

Stripes: An Optical Illusion Pattern

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ABSTRACT

Stripes, an illusion pattern, can make one look taller, shorter, wider, narrower, and accentuate one's face or other characteristics. In fashion, stripes are also called lines. Line seems to be a simple line, but it can be quite versatile and can be used as crucial elements of design. As we all know that line is a fundamental element of design which establishes not only the outline of a garment but also creates an illusion in the dress. It is an extremely useful & versatile realistic tool that is made to function in both visual & verbal ways. Line leads the eye in the direction it is going & divides the area through which it passes, thus providing a breaking in space. It also defines a shape or a silhouette and conveys a mood or a character. Interestingly, it creates visual illusions such as height and width and makes a figure look thin & thick. Line manipulates space, divides space, encloses space, organizes space, pushes and pulls it, separates and contours it. There are many kinds of lines – diagonal, undulating and spiral, dotted, perpendicular, dominating, straight, horizontal, vertical, thin, thick, curved and zig- zag. Each line can create its own amazing effect in dress designing. The body imperfections can be successfully hidden with the help of this interesting element of design in many ways. Psychologically, lines make the eyes twist and control our brain in such a way that our eyes follow them to the point at which they meet & become a focal point making that part of the body look smaller. Conversely, when lines move away (diverge) from each other, the eyes follow them to the end making the wearer look broader. Thick lines convey strength & alertness while thin lines imply firmness & stability in one's character. There are an infinite number of physical features, and each person has their own unique combination of these features, and to create the illusion of balance and proportion many tricks could be played with the simplest yet most important element of design i.e. 'LINE'. It has functional as well as emotional significance.

Keywords: Stripes, Lines, Body types

INTRODUCTION

Stripes are rigid and unchanging. They add stability and may be vertical or horizontal. Generally vertical stripes that carry the eye up without interruption will give a taller, slenderer look and horizontal stripes that stop the eye from traveling upward by moving the eye from side to side or back down will create a shorter and heavier illusion. Line is one of the most significant elements of design. It can stand alone or be the part of another design element. Line is a mark made by continuous movement of a point which can show direction, lead the eye, draw the attention, create outline, design or divide a space or communicate a feeling [1]. Almost everywhere you look, you can find a line.

Lines in clothes can refer to a type of mark that contains both a direction and a length. Lines in clothes play an important part as for designing the garments. When a line is used correctly, it becomes a very important factor for creating a pleasing effect. Line is the most important element of art which forms the

basis of any design. They are building blocks of design that can communicate emotion and information. A line's ending can be ragged, blunt or curved.

Very few women have so-called perfect or proportional figures. So, to design garments for different types of figures, the effect of the lines must be understood because they are the most important part of any design, and it helps to overcome many figures' faults if used correctly. Dynamic lines create movement in more than one direction and may be curved, slanting, zig zag, or other irregular direction.

The most important line of a cloth is the outline of a human figure or silhouette. Other lines are formed when the different parts of garment are put together, by waistline, neck, side seams or other seams, or the arm hole where the seams are inserted.

Length of garment, edges of sleeves, collars and cuffs also form lines. Some more lines are created by styles, decoration and trimmings on the clothes, for example tucks, darts, gathers, pleats, yokes and panels.

Lines are classified as:

1. SILHOUETTE LINES/ STRUCTURAL LINES

The lines forming the outline of the dress are called silhouette lines or structural lines. These are the most important lines in the dress as these are considered the first impression of the garment and are visible from a distance. This gives a particular shape to the dress and has a specific effect on the looks of the wearer which emphasizes and hides some of the body parts. These lines are created by construction of a garment or are a part of a design such as neckline, waistline, side seams, armhole lines etc. Hemlines, collar edges, sleeves, and cuffs also form lines. Yokes or joints and darts, a row of buttons, pockets, gathers, ruffles, pleats, tucks and combinations of different materials etc. also form lines [1]. These lines are also those lines which are created by applying some other object over the garment like laces, braids, ribbons, a row of buttons or something like that. An embroidery pattern can also form decorative lines in the dress. These are required for maintaining the shape of the garment.

2. PRINTED LINES/ DECORATIVE LINES

They refer to the print lines used for aesthetic purposes. These lines are indicated to the prints of the fabric that designate many issues: a look down, heavy, short or tall. Or purely added by the designer for decorative purposes.

