

Most popular questions customers ask

Q 1 What is the difference between a Budget & Top Quality Kilt Pack?

Answer Budget Kilt Pack is a basic Poly/Wool Jacket, Basic range of tartans in basic kilt finish, Basic Sporrans, Basic Socks, Flashes, Ghillie shoes with leather uppers & manmade soles. *Note: Any part of a Budget outfit can be up graded. You just pay the difference, we strongly recommend upgrading the Kilt to a Super finish kilt.*

Top Quality is all Wool Jacket, 13oz medium Kilt choice of 500 Tartans or a 17oz Double width 120 popular tartans in a heavy weight Kilt. Better Sporrans, Socks, Kilt Pin, Flashes, Sgian Dubh, Ghillie Shoes leather upper & sole and you get a Belt & Buckle.

Q 2 What is the difference in Modern, Ancient, Hunting, Dress & Withered Tartan?

Answer Most Tartans come in:-
Ancient: Soft lighter colours
Modern: Strong dark colours
Hunting: Any of the above tartan usually with lots of green
Dress: Any of the above with lots of white through them
Withered or Muted: A faded and muted washed out dyed colour in any of the above tartan.

Q 3 What Tartan can I wear?

Answer Look at Houston Kiltmakers web site www.kiltmakers.com and go to **Tartans anyone can wear** and you will find a tartan databank and a list of Tartans. If not go to name find and you can key in your name which will link to a Sept or affiliated tartan you can wear. *e.g. Houston is a Sept of MacDonald so Houston can wear MacDonald*

Also anyone can wear:- Scottish Heather, our own Bute Heather Collection, Black Watch, Braveheart, Flower of Scotland, Blue Heather Collection, Millennium, Scottish National, Isle of Skye, Scotland The Brave, St Mirren.
 All District Tartans e.g. Paisley, Glasgow, Ayrshire etc. Also a range of Irish Tartans, Including Irish National + All 33 Irish Counties Tartans, Airforce tartans and Canadian tartans.

Q 4 What is the best weight of Kilt?

Answer 11oz light weight is fine for children and ladies kilts (*some Professional Dancers go for 11oz*) 11oz is also suitable for waistcoats and trousers.
 13oz medium weight is the best. It holds its pleats well, (*if in a warm country this will do*). Also satisfactory for waistcoats and trousers.
 17oz heavy weight is the very best, again holds pleats well it hangs and sits better. It's what all kilts used to be made long ago. Also if you are big and have a tummy this weight will sit better.

Q 5 What is the difference between Kilt finishes?

Super Hand Finish Kilt

This kilt is all traditionally hand cut and made. The kilt maker spends a lot more time preparing the cloth, chalking a marking the tartan before cutting out the kilt to the exact template. Like any craftsperson the better preparation and time taken, the better the job. 95% of all our 8 yard kilt sales are in super finish. This kilt has 3 buckles and straps, canvas and lining with 2 belt loops and approximately 23 good knife pleats.

At the back of the top of the kilt pleats there is hardly any stitching to be seen. This kilt takes longer to make due to the pleats being stitched from inside. Some parts of the kilt, like buckles and straps are machine stitched for added strength. These kilt makers are much older with 25 years experience in the art of kilt making. This is our Rolls Royce or Savile Row of kilts.

Note-it generally takes an extra 4 to 5 hours to make a super finish kilt and are generally maintenance free.

Delivery time is 4 to 8 weeks, Express service 2 weeks + £50 extra. We highly recommend super finish kilts. You only buy a kilt once in a lifetime, they are worth the extra as the whole kilt is far more superior made and will last a lifetime.

Standard Hand Finish Kilt

These kilts are traditionally hand cut and made. They do not have as much preparation time spent on the layout. On the back of the kilt you will see some stitching at the top of the pleats, this gives the kilt an authentic look. With a standard finish kilt there is always running maintenance through the life of the kilt, like the odd burst stitch which can be easily repaired. We are finding less and less customers going for this finish. This finish is £60 less (£51 tax free) than a super finish kilt. Delivery time 8 to 10 weeks.

Super Machine Finish Kilt

As the basic machine finish kilt but a lot more time preparing the kilt marking out and cutting out the scallops so the kilt sits and fits a lot better. This is a far better kilt than the basic machine kilt and is worth the £30 extra. Delivery time 4 to 6 weeks. Express delivery 2 to 3 weeks at £40 extra.

Basic Machine Finish Kilt

We have introduced this basic kilt due to the success of our casual machine made kilts and also the high exchange rate with the pound sterling for our overseas customers. These kilts are all hand cut but fully machine made, resulting in quicker production. On the back of the kilt at the top of the pleats you see a small line of machine stitching. This is a good value kilt, but not quite 'The Real McCoy'. This finish is £30 less than the Super machine finish. Delivery time 4 to 6 weeks. Express delivery 2 to 3 weeks at £40 extra. We offer a full range of kilts suitable for any occasion. Generally customers buy a kilt once, to last a life time. It is used for many different purposes so its important to take time on choosing the correct tartan and type of kilt as it will last a life time and can be passed on as a heirloom. We recommend an 8 yard kilt. We find customers go for the best weight of cloth and best finish as the kilt is the heart of the outfit. It will become an old faithful friend you will have for life, maturing with age.

