WiReTEX
Rescuing traditional knowledge of skilled textile workers

WireTEX

RESCUING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF SKILLED TEXTILE WORKERS

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR 3rd PODCAST

Complementary documentation for result 2 - Producing video training material.

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Foreword

Dear reader, welcome to the Knowledge Database document linked to the third Podcast. Each podcast we created has a supporting document that further explains and elaborates on the topics stated in the podcast video.

As a reader, you are invited to listen to the podcast and search for important information related to the podcast topic in this document. We will focus on some basic terminology and explain better some procedures and skills stated in the third Podcast. This document also contains some interesting links and websites to help you explore the topic further.

To further explain how to navigate this document.

The podcast video is available on the YouTube channel Wirtetex and the Udemy platform. This makes it easier to follow the Podcast and this document. At the end of each chapter, external links are provided to explore further and expand the interest in specific topics. Links provide interesting examples from the areas of operations, presented in the 3rd Podcast.

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Introduction

The 3rd Podcast focuses on the presentation of the company Kor Tekstil from Murska Sobota, Slovenia. Kor Tekstil engages in various aspects of textile manufacturing and is active in the field of textile confectioning and sewing. They focus primarily on producing garments such as personal protective equipment and work uniforms. In the 3rd podcast, our speaker was Ms. Bernarda Pruš, head of production. We talked about work processes in the industry, about how they employ young people in the industry, and about the challenges and opportunities of work.

Ready-made clothes are a big part of the textile industry. It focuses on transforming textile materials into end products.

Textile confectioning for ready-made clothes refers to the final stage of textile production, where fabrics are cut, sewn, and assembled into finished goods such as clothing, home textiles, and accessories. This process is crucial as it determines the quality and functionality of the final product. Sewing, as a core operation, involves using various types of sewing machines, knowledge of different types of stitches and different types of sewing yarns to join fabric pieces together.

To better understand this field, we have to have some basic knowledge of different fabric types. This is crucial since each behaves differently during the sewing and finishing processes. Second, familiarity with various sewing techniques and their applications is vital for achieving quality outcomes. Additionally, understanding how to create and interpret patterns is fundamental for accurate cutting and assembly. Post-sewing finishing techniques like ironing, trimming, and adding closures (such as zippers or buttons) enhance the final appearance and functionality of the products. Finally, implementing quality control measures throughout the confectioning process ensures that the final products meet industry standards and customer expectations.

The operations within the confectioning industry encompass several important steps. The process begins with design, material selection and pattern making. Following this, fabrics are cut according to these patterns to ensure precise dimensions for each garment size. The sewing phase involves using various sewing machines to stitch fabric pieces together. After sewing, garments undergo finishing processes that include ironing, adding labels or tags, and conducting quality inspections to ensure everything meets standards before moving on to packing for distribution or retail.

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Individuals working on sewing machines play crucial roles in the confectioning process. These operators are responsible for setting up and operating different types of sewing machines according to specific requirements while also inspecting their work for defects or inconsistencies during production to maintain quality standards.

Insight

Ready-made clothing in the textile industry originated in the late 17th century with military uniforms, marking one of the first instances of standardized clothing production. This practice expanded during the Napoleonic Wars and became more widely accepted for civilians by the mid-19th century, thanks to advancements like the sewing machine. This shift democratized fashion, making stylish garments accessible to a broader audience without the need for custom tailoring[1,2,3].

[1] Ready-to-Wear | Encyclopedia.com. (n.d.). https://www.encyclopedia.com/FASHION/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/ready-wear
[2] Garments, P. (2022, August 22). History of Readymade Garments - Posh Garments Ltd. Posh Garments Ltd. https://poshgarments.com/history-of-readymade-garments/
[3] Godley, A. (1997). The development of the clothing industry: technology and fashion. Textile History, 28(1), 3–10. https://doi.org/10.1179/004049697793711067

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Skills needed

Working in the manufacturing of ready-made clothing is a dynamic and multifaceted role that requires a diverse skill set. As the fashion industry evolves, so do the demands placed on those involved in garment production. This sector not only focuses on creating stylish and functional apparel but also emphasizes efficiency, quality, and sustainability. To succeed in this fast-paced environment, individuals must possess a blend of technical and soft skills.

Technical skills are foundational in ensuring that garments are produced accurately and meet high-quality standards. Proficiency in sewing techniques, operating different machines, pattern making, and fabric knowledge is essential for anyone involved in garment construction. Additionally, familiarity with modern design software is important as technology continues to reshape the industry.

However, technical expertise alone is not enough. Soft skills play a crucial role in fostering collaboration and communication within teams. The ability to work effectively with others, solve problems creatively, and adapt to changing circumstances is vital for maintaining productivity and keeping the teamwork spirit.

As the ready-made clothing sector continues to grow and evolve, developing both technical and soft skills will empower individuals to excel in their roles and contribute meaningfully to the industry's future.

