

THE BESPOKE TAILORING PROCESS EXPLAINED

A STEP-BY-STEP STEP GUIDE TO THE
MAKING OF A TRUE BESPOKE SUIT,
AS DETAILED BY SAVILE ROW-TRAINED
TAILOR, IAN CHANG



Words by **PY Cheong**

Photography by **Jay Lai, Rolling Images**

STEP 1

Each customer is measured in great detail, taking into account all the different idiosyncrasies of your body figuration. After the measurement process, you're consulted for your choice of fabric, as well as other design specifications. These ensure that the suit you commission is made exactly to your desire and needs.

Ian's henchman
sizing up FHM



STEP 2

A pattern based on your measurement and design specifications is drawn on paper. The pattern is then transferred by chalk to the fabric before the fabric is cut. After cut, it's then hand-stitched but only up to the 'baste' stage. (A baste is a half-made suit temporarily held together by white baste stitching. A basted garment has unfinished lapels, no lining, no buttons and no buttonholes.) This allows it to be easily taken apart for adjustments.



"We make
this look
good"



STEP 3

A first fitting is then done with the customer and it's during this time that the accuracy of the measurements is assessed. The basted suit is a blueprint or 'first draft' of the final version and can be radically altered if necessary. Notes are taken and chalk marks usually made to help the tailor define how the suit is to be altered.



STEP 4

Adjustments are made based on the first fitting, if needed. Following that, additional stitching take place and the final details like the lining, buttons and buttonholes are completed.

STEP 5

The second fitting takes place. The tailor checks that the adjustments are correct and if you're happy with the suit, you take it home. If further adjustments are required, you return to the tailor until it's perfect.



upgrade style



Ready for the hotties.
Onwards!