

Aspects of Line

Aspect	Physical Effects	Psychological Effects	Ways to Use
Path			
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
Width			
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
Continuity			
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
Sharpness			
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
Contour			
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			
Consistency			
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
Length			
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
Direction			
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