

11. EARLY TUDOR DRESS

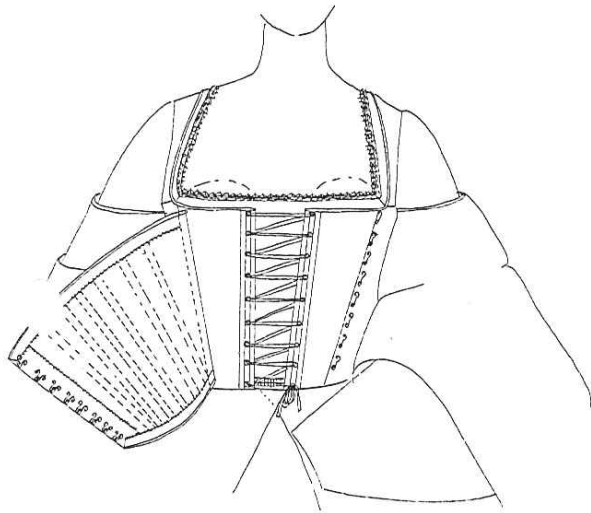
(See illustration, page 37)

THE pattern for this dress is based on the painting of Jane Seymour by Holbein, of which there are several versions. The bodice construction differs slightly from the basic bodice but the principle is the same. It can be fastened in two ways — at the back by hooks and loops or lacing, or at the front — as perhaps it would have been during the 16th century.

To fasten at the front, a bodice can either be laced over the top of a contrasting stomacher as in some of the dresses in the drawing of Sir Thomas More's family, also by Holbein. The stomacher piece can alternatively be applied over the top — as in Jane Seymour's portrait. A careful look at this one will reveal the gold headed pins which are probably pinning the stomacher onto the bodice.

Both back and front fastening methods work, but the advantage of the front fastening is that the artiste is able to get out of the costume herself.

Detail of a painting of Sir Thomas More's family by Holbein.



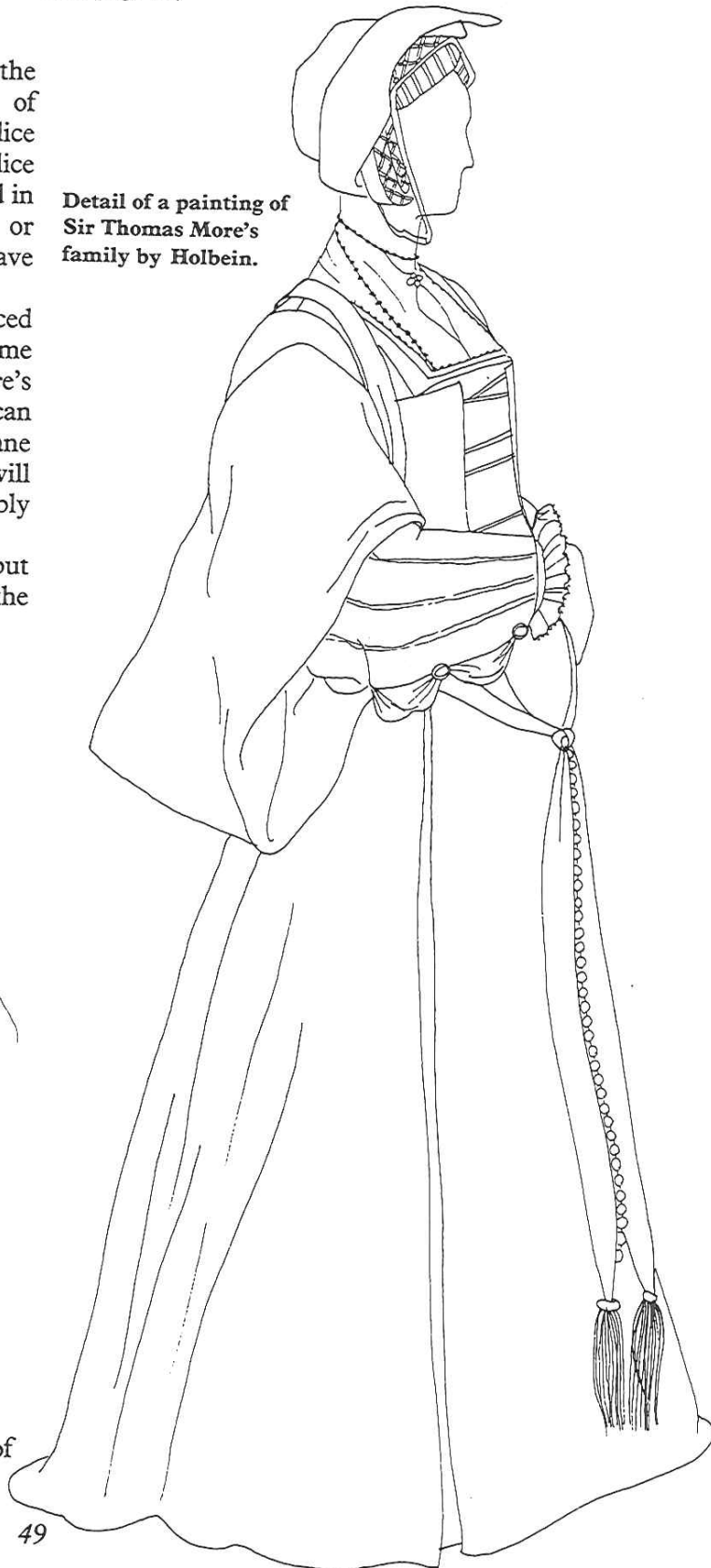
BODICE

Measurements

As basic measurements form.

