

# FIRST STEP: SELECTION OF YOUR TARTAN

The first step in choosing your Highlandwear outfit is to choose your tartan. Here at Houstons we can inform you of the correct tartan for your crest or family name. You can also find tartans, crest histories and video clips explaining everything you need to know as well as a 60 page buy brochure with kilt packs, accessories, order details & measurements, with questions and answers on-line at our Web Site: [www.kiltmakers.com](http://www.kiltmakers.com)

Scotland has many district, town and clan tartans as well as National tartans for example the Scottish National, Flower of Scotland, Braveheart, Spirit of Scotland, Scotland the Brave, Isle of Skye, Millennium tartan, Monarch of the Glen, Spirit of Bannockburn and our own designs, 'St Mirren' 'Scottish Heather' and 'Bute Heather' collection, Irish Districts, Irish National, Irish Blood, Welsh National, Cornish National, Canadian and some American, like New York and American National designed by Houstons. The beauty of these tartans is that anyone can wear them with pride.

Most Scottish clans have their own tartan, if not you will find that they are affiliated to a clan which does.

## THE "RIGHT" TO WEAR A TARTAN

Often over the years one has heard people explaining they have the right or that they are entitled to wear this or that tartan.... in fact no such right , in any legal sense , exists for them or anyone else ....the only considerations which govern the wearing of a particular set are usage and good taste. quote from Scottish Tartans Authority director Brian Wilton

So the answer to the question " what tartan am i entitled to wear ? is -- "any tartan you fancy " the sole consideration are good taste--- some tartans are appalling clashes of colours! highland attire looks smart and feels great to wear.. perhaps Cary Grant's advise for choosing a tie --- always dress to go with your eyes -- is also the best criterion for choosing a tartan.

quote from Alistair Campbell of airds , unicorn pursuivant of arms the court of the lord Lyon

To make life easy to pick a tartan at Houston's we have over 100 tartan books , the only kilt shop in the world where you can see every commercial produced tartan, and have the facility to weave any tartan if a stitch count exists from our records... We have collated over 600 tartans any one can wear in 8 swatch books in colour bunch to make viewing tartans a lot easier for our customers.

At Houston Traditional Kiltmakers we get customers visiting our shop from all parts of Scotland, the U.K., Europe and the rest of the world. Our professional staff will advise on tartans you can wear from a choice of around 14,000 different tartans.



*Massacre of Glencoe by Hamilton permission of Glasgow Museums*

WEIGHT OF CLOTH 54" wide or 11/2 metre wide	INGLES BVCHAN	LOCHCARRON	HOUSE OF EDGAR	STRATHMORE	DALGEASH ELLIOT	OWN RANGE MM	TARTAN CHOICE	SUITABLE GARMENTS
7 OZ	£60 p/y	~	~	~	~	~	1000	Ties, scarves, shirts, caps
9 OZ	~	~	~	~	~	~	500	Ties, scarves, shirts, caps
11 OZ	~	£70	£70	£70	£120 s/w	£50	600	Trousers, jackets, waistcoats, Ladies kilts & skirts, childrens kilts
13 OZ	~	£70	£70 o/r £90	£70	~	£50	500	Mens kilts & trousers, Ladies kilts & plaids
17 OZ	~	£80	£80	~	~	£60	750	Mens kilts
19 OZ	~	~	£90	~	~	~	6	Regimental mens kilt

\* Available fire resistant for furnishings at extra cost

75 silks available at £58 per yard = £60 per metre All above prices in yards and double width. s/w=Single width  
60 Tartans poly viscose £30 per yard £33 per metre 12 Tartans poly wool £37 per yard £40 per metre  
(Washable & stain proof)

60 Tartans fine poly cotton £30 per yard £33 per metre

D/W = Double width 17oz heavy weight cloth woven on modern wide machines & produces the most popular 120 tartans more cost effectively at approx 54" wide.  
S/W = Single width 17oz Heavy weight cloth is woven on older narrow machines which produces the full 750 range of tartans and are more expensive to weave at approx 26" wide. Both D/W & S/W are the same quality. All kilt cloth has selvage edge (tuck in edge).

