

Create your own toolkit for fashion



What you need



A portable digital device

Ideally a laptop or tablet, but a smart phone will be great for most things you will need to do



An internet connection



A good camera on your phone

So you want to be a fashion designer?



Every great Fashion Designer needs two toolkits, a physical one that includes equipment with which to design and make clothes with, and a digital one that allows you to explore your creativity wherever you may be—this handy guide is for your digital toolkit and shows you just a few of the websites and digital programmes that can help you.

Top tip:

Take photos of EVERYTHING that inspires you so you can refer to them later—this could be people on the street, shop windows, buildings, artwork etc. and take digital notes on your phone.



If you see this icon it means the link is clickable, this will take you to a video tutorial or website needed for the workshop

Research



Primary digital research

Being able to research effectively is central to being a great fashion designer, there are lots of ways to do this, the best, easiest and most personal way is to use your phone and record everything that inspires you; take clear images and videos when you are out and about then keep them for when you need them—you might record details on people's clothes, shapes of buildings, colourful objects, people dancing or talking, remember recorded sound can be a great source of inspiration.



Secondary Digital Research

Museums and galleries around the world now offer you a chance to explore their archives remotely, meaning that you can get up close to a 15th century dress in Japan or a Picasso masterpiece in America without having to leave your home. This allows you to expand your knowledge and also to develop colour and detailing ideas. We have listed a few sources below but start to gather your own 'go to' list.



vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion

metmuseum.org (search for the Costume Institute)

tate.org.uk

Digital design development



Designing clothes is best done initially with pencil and paper, or indeed on a mannequin, however programmes like Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator give you an opportunity to develop your ideas further, and make them look more professional. Consider scanning in your original hand drawn sketches and adding colour, imagine being able to access every colour imaginable without spending money on thousands of pens and paint! You can also use Illustrator to develop digital prints and Photoshop to edit photographs of your final outcomes.



You can download Adobe software for free for a month from here:
adobe.com/uk/products

An AMAZING resource for creating your digital fashion designs is Pattern Lab—on this website they have a series of FREE tutorials where they talk you through how to add colour and design detailing onto your designs, as well as showing you how to create professional digital illustrations.



View tutorials on Pattern Lab here:
patternlab.london.com

Digital design development (continued)

Top tips

You can also use Illustrator for creating flat/specification drawings, which look great when placed next to hand drawn designs.

As well as being great for creating fashion illustrations Photoshop is also perfect for editing your photographs of final images.

There are lots of helpful videos on YouTube to help you develop your Photoshop and Illustrator skills.

Pattern cutting



Designing your garment is just the first stage of the process, now you have to create a paper pattern that will help transform your idea into reality, this is more easily done physically than online, but there are lots of helpful videos and websites to help you, one of the best is The Modeliste Studio who have a series of useful tutorials on their YouTube channel, the pattern cutter has worked with some of the top designers in the fashion industry so if you are after creative pattern cutting this is a great resource.



View tutorials from The Modeliste Studio:
youtube.com/c/themodelistestudio

Digital Pattern Cutting

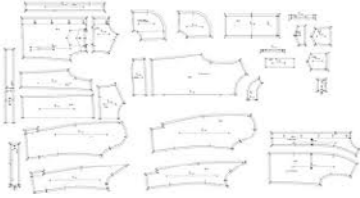
The fashion industry is increasingly moving towards digital rather than physical pattern cutting, Pattern Lab who was mentioned on the previous page also provide some very good tutorials on how to create your patterns digitally, as well as providing some very useful digital basic blocks which you can print out.



View tutorials on Pattern Lab here:
patternlab.london.com

Pattern cutting

(continued)



Top tips

If you want to make someone else's designs then free designer pattern downloads are always welcome. Show Studio, the website set up by the photographer Nick Knight offers free patterns from a range of designers including Simone Rocha and Martin Margiela



View tutorials on Pattern Lab here:
showstudio.com/projects/design-download

Construction



Making clothes successfully can be very difficult, the skills needed can take years to learn and master. There are sewing websites which can advise you, but by far the easiest thing to do is to visit YouTube and type in the sewing skill you would like to learn. There will be hundreds of online tutorials to help you with any problem you might have, from putting on a collar to making a dress.



Search youtube for sewing skills
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Top tip

YouTube is a huge resource, so make sure if you find a great tutorial or channel you save it to your list of favourites so you can access it again in the future

Preparing your portfolio



Nowadays many Universities are requesting a digital portfolio when you apply to their courses. It is a great idea to produce one because you never know when you might meet someone within the industry who might like to look at your work, having a digital portfolio makes that very easy.

There are lots of free portfolio template websites available.



Build an online portfolio

[squarespace.com](https://www.squarespace.com)

[wix.com](https://www.wix.com)

Top tip

Instagram continues to be the number one way that professional designers show their work to others, it allows customers, brands, influencers, stylists and magazines to access your work, in an industry where profile is key, a great Instagram page can help you get work.

Set up a page focused on your design work— show a range of work including your process and final outcomes.

Preparing your portfolio (continued)

Recording process

It is very important to record your creative process—it allows you to build up a resource for future reference, it also means you have a back-up in case your original work goes missing or is damaged

Take good photos of work you have created physically, this should include sketchbook work, as well as textile samples and photoshoots.

Keep organised digital folders of reference and research that you can use in future projects

Industry knowledge



It's really important to keep up to date with what's going on in the Fashion Industry—it is very easy to do that nowadays because most of the information is shared online through Instagram or individual websites and blogs.

Instagram is the go-to app for industry info, make sure you create an account and then simply choose bloggers, brands, magazines and influencers to follow, bookmark any information or images you find interesting.



The most important websites for up to date fashion news include:

businessoffashion.com

wgsn.com

britishfashioncouncil.co.uk

showstudio.com

vogue.co.uk.shows

Top tips

A great way to impress us at interview is to know what your favourite designers are doing, and what the latest news from the industry is.

Ravensbourne Outreach tutors and students have produced a new series of online projects and courses to help you stay creative at home

If you'd like to find out more please visit our website makeit.ravensbourne.ac.uk or email us at outreach@rave.ac.uk

Instagram: [@raveoutreach](https://www.instagram.com/raveoutreach)

Twitter: [@ravensbourneWP](https://twitter.com/ravensbourneWP)

#letsmakeitcreative

