

Kilgour Handmade Bespoke Tailoring

Thank you for your enquiry about bespoke clothing from Kilgour. We hope the following information about our different bespoke services will be useful. **All figures exclude VAT and are quoted in British Pounds.**

Bespoke Clothing from Savile Row

Even a tailor will admit a machine produces neater stitching than the human hand. Indeed the easiest way to identify hand sewn garments is by the slight irregularity of the stitch – yet Savile Row bespoke garments still carry a cachet that make them uniquely special. They also cost a great deal more than a factory made item and are assuredly of higher quality.

A poor handmade suit will be no match for even an average factory garment and yet the finest off the peg suit is a pale shadow compared to good bespoke clothing. Humans are three-dimensional and have five (sometimes six) senses. To make a garment fit these demanding individuals requires tailors to shape the suit to disguise the natural imperfections of the typical customer. Around the chest, the cloth is nipped and tucked to accentuate the positive. Shoulders are rarely the same height but the customer doesn't want to look misshapen.

Tall customers sometimes have a tendency to stoop so the collar of their coat must be carefully shaped to ensure it doesn't gape. All these idiosyncrasies have to be accommodated into the make of the garment. The tension in the threads has to be perfect to avoid puckering or breakage but at the same time hold the canvases in exactly the right shape and place. This is best achieved by sewing hundreds of tiny threads across the material. Very laborious but any attempt at shortcuts, by increasing the size of the stitch for example, will not shape the canvas so accurately.

Of course much of this intimate work is hidden from the eye (but this is what ensures the suit hangs beautifully and accentuates the customers' best features). A great suit begins with the quality of the fabric and the skill of the cutter. The Kilgour cutter is the best in the trade and cuts suits that are beautifully proportioned and styled. The personal relationship that develops between a man and his tailor is an integral part of the service which helps to keep Savile Row unique.

Kilgour's 'Savile Row' bespoke - Summary

Savile Row is a byword for the finest bespoke tailoring in the world and Kilgour is one of the most illustrious occupants on the Row. Our 'Savile Row' bespoke suits are the product of the best tailors we can find and require some 80 man hours to complete. All garments are cut and made in our workshops in the West End of London where we employ more than 40 tailors.

The prices below are for a small selection of the garments we make. **These prices, quoted in British Pounds, are for handmade bespoke clothing and exclude the cost of fabric and VAT:**

Item	Price*
Two Piece Suit	From £2,800
Three Piece Suit	From £3,400
Jackets and Blazers	From £2,100
Trousers	From £700
Dinner Jacket and Trousers	From £3,300
Morning Suit	From £3,950
Overcoats	From £2,250

Kilgour's 'Savile Row' bespoke - The Detail

As with any special item it is easier to explain what makes it different rather than what makes it the same! The key to understanding bespoke clothing is knowing that every facet of the garment can be individually selected by the customer so that your requests and idiosyncrasies are embraced and incorporated by the finest craftsmen in Savile Row.

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The range of options available to bespoke customers includes the key decisions in terms of style and cloth, but also important but less obvious nuances like the 'cut' and finish of the garment. Some of the matters considered are shown below:

- *Lapel: Kilgour cut a high notch on the lapel which enhances the impression of length in the coat. The lapel is hand padded to roll softly from the collar to the first button.*
- *Collar: A bespoke collar is constructed from collar canvas, melton and the cloth used to make the garment. The materials are padded together by hand to shape the collar to the customer's neck.*
- *Shoulder and Sleeve head: By constructing a small armhole, but a big sleeve Kilgour achieves the holy trinity of tailoring: comfort, style and fit.*
- *Chest: The chest is shaped through the use of two canvasses and domette to achieve proportion, the byword of bespoke tailoring. Thousands of tiny stitches hold the canvas in place, shaping the chest in the most flattering manner.*
- *Pockets: On a bespoke suit pockets are always jetted (jetting being the piping between the flap of the pocket and the main body of the coat). This allows the pocket to be worn with the flap in or out. Pockets can be straight or slanted to the degree of customers choosing.*
- *Cuffs and Buttons: Kilgour suits have real or working button holes, sewn by hand by 'finishers' (a specialist tailor, who fells the lining, sews on buttons and constructs the button holes). The buttons themselves are usually made of ram's horn and dyed to match the chosen material. They can also be covered in the cloth from which the suit is made.*

These are just a few of the considerations that will be discussed with your cutter at the outset. In all there are more than one hundred possible distinctions that can be incorporated into a Kilgour 'Savile Row' bespoke suit. Our staff would be delighted to provide you with more advice and information.

Kilgour's 'Entry Level' bespoke - Summary

More than 12 years ago, Kilgour began working on a project to reduce the making costs and delivery time of a two piece suit, whilst retaining the inherent qualities for which the Company is famous. It had to be handmade, cut in Savile Row, properly bespoke and fitted in the traditional manner.

To this end we established a workshop with 20 tailors and set about training them to emulate the standards found in Savile Row. Our 'Entry Level' suits are cut in Savile Row and sent to our workshop to be basted and then returned for fitting. After fitting the suit is re-cut by our tailors and finished for a final fitting.

We now employ over 40 tailors in these workshops and can offer a fully bespoke two piece suit for about half the cost of the same garment made in Savile Row.

The prices below cover the majority of garments we make using the 'Entry Level' service. **These prices quoted in British Pounds are for handmade bespoke clothing and exclude the cost of fabric and VAT.**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price*</u>
Two Piece Suit	From £1,550
Three Piece Suit	From £2,050
Jackets and Blazers	From £1,050
Trousers	From £500
Dinner Jacket and Trousers	From £1,800
Overcoats	From £1,550

Kilgour's 'Entry Level' bespoke - The Process

- The customer selects a cloth from any number of bunches and decides, with the help of one of a sales consultant and cutter, on the style specifying individual details.

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- The customer is then measured to the full Savile Row specification.
- The cutter prepares an individual paper pattern.
- The cloth is ordered and 'the bundle', which includes the appropriate canvas interlinings and buttons, is sent to our workshops. The suit is cut, hand-sewn, pressed and returned to Savile Row, for a Baste fitting.
- The customer is notified of its arrival and fitted in Savile Row or on our trips to the USA. The suit is then returned to our workshop to be finished.
- Three weeks later the suit returns to Savile Row for a final fitting, adjustments are made as necessary and the suit is delivered shortly thereafter.
- The whole process should take between eight and ten weeks to complete although customers who fit solely in the USA have to wait for our visits.
- The customer's paper pattern is amended and stored, so that on receipt of further swatches, subsequent suits can be ordered quickly and easily by telephone, fax or e-mail. (*see Repeat Orders option below*)

Kilgour's 'Entry Level' bespoke - Repeat Orders

Although many customers prefer a baste fitting for their clothing, we do offer the Entry Level Bespoke service with just a finished fitting. Once the first suit has been made, there is really no need for a baste fitting since we have a reliable template of your shape and figuration. The absence of a baste fitting reduces our costs and prices quite considerably.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price*</u>
Two Piece Suit	From £1,300
Three Piece Suit	From £1,700
Jackets and Blazers	From £900
Trousers	From £400
Overcoats	From £1,300

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Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 6.00pm; Thursday 9.00am to 7.00pm; Saturday 10.30am to 6.00pm

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*Prices correct at time of going to press