

Tailoring and pattern making techniques

What is a Dressmaker

The tailor has a fundamental role in both the process and outcome of clothing production, whether or not he is working as a freelancer or company specialist. The tailor works in the following major departments: women's, men's, and children's apparel.

In contrast to the new age of mass production in apparel where there is pattern-grading, this profession has always dedicated itself more to the hand-crafted quality of couture pieces, coveted by the middle-upper and upper classes. Today, there is still a high demand for tailored garments for formal occasions (baptisms, weddings, graduations, etc.), this allows the transformation of an existing article of clothing into a fitted one that conveniently hides any physical imperfections.

Generally in smaller clothing companies, the tailor works in direct contact with the head of clothing production, while in larger companies his responsibilities are distributed among several different figures: one who works with the pattern, the prototype coordination and the quality control. Also, inside the clothing workshop, the tailor has total control of the apprentices' production; he coordinates and can substitute for (when necessary) their different jobs. Although there is new technology available in the world of tailoring, because the tailor can guarantee the highest level of quality in craftsmanship to the finished garment he remains irreplaceable. In fact, he is a specialist whose value increases with experience for which the market is in high demand. He is always up to date with the newest fashion trends and all useable materials. Therefore, he has to have knowledge of marketing, production and sewing techniques, fibers and yarns and the history of fashion and costume design.

In addition it is essential that he is familiar with design techniques and the work process, as well as all the machinery relating to his trade. As for personal attributes, some recommended qualities are the following: teamwork skills, patience,

precision, creativity, as well as a strong esthetic sense, optimum manual and customer service skills. The organization of tailored clothing is recognized not only for its choice of precious and expensive fabrics, but also for special attention when cutting and making the garment. The precise cut, the perfect trimming, the quality of material, and the smaller yet visible details such as the lining, pockets, collars, sleeves, and buttonholes are all treated with care and are representative of the garment's real elegance. The tailor is the writer of a fashion project where in the center there is the client, who gives guidance and counsel in the choosing of fabrics, accessories, and style that best adjusts to the client's physique and personality. Actually in this profession, the garment has an esthetic value but one that is refined for the person who wears it.

Course Objective

This course is in response to the urgent demands for tailors from division firms; it addresses the objective to shape someone capable of working independently and carrying the technique such as facing a stylist's and/or designer's most unexpected and extravagant demands. Istituto di Moda Burgo's Dressmaking Course is unique in that the instructor teaches directly to each individual student. This approach to teaching allows the following:

- To focus on and reinforce certain areas where the student has the most difficulty
- To advance forward in the curriculum with highest efficiency
- To develop an optimal relationship with the teacher

This is possible because there is a limit of 8 students per teacher in each pattern-making course.

Course Syllabus

This course is hands-on work and it is based on developing the patterns to be realized first with pattern-making paper, then if necessary with muslin, and finally with fabric. The student begins with life-size designs of various bodices, dresses, collars, and sleeves. He then moves on to work on more elaborate designs of different skirts, shirts, trousers, and jackets. Subsequently the student learns to interpret and transform the basic patterns in order to obtain the correct fit, before working on the pattern-making paper and after cutting and assembling it in muslin. After checking the patterns he can make and finish it in fabric.

At the end of the course the student will be capable of following all the steps necessary in order to produce the finest piece of clothing: to take a client's measurements; construct the pattern and muslin prototype; make, fit, and finish the garment.

Basics to Tailoring

In the standard course, the study of pattern making usually concentrates on women's wear. However the student can choose to learn another division of apparel (for example men's wear or children's apparel). After the study of basics and the correction of different physical flaws, the student can learn to do fittings in actual scale or directly on the muslin.

The Fitting

The fitting is a fundamental step for tailors, it teaches the student how to transform the basic pattern in order to have the correct fit for the wearer. Carried on with the study of the fit of muslin, first for the mannequin and then on the client, in order to eliminate any possibility of flaws in the final form.

The Making

Once the corrections are made on the pattern and followed by the fitting, the student moves forward to the next steps of cutting and sewing on fabric. There are certain garments that require a profound knowledge of sewing techniques that vary depending on the fabric used, such as those for wedding and evening dresses. Aside from tricks of the trade, the students study the zipper, padding, lining, etc, or rather all the details that "make the difference" between factory production and hand-crafted tailoring.

The educational career also provides local fieldtrips to clothing production businesses, fabric stores, and museums as well as exhibitions pertaining to this field.

Textbooks

The book "IL MODELLISMO," published by Istituto di Moda Burgo, is the compilation of ten thousand different resources among Italian and foreign clothing factories, clothing companies, and tailoring businesses, collected over ten years. It is the perfect handbook for students all over the world.

This book is based on the proportional system; this method is founded in the study of basic techniques derived from tailors and consequently industrialized. The foundation is a system of proportional measurements of the human body (woman, man,

and child) linked to the exact relationships between measurements that allow for the realization of a garment with the correct and proportional fit according to the size in demand. The book is also in English.

Staff

Our instructors are among the best professionals in the field. And while they continue to work in fashion firms, workshops, and studios, here they are able to share their knowledge and experiences with the younger generation. Our instructors are dynamic, effective, and most importantly, because they work inside the fashion network, fashion-forward. Our highly qualified staff inspires and motivates the students. They give their lessons in the classroom and workrooms, which boast the most modern equipment used in the professional world.

Exams and Process Reports

The staff gives tests in order to check the students' monthly progress. This way the instructors are aware of the student's level and can immediately help him in any difficulties he might face within the curriculum. At the end of the course, the student receives a qualified vocational diploma. The final exam is presented to outside reviewers. These reviewers are professionals in the field who evaluate the finished garments of the students, as well as the corresponding paper and rough drafts. Once the student presents his work, he must also be prepared to answer the examiners' questions and even mild criticisms. The student must be able to perform successfully and with confidence in the subject.

Career Outlet

The tailor's workshop is typical working environment for the tailor's duties. Here he makes every type of clothing, using a large spectrum of fabrics (from silks for blouses to wools for coats).

His primary duties include the following:

- Consulting clients in order to determine the pattern, fabric, color, and cost
- Determining the duration of the consignment
- Making the pattern
- Cutting the fabric
- Creating the consigned garment
- Fitting the client with the consigned garment and tailoring it perfectly to their figure



PROGRAMME of STUDY

- Measurements Study
- Ease allowance Study
- Pattern Making
- Haute Couture
- Pattern Making Techniques
- Industrial Techniques
- Pattern Lay Out
- Tailor Sewing Technique
- Tailoring Techniques
- Industrial Sewing Techniques
- Creativness
- Fibers and Yarns
- Fabrics and Materials
- Pattern Grading Technique
- Planning Techniques
- Quality Control

The course is available either in Italian or in English.

On line form <http://www.imb.it/form.htm>.

IMB
Istituto di Moda
Burgo



DURATION & FEES

NORMAL

Total hours: 900

Lesson duration: 3 hours

Duration: 2 years (20 months)

Weekly attendance: 4 lessons

Fee :

Euro 5600/year or 600/month (20 months)

INTENSIVE

Total hours: 900

Lesson duration: 3 hours

Duration: 1 year (10 months)

Weekly attendance: 8 lessons

Fee:

Euro 11200 or 1200/month (10 months)

The textbook and teaching materials are included in the fees.

The course begins in September, October, or January. It is possible to start the course in other months if necessary. For more information please contact the reception desk (phone. no. 0039 02783753)

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