

# Elements of Costume Design

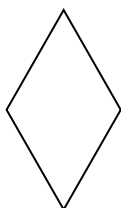
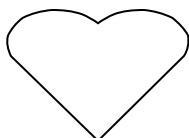
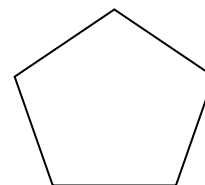
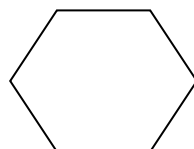
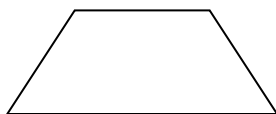
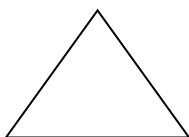
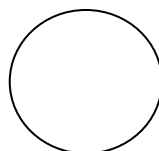
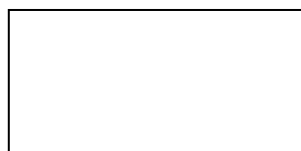
## Supporting Materials

### Aspects of Line

Aspect	Physical Effects	Psychological Effects	Ways to Use
<b>Path</b>			
Straight	Emphasizes angularity, tends to conceal body contours	Stiffness, directness, tension, stubbornness, masculinity, self-assurance, austerity	Seams, darts, hems, pleats, belts, stripes, geometrics, tucks, ribbons
Straight variations (zigzag)		Sharpness, abruptness, instability, nervousness, excitement	Garment edges, trim
Curved	Emphasizes roundness	Flexibility, grace, femininity, fluidity, ease, subtlety, youth	Seams, garment edges, scallops, patterns, draping
<b>Width</b>			
Thick	Adds weight	Forcefulness, self-assurance, aggressiveness, masculinity	Borders, trims, cuffs, fabric patterns, belts
Thin	Minimizes weight	Delicateness, daintiness, gentleness, serenity, passivity, subtlety	Seams, darts, pattern, trim
<b>Continuity</b>			
Unbroken	Smoothness, emphasizes bumps and curves	Constancy, elegance, smoothness, grace	Seams, pleats, gathers, trim, draping
Broken	Emphasizes irregularities	Less rigidity, playfulness, informality, casualness, busyness	Trims, buttons, edgings, pattern
<b>Sharpness</b>			
Sharp	Emphasizes contours it follows	Assertiveness, boldness, precision, hardness	Seams, darts, edges, trims, stripes
Fuzzy	Softens contour, gently increases area, reduces definition of edge or shape	Softness, indecisiveness, femininity, gentleness, ease	Fringe, fur, feathers, patterns, translucent fabrics, trims
<b>Contour</b>			
Smooth	Reinforces smoothness or accents shapes	Straightforwardness, simplicity, boldness, assertiveness, hardness, definitive precision	Seams, darts, edges, trims, stripes
Shaped	Effect varies depending on elements of shape	Complexity, informality, deviousness	Lace, trim, pattern

Aspect	Physical Effects	Psychological Effects	Ways to Use
<b>Consistency</b>			
Solid	Advances boldly	Smoothness, self-assurance, strength	Stripes, binding, piping, braid, belt, borders
Porous	Does not advance, may recede	Openness, delicacy, weakness, refinement, uncertainty	Lace, crochet, fringe, eyelet trim
<b>Length</b>			
Long	Emphasizes its direction, smoothes and elongates	Evaluation relative to figure, stress on continuity, grace	Seams, darts, trims, other
Short	Breaks up spaces	Possibly busyness, agitation	Any of the above
<b>Direction</b>			
Vertical	Lengthens, narrows	Dignity, strength, poise, elegance, superiority, grandness, alertness, austerity	Any of the above
Horizontal	Shortens, widens	Tranquility, repose, calmness, serenity, passiveness	Any of the above
Diagonal	Near vertical—lengthens Near horizontal—widens 45 effect—influenced by other factors	Dramatic, vivacious, unsettled, active, unstable, dynamic	Any of the above

## Basic Shapes



## Aspects of Stage Light and Their Effects

ASPECT	EFFECT
<b>Direction</b>	Produces highlights and shadows, creates or eliminates distortion, varies importance of objects or actors
Front	Gives general illumination, puts emphasis on areas or specific actors
Side	Defines figures and scenery, mood, atmosphere, and time
Back	Separates figures from scenery, sets mood, creates environment
Down	Reduces shadows on scenery, creates distorted effects on figures
Up	Creates dramatic effects on scenery and figures, is used for lighting drops and cycloramas
<b>Angle of Incidence</b>	
Low angle	Produces low angle reflection, long shadows
Sharp angle	Produces sharp angle reflection, less visible shadows
<b>Level of Illumination</b>	
Higher (brighter)	Reflects more light from the surface, offers higher temperature of radiant energy, directs audience's attention
Lower (dimmer)	Gives less light and less heat, creates atmosphere, draws less attention
<b>Quality of Light</b>	
Sharp	Emphasizes surface quality, accents differences in textures, stresses 3-D quality, heightens drama, creates brighter highlights; produces sharper, harder, darker shadows
Diffused	Reduces contrast, softens contours, creates