Note your name is affiliated to clan, so you can wear that tartan.

You can fast find your tartan by going to [www.kiltmakers.com/tartans](http://www.kiltmakers.com/tartans) or if you wish to know you have a tartan, go to [www.kiltmakers.com/sept](http://www.kiltmakers.com/sept)

## MOST TARTANS COME IN

### ANCIENT

*Soft lighter colours.*

MacDonald of  
Clan Ranald



### MODERN

*Strong dark colours.*

MacDonald of  
Clan Ranald



### HUNTING

*Any of the above tartan usually with lots of green.*

Hunting MacDonald  
of the Isles Ancient



### DRESS

*Any of the above tartan with lots of white through them.*

MacDonald Modern



### WEATHERED OR MUTED

*Weathered or muted.  
A more faded and muted washed out dyed colour.  
In any of the above tartans.*

MacDonald of  
Clan Ranald



Please find enclosed some swatches in your own tartan

Ancient Modern Hunting Dress Withered  
wool 8oz 10oz 13oz 17oz 19oz Silk or Poly/viscose

*(This is not the full range)*

If you wish to see our full range of 14,000 tartans please call into the shop.

Or see all tartans at [www.kiltmakers.com](http://www.kiltmakers.com)

NOTE: We are the only shop in Scotland with every mass produced tartan. We can specially weave any tartan if a stitch count exists, in all weights of wool, silk, poly/viscose, poly/wool & poly/cotton, and we can even stain-proof fabrics.

Our kilts come in several weights of cloth. The 11oz cloth is very light weight and more suitable for ladies skirts, gents trousers, waistcoats, childrens kilts and some professional dancing kilts.

For gents kilts, we recommend anything from 13oz medium weight to 16oz heavy weight cloth this being the real "Rolls Royce" of kilts. All of our kilts are 8 yards, traditionally handmade in pure wool. **The heavy weight 16oz kilt cloth sits, swings and looks a million dollars, compaired to a 13oz medium weight kilt, and it is NOT any warmer. It is the weight of the jacket which makes the heat difference. All of our Houstons jackets are super light weight and stain-proofed.**

The only reason we sell 13oz medium weight kilts is if the tartan is only available in this weight like Irish and Welsh and some clan tartans.

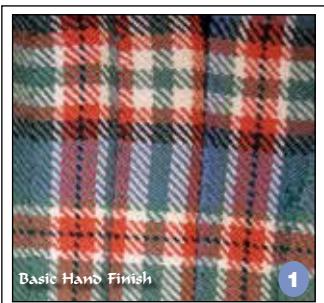
Houstons also have an exclusive service of teflon coating tartans/kilts to make them stain resistant, this service can only be done at time of ordering the kilt on all our own Cloths.

All kilts are individually hand tailored to your own specification in a range of **5 different available kilt finishes**. From hand-made kilts through to machine-finished kilts.

### Adjusting of Kilt Size

Kilts go down 1½" and go outwards 1½". We can also cut kilts for growth by adding an extra inch or two so the kilt can be expanded through time to 3 to 4 inches extra. This is ideal for younger lads or indeed for anyone, as ones weight does fluctuate in the life of a kilt. If you lose weight we can also tighten up kilts. For boys and youths we can also hem a kilt so the length can be dropped when they get taller. Please ask if you wish this service when ordering your kilt.

## Kilt Finishes, Hand Made



**Basic Hand Finish** 1

These kilts are traditionally hand cut and made. These kiltmakers do not spend much time on preparation - they start straight into the kilt, and on the back of the pleats the setting can be a bit erratic. You will see a lot of varied hand stitches and no attention to detail. With this kilt finish you will have constant running repairs, with a few burst stitches which can be easily repaired over the life of this kilt finish - we have now stopped selling these.



**Super Hand** 2

**Super Hand Finish Kilt** 2

This kilt is 100% traditionally hand cut and made by kiltmakers who are passionate about their work and who take a great deal of care and pride in what they do. They spend a lot more time laying out and marking the kilt out before cutting it to an exact template. As with any craft, the better the preparation and the more time taken, the better the job. These kiltmakers take about a day to a day and a half to make a kilt, with about 7000 hand stitches per kilt. We only make 8-yard kilts with 3 buckles and 3 black leather straps, with about 5 to 6 adjustment holes with 2 belt loops and hanging loops, a minimum 23 good knife pleats with high quality cotton canvas and Selassie cotton lining. The attention to detail is excellent.

