

Thomas von Nordheim

AN INTRODUCTION TO TAILORING

5 Day Intensive Workshop

This class is perfect for intermediate level sewers who would like to explore traditional tailoring techniques as used in haute couture ateliers and by bespoke tailors to make jackets and coats.



Thomas von Nordheim taught for 17 years at London College of Fashion, amongst other high-profile institutions in the UK and abroad as well as private classes, many in the USA. If you are familiar with Thomas' book "Vintage Couture Tailoring", this workshop encompasses all the techniques from it. The publication is used in tailoring classes at Fashion Institute of Technology/New York as a textbook.

During the 5 days' workshop you will build a half full size jacket step by step out of beautiful woollen fabric and will be employing all professional materials. The techniques you will learn are universal and can be used to produce both ladies or gent's jackets and coats, including period styles. The finished jacket half will become a valuable reference piece for your future tailoring projects.

The practise sample will be made to a stock size and not to specific measurements. Full sets of jacket patterns in 7 sizes are available for purchase, and all professional materials and trimmings are also for sale should you plan to stock up for your own individual project.

Having made a jacket before can be advantageous but is not a prerequisite to join the class. Good hand sewing skills are desirable. The class is intensive and fast paced, therefore not suitable for complete beginners.



Schedule:

Day 1

The class will start with an introduction to tailoring by examining actual garments from Thomas' extensive archive collection, including historical Paris Haute Couture and Savile Row Tailoring.

You will learn about the inner structure that defines tailored garments and the specialised materials employed to achieve this.

In the afternoon you will be shown how to use a pattern, transferring it to the fabric, marking the jacket and cutting it with the correct seam allowances. You then progress onto cutting and making your inner canvas support. You will also get a demonstration of ironwork, a subject rarely taught.

Once you have sewn dart and side panel, you will be instructed to mount the jacket front onto your canvas construction using the appropriate techniques and the tools of the trade.



Day 2

Pad stitching is used to shape the lapels of the jacket, and then the edges are stayed and hems interlined to prevent them from getting out of shape. We will also make a classic double jetted pocket. After finishing the pocket and hem, the facings will be applied. You will be shown how they are cut and sewn on. Some tricks of the trade are revealed to get professional results i.e. a thin edge and beautiful corners.



Day 3

After finishing the facings and joining side and shoulder seam, the hem can be completed. The making of a tailored collar with canvas interlining and pad stitched into shape is then explored. Cutting the top collar and bagging it out will be followed by applying it to the neckline and hand finishing the facings and gorge seam.





Day 4

This day is dedicated to prepping the armhole and making and inserting a two piece tailored sleeve using special ironing techniques to shape the seams and sleeve head. You will use professional materials such as hem interlining and padding.



Day 5

On the last day you will be shown how to cut a lining with the appropriate allowances to create pleats for ease at the hem and centre back. The lining is fitted in by hand. You will also learn how to make a decorative piping. Time permitting we will stitch a hand embroidered buttonhole into the finished jacket front using the correct thread and techniques



COURSE PRICE: £1300 incl. all materials

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

DATES AVAILABLE: 13.-17. April 2026

TUITION TIMES: 9.00 am-5pm including tea/coffee breaks and an hour for lunch, a total of 35 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 10

WHAT TO BRING: basic hand sewing kit only, the atelier is fully equipped, all materials are supplied

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.