

Fit Studio



Meet Patrick:

Patrick is one of several technical designers that work with design and pre-production to manage all aspects of the fit process. Patrick was trained as a pattern maker and understands the fit and construction of garments. Each day he is responsible for fitting and measuring the many samples developed during the season. Each and every fit detail is developed, reviewed, analyzed and communicated internally and externally in order to perfect fit, support quality and satisfy consumer demands for products in sizes that meet their specific body types.



What does Patrick want?

“Technical design is something I love to do. It requires a combination of creative and technical skills. The paper work requires constant back and forth, and right now we use PDM to do this. In other companies I have worked at we managed fit information on spreadsheets and sometimes we even used basic templates designers would fill in by hand, believe it or not. The biggest issue for the team and me are managing the many iterations that fit goes through at each step of the design and pre-production lifecycle. Sometimes I have four or five versions with four or five vendors. Basically, you have to be organized but with email and the PDM system, that’s not easy. What would be really great is to have access to the final specification, or “tech pack” prior to getting samples. And what about being able to manage all the different versions with more robust tools? We have always wanted to do more 3D fit too, but with our current way of doing business, we can barely manage all our documentation, forget being able to share 3D data! We know of companies that are using and cutting out excess sampling, wouldn’t that be a great way to save time and money!”

Before Zweave



“From the minute we get fit priority lists we schedule our fit models.

We work with the designers during the fittings and collect fit changes. Sometimes this means updating a sketch, commenting on construction details, or taking pictures of the garment on the model or mannequin. Either way, we collect a ton of data and then need to update all of our documentation. Today, we go into the PDM system and make changes, save out the “tech pack” as a new version by changing the name of the file and then we share it with vendors. Any visual documentation gets pasted into the “tech pack” - if we change a sketch or picture, we have to update the whole “tech pack” again. Tracking those changes is something we don’t even control! I have no history of sketch changes, I just have to maintain the sketches in my desktop, and the same goes for any other references. We have had big issues from having the wrong version of the wrong style go to the wrong vendor. In my opinion, a PDF document really limits our ability to access data - everything is locked-up. With designers now using the PDM system to design “tech packs”, we created other problems - basically PDM was meant to manage the spec and now that we customized it to manage fabric, trims, colors, and tons of other things, it’s not great at all.

After Zweave

“Zweave’s approach to fit is so technical, you really can tell they worked on building Fit Studio with the military. Everything we do in fit is supported by a series of “managers”: Fit Manager, Pattern Manager, POM Manager, 3D Manager and Subject Manager. Each manager is a tool that allows us to upload tons of detailed fit data and organize it in a way we can access it, share it and re-use it. It saves tons of time! I can upload documents from CAD and PDM systems and actually see them in my portal. This is a huge benefit: right now fit data is so hard to share and we have had to use FTP sites to send patterns. I can work with designers and help them make design decisions by creating 3D items without making actual samples: We create a pattern, a 3D fabric and we drape it on our 3D fit model. If we want to try three different rises on a jean, or lower a V-neck, we can visualize it and avoid making extra samples just to see these minor changes. During fit sessions, I can make changes real time since my fit model data is stored with my 3D model, pictures and sketches can be uploaded on it in a flash too. I used to have to take copious notes and go figure out how to get the data right and back to everyone. Who needs it. Now any time I make a change or update, everyone on my team finds out instantaneously. No more cc or bcc nightmares. Fit Studio is smart - it gets what we do and really makes it possible to collaborate. It’s nice being in the middle of things”. For fit, our company rocks!