At the back of the top of the kilt you will hardly see any hand stitches, as they are stitched from inside. The stitching of the buckles and straps are all reinforced for extra strength. These kiltmakers are a lot older with over 20 or 25 years experience in the art of kiltmaking. All these kilts are generally maintenance-free.

Delivery 5 to 8 weeks.

We highly recommend super finish kilts, as you only buy a kilt once in a lifetime. They are worth the extra cost as the whole kilt is far superior and will last a lifetime.

**Super Hand Made Deluxe** 3

This is made to a far higher standard than a super hand made kilt. Preparation time is doubled and the matching and setting is far more accurate. The kilt is 90% all hand made, reinforcing by machining on the buckles, straps, waistband and belt loops with all key stress points reinforced. Finally checked over and super pressed to keep the pleats nice and sharp: this is the very best kilt you can buy.



**Super Deluxe** 3



**Super Deluxe** 3

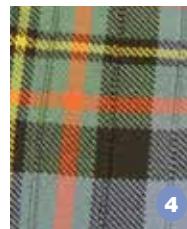


**Super Hand Made Deluxe Finish** 4

# Machine Finished Kilts

## Basic Machine Finish Kilt 4

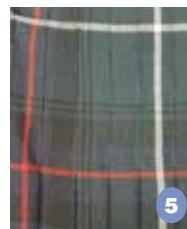
This is a basic 8-yard budget kilt 90% machine made/factory made, with no canvas with a little Selassie. On the back of the kilt you will see a small line of machine stitching. This is a value starting price kilt, not the real McCoy.



Basic Machine

## Super Machine Finish Kilt 5

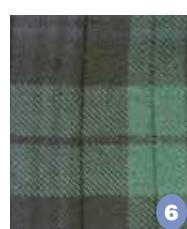
As the basic machine finish kilt but a lot more time preparing the kilt, marking out and cutting out the scallops so the kilt sits and fits a lot better, it is 50% hand made. This kilt is £30 more than the Basic Machined kilt and is far better finish. You will see a row of machine top-stitching down the back of top of pleats of the kilt.



Super Machine  
Top Stitch

## Superior Super Machined Kilt 6

This kilt is 60% hand made and machined internally. It is all prepared by hand, by cutting the back of the kilts scallops to template, then stitched by machine under the pleats. We only make 8-yard kilts with 3 buckles and 3 black leather straps, with about 5 to 6 adjustment holes with 2 belt loops and hanging loops, a minimum 23 good knife pleats with high quality cotton canvas and Salassie cotton lining. Reinforced around the buckles, straps and belt loops.

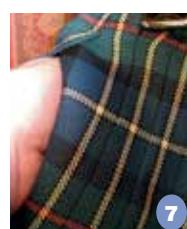


Super Machine  
Under Stitch

Finally all checked and hand finished and super pressed to keep the pleats nice and sharp, this is the kilt finish we use for all pipe bands and for the Royal Regiment of Scotland and all MOD, and these were the ones we made for the Scottish Army at the opening and closing ceremony of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014.

## Pockets 7

Pockets can be added to this super machined under stitched kilt for £25 extra per pocket, with a choice of under the front apron or at the first left hand pleat.



Pocket option

## Teflon/Stain-Proofing

At Houstons we were first to teflon coat/stain-proof all our tartans, which makes our kilts and jackets fully protected from rain and stains (even beer-proof!). The wool has the same handle and is fully breathable, making them safe to wear to rugby and football matches.

We calculate over the life of your kilt you will save approx £180 to £260, not having to get your kilt dry cleaned as often. This also helps the environment. **The Teflon coating lasts a minimum of 18 dry cleanings.**



Teflon Coated - Stain Proofed - around 350 tartans available



## Kilt Pleating

Kilts may be pleated to the set as normal, or regimental set pleated on the line where a tartan has a predominant stripe.

