



# Basics Fashion Design 09: Designing Accessories: Exploring the design and construction of bags, shoes, hats and jewellery

By John Lau

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## Basics Fashion Design 09: Designing Accessories: Exploring the design and construction of bags, shoes, hats and jewellery By John Lau

Long since regarded as an inessential object that simply adds to the beauty, convenience or effectiveness of an outfit, accessories are now considered key items in a fashion collection and as stand-alone pieces worthy of our undivided attention. *Basics Fashion Design 09: Designing Accessories* is filled with important information that any designer will need to know, examining four key items from concept to production: the bag, footwear, jewellery and millinery. The key accessories are dissected to clearly display the core components, giving a clear view of how each connects.

The design process is explored by looking at creative product development, from gathering research to generating ideas into key products, construction techniques and the essential tools of the trade used in modern accessories design. 2D pattern and 3D modelling techniques are described in detail with explanations of traditional and rapid prototyping tools in use today. Bespoke and commercial production is examined and creative solutions to technical challenges are presented.

*Designing Accessories* also explores specialist finishing techniques, such as hand-finishing and machine embellishment and contains descriptions of contemporary techniques that break new boundaries in accessories design. A detailed explanation of small accessories, essential to the accessories designer, will broaden the reader's knowledge and provide them with the dexterity of skills to enter the fashion industry.

This title is filled with images of beautiful accessories to inspire young designers. It is essential reading for fashion students and all those interested in accessories design. The book also includes a whole chapter on small accessories (eyewear, scarves, ties, wristwatches, belts and gloves).

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

‘Basics Fashion Design: Designing Accessories is a vibrant, modern and highly informative teaching aid. The volume demonstrates not only the importance of accessory design to the fashion industry, but also formative design and production methods. Techniques ranging from traditional craft skills to innovation methods are conveyed through an engaging and visually creative format. This is an essential read for students studying within the full spectrum of fashion related education.’

(Mal Burkinshaw, Programme Director of Fashion *Edinburgh College of Art* 2012-05-18)

Accessories play a key role within style and the fashion industry and this book allows students at the beginning of their creative journey to identify with the accessory, from the moment of inspiration through to the practicalities of production. It provides an insightful and inspirational foundation about accessories and their key fundamentals to those pursuing a career in within the fashion design industry.

(Georgina Hooper *University of Chichester, UK* 2012-05-18)

This is an impressive book, informative, inspiring and imaginative. It provides a solid foundation for starting design students interested in working in this growing market.

The mixture of contemporary case studies, information on technology, manufacture and creative product development are all underpinned by fascinating insights into the history and heritage of accessory design, making this book an essential for any Fashion, Textiles or Product Design student. It is the ideal platform for students to go on to develop their own creative ideas.

(Jane Stanton, Head of Design *University of Derby, UK* 2012-05-18)

#### From the Back Cover

Long since regarded as inessential objects that simply add to the beauty, convenience or effectiveness of an outfit, accessories are now considered key items in a fashion collection and as standalone pieces worthy of our undivided attention. Designing Accessories is filled with important information that any designer will need to know, examining four key items from concept to production: bags, footwear, jewellery and millinery. These key accessories are dissected to clearly display their core components, giving a clear view of how each connects.

Designing Accessories explores the design process by looking at creative product development, from gathering research to generating ideas into key products, covering everything an accessories designer will need to know to present ideas using techniques established in the industry. This book looks at construction techniques and the essential tools of the trade used in modern accessories design. 2D pattern and 3D modelling techniques are described in detail with explanations of traditional and rapid prototyping in use today. Bespoke and commercial production of the key accessories is examined and creative solutions to technical challenges are presented.

As an accessories designer, understanding how materials are formed, supplied and used is vital and can enhance and provide endless opportunities to the contemporary designer. Natural and synthetic materials

crucial to accessories design are therefore clearly described in detail. As specialist finishing techniques make this exciting discipline distinctive, Designing Accessories contains descriptions of contemporary techniques that break new boundaries in accessories design, and hand-finishing and machine embellishment techniques are explored. Finally, a detailed explanation of small accessories, essential to the accessories designer, will broaden the reader's knowledge and provide them with knowledge of the skills they need to enter the fashion industry.

#### About the Author

**John Lau** graduated with a first class honours in womenswear design at London College of Fashion and has worked in various roles within the fashion industry. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in International Fashion Business at Manchester Metropolitan University, teaching on the Fashion Buying and Clothing Design and Technology programmes.

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