Q 6 What is a Selvage Edge?

Answer Selvage edge on kilts. Small technical note: In the 21st Century the bulk of kilt cloth is still being woven on traditional shuttle looms which gives the proper selvage edge required in kiltmaking. This is the cloth edge at the bottom of the kilt which generally is fairly straight and even. There are however occasions when the selvage edge can finish slightly uneven/wavy, this is your authentic traditional finish and this can be attributed to several factors. The main cause can more than often be traced to the dyeing process. When dyeing natural wool fibres, one colour may have to have longer in the dye-vat at extremely high temperatures to ensure colour fastness. Correctness which can result in this colour reaction fractionally different when the woven cloth goes through the washing/drying process, with one colour shrinking ever so slightly more than another. An excess shrinking of half a percent does not sound very much but this is all that it takes to give a slightly uneven edge. This is something we have to accept to a degree when the best of natural wools are processed in the traditional manufacture of kilt cloth.

Q 7 Heavy weight 17oz Kilts what is the difference on D/W and S/W prices?

Answer D/W = Double Width 17oz Heavy Weight is woven on modern wide machines and produces most popular 120 tartans more cost effectively at approx 54" Wide. Note: It takes a fully automatic machine 4 to 5 days to weave a bolt of cloth or 11 kilt lengths.

S/W = Single Width 17oz Heavy Weight strome is woven on older narrow machines which produce the full 750 range of Tartans and are more expensive to weave at the approx 26" wide. They are both the same weight and quality. It takes a man on a hand loom 11 days to weave a bolt of cloth or 11 kilt lengths.

Q 8 Is a kilt too warm?

Answer Wool is a natural yarn, cool in summer and warm in winter. It can be a bit of a fallacy that a 17oz heavy weight kilt is warmer than a medium weight kilt. It is what you wear on your top half of the body that makes the difference. A lot of our jackets are super light weight.

Q 9 Do Pipe Bands get discounts?

Answer Yes. Any band with multiple orders, please contact for further details.



County Galloway



Modern Cooper & Ferguson



Bute Heather Modern

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Q 10 How long does it take to make a Kilt?

Answer Normal delivery time is 4 to 8 weeks for a Standard Finish Kilt. Super Finish takes 4 to 8 weeks. At busier times it may take a bit longer plus shipping time. Express Service 2 weeks approx, £50. See staff for more information.

Q 11 Can I get a Kilt made quicker?

Answer Yes you can. Make up time 10 to 14 days plus £50 for an Express Service, subject to kiltmakers work load plus shipping time.

Q 12 How long before an important function should I order a Kilt or Kilt outfit?

Answer All Highland Wear accessories are generally stock or obtainable within a week to 10 days. There could be a problem with the tartan. Most mills have the cloth in stock about 90% of the time. If the cloth is out of stock this can take up to 16 weeks for it to be rewoven plus 4 to 6 weeks to make the kilt (i.e. if one mill is out of 17oz Black Watch tartan we could get it from another mill, the shades and the settings on the check may vary). If only one mill weaves your cloth and you can't wait for it, go for your second choice, if you have one. We do recommend you stay with your first choice as it is worth waiting for it to be rewoven. The kilt will last a lifetime so it's worth the wait!! (Remember we can organise a courtesy loan of a hire kilt if you require it for a special occasion. If it is a mail order customer you pay for postage both ways).

Q 13 What is the busiest time for Houston's Kiltmakers?

Answer We are busy all the year round. The extra busy times are prior to the Burns Night 25th January, St. Patricks Day 17th March, St. Andrews Day 30th November, Christmas and Hogmanay, and of course Summer weddings.

Q 14 What length should a kilt be?

Answer This is an individual choice. Anywhere from the top of the knee to the lower middle of the knee.

Q 15 How do we measure?

Answer We can take measurements in inches, or centimeters. Just state what country you are from. Houstons also have a conversion on our web Site at <http://www.kiltmakers.com> Houstons can fit from small boys up to extremely large & tall men. (e.g. Up to 24" colars, 72" chests & 72" waists and 7ft tall. You will have a self measurement form in this information pack which tells you how to measure and on Houstons Video it will tell you how to measure (you can see the Video on our web Site too).

Q 16 Can a kilt be altered?

Answer Yes it can, If you lose weight we can take the kilt in, if you put weight on we sell strap extensions (£15 for a set of 3), or we can move the buckles and straps or even fully re-make the kilt. We can also shorten kilts. Please ask for a quote.

Q 17 Why buy a Kilt Outfit from Scotland?

Answer Most importantly it is all made in Scotlan, with all Kilts professionally made, for that once in a lifetime purchase it's worth getting it from Houston Traditional Kiltmaker the home of the finest Kiltmakers and probably the best Highland Outfitters in the world.