Other garments we can make include tartan trousers, trews, suits, jackets and tartan waistcoats, we also do tweed jackets, tweed suits and Inverness capes. For mail order purposes an easy to follow self-measurement form is included on page 46.

At the back of top of pleats, all the stitching is done underneath so it is concealed and not seen.



Normal Set



Regimental Set

## NOTE

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 finish, 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. Any kilt can be easily adjusted up or down waistline direction.

## Delivery Time

Delivery time for all kilts in top quality wool, in any stock tartan, 4-8 weeks.

Express service (6-14 days) is £50 extra on super finish kilt. (Subject to kiltmakers workload)

Please Note: As long as cloth is in stock we can make your kilt for the stated delivery time. If cloth out at mill this can delay our kiltmakers in making your kilt. We recommend if your kilt is for a special occasion that you book 4-6 months prior to the important occasion as some mills can take up to 16 weeks to re-weave cloth.

Houston are proud members of the Scottish Tartans Authority, with Ken MacDonald the retired Vice-Chairman of the STA. We have our very own Kilmakers, offering a range of 4 different kilt finishes, keeping very high standards of quality at a competitive price.

All of Houston's Kilts are traditional 8 yard handmade kilts and Made in Scotland.

	Basic Machine Kilt Finish 4	Super Machine Hand-Finished Under Stitch 5	Super Handmade Kilt Finish 2	Super Handmade Deluxe Kilt Finish 3
<b>Light weight Cloth</b>	Tax Free	Tax Free	Tax Free	Tax Free
<b>K18</b> 11oz own range (200 Tartans)	<b>£325</b>	£271	<b>£440</b>	£367
<b>K19</b> 11oz Strathmore Kilt (340 Tartans)	<b>£435</b>	£363	<b>£570</b>	£475
<b>K19b</b> 11oz Loch Carron (500 Tartans)				
<b>Medium weight Cloth</b>	Tax Free	Tax Free	Tax Free	Tax Free
<b>K19c</b> 13oz own range (140 tartans)	<b>£370</b>	£309	<b>£460</b>	£384
<b>K20</b> 13oz Hebridean kilt (10 tartans)	<b>£400</b>	£334	<b>£530</b>	£442
<b>K21</b> 13oz Loch Carron (500 tartans) +House of Edgar & Strathmore	<b>£435</b>	£363	<b>£570</b>	£475
<b>K22</b> 13oz Old & Rare (500 tartans) + 80 Welsh Tartans)	<b>£520</b>	£434	<b>£670</b>	£559
<b>Heavy weight Cloth</b>	Tax Free	Tax Free	Tax Free	Tax Free
<b>K23</b> 17oz own range (100 tartans)	<b>£370</b>	£309	<b>£460</b>	£384
<b>K23b</b> 17oz own range <b>Teflon Coated</b> Stain Proofed (200 tartans)	<b>£370</b>	£309	<b>£460</b>	£384
<b>K23c</b> 17oz Special Royalties Tartans <b>Stain Proofed</b> (32 tartans)	<b>£295</b>	£246	<b>£400</b>	£334
<b>K24</b> 17oz House of Edgar D/W (60 tartans)	<b>£375</b>	£313	<b>£490</b>	£409
<b>K25</b> 17oz Bute Heather Range Teflon Coated Stain Proofed (22 tartans)	<b>£445</b>	£371	<b>£500</b>	£417
<b>K26</b> 17oz Loch Carron (70 tartans) S/W + House of Edgar (100 tartans) S/W	<b>£440</b>	£367	<b>£570</b>	£475
<b>K26b</b> Special Weaves, Stain Proofed from:	✓= Single Width, d= Double Width (Outer Value)			
	• 11m s/w-1 Kilt + a few extra yards			
	• 11m d/w-1 Kilt + 2 extra Kilt Lengths			
	• 11m d/w-3 Kilt + a few extra yards			
<b>PLEASE NOTE WHEN WEAVING THE WARPING AND DRESSING PROCESS HAS A TOLERANCE OF +/- 10% EXCESS CLOTH MUST BE PURCHASED**</b>				
<b>Regimental weight Cloth</b>	Tax Free	Tax Free	Tax Free	Tax Free
<b>K27</b> 19oz Regimental Weight (6 tartans)	<b>£525</b>	£438	<b>£600</b>	£500
<b>Kilt Pleating - Set as knife pleating as standard. On special request regimental kilts can be set to line pleating. Box pleating can be done for £100 extra.</b>	<b>Express Service available for Kilt delivery in 2 weeks for extra £60</b>			

