

Custom/Bespoke Dressmaking Policies:

The basic process...

- 1--Start by booking a consultation...get on my calendar ASAP.
- 2--Try on some dresses before you come in...to get an idea of the basic silhouette and details you like.
- 3--Research online (pinterest, instagram,etc.) and choose pictures of things you like.
- 4--Come for a consultation...bring your pictures and be prepared to make decisions and answer lots of questions. We will measure you, go over everything, and I will make lots of notes.
- 5--Receive a quote from me within 1 week. Ask any questions. Be sure what we talked about is the same as what I list on the quote.
- 6--Approve quote and pay deposit.
- 7--We will begin first by sourcing materials. Will send swatches or have you come in to be sure you like them.
- 8--Mock-up fitting: a first fitting with cheap fabric to get the basic silhouette and fit of the dress started. A payment will be made at this fitting.
- 9--We then make corrections to our pattern, and we start cutting your dress in fabric.
- 10--Fabric fitting: you will try on your garment in the real fabric, but without all the finishings and details added. This is where we refine the fit, mark the hem, and make final decisions on detailing. A payment will be made at this fitting.
- 11--We do alterations on your dress and all the finishings, adding the final details.
- 12--Final fitting: you try on your finished dress and get teary-eyed with seeing your vision come to life. This is also when the balance of your dress is due.

Initial Consultation: All custom/ bespoke and vintage re-do clients will start with a consultation. This gives the client all the info needed to decide to have Sugarcane Studios make their bespoke item. A required \$45 consultation rate will be charged at initial meeting. This pays for my time and expertise, looking at any fabric or swatch samples we have, trying on the garment, getting a firm estimate of costs, etc. This is a one-hour meeting. This cost also covers time spent outside of the initial appointment researching materials and putting together a quote for your work. This is non-refundable and separate from the cost of the work itself.

Design Notes: I recommend trying on dresses in a boutique to determine the basic silhouette you like before coming to see me. This basic decision is VITAL, and often changes once a bride tries things on. Once that decision is made, consider the materials and design details you like. Pictures are the best way to communicate. It is necessary to "get inside a bride's head", so the clearer and more detailed you are, the smoother the process will be. Please bring pictures of the things you like and be prepared to make decisions and give your opinion. The hardest bride to work with is an indecisive bride. I am usually able to collate your ideas together into a workable sketch, and we can usually reach a place we both feel good about. But, if you do not have a clear idea of what you want, an outside designer may be brought in for an additional cost to work with you on designing your dress, and providing a professional sketch.

Pricing: My work is based on my hourly rate of \$45. During our consultation, we will go over as many details as we can, me taking notes, and offering options. We will make general decisions on materials, do some sketching, and take measurements. I can often give broad estimates of a range for cost during the meeting based on other dresses we have made in the past. After our consultation, a firm quote will be emailed within 1

week with a total cost for the dress, based on our discussion, and based on initial fabric/materials research. You will be able to ask questions and potentially consider cost saving options such as doing your own shopping or changing a design detail. Once we agree on the details, you will approve the price by email, and pay a deposit (see below). We will set a mock-up fitting date, and will start sourcing materials!

Deposit: An initial deposit of materials cost plus 25% of labor is due upfront. 3 Additional payments of remaining 25% labor costs will be paid at each of 3 fittings, with the final balance due when the dress is completed. These amounts will be given in your quote. Custom dresses are subject to 7% tax rate.

Fittings: You can expect a custom dress to take 3-4 fittings, with 3-4 weeks between them. Availability is dependent on my schedule, and workload. My schedule does fill up, and I do limit new clients when needed, so I advise booking your consultation or fitting as early as possible to get on my calendar. Obviously the sooner the better, but we need a minimum of 3-6 months to do a custom dress.

Accessories: Sugarcane Studios has samples of veils, and soon will have samples of sashes, headpieces, robes, custom clothing items, embroidered gifts, and other bridal accessories which can be fully customized for each client's needs. These are bespoke, are priced separately, require anywhere from 3 -6 weeks to create, and require full payment upfront. Samples can be tried on in the shop, or you can schedule a separate time to come look at our selection of hand-created, bespoke items. All bespoke items are subject to 7% tax rate.

Looking your best helps you **feel your best**, which allows you to **be your best!**

Never underestimate the power of a well-made, well-fit wardrobe!