Making up

1. Cut front to fold, two backs (allowing extra length on the straps) and two jigger pieces.
2. The shoulder strap is built-in with the back bodice, and is therefore cut off the straight of the grain. To avoid stretching tack a stay



Tudor bodice

A Front (cut 1 to fold)

B Back (cut 2)

C Jigger (for Jane Seymour style bodice)

Y Rigilene

- - - - - Alternative cut out line

(Lady Jane Grey style bodice)

X Steels

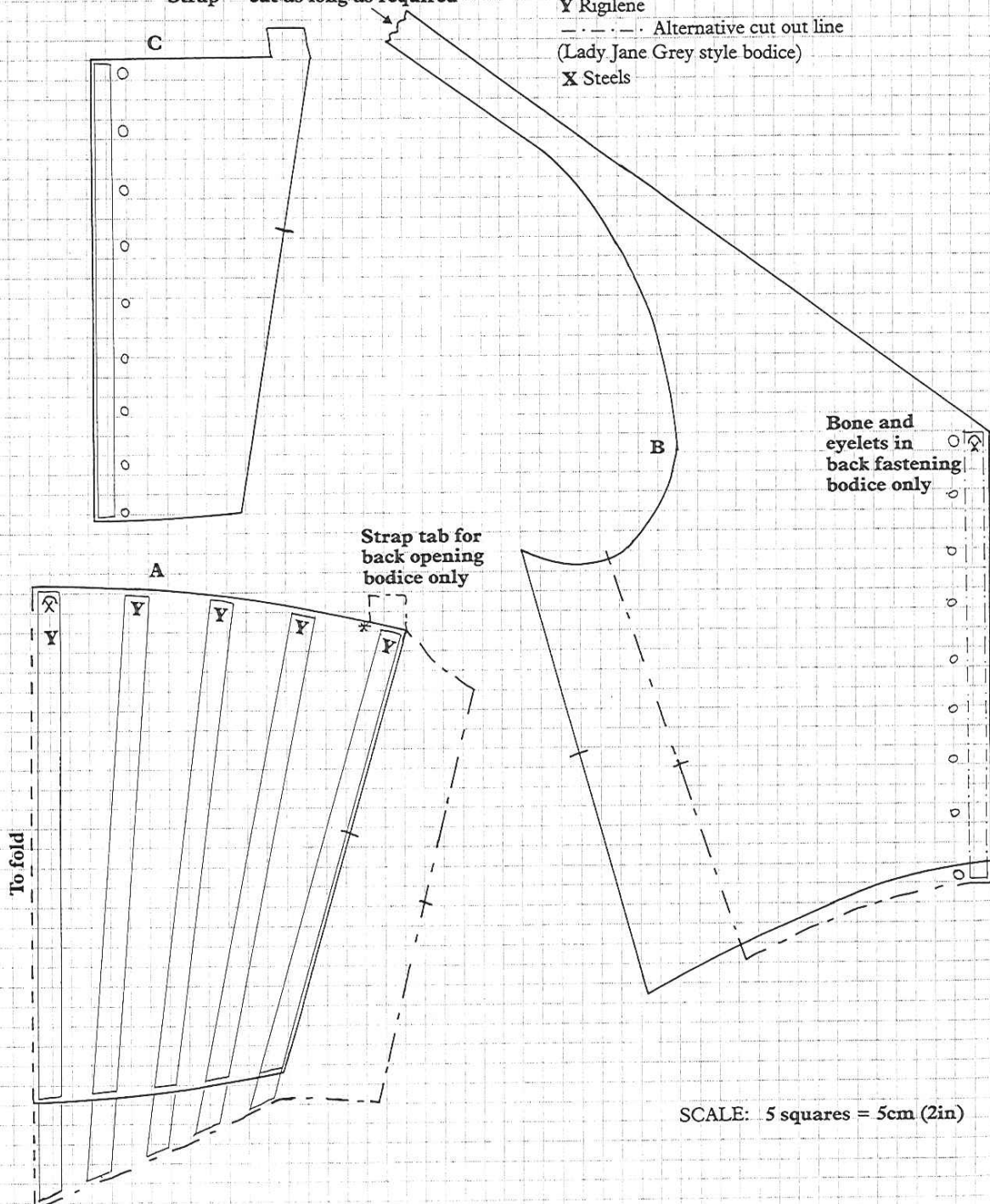
Strap — cut as long as required

Bone and eyelets in back fastening bodice only

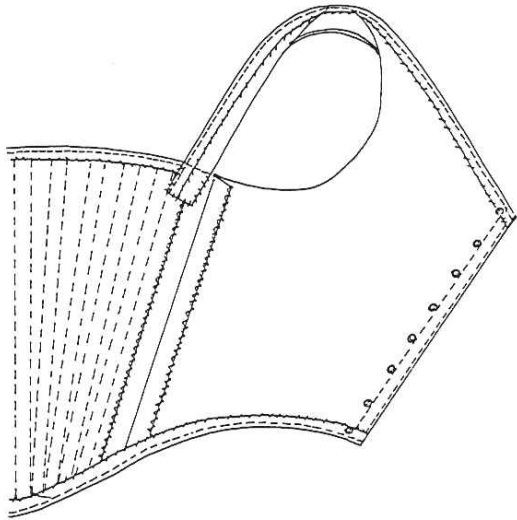
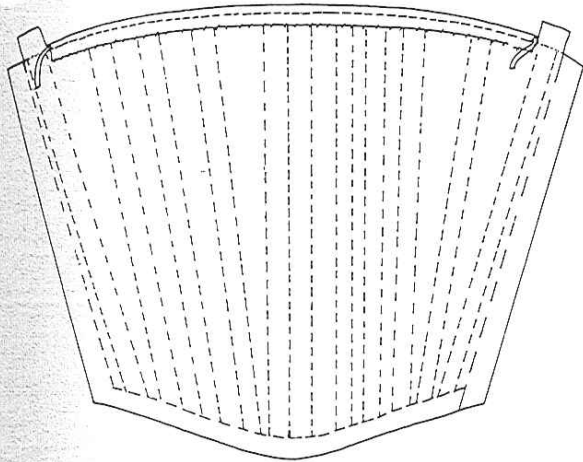
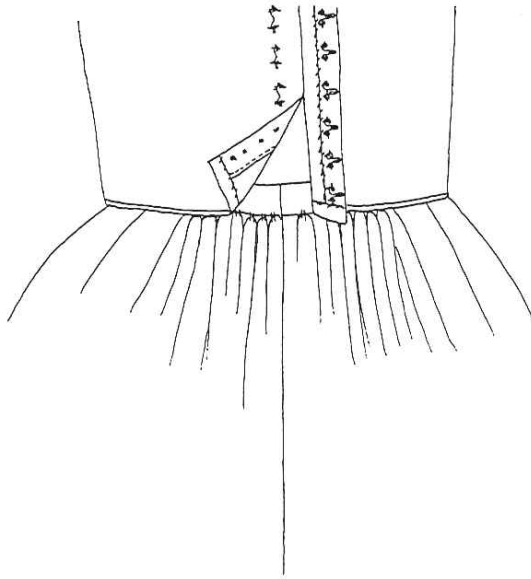
Strap tab for back opening bodice only

To fold

SCALE: 5 squares = 5cm (2in)



Right: back placket. Below: inside of bodice.



tape to the back neck edge/strap and then pipe the edge. Although piping the neck edge is not correct for the period it allows the neck to be tightened by pulling up the cord.

3. To keep either the front panel or stomacher flat approximately 10 Rigilenes are needed — see pattern. Make as for corset. A layer of calico or thin domette will be needed between the bones and the top layer of fabric to avoid the pattern of the bones coming through to the right side.

BACK FASTENING BODICE

- 4a. Finish the back as for basic bodice. Fasten

with hooks and loops, or lacing.

- 5a. Front bodice — mount fabric onto the boned lining and tack together. Pipe the front section from * to * and finish. Alternatively, pipe all the way across and attach the strap by hand.