## Material Responses to Light

HIGH REFLECTION	MEDIUM REFLECTION	HIGH ABSORPTION	TRANSMISSION
Mirror	Raw silk	Velveteen	Organza
Sequins	Brocade	Velvet	Chiffon
Lame'	Taffeta	Wool	Organdy
Vinyl	Crepe	Cotton	Scrim
Satin	Chintz	Velour	Net
Mylar		Knits	Tulle
Polyester			Lace
Lurex			
Glitter cloth			

## Probable Effects of Colored Light on Fabric

### COLORS OF LIGHT

FABRIC COLORS

	Amber (Yellow)	Orange	Red	Violet	Blue	Blue- green (Cyan)	Green
Yellow	Bright yellow	Yellow-orange	Red	Scarlet	Yellow-green	Yellow-green	Yellow-green
Orange	Orange	Bright orange	Bright red-orange	Scarlet	Light brown	Light brown	Light brown
Red	Bright red	Red-orange	Bright red	Scarlet	Purple-black	Dark maroon	Maroon
Violet	Dark brown	Dark brown	Dark gray	Deep violet	Dark violet	Dark violet	Violet
Blue	Dark blue-gray	Black	Gray	Light blue	Dark blue	Light blue-gray	Light blue
Blue-green	Green-blue	Dark green-blue	Black	Dark blue	Very dark blue	Dark blue-gray	Dark green
Green	Bright green	Dark green	Dark gray	Bluish brown	Light olive-green	Light green-gray	Strong green

## Major Color Associations of Western European and American Cultures

COLOR	GENERAL APPEARANCE	ASSOCIATIONS
Red	Brilliant, intense, enlarging, masculine, active, opaque, dry	Fire, heat, strength, love, passion, power, danger, primitiveness, excitement, patriotism, sin, fierceness, sacrifice, vitality, loudness, impulsiveness, blood
Red-orange	Intense, bright, dry, enlarging, masculine	Autumn, energy, gaiety, impetuousness, strength, spirit, boldness, action, warmth, loudness
Orange	Bright, luminous, dry, enlarging, masculine, glowing	Autumn, warmth, cheer, youthfulness, vigor, exuberance, excitement, extremism, earthiness, satiety, loudness, charm
Yellow-orange	Bright, radiant, dry, enlarging masculine	Autumn, happiness, prosperity, hospitality, gaiety, optimism, openness
Yellow	Sunny, incandescent, radiant, feminine, enlarging, dry	Spring, brightness, wisdom, enlightenment, happiness, kindness, cowardice, treachery, ill health, warmth, sunlight
Yellow-green	Tender, bright, enlarging	Spring, friendship, youth, sparkle, warmth, restlessness, newness
Green	Clean, moist, reducing	Summer, youth, inexperience, growth, envy, restlessness, newness, quiet, naturalness, wealth, coolness, water, refreshing, ghastliness, disease, terror, guilt
Blue-green	Quiet, clean, moist	Summer, quietness, reserve, relaxation, faithfulness, smoothness, discriminating, rational

Blue	Transparent, wet, deep, reducing	Winter, peace, restraint, loyalty, sincerity, youth, conservatism, passivity, honor, purity, depression, melancholy, sobriety, serenity, gentleness, innocence
Blue-violet	Deep, soft, reducing, moist	Tranquility, spiritualism, modesty, reflection, somberness, maturity, aloofness, dignity, fatigue
Violet	Deep, soft, dark, misty, atmospheric, reducing	Stateliness, royalty, drama, dominance, mystery, dignity, pomposity, supremacy, formality, melancholy, quietness, mourning, loneliness, desperation, profundity, artistic, philosophical
Red-violet	Deep, soft, dark, warm	Drama, enigma, intrigue, tension, remoteness, intensity
Brown	Warm, dark, deep	Autumn, casualness, friendliness, naturalness, earthiness, tranquility, honesty, security, substance, stability, humility
White	Spatial, light, deep	Winter, snow, youthfulness, virginity, joy, purity, cleanliness, honesty, hope, innocence, spiritualism, enlightenment, forgiveness, worthiness, delicacy, love, day
Black	Spatial, dark, deep	Night, mourning, ominous, deadly, death, formality, sophistication, gloom, uncertainty, evil, mystery, dignity, sorrow
Gray	Neutral, misty	Calmness, dignity, serenity, versatility, resignation, death, ghostliness, obscurity, penitence

## Effects of Texture

TEXTURE	PHYSICAL EFFECT	PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT (MOOD)
Smooth, crisp	Sharp silhouette, much reflected light	Refined, hard, cheerful, perky, sophisticated
Smooth, soft	Sharp silhouette, much reflected light	Sensuous, relaxed, luxurious
Velvety soft	Enlarging, but less defined, dense, less reflected light	Rich, luxurious
Fuzzy	Enlarging, but less defined, dense, less reflected light	Luxurious, cuddly, primitive, untamed
Rough	Softer silhouette, less reflected light	Sporty, natural, uncouth, coarse, primitive, casual
Coarse	Enlarging, less reflected light	Uncouth, earthy, uncivilized
Medium (regular)	Neutralizing, medium reflected light	Businesslike, mature, stable, conservative
Medium (irregular)	Neutralizing, medium reflected light	Stable, active, warm