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# Suits you, **SIR**

*Michelle Rowley chats with Savile Row tailor Daniel Kozyra to explore what goes into his highly sought-after work and why high-quality tailoring really is a timeless profession*

**S**ewing strides for the rich and famous is all in a few days' work for star trouser tailor Daniel Kozyra. His perfectionist work ethic combined with a real passion for bespoke tailoring means Daniel is recognised as one of the UK's best trouser makers. His work is highly sought-after from a number

of Savile Row tailors, such as Benson & Clegg, Malcolm Plews, Meyer & Mortimer and Huntsman & Sons to name a few. "Daniel is renowned for his meticulous attention to detail and the sheer quality of his work is unrivalled," says Benson & Clegg's Managing Director, Mark Gordon.

His journey from a young boy designing football kits to an acclaimed bespoke tailor is one of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Michelle Rowley caught up with him to discover what it takes to be a Savile Row tailor and to get advice from the man who sews trousers for HRH Prince Charles!

### **What is a typical workday like for you?**

I start at 7 o'clock in the morning and finish around 8 o'clock at night. It is a hard graft but it is absolutely wonderful to spend my time making. I receive the fabric and order details from the cutter and then organise

my workload to meet the demands of each customer in time. I prefer to work on one pair of trousers at a time.

### **How do the roles of a cutter and you differ?**

A cutter will measure the customer, taking around 30 separate measurements for a complete suit, before drafting the pattern by hand. Every new customer has their own pattern drafted especially for them from scratch. The cutter will then order the customer's fabric choice and cut the pattern pieces ready to be given to me for the construction. I design and cut the waistband, pockets, facings and fly pieces from the extra cloth provided with the leg pieces I receive.

### **On average how long does it take to sew one pair of bespoke trousers?**

Between 15-20 hours. It is very involved as there is a lot of hand-sewing to be done. The hook and bars are all set in by hand,





The devil is in the detail

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*Every customer deserves the same care and attention*  
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all buttonholes are hand worked, all the interiors are felled by hand and hems are always handstitched. My sewing machine is really only used for the side seams of the leg pieces. Between the cutter and I, there is a lot of skill and time put into every pair, which is why a bespoke pair of Savile Row trousers does not come cheap!

**How much does a pair cost?**

As every pair is different the price will vary, depending on the fabric used, the work involved and the company, but they are around £500 - £2,000 a pair. I once sewed trousers for a member of royalty in the Far East from a Merino wool blended with silk and sapphire particles, the cost of which was £1,000 a metre! That was quite incredible.

**Can you tell us about other high-profile people you have sewn for?**

I have made a few pairs of trousers for HRH Prince Charles, including a pair of dinner trousers he wore for the state dinner to meet the then President Trump and more recently a pair of plus fours. I was honoured to sew trousers for Captain Sir Tom Moore to celebrate his 100th birthday, that was an absolute privilege. I sew most of Eamon Holmes's trousers and have sewn for other celebrities and members of royalty. However, every customer deserves the same care and attention. Some people have spent years saving up for a Savile Row suit, it is a once-in-a-lifetime special thing for them, they all deserve the very best I can do and I want to do my very best for everyone.

**What led you into the world of tailoring?**

I have always been a fussy dresser and had an interest in clothing. On leaving school, I did an NVQ intermediate course in Design. I really loved the module where you had to

design and produce a piece of clothing, I got a high grade and I thoroughly enjoyed it, which led me to taking a BTEC in Fashion and Clothing. I was the only lad on the course, which people say must have been brilliant, but it was not! It was the same situation when I went on to do my BA in Fashion and Clothing at Leeds College of Art, so the focus was mainly on womenswear, but I made sure I took all the classes on tailoring.

**How did you become a Savile Row tailor?**

I finally got my break securing a two-year apprenticeship with Birmingham-based tailor Ahmet Yousef, a former Golden Shears winner, which is when my education in bespoke tailoring really started. I then worked for Philip Alexander in Cheshire, undertaking a lot of alteration work, which was a fantastic education in how garments are constructed. It was a very worthwhile experience. During my apprenticeship, my mentor had seen that I had a particular knack for trouser making. In tailoring you should play to your strengths so after eight years of perfecting my craft at Philip Alexander, I sent a sample of my trousers to a Savile Row tailors requesting work and honest feedback. They phoned the next day offering me work and it's grown from there.

**What advice can you offer for sewing the perfect pair of trousers?**

You could French seam your pocket bags, rather than overlock them, for a much nicer finish. I think the more handsewn elements you can do, such as the hems and the pocket finishes, the more personal and special those trousers will be. Savile Row trousers always have a slight slant on the hem, to accommodate the height of your foot, so you could incorporate that. Take care with the positioning of your hook and bar because



Measure twice, cut once!

sadly I have seen great trousers ruined when it is wrongly positioned. Work methodically, take your time, check each stage carefully before moving on and enjoy it!

**Finally, what advice would you give to someone interested in becoming a tailor?**

Do a bespoke tailoring course and get an apprenticeship, where the learning really happens. Above all else, learn to use a thimble. Thimble, thimble, thimble, thimble, thimble!

**FIND OUT MORE**  
You can see more of Daniel's work on his Instagram **kozyrabespoke**