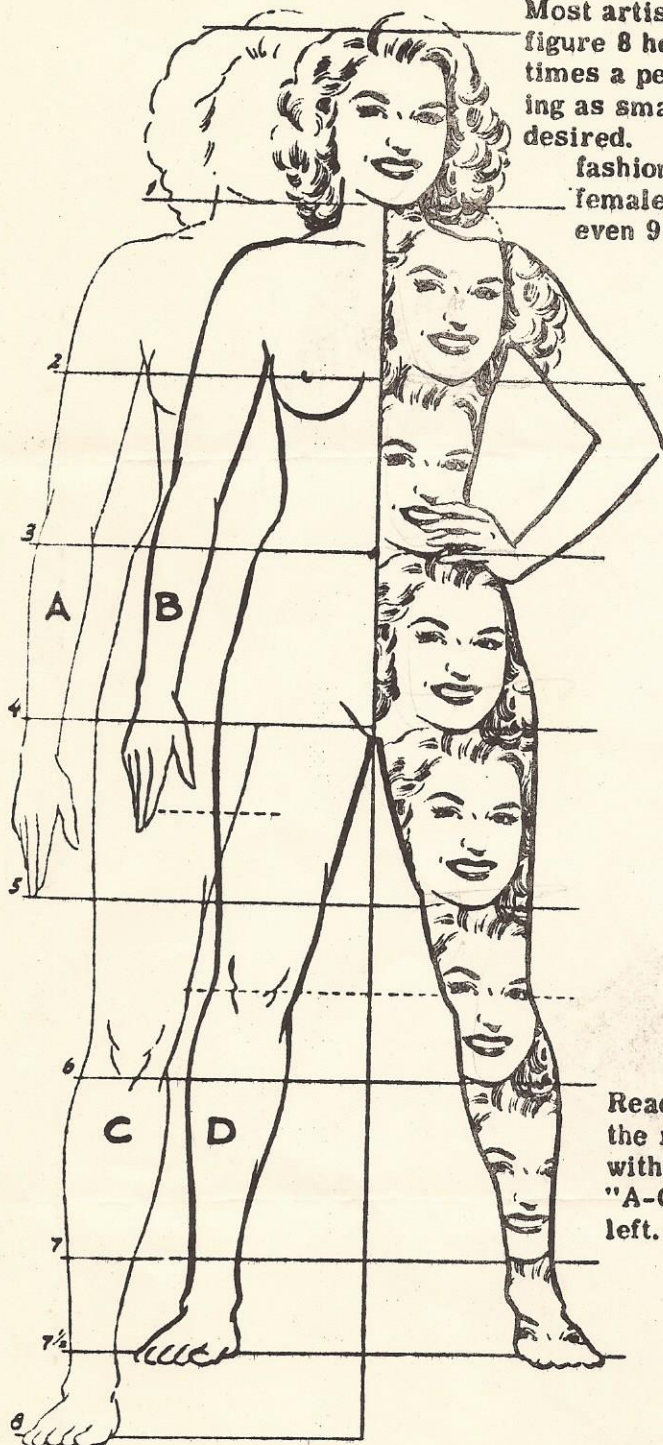


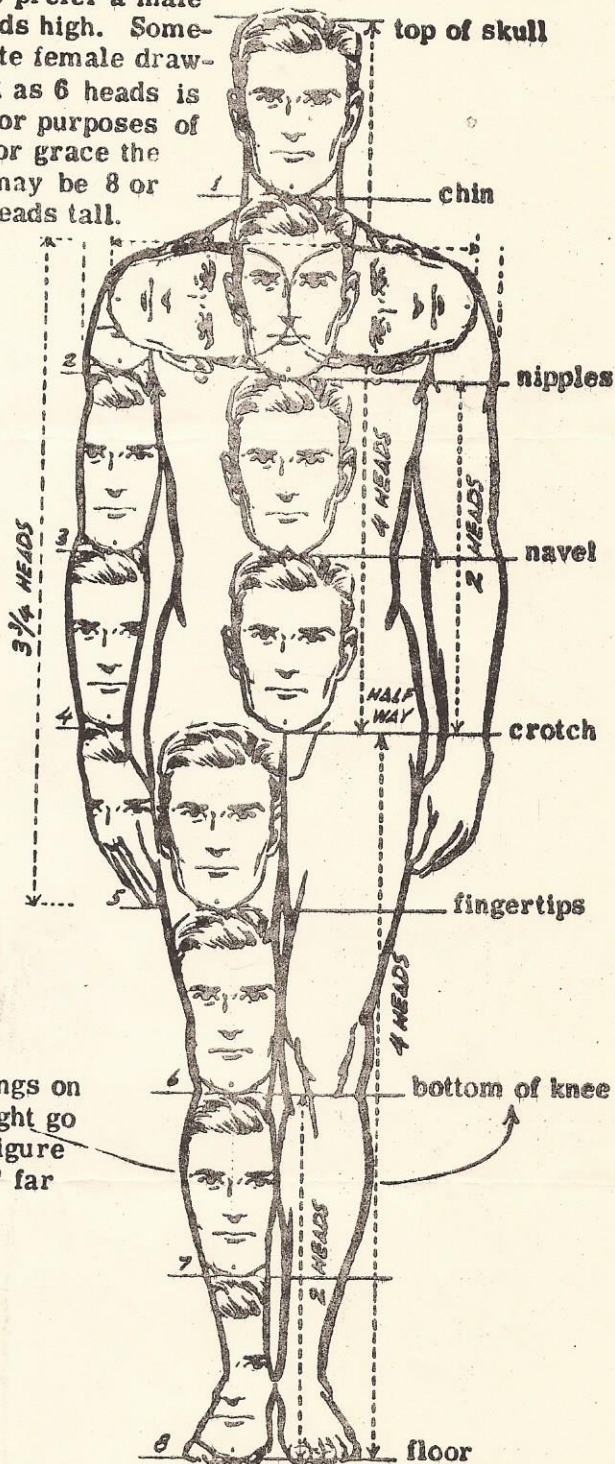
PROPORTIONS OF THE HUMAN FIGURE

The unit of measurement in drawing the human figure is usually a "head's length." The average height is thought of as being $7\frac{1}{2}$ heads. However, race, sex, age and individual physical differences prevent setting down any fixed rules as to anatomical proportions.

Most artists prefer a male figure 8 heads high. Sometimes a petite female drawing as small as 6 heads is desired. For purposes of fashion or grace the female may be 8 or even 9 heads tall.



Above is a figure $7\frac{1}{2}$ heads overall. To the left is the same head and torso proportion as in the shorter figure, but the arm and leg have been altered to comply with the 8-head height. Many artists prefer the extra length in the legs. The half-head longer "C" leg is sometimes used with the "B" arm length.



Readings on the right go with figure "A-C" far left.

Of course, it is not necessary to draw the repeated row of heads. In this case they are pictured to help retain comparative relationships. First, mark the edge of a paper scrap with your chosen head unit and follow down through your sketch as it is developed. After considerable practice you will be able to sense the proportions.