

PATHFINDER

KILT HONOUR



THE KILT

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL DRESS

PATRIOTISM
IDENTITY
CULTURE
HISTORY



NOT A SCOT?
NOT A PROBLEM!



Nowadays, immigrant Scots; anyone with even the smallest claim to Scots ancestry; and simply textile admirers wear the kilt with pride. ALL AROUND THE WORLD

ETYMOLOGY

- the study of the origin of words and how their meaning has changed throughout history

SCOTS WORD 'KILT', WHICH MEANS TO TUCK CLOTHES AROUND THE BODY

THE SCOTS WORD IS SCANDINAVIAN IN ORIGIN, BORROWED FROM THE VIKINGS ANCIENT NORSE WORD, 'KJALTA', MEANING PLEATED.

KILT - CLOTHING PLEATED AND TUCKED AROUND THE BODY



DEFINITION OF A KILT

The modern kilt (small or walking) is a skirt-type garment with pleats at the rear. Originally used as the traditional dress of men and boys in the Scottish Highlands in the 16th century, an 'unnamed' even earlier.



DEFINITION OF A TARTAN



Tartan ([Scottish Gaelic](#): *breacan* (brechhkan) is a patterned cloth consisting of criss-crossed, horizontal and vertical bands in multiple colours. Tartans originated in woven wool, but now they are made in many other materials. Tartan is particularly associated with [Scotland](#). Each tartan traditionally is associated with a meaning; the most common being Scottish family clans.

DEFINITION OF PLAID



Plaid (or plaide) was derived from the Scottish Gaelic word *Plaide*, meaning “blanket” or large rectangular fabric or garment. It was a full-length, heavy woolen cloth used on beds or worn over the body like a cloak, shawl, or partial body covering. It is sometimes made up of tartan (but not always), particularly that which preceded the modern kilt.

Tartan is often mistakenly called “plaid” (particularly in North America), but in Scotland. The style of “plaid” (tartan) clothing was popularized in America by Scottish/Irish immigrants and transitioned into shirts; now associated with cowboys and farmers.





THE HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF THE KILT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF TARTAN GARMENTS

Urumchi
Mummies
3-4 AD

Dominant
weave at
Qizilchoqa



Tartan Plaids
found in the
Alpine salt
mines near
Salzburg,
Austria
5-8th century
BC

EARLY WRITTEN REFERENCE TARTAN AND HIGHLAND DRESS -
100 BC DIODORUS SICULUS, GREEK HISTORIAN

“The way they dress is astonishing: they wear brightly coloured and embroidered shirts, with trousers called bracae and cloaks fastened at the shoulder with a brooch, heavy in winter, light in summer. These cloaks are striped or checkered in design, with the separate checks close together and in various colours.”

THE GREAT KILT

SOMETIME TOWARDS THE END OF THE 16TH CENTURY, THE FIRST CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF A KILT APPEARED.

IT WAS KNOWN AS:

- FÈILEADH MÒR (PRONOUNCED FAYLUGH MORE) (MEANING GREAT WRAP)
- BREACAN AN FHEILEADH (BRECHKAN AN YAY-LEE)(TARTAN WRAP)
- SIMPLY A BELTED PLAID (BLANKET).

