

A Woman, Full of Hope, in the Dressing Room

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Like many women, my experience shopping for pants is often an exercise in futility.

It goes something like this. I enter the dressing room full of hope with a stash of pants that look really cute, hip and flattering on the hanger. But after 15 minutes of yanking and zipping, I return the whole pile of ill-fitting clothing, and leave the store annoyed and empty handed.

So I was certainly tempted by the idea of having multiple choices within one size. Eager to find a pair of pants that would appear to have been designed just for me, I went to Macy's in Herald Square to the Jones New York display equipped with Fitlogic sizing.

From a rack of simple black pants I picked out three size 10's. The No. 1 body type was for someone with a "less defined waist to hip" and "slim thighs," the 2 was "average waist" and "full in mid-hip," and 3 was for a "small/forward tilt waist," along with a "lower full hip curve" and "full upper thigh."

From these slightly cryptic descriptions and diagrams that looked more like flower vases than human bodies, it was not clear which shape I most resembled, but I was eager to find out.

No. 3 was quickly ruled out. Since they were designed for "full upper thighs," there was lots of excess fabric on the back of the legs leading to an unappealing flat-butt look. Not surprisingly, the waist was also too tight, leading me to conclude that, sadly, I must not be in the small waist category. These pants were also too short, an all too familiar problem for someone who is 5 feet, 11 inches tall.

I went back to the dressing room and zipped up the No. 2's. They were better fitting but had a strange surplus of fabric in the upper thigh and crotch area, giving the pants an overall baggy look. This may have been the look I was going for in college, but that was a long time ago. These pants were also tight in the waist, though I was pleased to see the edge of the pant legs actually grazed my shoes.

When I tried on the last pair, the No. 1's, all the previous problems disappeared. The waist was just right, the length good and there was no bagginess. Over all, the cut just seemed more flattering. I had found my match.

To that extent, the Fitlogic sizing worked great. And it certainly makes sense to acknowledge that not all women are built alike. But despite the fit, I did not rush over to the cash register to buy the pants. If I wanted high-waisted black pants without front pockets and a narrow waist band, I very well might have. But they looked more like something my mom might buy.