STRIPES/ LINE'S IMPACT

DIRECTION	MESSAGE or MOOD	ILLUSION
• Move up	• Masculine	• Taller
• Move across	• Feminine	• Narrow
• Move down	• Grace	• Wider
	• Calm	
	• Anger	
	• Freedom	
	• Movement	

Different categories of stripes are as follows:

1. VERTICAL LINES/ STRIPES: ELEGANCE AND HEIGHT

Vertical lines give a feeling of dignity and sophistication. Vertical lines are perpendicular to the ground and make the eye travel from top to bottom direction thereby, creating an illusion of increased height. These lines are dramatic if close together will make the wearer thinner while two lines far apart will look wider [2]. Vertical lines in clothes will give a longer and leaner look.

However, when repeated at even intervals, they can cause the figure to appear both wider and shorter, because the eye is drawn alternately from side to side. These lines lead the eye upward creating the illusion of height to visually slenderize the figure.



Figure 1. Vertical Stripes

2. HORIZONTAL LINES/ STRIPES: BALANCE AND RELAXATION

Horizontal lines run crosswise i.e. parallel to the ground, lead the eye from side to side and thus give the effect of broadness and hence shorten the figure. Such lines generally make the figure look wider and heavier. We should avoid using horizontal lines at areas such as bigger busts, heavy tummy and thighs. These lines usually carry the eye across.



Figure 2. Horizontal Stripes

Horizontal lines signify flexibility and informality. Effect of horizontal movement in the lines of dress can be created using ruffles, tucks and lace.

3. DIAGONAL LINES/ STRIPES: DYNAMIC and ENERGY

These are neither parallel nor straight lines, henceforth these are slanting lines, and their movement goes in sloping direction. They may slenderize or broaden a figure. If they are more vertical, they lengthen and if more horizontal, they broaden the figure. Diagonal lines will take away some width and give a little height. Because of slant these lines are incredibly slimming no matter where they are placed, they will slim that area.



Figure 3. Diagonal Stripes

4. CURVED LINES/ STRIPES: SOFTNESS AND FEMININITY

Curved lines usually add softness, grace and femininity. When used in yokes, collars and necklines they give an effect of roundness and tend to be broadened. Curved lines are most effective if used less, too many will become confusing. Soft shallow curves define the curves of the human figure. These are graceful. They may be soft when slightly curved or bold when tightly curved.

Curves produce the same effects as straight lines of similar lengths and placements, but more subtly. The visual impact is softer, more graceful. A curve also adds roundness and looks of greater weight wherever it occurs on the figure.



Hourglass Shape

Figure 4. Curved Stripes

5. V-SHAPED LINES/ STRIPES: SUBTLE DETAILING

V shaped lines are when two opposite diagonal lines meet at one point. The deeper the v, the slenderer is effect but when they are wider and flattened, they broaden the figure. The ‘V’ lines are generally created at the necklines, but they may form part of the design also. The V neckline increases the illusion of height.

ZIGZAG STRIPES

Zigzag lines are diagonal lines combined and connected at points. This pattern makes a lot of short, sharp turns. A mixture of different emotions such as erratic, intense, abrupt, fun, busy, confusing and diverse.

Visually it is the eye-catching and the person's character cannot be defined as zigzagging creates confusion in one at the sight of it. Perfect example of Zigzag is chevron prints.



Hourglass Shape

Figure 5. ZigZag Stripes

6. BROKEN LINES/ STRIPES: EDGY DISRUPTION

Another way to perceive these lines in design are dotted or slashed lines. They can also break up the monotony of regular, continuous lines in a design, making it more interesting and attractive. Or we can say that vertical and horizontal lines running perpendicular to one another are referred to as the broken lines. When these two lines are used together in the same design, they control each other's effect and reduce the length and width of the figure. These perpendicular lines can be bold and eye-catching, making a large area in a garment or design more exciting and conspicuous.



Figure 6. Broken Stripes

Table 1. HOW TO NAIL THESE STRIPES ACCORDING TO YOUR BODY TYPES

STRIPE TYPE	CHARACTERISTICS	IMPRESSION	EXAMPLE in FASHION	BODY TYPE
Vertical stripes	Elongating, formal	Height, elegance	Maxi dresses, tailored suit, formal attire	Apple shaped, Petite
Horizontal stripes	Balanced, casual	Width, relaxation	Striped tops, wide legged trousers, business casual attire	Pear shaped or Spoon body or Triangle shaped, Rectangle or Straight, Tall or Flute
Diagonal stripes	Dynamic, energetic	Movement, excitement	Asymmetrical cuts, angular pattern, sportswear	Apple shaped, Petite, Oval shaped
Curved stripes	Soft, feminine	Graceful, natural curves	Circular skirts, draped necklines	Hourglass
Zigzag stripes	Vibrant, playful	Energy, motion	Chevron patterns, dynamic designs	Hourglass
Broken stripes	Edgy, disrupted	Unconventional, uniqueness	Distressed denim, cutout pattern	Apple shaped, Pear shaped, Hourglass

REFERENCES

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