measure to the nearest multiple of 5 degrees. The number should be at least 90, and probably no greater than 130.

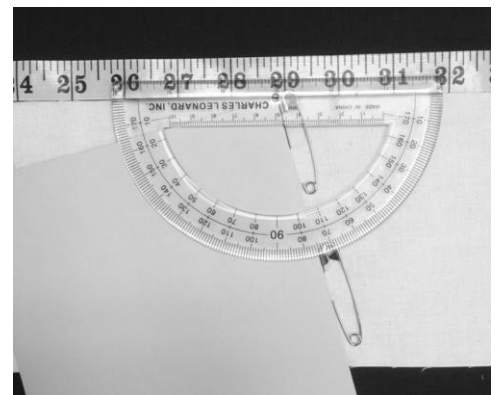
**This is the SHOULDER Angle.**

Send these three numbers along with the design specifications for the client's deacon stole.

Call Jeff Wunrow at 314 323-4200 with questions or problems.



*Fig. 3*



*Fig. 4*