Tartan garter flashes £18, Special Price of £20 (subject to excess cloth)

**Outsize/Surcharge** will be made on kilts over 45" to 66" waists and seats as more cloth is required

45" to 46"	47" to 50"	51" to 56"	57" to 61"	62" to 66"
8 1/2 yards + 7.5%	9 yards + 15%	10 yards + 20%	11 yards + 30%	12 yards + 40%

### Delivery Time

Delivery time for all kilts in top quality wool, in any stock tartan, 4-8 weeks.

(Express service 6 to 14 days) is £50 extra on super finish kilt. (Subject to kilmakers workload).

### Special Service

**Free Hire** If you buy a kilt over £300 and are thinking of buying a full kit pack, you can try a courtesy hire Prince Charlie full kilt pack value £60 absolutely FREE OF CHARGE specialists jackets, coloured jackets & antique / black button silverware at £60 extra or if you are getting married we can give you a loan of one of our hire kilts like Bute Heather range so the main wedding party are all in the same tartan and you can change into your own tartan at night. We are finding a lot of grooms doing this. (If you are a mail order customer you pay postage. UK mainland £40 return, Highlands & Islands £60 or overseas postage both ways.) Prices on request.

Note any kilt bought £199 to £299, we will give a discounted hire pack at the value £60, get it for special price of £30 only. Or once you have bought your kilt and are thinking of buying a kit pack you can upgrade within two weeks any kilt to qualify for the discount pack price. Where else gives you the chance to see what you look like in your own tartan, before making a commitment to purchase a full outfit?



Scottish National Modern  
with Navy & Green Prince  
Charlie Jackets

OUR OWN RANGE OF 16oz HEAVY WEIGHT KILTS  
AND LIGHT WEIGHT JACKETS ARE ALL STAIN PROOFED

(You can spill tea, coffee, beer & wine over them and they are fully protected

- so you can wear them safely to Rugby & Football matches)

WE CALCULATE OVER THE LIFE OF YOUR KILT, YOU WILL SAVE APPROX £180 TO £260  
BY NOT HAVING TO GET YOUR KILT DRY CLEANED AS OFTEN + THIS HELPS THE  
ENVIRONMENT. The Teflon coating lasts a minimum of 18 Dry Cleanings

At Houstons we tailor our kilts from pure wool tartans woven by Scotland's top quality mills. 16oz kilts (pictured) are crafted from tartan woven by Lochcarron and House of Edgar in top of the range heavy worsted quality. We recommend this as being the hardest wearing weight and one that will hold its pleats very well, many of our oldest customers will proudly testify to the long service such a kilt will give. The range of worsted 13oz quality tartans is growing each year. Sharing the advantages of the heavier worsted, it is also ideal for tartan trews. A lightweight worsted and saxony wool 11oz tartan is woven in a very large range and is ideal for trousers, waistcoats, childrens kilts, and for ladies kilts and skirts. It is usually woven in a smaller pattern or "set", also available are a range of 75 tartans in silk, suitable for ladies trimmings or dresses. Prices quoted are for full Kilts, standard sizes up to 44" waist. 45" to 66" waists and seat carry an outsize surcharge, please see our outsize chart.

The choice of tartan is a personal choice which we at Houstons have grown to appreciate over our many years in business. This is why we have professional staff who take every step necessary to cater for your needs. We also stock Irish, Welsh, Canadian and American tartans. For those of you looking for something different we can even design a tartan specially for you, making it unique to you and your family.

Ken MacDonald of Houstons can design any tartan - prices start from £300 + registration with the Scottish Tartans Register of £130 extra, with extra checking of tartan by the Scottish Tartans Authority Director.

