

Analyze from the top down



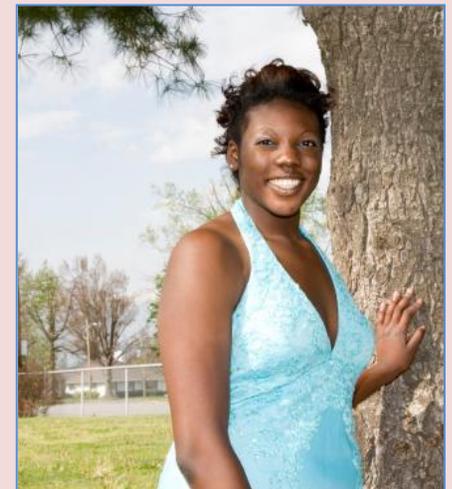
The Bodice



The gown above has an ill fitting bodice that gaps at the neckline. The straps also need to be shortened.

Adjustments at the shoulder or neckline may affect the entire garment. Bust points, waistlines and hems as well as embellishment placement may be affected either positively or negatively by taking up or letting out a shoulder seam. Garments should be analyzed for fit from the top down so let's start with the neckline. Gaping in necklines is common. First try taking in the shoulder seam. Pin out the amount needed from the neckline and taper into the shoulder seam. The amount to be removed may be equal front and back or may require only one or the other, but the shoulder seam should lie in a straight line from the base of the neck to the shoulder joint and divide the area pleasingly.

If taking up the shoulders does not fix the neckline gap, pinch out a dart to eliminate the gap. If the amount is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or less, and your fabric has some "give," remove the stitching from the neckline area and lightly press the seams flat. Measure the current length of the neckline and subtract the amount to be removed. Stay stitch both the



The gown above has a plunging neckline yet it fits perfectly. The neckline lies smoothly without gapping and the young lady looks self assured and comfortable.