

THE DIY FASHION EDUCATION CHECKLIST

WHAT YOU DO (AND DON'T) NEED TO KNOW TO BECOME A FASHION DESIGNER

BY: {SEWHEIDI}

PART 1: THE ACTUAL GARMENT

DO learn these things:

- General construction techniques:** shop the market and study how other garments are made
- What parts of the garment are called:** browse Pinterest for quick cheat sheets
- The two types of fabric categories (knits vs wovens):** ask an employee at a local fabric store
- Fabric types and their properties:** learn the basics for your market and ask experts for more info

DON'T worry about these things:

- Sewing or draping a garment:** leave this up to your sample maker
- Drafting patterns:** hire an expert to create graded patterns
- Knowing everything about how a garment is made:** this is what you hire a factory for
- Becoming an expert textiles:** figure out the fundamentals and learn the rest as you go

General Tips to Remember:

- ★ **Don't reinvent the wheel:** find samples in the market you like use certain parts for reference
- ★ **Do your research first when approaching experts,** otherwise you'll likely be dismissed
- ★ **Don't discount the value of a phone call:** this can get you much further than email
- ★ **Do ask a lot of questions (assuming you've done your research first):** be humble!

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PART 2: THE DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

DO learn these things:

- What goes into a tech pack and why you need one
- How to track changes, comments and approvals / rejections in a tech pack
- How to convey your ideas using photos, sample garments and descriptive words
- The fundamentals of Illustrator (this can save you a lot of cash)

DON'T worry about these things:

- Knowing how to draw
- Being an artist
- Making glamorous sketches
- Being super proficient in Illustrator

General Tips to Remember:

- ★ Learn from the experts you hire so you understand that portion of the process
- ★ Having professional digital sketches will help ensure vendors take you seriously
- ★ Never go into production without a tech pack - it is the instruction manual for your design
- ★ Your tech pack should be more detailed than you think - drawings & photos will help a lot

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PART 3: YOU & YOUR COMMUNITY

DO these things:

- Become part of a community no matter where you live
- Remember you are not alone in this
- Get some first hand experience - you will learn an insane amount
- Do an exceptional job on everything - from the product you make down to the emails you write

DON'T do these things:

- Worry about where you live
- Sit behind your computer not talking to anyone
- Obsess so much over perfection that you never get anything done
- Rush through design, development or any other part of the process - it takes time to do it right

General Tips to Remember:

- ★ First impressions matter - you often have one chance to get in front of someone so make it good
- ★ It can be cheaper to travel to a fashion hub for business than to live there full time
- ★ Take an opportunity to get first hand experience even if the company name isn't brag worthy
- ★ Be willing to work hard and show that you're not above menial tasks