ONE UK MADE T SHIRT: THE SPECIFICATION

An open source supply chain for one UK made T shirt. One published specification that any manufacturer can quote against and any buyer or distributor can order against. The first order is planned for 5,000 units in early 2027.

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Online version: theclothingconsortium.co.uk/specification/. Progress is updated regularly on the blog.

MANUFACTURERS ONLY

The cost sections are shared with manufacturers who are quoting for the work. If you are a manufacturer and do not yet have the login, register your capacity or email manufacturing@theclothingconsortium.co.uk.

SECTION 01

THE GARMENT

One adult crew neck T shirt in 200 gsm single jersey. Knitted, dyed, cut, sewn and finished in the United Kingdom, from imported yarn.

GARMENT, PHASE ONE

ITEM	SPECIFICATION
Product	Adult crew neck T shirt
Fabric	Single jersey
Finished weight	200 gsm
Fibre	100% cotton, combed, ring spun
Knitting	United Kingdom
Dyeing and finishing	United Kingdom
Cutting and sewing	United Kingdom
Yarn	Imported in phase one
Fit	Unisex
Sizes	2XS, XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
Colours	**To be agreed**

WHY THE YARN IS IMPORTED

UK cotton spinning has gone. Phase one is therefore described exactly as it is: **knitted, dyed, cut, sewn and finished in the UK, with imported yarn.** Rebuilding spinning in the UK is what sustained volume is for, and it is not claimed here.

COLOURS

Colours are to be agreed with buyers. White and coloured garments are costed separately, because a white garment is prepared and bleached rather than dyed. Both are shown on the cost per T shirt page, which is shared with manufacturers behind a login.

SIZES AND MEASUREMENTS

Eight unisex sizes, from 2XS to 3XL. The size specification below is version 1 and, like the rest of the garment specification, is out for approval and testing.

SIZE SPECIFICATION, CENTIMETRES

CODE	POINT OF MEASURE	TOLERANCE MINUS	TOLERANCE PLUS	GRADE	2XS	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
A02	Length, side neck point to hem, front	1	1	2	69.5	71.5	73.5	75.5	77.5	79.5	81.5	83.5
A01	Length, side neck point to hem, back	1	1	2	69.5	71.5	73.5	75.5	77.5	79.5	81.5	83.5
B01	Chest at armhole	1	1	3	47	50	53	56	59	62	65	68
C02	Waist position from side neck point	0.5	0.5	1	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
C01	Waist, straight across	1	1	3	45	48	51	54	57	60	63	66
E01	Hem width, straight	1	1	3	46.5	49.5	52.5	55.5	58.5	61.5	64.5	67.5
E06	Hem depth	0	0	0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
A10	Twin needle stitch at hem and cuff	0.5	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
G04	Across shoulder, point to point	0.5	0.5	2	41	43	45	47	49	51	53	55
B02	Across front, 15 cm from side neck point	0.5	0.5	2	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
B03	Across back, 15 cm from side neck point	0.5	0.5	2	35.5	37.5	39.5	41.5	43.5	45.5	47.5	49.5
H01	Armhole, straight	0.5	0.5	1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
G01	Sleeve length from top of armhole	0.5	0.5	2	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32
I01	Bicep at underarm	0.5	0.5	1	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
I03	Sleeve opening	0.5	0.5	1	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.5	20.5	21.5	22.5	23.5
I06	Cuff depth	0	0	0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
J01	Back neck width, including rib	0.5	0.5	0.5	17	17.5	18	18.5	19	19.5	20	20.5
J02	Front neck drop, to seam	0.5	0.5	0.3	10.1	10.4	10.7	11	11.3	11.6	11.9	12.2
J04	Back neck drop, to seam	0	0	0	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
J11	Neck trim depth	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
J16	Minimum neck stretch	0	0	0	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32

All measurements are in centimetres. Tolerance is how far a finished garment may measure below or above the figure shown. Grade is the step between one size and the next. Size M is the base size from which the others are graded. On a phone, scroll the table sideways to see every size.

SECTION 02

THE FABRIC

The fabric that every knitter and dyer quotes against. Where a figure is still under review, it says so.

