

# HOW TO TAKE CORRECT MEASUREMENTS

First of all, you need a measuring tape. DO NOT USE YARD STICK (it's for a different job).



**Shoulders.** The easiest part. Jacket should be zipped up all the way, laid flat on a table. Grab the shoulders and pull until leather becomes straight, but without stretching it. Measure **from shoulder tip to shoulder tip**.



**Back.** Put the measuring tape at the bottom of the collar and making sure the jacket lays completely flat, run the tape over it until the end of the knitted waistband. Simple.



**Sleeve.** This is the correct sleeve measurement. From shoulder at the middle of the epaulet till the end of the knit cuff. Measuring the outer edge of the sleeve. Its maximum length. DO NOT do it as shown in the photo below. It's wrong.

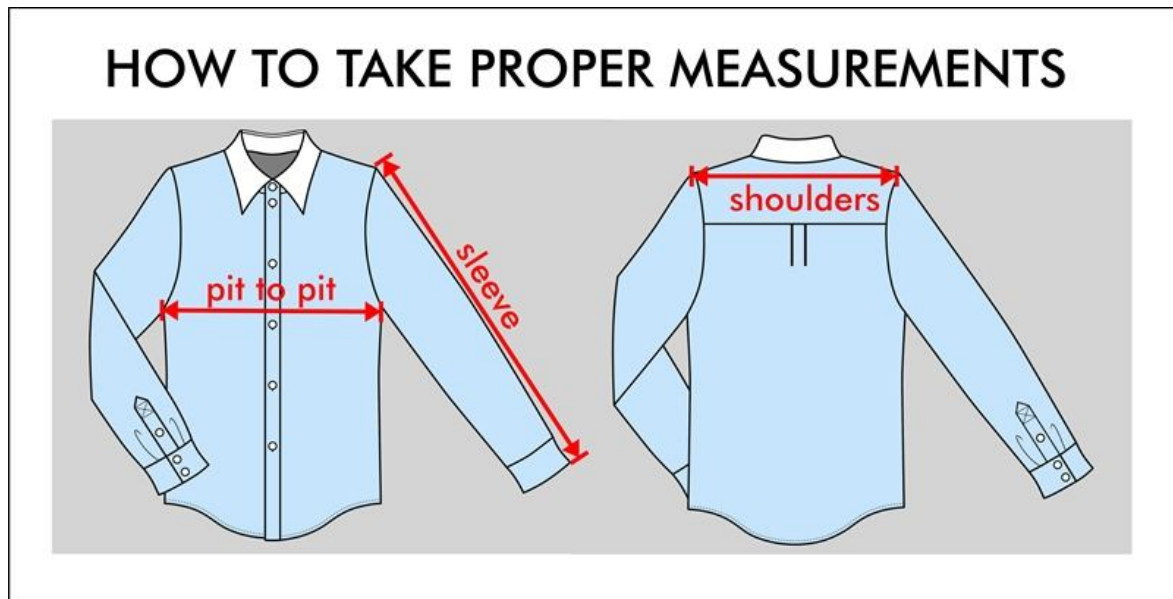


Wrong! See? One inch shorter.



**Pit to pit.** Grab the jacket under the armpits and pull until it becomes straight. Don't pull to hard you don't want to stretch it. My photo isn't the best, left side OK, right side not perfectly straight, but anyway, that's how the pit to pit measurement is taken.

## HOW TO FIND THE CORRECT SHOULDER MEASUREMENTS FOR YOUR BODY, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A JACKET THAT FITS WELL



Maybe you do not have a jacket, but you have a shirt. Take one close fitting shirt (not loose fitting shirt), button all the buttons and put the shirt on a table laying flat. Measure the shoulders as shown in the above image. Whatever measurement you find there is your correct shoulder measurement. The logic is that if the shirt fits you, the jacket will fit you too. **DO NOT MEASURE THE SLEEVE OF THE SHIRT.**

## WHAT SIZE JACKET SHOULD I ORDER?

First we need your chest measurement. While standing straight and wearing a shirt put the measuring tape around your chest at nipples level. Do not hold your breath, do not fully exhale, just breathe normally. The tape should be snug on you but not tight.



The number shown in the tape is your chest measurement. I hear you thinking "OK, but that does not answer what size I should order". Please have patience, the answer is below.

## **WHAT SIZE? – SLIM FIT (MILITARY FIT)**

The A-2 jacket is a military jacket, part of military uniform. US military uniforms are slim fit. If you want a true WWII fit (slim fit) then you must order whatever size the measuring tape showed you. If the tape shows 42, you must order a size 42. If the tape shows 42.5 you must order the next size up, i.e. the 44. The military fit jacket will hug your body as a glove and it will not give you a "stomach", it will not balloon at your belly and will not have a 'blousing effect'. You should realize of course, that the A-2 jacket is certainly not the most comfortable jacket in the world. So your movement will be somewhat restricted, but that is normal, it's the nature of this jacket.

Please always keep in mind that the military fit jacket has a circumference of 2-3 inches larger than your chest. This means that the room provided between your chest and the jacket is 2-3 inches. This is enough for you to wear a t-shirt and a shirt underneath or alternatively, a light sweater.

A jacket that gives 4 inches or more in the chest, belongs to the category described below. You will be always given the measurements so you can check that for yourself. Remember, "jacket chest" = pit to pit x 2.

## **WHAT SIZE? – RELAXED FIT**

Some people who are used to wearing more comfortable jackets prefer a more relaxed fit. If you are one of them, then you should order a jacket that provides 4-5 inches room in the chest. Usually, that is one size larger than what your chest measurement (with the tape) indicates. Again, we will give you the measurements and guide you and you will be able to see for yourself.

This fit, is more comfortable, there is more room for layering (you can wear other clothing underneath) and movement is not as restricted.

## **OK, found the chest measurement, but what about the shoulders?**

The A-2 jacket is made to fit regular size American men of the 1930s-1940s. The patterns were so constructed that if the jacket fit you in the chest it would fit in the shoulders too. But you, as a modern man, might have spent more time at the gym, so as a result you may have broader shoulders. In that case, you must read above, how to take the shoulders measurements from a shirt. We will work with you and adjust our pattern to fit your shoulders too.

## **And what about back and sleeve length?**

If you have short or long torso, short or long arms, we suppose you know this already because you should have hard time finding off-the-rack clothes that fit you properly. Again, we will work with you to adjust the back and sleeve length. You can measure the back and sleeve lengths from a jacket that fits you well, using the guidance we provided above.



**SLIM FIT**

**VS**



**RELAXED FIT**

Both are historically correct!

Thank you!  
Bill Kelso Mfg  
May 2013