

# DH Patterns and Fit

## DESIGN STUDIO SERVICES



- Patterns

The development of patterns, Half-Proto's® and mock-ups is at the heart of the company. DH makes it easy to optimize the design or create variations on a theme. The focus is on base patterns with fabric samples. The toile or Half-Proto verifies the quality of fit, pattern integrity, and presents the results to designer, design-engineers and manufacturer. Moreover, the toile is made in a manner enabling them to form the basis for the development of the pattern or fit block. Pattern making includes reversed-engineering from existing garments.

*"Our Business is Your Design"*

Pattern development requires tailoring skills that are only gained at leading fashion academies and years of practice. DH and her team have those skills. The company has access to numerous experienced pattern makers and modelists, also for knitwear, to fulfill the peak-loads of the annual design cycles of multiple clients simultaneously.

DH halves the number of prototypes from the factory; the fit is correct upon first delivery. Design-engineers can immediately focus on the manufacturability, production costs, trim and detailing of the garment. It saves valuable time and money.

- Half-Proto®

The Half-Proto® by DH Patterns and Fit is available immediately upon delivery of our first digital pattern. From the pattern-design phase our clients can move directly to a real-world design review and commence fit sessions without delay. Half-Proto's® save 6-12 weeks development time and a full prototype.

The Half-Proto is a semi-production prototype. It is produced as a single layer garment in full size with full annotation of pocket placement, top stitches, logo's, etc. It is a natural extension of our digital pattern production deliverables.

- Fit Sessions

Fit sessions of prototypes and carryovers are among the most prominent consultancy contributions by DH. Video Conferencing supports remote reviews. Fit sessions with live models represent important deadlines for companies in meeting their garment and concept planning.

At an early stage, problems are intercepted in relation to:

- Fit and proportions;
- Design intention versus function;
- Fabric characteristics;
- Technical finish;
- Adherence to patterns.

The collective review by DH with designers and design-engineers of work-in-progress is a cost effective way to maintain an overview of the collection, its consistency and managing the wave of corrections that need attention.

Rather than addressing problems individually, each time a new factory prototype arrives, the sessions form the basis for an inventory of work, communication with the factories and assignment of tasks. Fit sessions help companies to keep their planning on track.

- Consultancy

DH professionals combine their talents with a top education in fashion design and modelisme. DH understands design, proportions, elegance, fit and function. The consultants have a healthy feel for what is commercially viable and cost-effective. Their knowledge of production techniques and fabric characteristics improves manufacturability at reduced costs. Furthermore, DH advises on the placement of seams - getting the right cut lines at the right place for the right purpose - and technical finish.

The involvement of DH in the design process and conceptual studies, supported with fit blocks and mock-ups, makes it easy for designers to create variations on a theme. The consistency of the collection improves, time is saved and costly corrections downstream are eliminated. The earlier DH's involvement starts, the bigger the benefits.

- Factory Visits

DH makes manufacturing visits and pattern corrections at the factory for the purpose of prototype corrections and adherence to patterns; alterations are made without delay. Such on-site work with the manufacturers, designers and design-engineers results in speedier production readiness, improvement of quality and manufacturability, reduction of production costs, elimination of misunderstandings and test of concept.

When written communication with the manufacturer falls short or the design engineers are pressed for time, factory visits by DH can solve the problem.

- Design Sourcing

Companies that want to add new items to their collection but are short of resources can turn to DH for design. DH can allocate external fashion designers on a project basis. The project can be an individual garment, concept development, a collection, accessories or a range of promotional items to support branding. Depending on the scope and stage of the project, the deliverables can be sketches, mock-ups, patterns and production specifications. Ask DH about the unique "à la carte" approach.

- Design Coaching

On-the-job coaching is an effective way to teach, learn and optimize work at hand. DH sits down with the designer to review his portfolio. In a relaxed atmosphere, we review shapes, proportions, fit, seams and techniques. DH can point the designer in the direction of existing base patterns; move a seam to accentuate the fit or reduce the use of fabric. Often we find information missing or redundant and can point out corrections that were hard to spot.

Bottom line is, with Design Coaching there will be less costly guesswork downstream and the quality of the first pattern and prototype will improve.

- Product Development

Technical guidance is crucial to ensure that manufacturing meets the expectation of the client. The fashion world would collapse without Design Engineers. Communication with factories would

come to a grinding hold. Fit, finish and deliveries would no longer live up to the demands. DH offers experienced Design Engineers to companies that are temporarily short of staff.

- Emerging Brands

The service “Emerging Brands” is aimed at young designers who want to start their own business. DH provides a full range of business services and advice to start-up companies in the fashion industry. Open talks will uncover aspects of the fashion industry that were not taught at the academy. Every year a limited number of founders of Emerging Brands are granted access to the resources and expertise of DH Patterns and Fit. At favorable conditions, Emerging Brands gives access to the same expertise as for well established companies.

- Technical services

The range of technical services includes a first estimate of fabric quantity, type and length of seams and trimmings for manufacturing. This in turn supports the estimation of production costs, and therefore commercial viability, and strengthens the negotiation position of the brand owner with the manufacturer. The delivery includes an executive summary with details by category. Services include measurement tables and grading of patterns for men, women and children, as well as digitizing, scanning, plotting, file conversion and photocopying to full scale.

- Digital Patterns

DH creates all patterns in DXF, the open file format for vector drawings. DXF allows for two-way digital pattern interchange between WisePatterns, our preferred in-house pattern design system, and all proprietary pattern making systems of clients and manufacturers. Next to WisePatterns, DH uses Gerber Accumark. File conversion services between DXF and native file formats like Gerber and Lectra, further support import and export of data for making direct changes to factory patterns, grading and markers.

- WisePatterns®

DH uses WisePatterns for pattern design. Primary benefits of WisePatterns are the short learning curve (fluent in days), flexibility in pattern design (automated paper to digital conversion and construction management), productivity (competitive), open data architecture (DXF) and low investment (a quarter or less). For more information contact DH Patterns and Fit.