

**Waistcoat Making, the Savile Row Style Syllabus**  
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**Waistcoat Making, the Savile Row Style**

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.

| Week 1 | Lesson Description |
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| Lesson 1      | <b>Introduction to tools, head units and measurement chart</b><br>Students will take turns measuring one another to become competent in assessing figures                                    |
| Lesson 2      | <b>Cut, lay and inlays</b><br>The project begins by cutting in cloth                                                                                                                         |
| Lesson 3      | <b>Fixing the pockets and cutting the linings and canvas</b><br>All trimmings are cut to size and ready to sew                                                                               |
| Lesson 4      | <b>Mark stitching</b><br>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 5      | <b>Sample welt pockets</b><br>Sample pockets are made before attempting to sew into the finish garment                                                                                       |
| <b>Week 2</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Lesson 6      | <b>Sewing darts and preparation for pockets and centre back</b><br>The two foreparts are sewn and prepared for pockets                                                                       |
| Lesson 7      | <b>Welt pockets</b><br>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 8      | <b>Canvassing off</b><br>Once the pockets are sewn in, the canvas is attached to the foreparts                                                                                               |
| Lesson 9      | <b>Shaping and taping</b><br>The front edges are shaped and bias tape draws the edge. The same technique is found in the tail and lounge coats                                               |
| Lesson 10     | <b>Pick stitching the pockets</b><br>The edges of the pockets are finished to hide the <i>raw edge</i>                                                                                       |

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| <b>Week 3</b> | Lesson Description |
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| Lesson 11     | <b>Facing</b><br>Using the traditional method of attaching a facing, the front edge seams are hand-sewn                                                                                     |
| Lesson 12     | <b>Forepart linings</b><br>The forepart linings are basted in with fullness                                                                                                                 |
| Lesson 13     | <b>Lining the back</b><br>In one straight shot, the waistcoat is transformed into a finished garment                                                                                        |
| Lesson 14     | <b>Bagging out the back</b><br>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 15     | <b>Felling the linings</b><br>The forepart lining is finished by hand                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Week 4</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Lesson 16     | <b>Pick stitching</b><br>To prevent the front edge from swelling, the edge is <i>pick stitched</i>                                                                                          |
| Lesson 17     | <b>Buttonholes</b><br>Six buttonholes are found in the waistcoat and two days are given for the student to complete them in their garment                                                   |
| Lesson 18     | <b>Buttonholes cont.</b><br>Students are given another day to continue working on their waistcoat buttonholes                                                                               |
| Lesson 19     | <b>Buttoning</b><br>The basting stitches are removed and the buttons are added                                                                                                              |
| Lesson 20     | <b>Pressing off</b><br>All chalk marks are brushed out and the whole garment is pressed off and ready to be worn                                                                            |