(Paisley is the birthplace of The Stuart Dynasty where King Robert The Bruce received absolution. It's the home of the world famous Paisley patterned shawls and Elderlie just next to Paisley is the birthplace of William Wallace).

Q 18 How much will it cost in my currency?

Answer Houstons prices in UK £ Sterling and Tax Free prices outwith the European Community in small grey text. Houstons have a currency conversion on our web site. <http://www.kiltmakers.co.uk>

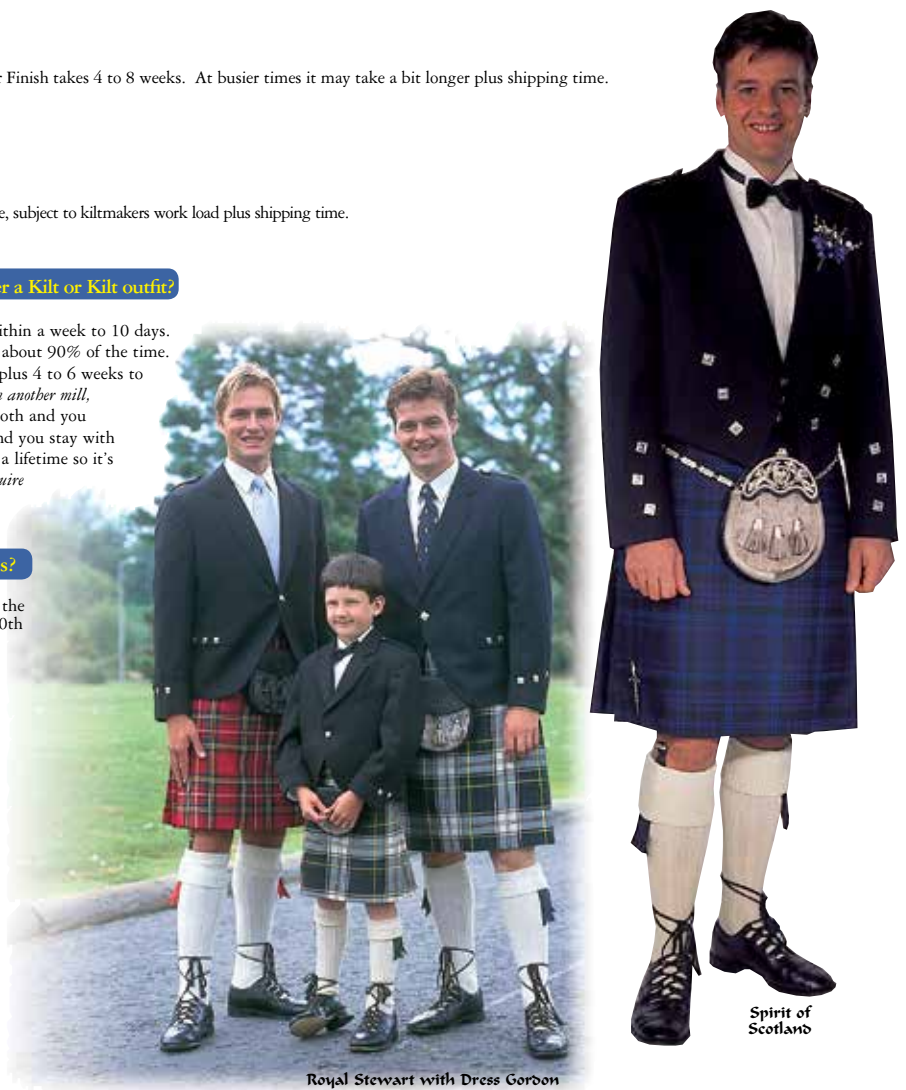


Q 19 Who qualifies for Tax Free shopping?

Answer Any person outwith the European Community e.g. USA, Canada, Japan, South Africa, New Zealand, Switzerland, Norway, Australia etc. A British person who is resident for 2 years or more out with the U.K & EC countries. Also residents of the Channel Isles. All Goods sent to customers outwith the E.C. will automatically have the U.K tax taken off. Houstons VAT no 263 1138 84. Please note some Countries may put an import duty tax on imported goods. Customers must find out what their countries Taxes are. *If any?*

Q 20 Tips for wearing your kilt

1. Put socks on, make sure ribs are vertical and tops are parallel. Put garter flashes on with flashes to outside of leg. Make sure there is a 3" gap between bottom of kilt and top of socks.
2. Put sgian dubh down right hand leg sock with about 1" of top showing.
3. Put gillie brogue shoes on, twist laces three times and take round back and return to front. Tie in bow about 6" above shoe. (note: Then shirt & bow tie on)
4. Put your kilt on with pleats to back. Kilt should be a snug fit sitting high on the waist.
5. Put kilt pin in front apron only, at bottom right hand side looking down and 2" in from fringe.
6. Put sporran on next and position correctly on front. Put chain strap through belt loops and fasten at back.
7. Put belt and buckle over chain strap through belt loops and fasten with buckle to front. Then put your waistcoat & jacket on.
8. Make sure you have a dram in your sporran flask!



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