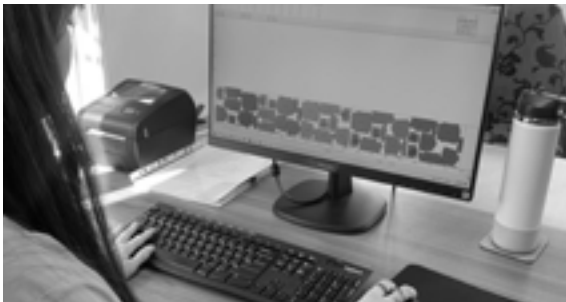


# CAD TECHNICIAN / PATTERN & MARKER MAKER

CAD (Computer-aided design) technicians use specialised software to develop and manipulate patterns. Working from design concepts, they create sample patterns, ensuring the fit and construction will meet specifications, and will work through the manufacturing process. Sample patterns are then graded across a range of sizes, and used to make lay plans - called markers - for cutters to cut from. CAD Marker Making is an effective way to maximise fabric usage and enables more accurate fabric purchasing and less wastage. This is a technically skilled role. Careful consideration for fit, form, and function is needed. A CAD Technician requires in-depth knowledge of pattern-making, grading, textile properties, garment construction, and the cutting process.

## ROUTES IN

CAD Technicians can learn their trade either through a tertiary course such as fashion technology or fashion design, or they may learn their skills on the job in a design or production workroom.



## SKILLS NEEDED

- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Digital technical skills
- An excellent understanding of the design and manufacturing process
- Good understanding of textiles and their properties
- Excellent patternmaking, and garment construction skills

## STUDY

- ▶ Pattern making, manual and digital
- ▶ Computer Aided Design (CAD) software
- ▶ Garment construction and textile technology
- ▶ Advanced pattern making
- ▶ Grading and Marker Making

## COMPANIES LOOKING FOR THIS ROLE

- ▶ Pattern Making/Grading Service Providers
- ▶ Garment Cutting Specialists
- ▶ CAD Service Providers
- ▶ Garment / Uniform Manufacturers
- ▶ Brand / Designers

## CAREER PATHWAY



NAME Emma

POSITION CAD Pattern & Marker Making Specialist

COMPANY Pattern Potentials

## A TYPICAL DAY

Each day is different as we work for many clients. Within a day if I am not marker making I can be digitizing and grading a customer's pattern, or setting up new design patterns and specs sheets in our CAD system. Once a sample is cut and made and fit-checked by the designer, we will receive a further brief about any alterations that need to be made to improve that style. For us it's all about collaborating closely with the designer, understanding their concept and producing patterns that fit into that.

## WHO DO YOU WORK WITH

- Designers
- Cutters
- Manufacturers
- Production managers
- Collaborate with co-workers

## CAREER JOURNEY

After finishing my Bachelor of Fashion I worked in retail for a New Zealand fashion label. After working there for over a year, I was ready for a new challenge. That was when the opportunity to work at Pattern Potentials came up. This position has given me the scope to put into practice what I had studied, I have since learned so much more with my retail experience being a good backup for my daily work.

## LOVES

I love the variety in my role, every day is different along with our customers' requirements. There is always something new and exciting to work on and you get to blend technical with creative skills. It's rewarding to see your 2D work come to life once it's made up into fabric.

## CHALLENGES

Some fabrics are challenging, including narrow, twisted checks and shrinking fabrics, and fitting the patterns correctly onto these. While marker making fabrics can be challenging we always aim to get the best for our customers, and ensure an accurate cut for the cutters.

