

Over Easy Rider

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The intent of Over Easy Rider was to create an ensemble inspired by Nakmichi's pattern magic series that illustrate various alternative patternmaking techniques, sculptural silhouettes, and interpretive construction. The desired qualities of this ensemble were (a) to represent the exploration and understanding of various Nakamichi patternmaking techniques, (b) to expand the documented Nakamichi patterning techniques to include construction sequencing, facings, and finishings, and (c) to present a well-designed ensemble.

Through a collection of exploratory pattern magic samples and original interpretations of the samples, group blogging, and group evaluation a series of initial sketches were developed. The designs incorporated the investigation of trending color schemes, garment styles and inspirational themes while allowing for the integration of multiple versions of the samples experienced.

The origami top was inspired by Nakamichi's examples of wearing geometric shapes, Ohrn-Mcdaniels' "shape creating shape", and *Ohya The Wizard of Jeanz* by utilizing two different sized egg shapes as the only pattern shapes. The biker pants utilize traditional leather and zipper detailing but incorporate a modified ball-shaped jabara from Nakamichi's *Pattern Magic 2* (pg. 45). The altered leather jabara placed at the knee required the actual and visual support of the leather mid leg pieces while the angles of the mid leg pieces work with lengthening the look of segments.



The biggest challenge of the design was the nontraditional patterning techniques of using a geometric shape and forcing it onto a body. To start with a shape, albeit proportioned to a body, that is not drafted or draped from body measurements is a different approach for many designers. A great deal of experimentation went in to the slashing or the egg shapes. By placing intersecting slashes, altering the lengths of the slashes, and altering the angles of the slashes, different reactions occurred when the shapes were worn. In order to keep the shapes intact as much as possible the flat garment relies on the drape and tension created by the placement of the slashes to manipulate the silhouette. The only fabric removed from the egg shapes occur at the armholes, all other openings were straight slashes that were finished off by a full facing.



The transformed garment ultimately lies flat off the body and embraces the Japanese appreciation of viewing the garments as both works of art displayed 2-dimensionally on a flat surface and 3-dimensionally on a human form (Fukai, 2010). The intersecting slashes on the front and back transform the origami like form as it placed on the wearer. Placing the head through the back oval slash and strategically buttoning the front creates the manipulated shape.

Designers and scholars have previously explored alternative shapes for patternmaking and Over Easy Rider continues this exploration while providing more tangible documentation on the manipulation and construction of the garments. Through the practice of creative patternmaking the designer will be able to broaden their traditional patternmaking thinking, process, and execution to create innovative silhouettes and designs.

References:

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