

## Dress Maker

### What is it?

A dressmaker is a skilled artisan who designs, creates, alters, and repairs custom-made clothing, particularly dresses. They work with clients to create garments that fit perfectly and meet specific style and fabric preferences. Dressmakers can work independently, in fashion houses, or in tailoring shops.

### Qualifications/Experience Required:

You will require a qualification in fashion design, garment construction, and sewing offered by colleges and fashion schools. Apprenticeships and internships with experienced dressmakers or tailors can provide valuable hands-on experience. Key skills include proficiency in sewing, pattern making, and a strong understanding of different fabrics and garment construction techniques.

### What the Work Involves:

Consulting with clients to understand their garment requirements, including style, fabric, and fit preferences. Taking precise measurements to ensure a perfect fit. Creating patterns based on client specifications and adjusting existing patterns as needed. Cutting fabric and sewing garments using various techniques, including hand sewing and machine stitching. Performing fittings and making necessary adjustments to achieve the desired fit and look.

### Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

The demand for dressmakers can vary based on fashion trends and the popularity of custom-made clothing. Dressmakers who build a reputation for high-quality work and excellent customer service can establish a steady client base.

**Average annual Salary - £18,000 - £40,000**

**Typical weekly hours – 36 – 38 per week**

### Type of person who may be suited to this job:

This job may be suited to individuals who are creative, detail-oriented, and have a passion for fashion and garment construction. Dressmakers need to have excellent manual dexterity, patience, and the ability to work with precision. Strong interpersonal skills are important for effectively communicating with clients.

### Money/Wage Guide:

Entry-level dressmakers can expect to earn around £18,000 to £22,000 per year. With experience and a solid client base, earnings can increase to £25,000 to £35,000 or more. Highly skilled dressmakers or those who specialise in luxury or bridal wear can earn upwards of £40,000 per year.

### Related Opportunities:

- Fashion designer
- Tailor
- Costume designer
- Textile designer

### Further Information:

UK Fashion and Textile Association (UKFT): <https://www.ukft.org/>

The Fashion and Textile Museum: <https://www.ftmlondon.org/>