

REPAIR & ALTERATIONS SPECIALIST

ABOUT YOUR ROLE / BUSINESS

As the owner and sole operator of a small garment repairs and alterations business, my role is incredibly diverse. I currently run all aspects of my business myself, from marketing, accounting, and customer service, to client consults, fittings, sewing, and patternmaking. Every garment is different, and there are many specific fit issues for each client, so my work in alterations is both challenging and varied. The individualised nature of garment repairs and alterations means that creative problem-solving is integral to my role.

STUDY / CAREER JOURNEY

I graduated from Whitecliffe with a BFA, majoring in fashion. While studying, I worked for Taylor Boutique as a workroom assistant and retail assistant part-time. Post-graduation I worked for Kate Sylvester a Sampling Coordinator. This role allowed me to extend my skills in garment sampling, construction, and pattern making. I established my own business, Reparation Studio in 2021.

SKILLS

- Excellent knowledge of textile properties
- Knowledge of garment construction, fit and sizing
- Understanding of pattern making
- Creative thinking, and keeping up-to-date with current trends and new techniques
- Patience and attention to detail



NAME Jess

POSITION Repair & Alterations Specialist / Sole Trader

COMPANY Reparation Studio

A TYPICAL DAY

My days vary greatly, I usually start off my day attending emails, client queries, invoicing, and scheduling. I keep my time on admin streamlined and efficient so I can fill the rest of my day with sewing, pattern cutting, and doing fittings. Most days I will move on to machining during the day, with consultations slotted in between. In the afternoons I focus on my hand-sewn, artisanal repair work to help me unwind and slow down.



WHO DO YOU WORK WITH

I am in constant communication with clients, which is integral to achieving great results and helps the solo days of being a sole trader. My studio is based on Karangahape Road in Auckland, where I share this space with four other fashion practitioners who provide me with both inspiration and motivation.

- Clients
- Shared Studio Co-workers
- As a Sole Trader I mainly work by myself

SPECIALIST SERVICE FOR

- ▶ Individual Clients
- ▶ Fashion Brands / Designers
- ▶ Retailers
- ▶ Dry Cleaners



AREAS OF EXPERTISE

SAMPLING SPECIALIST

PATTERN CUTTER

GARMENT TECHNICIAN

TEXTILES SPECIALIST

DESIGNER



LOVES

I love the creativity of artisanal repair work. Clients bring me immense joy, I love hearing stories about where a garment came from, and how this links to personal narrative. Bringing people joy by making their clothes fit them perfectly, or extending a garment's life through mending is what gives my work meaning!

CHALLENGES

I love a challenge! So generally I would say the challenges within my role are also the parts that I love. Creative problem-solving is key for repairs and alterations so I am constantly learning and developing new techniques to adapt to the needs of my clients and their garments.