

Advice for transitioning from PMB Version 3 to Version 4 Phyllis Carlyle

I've been exploring Version 4 this week, learning the new features and testing to make sure my pattern fit matches the great pair of pants I finally obtained in version 3. Here is some advice to make the transition go smoother. Overall, patterns should draft the same, but there are a few changed methods to get the end result.

I tested a basic pair of slacks and basic blouse with set in sleeve, pretty much as they opened up on the screen. This is not a good time to make a lot of style choices, since you may be creating the pattern more than once. Draft each garment in version 3, and take it into Pattern Editor to remove the facings and fly and color the main pattern pieces one distinctive color. Open and print out the design sheet so you can match certain settings.

Next, open up version 4. Make sure your measurements are the same. I kept getting more width or ease in my V4 pattern, and it turned out the measurements, which I remember importing but not changing, were a little different! I'm not going to dwell on why--I'd rather sew!

Setting Defaults

Now you must set defaults. Many of the style choices and menus that were previously on the main drafting screen are now set in defaults. When you open the Style Editor, go to File>Edit Defaults. Note the tabs across the top at the left. This is where you set ease, various measurements and pattern tweaks. Notice also the right side where you can see the name of your measurement chart and the kinds of garments.

Click on blouses, and maybe dresses and sheathes. Now look at the settings under each tab, and copy the settings from your V3 blouse design sheet. Now is not the time to get creative on the new choices--ask me how I know! When you have made the desired settings, click Save. Next, click pants and maybe jumpsuits, and make sure the settings under the pants/skirts tab matches your V3 slacks design sheet. Notice you can select more than one garment type at a time and give them the same defaults. This can save time, but remember to look for exceptions. I had a really long blouse until I set the sheath and blouse lengths differently one at a time. For jackets, I used my blouse defaults, but added ease to the torso and made the cuffs an inch larger. (Joy, now my jacket sleeves should fit better over long sleeves!) When selecting a setting there is a description of it in the box on the right side of the screen. To see your new setting on the text default listing you need to Save.

If you have any questions, visit Program Help>Users guide to learn more about settings, and Program Help>Movie Tutorials>Setting Style Defaults to help you with that. Once you are certain your defaults match your previous settings, select Done.

Drafting the pattern

In Style Editor, select Garments>Pants. Draft the same basic slacks you did in V3. Save the pattern with a name such as "Pants compare to V3". On the next screen, save the Style Sheet, then the pattern. You need to do both now, before proceeding to Pattern Editor.

Once you are in Pattern Editor, change the pattern pieces to a color that contrasts with the color you selected for V3. Merge the slacks pattern you drafted in V3, and slide the main pieces over the V4 pieces, matching the inseam and crotch. If you don't have a good match, open the style sheet into a word processing program, and compare the settings to the measurement chart and design sheet from V3. Correct differences and draft again.

Repeat the process for the blouse and any other style you wish to compare.

If you are sure all your settings match and you still have differences between the pattern pieces greater than 1/4" or more, email your pattern files, design and style sheets and measurements from BOTH versions to support@wildginger.com. Here is

advice from Karen that might benefit you, too: For V3 users who have pants they like just adjust the crotch length number in V4 until the pattern matches V3 with defaults and no drops. Also remember the bust cup size in V3 is just info, and does not affect the draft. You now must determine your cup size to draft torso patterns.

I made several versions of the pants and blouse pattern until I got it right, but now I'm very familiar with the new Style Editor and setting defaults, and I feel I can get the same great fit (or better) than I had in Version 3. I'm very pleased that I can set global default choices for each garment type, and won't have to do it each time I draft.

I hope this helps!

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