

Asia Benét Couture Customer Policies

Process: Start to Finish

Disclaimer: Asia Benét Couture reserves the right to decline a project for any number of various reasons.

At Asia Benét Couture, we want to ensure that you have the well-fitted garment of your dreams. Each design begins with a required fifty dollar design consultation. The consultation fee helps cover the design fee and the block fee. During the design consultation, we will discuss policies, sketch your design, talk about fabrics and trims, and establish a timeline for your garment. Our typical design timeline is usually 2 weeks to two months, depending on the complexity of the design and the amount of detail required to complete the garment. If we feel that a garment may take longer, we will let the customer know. After the consultation, I will send a fully rendered illustration of the garment to give you a visual of what the final garment will look like.

Disclaimer: Every customer will have a completely unique piece. Although having inspiration can aid in finding a design direction or translating your vision, I do not copy or "knock off" any other designs/designers.

After getting a feel for your dream garment and your budget, I will begin to source fabrics, trims, embellishments, etc. Once I source the materials, I will determine the materials cost. Materials can cost anywhere from one-third to one-half of the final garment. I will not order any materials until I receive the full materials balance. If any material shipping delays occur, I will notify the customer immediately.

After costing materials, I will provide you with the final cost of the garment. The final garment cost will include the consultation/design fee, materials, labor, and shipping costs. Please remember that factors such as beading, fabric type, etc. can heavily influence the cost of your garment. Any fees paid to Asia Benét Couture are non-refundable. The final balance is due before the garment will be released to the customer. Payment plans are available and can be discussed during the design consultation.

Measurements can either be taken during the consultation or within a week of the consultation. I cannot begin on your project without measurements. All measurements must be accurate. Please refer to the measurement guide below for assistance in taking accurate measurements. As you take your measurements, you will submit the measurement form with all recorded measurements using the link below.

Measurement Form: <https://forms.gle/hzaFbX17a19RrXDC9>

Measurement Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/tGN1DcJ0qK0>

After the consultation process and receiving your measurements, I will create your blocks using an online program. Blocks are the basis of every design and once you have blocks, I will be able to create a wide plethora of garments for you in the future. You will not need another set of blocks unless you have an extraneous body change. After creating your blocks, I will work on your final patterns.

This next step in the process is the first fitting. As an apparel design student, it has been ingrained in every fiber of my being to ensure that every garment undergoes a proper fitting. I add this step in the process to save time on the back end and provide you the opportunity to see a first draft of the garment.

I will utilize your first pattern draft to create a mockup made out of a muslin fabric. A muslin is a cheap fabric often used for fittings in the industry. There will be no embellishments on the mockup. This will help me see how the structure of the garment fits on the body. Every customer has two options for their garment fitting. You may:

- Come to Auburn, Alabama (or Georgia on select weekends) for a live fitting. Live fitting appointments can only be scheduled on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (unless I am on a school break)
- Have the mockup shipped to your home and we do a virtual fitting. Virtual fittings can be done any day of the week or on the weekends.

After establishing the final fit of the garment, I will begin on your final fabric. Once I complete the garment, I will send video and pictures of the final piece. If I have received the final payment, the garment will be shipped to your home. *I will not release the final garment until I have received the balance in full.*

Taking Measurements

Measurements are quintessential to the fit of your garment and are what we use to create your blocks then your garment patterns. Below are some tips to ensure that your measurements are accurate.

- Ensure that you are in form fitting, thin clothing that shows your complete figure.
- Establish horizontal balance lines around the front and back of your body using elastic, tape, yarn, or string over the widest part of the bust, the waist (smallest part of the torso), and the hips (widest part of the lower body). The horizontal balance lines ensure that you measure from the same place every time.
- Wear a normal bra that does not have an excessive amount of padding. This will allow the bust area to sit properly. No bra, sports bras, bandeaus, etc. are not acceptable because they will not provide an accurate bust measurement.
- The side seam of the garments you wear at the time of taking measurements will become the side seams of your final garment. Bear this in mind when deciding which tops and bottoms to wear during your measurements.
- If you are facing the body, all measurements should be taken from the LEFT SIDE on the front and the RIGHT SIDE on the back
- Measure thrice to ensure an accurate measurement. If you are in between measurements, it is better to round up rather than round down.
- Do not remove the horizontal balance lines until you are sure you have recorded every measurement.
- Use straight pins, safety pins, washable markers, etc. to help with measurements that may require measuring a certain distance from a point in order to help with marking landmarks.