Insight

An interesting fact about digitalisation in the ready-made clothing and sewing departments in Europe is the introduction of the Digital Product Passport (DPP). This initiative, part of the EU's Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles, requires all textile products sold in the EU to have a DPP by 2025. The DPP will provide detailed information about a garment's materials and manufacturing processes, enhancing transparency in the supply chain and promoting sustainable practices[4,5,6].

[4] Ewen, L. (2024, August 29). How to prepare for the EU's Digital Product Passport Law. Fashion Dive. https://www.fashiondive.com/news/digital-passport-what-to-know-guide/725146/
[5] The new normal – digital clothing labels. (n.d.). https://www.eon.xyz/blog/the-new-normal-digital-clothing-labels
[6] Ecodesign for sustainable products Regulation. (n.d.). European Commission. https://commission.europa.eu/energy-climate-change-environment/standards-tools-and-labels/products-labelling-rules-and-requirements/ecodesign-sustainable-products-regulation_en

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Terminology and external links

In the textile industry, various stitch types and sewing machines are employed to meet the diverse needs of garment production. Understanding these elements is essential for achieving quality and efficiency in manufacturing.

Zigzag Stitch: This stitch allows for more elasticity and is used for finishing edges, appliqué work, and decorative purposes. Zigzag stitching can help prevent fraying on fabric edges.

Overlock Stitch: Overlock machines create a seam that trims the fabric edge while simultaneously stitching it. This type of stitch is essential for knitwear and is widely used in the apparel industry to create clean finishes.

Tailor's Chalk: This is a marking tool used to transfer patterns and measurements onto fabric. Tailor's chalk is typically made of a fine powder that can be easily brushed away after use, allowing for precise markings without damaging the fabric. It is essential for ensuring accurate cuts and stitches during the tailoring process.

Seam Ripper: A seam ripper is a small tool designed to unpick stitches and remove seams. It features a pointed end that can easily slide between fabric layers and a small blade that cuts the thread without damaging the fabric. This tool is invaluable for correcting mistakes or adjusting garment construction.

One interesting operation that a pattern maker in the clothing industry has to perform is transforming design drawings into precise patterns. This process involves taking the designer's sketches and concepts and converting them into three-dimensional patterns that dictate how the garment will be cut and sewn[7].

Pattern makers must ensure that these patterns accurately represent the intended fit, style, and proportions of the final product. This requires a deep understanding of garment construction, fabric behaviour, and human anatomy to create patterns that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also functional and comfortable to wear[8].

If this topic is in your interest, you are invited to explore it through some useful links below in the green frame.

Useful links

Anselma is a creative collaboration space established in September 2011 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It is hosting events, incubating designers and artisans, sharing sewing knowledge, and launching ethical clothing. Discover their onsite courses: http://anselma.si/delavnice-in-tecaji

Istituto Europeo di Design – IED is a private design school in Italy. It specializes in various fields, including design, fashion, visual communication, and management. IED has campuses in

[7] https://www.fashionretailacademy.ac.uk/resources/guide-to-pattern-cutting
[8] Dresspatternmaking. (2024, August 29). Introduction and overview of patternmaking - Dresspatternmaking. Dresspatternmaking - Draft Your Own Sewing Patterns. https://dresspatternmaking.com/principles-of-patternmaking/introduction-overview-of-patternmaking/

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multiple cities across Europe and South America, including Milan, Rome, Turin, Venice, Florence, Cagliari, Barcelona, and Madrid. Discover their programs: https://www.ied.edu/

Sustainable sewing classes in Berlin: Are you searching for live tailoring and sewing classes, organised in small groups and performed in English? Visit sewing classes in Berlin: https://wiederundwider.com/

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Useful literature

1. Smith, A. (2014). The Sewing Book.
2. Cole, J., & Czachor, S. (2014). Professional sewing techniques for designers. A&C Black.
3. Luce, L. (2018). Artificial intelligence for fashion: How AI is Revolutionizing the Fashion Industry. Apress.
4. Alibegić, S., & Lovšin, Ž. (2013). Moja prva šivarica: priročnik : 9 šivalnih projektov s priloženimi kroji.
5. Malalan, A. (2014). Superkrojenje: naučite se izdelati oblačila po svoji meri in okusu.
6. Malalan, A. (2022). Super šivanje.
7. Nakamichi, T. (2010). Pattern magic. Laurence King Publishing.
8. Aldrich, W. (2011). Metric pattern cutting for menswear. John Wiley & Sons.

Other useful information

1. Textile Museum in Boras, Sweden: https://boras.com/en/experiences/textile-museum/
2. Première Vision, Paris, France: https://www.premierevision.com/en/
3. Techtextil, Frankfurt, Germany: https://techtextil.messefrankfurt.com/frankfurt/en.html

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