

RESOURCES

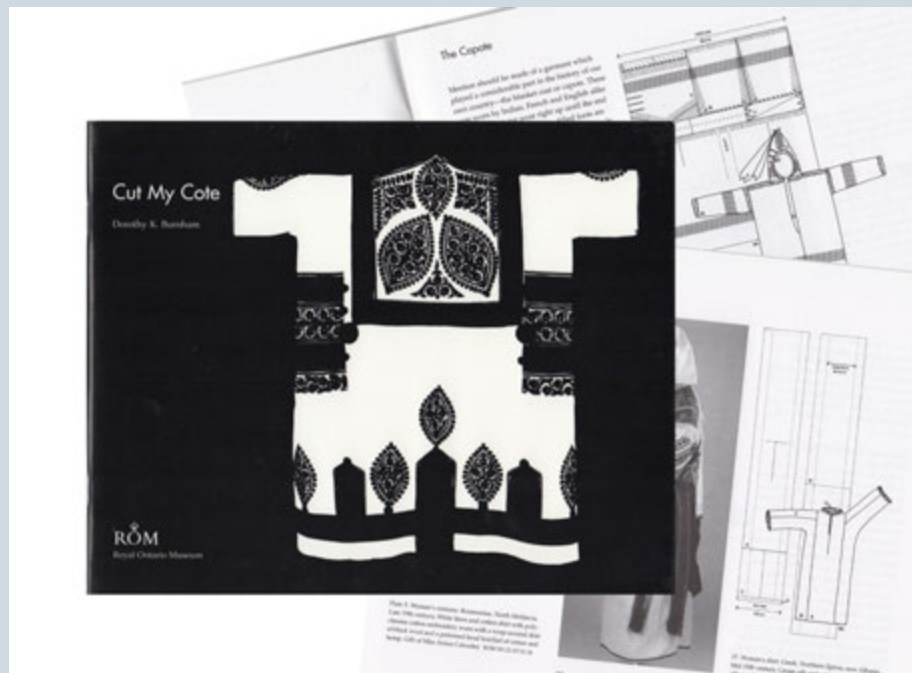
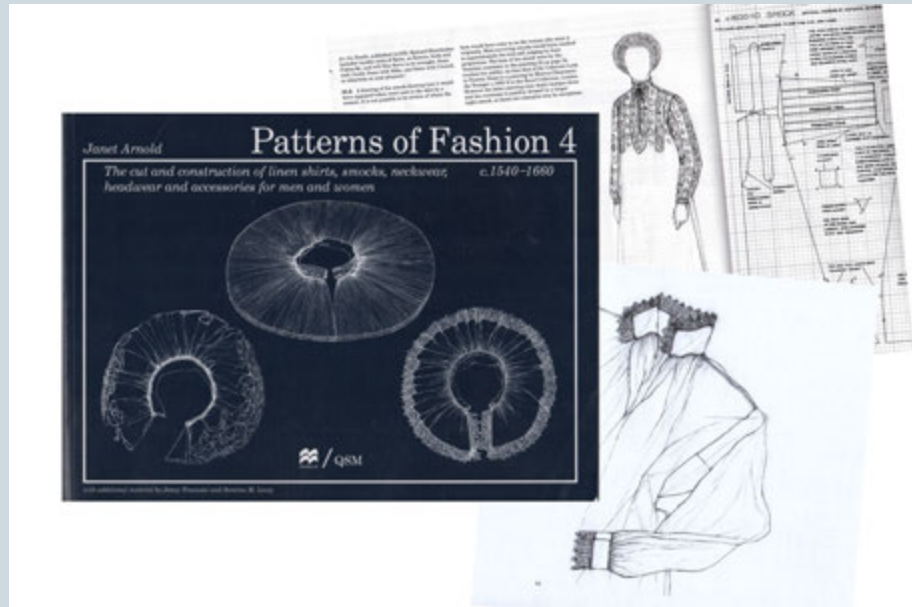
Folk (or Rectangular) Block

ONLINE VERSION

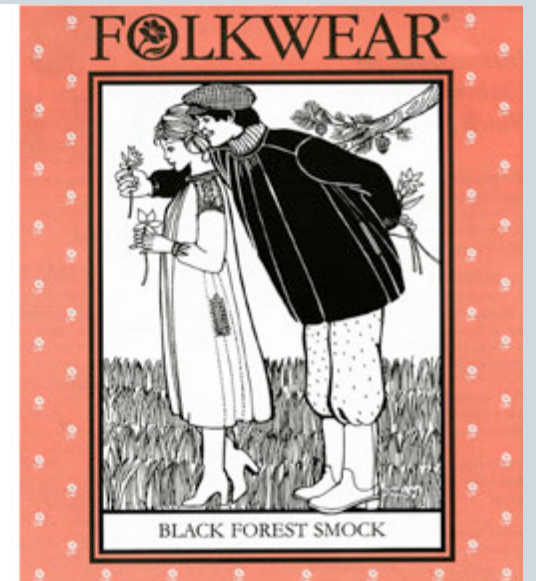
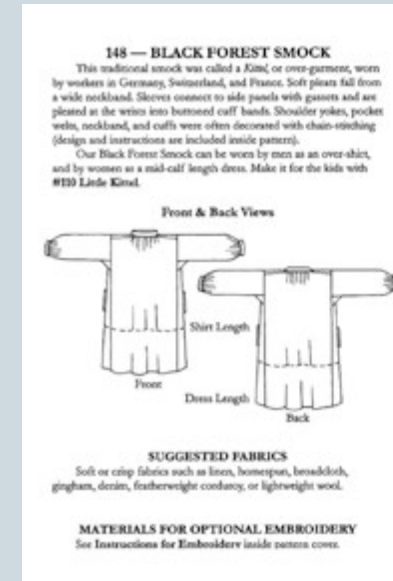
These two books showcase the rectangular garment's history in very distinct, equally fascinating, ways.

Patterns of Fashion, by Janet Arnold. Janet's approach is born from her extensive and exquisite documentation of Elizabethan courtly costume, complete with patterns and enough detail to allow very precise recreations. Packed with gorgeous drawings and photos, this is one of my most inspiring and treasured costume books. It's volume 4 in her monumental and celebrated series, and it's largely devoted to shirts and robes, all rectangular.

Cut My Cote, by Dorothy Burnham. This book takes the folk approach, following the rectangular garment around the globe, with less lavish but equally useful diagrams, good enough to be used as patterns, or simply inspiration and enlightenment concerning our rectangular roots.



Pattern-Free Fashion, by Mary Lee Trees Cole. Want to try a square shirt? This how-to book, or pretty much any Folkwear pattern from their Old Europe or Asian collections, would be a great starting point. I really like these Old German smocks along with the Russian shirts I presented a few pages back. And the bodies are a nicely sophisticated variants on plain rectangles.



To Consider

The mission here is simply to allow oneself to notice ever more examples of, or at least hints of, the folk rectangle in modern clothing and patterns. Things that work tend to persist!