You can even try to design your own tartan. See our FREE tartan design iPhone apps, see the bottom of our homepage at [www.kiltmakers.com](http://www.kiltmakers.com) We design a lot of tartans for clients , companies or even wedding tartans linking two clans together + of our own range of bute heather collection 16 oz heavy weight stain proofed "beer proof" kilts , these kilts have been lab tested to do a minimum of 18 dry cleanings , so over the life of your kilt you will save approx £250 not having to get your kilt dry cleaned!

Design costs from approx £300 to £800 + register tartan £130, we will supply cad outputs + yarn colours before we go to weave.

We at Houstons have found that generally modern tartans are good with coloured jackets like navy, black or tweeds. Ancient tartans are best with black and are also suitable for tweed Argyll / Braemar jackets, which customers can often buy at a later date, for more informal and casual occasions.

### SPECIAL WEAVE TARTANS

In single width, at 28" wide cloth,  
in 11oz/12oz medium weight or 15/16oz heavy weights.

Minimum order taken 4 yards s/w £80 per yard.

Delivery 8 to 16 weeks plus make up time. (new - we can also **stainproof** special weave tartans from 11 yards up at £40 extra, in all 3 weights)

When weaving special weaves tartans we sometimes get some excess of + or - 10% on tartan. If an excess we sell at a special price with kilt. It is useful to keep or use to make ties, scarves, ruffles, sashes, cushions, curtains, waistcoats, ribbons, etc.

We can do most non stock tartans as long as it's a recorded tartan with a thread count and if a sample exists. Please note we have all mass produced tartans by Lochcarron, Stromie, House of Edgar, Strathmore Marton Mills, Batley & Dalgleish... in 150 swatch book forms, including all single width 750 & 17oz Stromie tartan swatches. One of only two swatch sets in Scotland.

(Please note: Some private collections may carry a small royalty charge.)

**BUY A KILT IN  
ANY TARTAN AND GET A  
FREE LOAN OF ALL HIRE  
ACCESSORIES**

**WE ARE THE ONLY SHOP IN SCOTLAND  
WHICH CAN SHOW YOU EVERY TARTAN**

**KILTS £299** or £250 tax free

Choose from 450 of our own Tartans 8 yard 16 oz ,  
basic machine finish Kilt, made to your own sizes.

**You keep the Kilt.**

**We will give you a FREE loan of Hire Accessories:**

Black Prince Charlie, 3 Button Waistcoat or Black Argyll, Shiny Buttons, Wing or Standard Collar Dress Shirt, Bow Tie Dress or semi dress Sporran, Belt and Buckle, Sgian Dubh, black or white Socks, Shoes.

**Usual Hire period four-day free loan of hire goods value £60.**

Note: If you go for a specialist jacket & sporran, an upgrade cost of up to £60 may be charged (eg Tweed Jacket or antique buttons etc, see staff for details).

Note: longer hire weeks can be arranged at a small extra cost, ideal for customers looking for long hire periods.

Customers must return all hire goods but keep kilt and own flashes. Mail order customers must pay postage both ways.

Tartan flashes to match the kilt, subject to cloth off cuts. Usual price £40 reduced to only £20. Flashes are compulsory.

Usual outsize charges apply over 45" seats.

Delivery time 10-12 weeks. Booking recommended 6 months before function.

\*This is for UK or European customers only, other countries on request.

**£75 deposit to order kilt, balance on collection.**

**Note we are the only shop in Scotland to show every tartan.**

**Prices go up to £975. Please ask Staff for a quote if your tartan is not in our range.**

Kilts for sale from £200 to £298. We will give a discounted pack as above £60 for a special discounted price of only £30 extra.

**You keep the Kilt and return all hire components.**

**This service is available 10 to 12 weeks before function.**

(Where else would you get a chance to see what you would look like in your own Tartan, before making a commitment to purchase a full Outfit?)

**HIRE A KILT  
IN ANY TARTAN**

**SEE STAFF FOR DETAILS**



Exclusive  
Modern  
Bute  
Heather  
Stain  
Proofed

**www.kiltmakers.com**