

Fashion Freaks



your dressingroom on the net!

Fashion Freaks is about fashion, clothing and vanity from a seated perspective.

We who use wheelchairs know how hard it is to find good looking and well fitted clothes. Skirts are too short at the back. Pants are too tight in the crotch. The jacket travels forward with every move until the shoulder pads form extra boobs. It is not funny!

And then there are the few selling adapted clothes. A couple of them actually have clothes that look okay – if the style fits you and you can afford them.

It is not as complicated as you think to sew yourself. And when you have your “own” pattern you can create any combination or variation you want. Fabrics in different material, structure and colour totally change the look of a garment. Pockets, frills do the same. Skirts can be long or short, pants can become shorts and the jacket sleeves have wristbands.

With you “own” pattern you can ask a seamstress to sew that special garment for that special occasion – maybe a two-piece suit for graduation. Or find the tailor who makes motorcycle clothes and order that leather jacket everyone will envy.

Fashion Freaks is about clothing for wheelchair users. On our web site you find patterns for downloading, simple sewing instructions, tips and other useful stuff. Here you will find everything you need to fix a wardrobe after your personal taste.

Fashion Freaks is part of Independent Living Institute.

Visit us on www.independentliving.org/fashionfreaks





Fashion Freaks main component is the patterns; skirts, pants and jackets, all adapted to a seated position. You can download all the patterns free for personal use.

You have patterns to two different jackets: one to a more suit style jacket with straight shoulders and one to a jacket with raglan sleeves.

There are a number of alternative solutions to both jacket patterns to choose from Both jackets can be sewn with straight or curved back. The curved back piece suits us who sit leaning slightly forward in the wheelchair.

Raglan sleeves are more spacious and allow greater freedom of mobility if you use a manual wheelchair. A suit style jacket fits tighter around the shoulders. To provide some extra space for movement we have chosen to position the seam attaching the sleeves slightly low at the bend of the shoulders. The suit style jacket also has pattern for curved sleeves.

One single pants pattern provides you with a wealth of opportunities. You can chose to sew pants with a regular fly, zip at the side seam or somewhere else. The pants pattern have a curved seam in the middle of the back piece which twist the main pants piece forward, upward over the lap part of the legs. This shapes the pants into a seated position.



The skirt patterns also have a curved upper section created by a crescent shaped back part. We have two different patterns: a simple one with a seam in the middle of the back piece and a pattern with the back divided in three pieces making a smoother crescent shape.



Fashion Freaks' patterns are basic patterns for wheelchair users. They are not individually adapted. That is why we recommend that you test sewing the pattern in cheap fabric and see how it fits you before sewing the garment. All patterns do not fit all bodies.

You have simple instructions on how to adapt the pattern to suit your body and seating position. It might take a couple of trials to get the perfect fit, but when you have your own pattern it is useable for any type of garment.

Do not worry about the sewing. At Fashion Freaks you will find simple sewing instructions for each step from pattern to ready garment.

Fashion Freaks also collected tips. We asked around, read and made inventories searching for tips on how to change, fix and alter to make clothing functional from a wheelchair perspective.



On the site you will find the tips we found. Your tips are also welcome.

Photos, columns and a little bit of everything is gathered in "The Mix". Feel free to contribute to this part of the site as well. We would love to publish pictures of clothes sewn after Fashion Freaks patterns, especially clothes made for special occasions. Columns about your trial and errors are also welcome, if they have any connection to Fashion Freaks.



We are the brains and bodies behind Fashion Freaks.



Meagan Whellans is originally from Australia and has a degree in textiles from R.M.I.T. a Melbourne university.

Susanne Berg is a freelance writer and analyst from Sweden and has been a wheelchair user for more than 25 years.

During the quarter of a century I have used a wheelchair I have sewn and altered clothes en masse without finding the ultimate solution. In 2001 I met Meagan and almost immediately we started to talk clothes.

After a while our talks extended to trials. We started to test altering patterns and found it harder and more time consuming than we expected. We realised we needed a home and a sponsor for our project.

The Independent Living Institute liked our idea of functional DIY fashion and became our home on the Internet

www.independentliving.org/fashionfreaks

The Swedish Heritage Fund funded the project.

www.arvsfonden.nu

Inger Bladh is our photographer of choice

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