FABRIC CONSTRUCTION

PARAMETER	VALUE
Yarn count	Ne 18/1, combed, ring spun
Cotton	100% BCI cotton (Better Cotton)
Machine gauge	20 gauge, loose knit **(under review)**
Stitch length	Approximately 3.10 mm to 3.30 mm
Finished weight	200 gsm

TOLERANCES

MEASURE	TOLERANCE
Weight	Plus or minus 5%
Shrinkage	Plus or minus 5%
Bow and skew	Plus or minus 5%
Colour fastness standard	**To be confirmed**

WHY THE GAUGE IS UNDER REVIEW

The specification currently assumes a 20 gauge machine knitting a loose construction. Many UK knitters run 24 or 28 gauge machines. If a finer gauge can reach 200 gsm finished with the right handle and at the right cost, the specification should change to suit the machines that already exist in the UK, not the other way round.

Knitters: if your machines can meet this fabric on a different gauge, tell us how.

SECTION 03

MATERIAL PER T SHIRT

Worked backwards from the weight of cotton in the finished garment, allowing for the loss at each stage.

MATERIAL PER T SHIRT

STAGE	WEIGHT PER T SHIRT	LOSS ASSUMED BEFORE THE NEXT STAGE
Yarn bought	0.2524 kg	1.5% yarn loss
Greige fabric	0.2486 kg	4% knit and dye loss
Finished fabric	0.2386 kg	12% cutting loss
In the garment	**0.2100 kg**	**Not applicable**

ASSUMED LOSSES

STAGE	LOSS
Yarn	1.5%
Knitting and dyeing, combined	4%
Cutting	12%

These weights drive every tonnage on the volumes page and every per kilogram cost on the cost assumptions page. A better loss figure from a working factory improves all of them.

SECTION 04

THE ROUTE, FIVE STAGES

Five stages from yarn to stock. Nobody has to cover all of them. A manufacturer can quote for a single stage.

THE ROUTE

STAGE	NAME	WHAT HAPPENS	WHERE
01	**Yarn**	Imported and landed in the UK	Spun abroad, landed in the UK
02	**Knit**	Greige fabric knitted to 200 gsm	United Kingdom
03	**Dye**	Dyed and finished in the UK	United Kingdom
04	**Cut and sew**	Cut, sewn, pressed, checked and packed	United Kingdom
05	**Stock**	Held by distributors for buyers	United Kingdom

WHY STOCK IS A STAGE

A garment that is made but not held anywhere does not reach a customer. Between the factory and the buyer sits the party who holds the stock, and that is a trade in its own right. It is part of the route, not an afterthought.

SECTION 05

VOLUMES AND PLANNING TIERS

Four planning tiers. They are not orders. They show what the route has to carry at each level of sustained volume.

PLANNING TIERS

T SHIRTS	YARN, TONNES	GREIGE FABRIC, TONNES	T SHIRTS A WEEK
100,000 a year	25.2	24.9	About 1,900
250,000 a year	63.1	62.1	About 4,800
500,000 a year	126.2	124.3	About 9,600
1,000,000 a year	252.4	248.6	About 19,200

Planning tiers, not orders. Weekly figures assume 52 weeks. Tonnages use the weights on the material per T shirt page.

THE FIRST ORDER

The first order is planned for **5,000 units in early 2027.** The tiers show what the route needs once volume is sustained, so that every stage can see what it would be quoting for beyond the first run.

SECTION 08

HOW TO TAKE PART

Three roles make the route work. Each can take part without joining anything and without being named.

ROLES

WHO	WHAT THEY DO	REGISTER
Manufacturers	Quote against the specification for any stage: knitting, dyeing and finishing, or cut and sew. You do not need to cover more than one.	**REGISTER CAPACITY**
Distributors	Hold stock between the factory and the buyer.	**REGISTER AS A DISTRIBUTOR**
Buyers	Commit forward volume, so that the order is real.	**REGISTER DEMAND**

NOBODY HAS TO BE NAMED

Manufacturers, distributors and buyers can take part without being named publicly. There is no member list and no fee. A quote, a stock commitment or a forward order is what counts, not a logo on a web page.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The first order is planned for 5,000 units in early 2027. Progress is updated regularly on the blog.

REGISTER INTEREST

The first order is planned for 5,000 units in early 2027. If you could knit, dye, cut, sew, hold stock or buy against this specification, tell us. **Manufacturers, distributors and buyers can take part without being named publicly.**

Suppliers: every figure here is an assumption until a real quote tests it. If you can see where the assumptions are wrong, **tell us where**.