- 6a. Put the front and the finished back pieces together. Machine and finish seams.
- 7a. Press the seams towards the front and stitch beads onto the stomacher side of the seam.
- 8a. Attach the shoulder straps to the allowance left at the extreme ends of the front neck edge and finish.
- 9a. Pipe or face the bottom and finish.

FRONT FASTENING BODICE

- 4b. After piping the straps/neck edge, join the CB seam, machining over the piping cord to stop it slipping out.
- 5b. Attach the jigger piece as in the pattern. This extends the back under the stomacher piece by about 7.5cm (3in) beyond the side front seam. Finish both of the fronts by putting in a bone and lacing holes. When this method is used attach strap to the jigger piece.
- 6b. Pipe or face the bottom of the bodice.
- 7b. Trim down any inside layers of domette, etc. of the stomacher as close as possible leaving only the outer layers to machine together.

Face, pipe or bag out the stomacher front, across the top, left side and the bottom. Trim, turn and press. Tack to mark the trace line on the right-hand side.

- 8b. Attach the stomacher to the main part of the bodice by machining or pricking through by hand.

NB The width and placing of the stomacher depends on the design.

- 9b. After lacing, velcro the stomacher across onto the left side. Stitch small gold beads 2mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in) from the edge on both sides to resemble the pins in the portrait.

