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## The Sourcing Phase

Now that you've designed the product, the time has come to actually sit down and source the materials in that you'll need to make it.

### Visit Fabric Trade Shows

One way to source the fabrics you need is to visit trade shows which are dedicated to material. Recommended sources are places like Fashion SVP, which is a huge event, as well as the Textile Fair in London. If you're looking for materials overseas, then you should probably visit Overseas Premier Vision in Paris for sourcing materials out there, as they usually have a great selection. It's worth noting that overseas manufacturers will source materials for you and fabrics for you, but anyone based in the UK will need to seek out materials for themselves.

When you're sourcing a fabric, there are certain things you'll want to know, and these will include;

- If they supply sample materials, so you can get a feel for what you're working with
- What the lead time is for the fabrics, and how long that will add onto the overall time scale
- Whether or not the company has the colours you want in stock for the material. Don't settle for anything less than the colours you want unless absolutely necessary.

An additional note is that you may need to work with stock fabrics if you need a fabric dyed to a specific colour, and that there may be a minimum order size if this is the case. However, once you've sourced all of the materials, it's time to move onto the next stage.