

Thomas von Nordheim

DIOR'S "BAR" JACKET

6 day Haute Couture workshop

Few other garments in fashion history are as iconic as Dior's ensemble "Bar" from his inaugural 1947 collection, commonly known as "New Look". It consists of a cream silk jacket with soft shoulders, nipped in waist and padded hips and a pleated black wool skirt with an enormous hem circumference. It was a clear cut from the austere and mannish tailored ladies' fashions of the previous decade.



On this 6-day workshop you will explore the haute couture techniques to construct a Bar jacket inspired by the 1957 cut. The jacket pattern (UK size 4, US size 0-00) will be supplied. You can bring your own graded pattern, but it must be ready to use as is. Because of time constraints we will only work on half a jacket. You can make the other half in your own time and join them at the centre back if desired. You will receive a folder with the construction sequence and details for your reference. It is recommended you illustrate this during the class with photographing your own progress as a reminder.

You need to bring your own fabric. We can share some information and suppliers for helping you source an authentic silk. All under-linings and inter-linings and other professional materials will be supplied. Also included in the price is a set of extremely rare button blanks from a precious vintage stock.

The class is intensive, and you should have at least intermediate level tailoring experience. Good hand sewing skills are recommended to keep up the pace. The class is not for beginners.

Schedule:

Day 1

You will be given some historical background information to Christian Dior's career and first collection. The famous "Bar" jacket exists in two version, the original 1947 one and the 1957 edition, both subtly different. The modern ready to wear version available by Dior for £3,400 is different in both cut and fabric. We will study both original cuts and patterns. A faithful replica of the famous combined suit will be examined close-up.

We will start to trace the pattern and cut out the materials.



1947



original design drawing



1957

Day 2

After continuing to underline the panels and prepare the internal canvas construction we mount the two layers together. We then move on to pad-stitching the lapels and to stay the edges. We will make bound buttonholes in the front. The buttons will later be stitched to the right side of the jacket which you make in your own time if you chose to.



Day 3

Today we progress on to making and applying a welt pocket to the hip area of the jacket. We also cut and apply the facings and finish the buttonholes on the inside.



Day 4

Once the front is finished, we stitch together the back panels and attach front and back at the sides and shoulder, followed by hem reinforcement and construction of the hip padding.

After this we will progress to padding the collar, cutting and applying the top collar and joining it to the neckline by hand. The gorge seam is then also finished by hand.



Day 5

Today is set aside to make a sleeve to include a buttoned cuff. You will be shown how to set the sleeve and how to achieve a perfect transition from shoulder to sleeve crown using the appropriate techniques and materials.



Day 6

From a precious and ancient vintage stock, you will get a set of aluminium button blanks to be covered in silk and stitched through with silk thread. These are identical to the ones Dior still uses today.



The last step is to cut and assemble the internal lining ready to be fitted in and hand fell-stitched.



COURSE PRICE: £1600 incl. the pattern, all internal materials and antique button blanks

50% deposit to secure the booking, 50% balance due at least 90 days before start date

DATES AVAILABLE: 20.-25. April 2026

14.-19. September 2026

TUITION TIMES: 9.00 am-5pm including tea/coffee breaks and an hour for lunch, a total of 42 hours tuition

VENUE: Thomas von Nordheim's atelier at The Grand, Folkestone, UK

MAXIMUM NUMBER: to guarantee a high level of learning experience the participant number is capped at 9

WHAT TO BRING: silk fabric of your choice, we will advise on sources and meterage to buy, silk thread and lining to match, basic hand sewing kit

HOW TO BOOK:

Email Thomas at: vonnordheim@protonmail.com stating which class and dates you would like to book

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

By booking any class you explicitly accept the following T&C's:

SUITABILITY:

We accept bookings without an interview, and it is assumed the prospective participant has the required level of skills and experience as set out in the course description. The sequence of work can only be taken as a guide, as designs will vary and participants will work at their own speed.

The age of the participant is at least 18 years old on the date of the course start.

You are required to bring the tools and materials as requested.

PAYMENT

You are required to pay a 50% deposit to secure your booking. You are likewise welcome to pay the full amount. The balance is due at least 90 days before the date of the class start. You will receive a payment reminder about 14 days before your balance is due. Non-payment in time will be treated as a cancellation.

Once we receive your booking, we will send you an acknowledgment by email and our UK bank details to make a BACS, SEPA or Wire Transfer.

For domestic bookings we need to receive your deposit within 3 days, within the EU 5 days and 7 days for international payments unless otherwise agreed. We may ask you to send a copy of your bank's payment confirmation.

Please note we are unable to reserve places, and your booking is not confirmed until the deposit has been received.

If we do not receive your payment within the times stated your place will automatically become vacant and you might lose your booking.

If making payment from a foreign bank to the UK you must instruct your bank to cover all associated bank fees. The amount to arrive in our account must not be less than the advertised class fee.

Places on the advertised classes are subject to availability and are taken on a first come first serve basis.

Once we have received your payment, we will send you an acknowledgment and booking confirmation by email.

CANCELLATIONS

If a booking needs to be cancelled by a participant due to unforeseen circumstances the following applies:

The participant can transfer the place to someone else i.e. friend or family member. No fee applies.

If a participant cancels the class and it is more than 90 days to the class start, 30% of the course fee is retained.

If the notice of cancellation is received within 89 and 31 days before the course start, 60% of the course fee is retained.

At less than 30 days notice no refund can be offered.

The time of your cancellation notice email is of the essence.

Any cancellation attracts a £100 administration fee plus refund transfer fees if applicable.

In the unlikely event that we need to cancel the course we will refund your course fee in full. Unfortunately, we cannot take responsibility for consequential losses such as airfares or accommodation, and it is recommended to take out adequate insurance.

Excluded from the above are extraordinary circumstances beyond our control, force majeure and acts of God to include, but not limited to strikes, terrorism, lockdowns and war.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The participant must make sure to always adhere to a safe working practise whilst in the atelier with regards to using machines and tools.

INSURANCE

Whilst on our class the participant is not covered for accidents and illness and any losses and damages arising from such beyond our standard public liability insurance. By booking a class you explicitly waive your rights for making a claim against the organiser Thomas von Nordheim. It is recommended that the participant takes out adequate insurance.

We do not take responsibility for any loss or damage to the participants property during our classes.

COPYRIGHT

The participant may record images of their own work during the class times and images of other participants and their work with prior permission.

Recording voice or film footage during the class is prohibited.

The copyright for any hand-outs or literature supplied to the participant remains with the author.

