

Waistcoat Making, the Savile Row Style Syllabus
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There are of course many ways to make a waistcoat, but only one is handcraft.

The HTA uses the method which is most traditional when facecloths (thick felt like fabric) were used in its construction.

It is a close link to the coat and tailcoat in its development and is a great garment for the student to hone their hand sewing skills on before attempting the coat.

The foreparts are almost completely made by hand. The only machine sewn stitches are in the dart and welt pockets, and just like any handcraft garment, the waistcoat is hand finished with top stitching and buttonholes.

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Week 1	Lesson Description
Lesson 1	Introduction to tools, head units and measurement chart Students will take turns measuring one another to become competent in assessing figures
Lesson 2	Drafting the pattern The student will draft a waistcoat pattern based off their measurements
Lesson 3	Threading the sewing machine , setting the tension and machine sewing samples (straight stitch) A detailed explanation of the use of an industrial sewing machine is given
Lesson 4	Machine sewing matching seams The student will develop much needed handling and control of the sewing machine ahead of making the garment
Lesson 5	Sewing darts and parallel seams Simple sewing challenges will be given to help develop confidence and control of the industrial sewing machine
Week 2	
Lesson 6	Needle and thimble work and basting in hand It is impossible to be a competent tailor without first learning the proper use of a needle and thimble
Lesson 7	Basting on the board and diagonal basting Time is taken to develop control of stitching both in-hand and on the board
Lesson 8	Pick stitching and buttonholes The buttonhole is taught early in the course so the student is able to continue practising the skills needed for the completion of the garment
Lesson 9	Cut, lay and inlays The project begins by cutting in cloth
Lesson 10	Fixing the pockets and cutting the linings and canvas All trimmings are cut to size and ready to sew

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Week 3	Lesson Description
Lesson 11	Mark stitching The <i>mark stitch</i> , also known as <i>the tailor's stitch</i> or <i>thread mark</i> , is used to transfer the pattern from one side of the cloth to both layers
Lesson 12	Sample welt pockets Sample pockets are made before attempting to sew into the finish garment
Lesson 13	Sewing darts and preparation for pockets and centre back The two foreparts are sewn and prepared for pockets
Lesson 14	Welt pockets The method used in this lesson is the same that is used in both the out-breast of the morning coat and large coat
Lesson 15	Canvassing off Once the pockets are sewn in, the canvas is attached to the foreparts
Week 4	
Lesson 16	Basting in the back The foreparts are basted to the back so that a <i>check fitting</i> can be made
Lesson 17	Joining the shoulders Fullness is added to the lining shoulder seams to add shaping for the shoulder blades
Lesson 18	Fitting – rip and re-mark This lesson will teach the student how to conduct a fitting, identify fitting issues and how to remedy them
Lesson 19	Shaping and taping The front edges are shaped and bias tape draws the edge. The same technique is found in the tail and lounge coats
Lesson 20	Pick stitching the pockets The edges of the pockets are finished to hide the <i>raw edge</i>

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Week 5	Lesson Description
Lesson 21	Facing Using the traditional method of attaching a facing, the front edge seams are hand-sewn
Lesson 22	Forepart linings The forepart linings are basted in with fullness
Lesson 23	Lining the back In one straight shot, the waistcoat is transformed into a finished garment
Lesson 24	Bagging out the back This is possibly the trickiest part of making a waistcoat – the back is sewn out in one step starting at the hem on one side to the hem on the opposite side
Lesson 25	Felling the linings The forepart lining is finished by hand
Week 6	
Lesson 26	Pick stitching To prevent the front edge from swelling, the edge is <i>pick stitched</i>
Lesson 27	Buttonholes Six buttonholes are found in the waistcoat and two days are given for the student to complete them in their garment. Students will refer back to lessons taught in week 2, lesson 8
Lesson 28	Buttonholes cont. Students are given another day to continue working on their waistcoat buttonholes
Lesson 29	Buttoning The basting stitches are removed and the buttons are added
Lesson 30	Pressing off All chalk marks are brushed out and the whole garment is <i>pressed off</i> and ready to be worn