

Easy Rider Moto Jacket

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Keywords: Leather, quilting, tailored, jacket

Easy Rider Moto Jacket was inspired by an internship with Harley Davidson MotorClothes during the summer of 2012; this was followed by an opportunity to take a *Designing with Leather* course that same summer. The two experiences led to the design of this jacket which was made as a requirement for my tailoring class.

I have many friends who build and ride motorcycles and I drew inspiration from their experiences knowing that a motorcycle influence was trending in fashion. Variations on the motorcycle jacket frequently incorporate quilting; I chose to do Chanel-style quilting on the leather sleeves, back yoke, and side panels of the jacket. After sourcing a high-quality, black, lambskin leather, I found a 100% wool herringbone fabric to pair with it.





The pattern was primarily draped. Once the fit was perfected, I cut the garment pieces and began the quilting process. A layer of batting was placed between the leather and a lightweight layer of cotton wherever the design called for quilting. Painter's tape was used to keep the stitching lines parallel and straight. After a number of samples, a 3mm. stitch length gave the best results.

The most challenging part of the construction was to set in the leather sleeves. I used dental floss to ease the sleeve head in order to achieve a good shape. The zippers in the pockets used a bound pocket technique so that the zipper tape became a design detail. I chose to use a spandex/cotton blend for the slim pants so that the focus of the ensemble is on the jacket detail.