**ALL REFER TO THE SAME GARMENT.



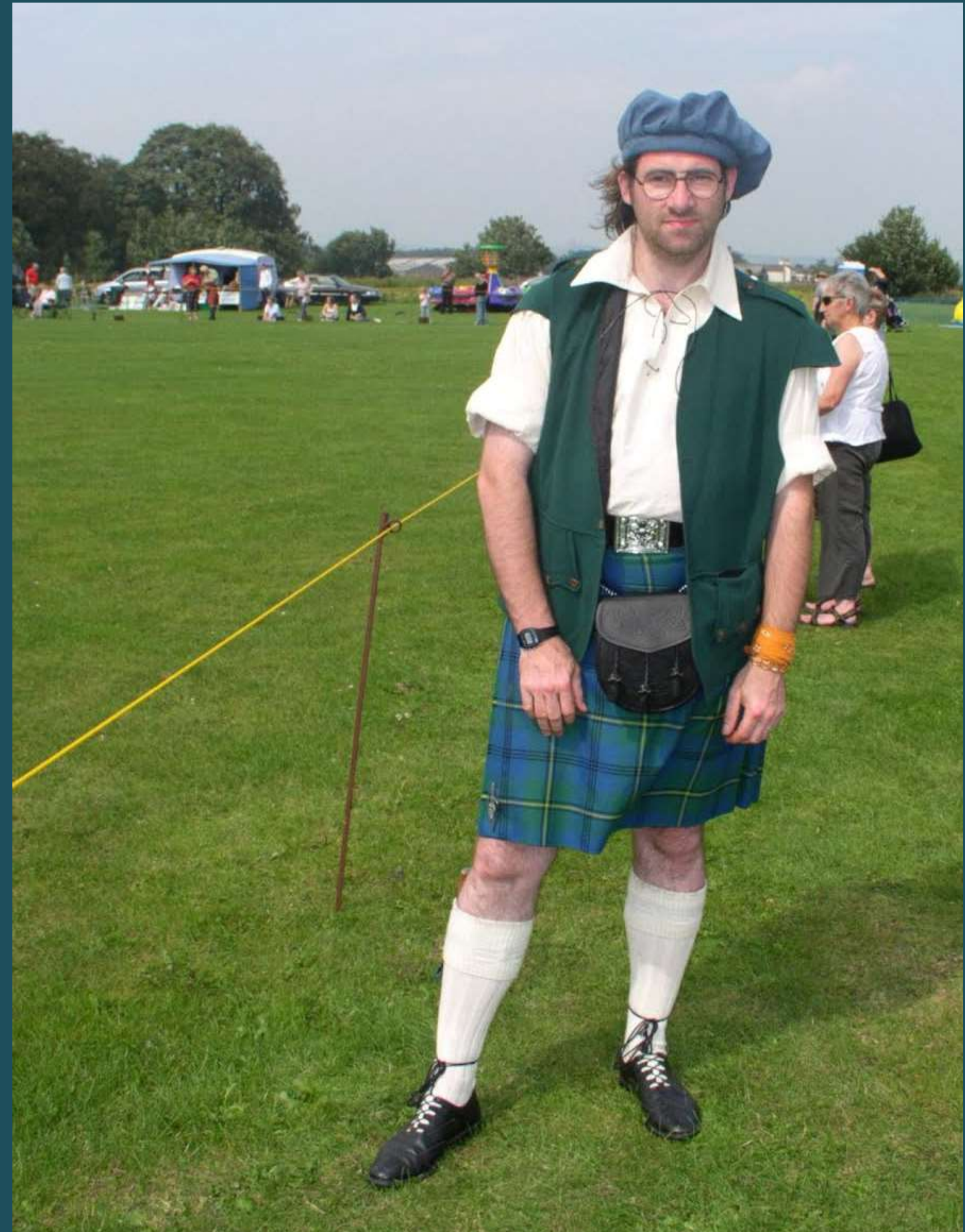
ACCESSORIES

BLUE WOOL SCOTS BONNET

CLANS WERE IDENTIFIED BY LARGE BROACHES, FEATHERS, AND FLOWERS.

THE SHIRTS WERE ORIGINALLY HEMP OR WOOL FOR THE POOR AND LINEN FOR THE RICH. NOWADAYS, COTTON IS THE MOST COMMON.

BUCKHIDE SHOES OR GHILLIES



BRAW YOUTUBE VIDEOS



Fandabi Dozi



andythehighlander - how to wear a plaid



<https://www.dcdalgliesh.co.uk/video>



BENEFITS:

- ideal for the harsh weather
- protective from treacherous terrain
- freedom of movement
- served as a cloak with hood
- easily adjusted
- over-night blanketing
- pockets
- recognise allies/enemies



FIRST WRITTEN REFERENCE OF THE BELTED KILT- 1578 BISHOP LESLEY, ROMAN -

“Their clothing was made for use (being chiefly suited for war) and not for ornament. All, both nobles and common people, wore mantles of one sort (except that the nobles preferred those of several colours). These were long and flowing, but capable of being neatly gathered up at pleasure into folds.”

1581 GEORGE BUCHANAN "THE HISTORY OF SCOTLAND" -

"Their ancestors wore plaids of many colours, and numbers still retain this custom but the majority now in their dress prefer a dark brown, imitating nearly the leaves of the heather, that when lying upon the heath in the day, they may not be discovered by the appearance of their clothes; in these wrapped rather than covered, they brave the severest storms in the open air, and sometimes lay themselves down to sleep even in the midst of snow."

THE WALKING KILT

Small or walking kilt - the knee-length tartan kilt we are familiar with today closely resembles the fèileadh beag (pronounced fay lugh bek).

This is essentially the bottom half of a great kilt and did not develop until the late 17th or early 18th century. It became popular in the Highlands and northern Lowlands by 1746, although the great kilt continued to be worn.



A WORKMAN'S KILT - PLEATS SEWN TOGETHER

Some attribute the walking kilt to Thomas Rawlinson, a Quaker Iron-master from Lancashire. Rawlinson, employed Highlanders to work at his furnaces near Inverness. Initially, his workers wore the great kilt. However, Rawlinson deemed the belted plaid too 'cumbersome and unwieldy' for smelting iron ore and manufacturing charcoal. Sometime between the years 1715-18, he designed a kilt on the grounds of efficiency and practicality. It consisted of the lower half of the belted plaid, to act as a distinct garment with pleats already sewn.

SO WAS THE KILT INVENTED BY AN ENGLISHMAN? NO

The tartan shorter skirt-like garment soon became a fashion hit. There is evidence to suggest that the small walking kilt was in use before Rawlinson's time. Rawlinson's kilt is the earliest documented example of a small kilt with sewn-in pleats, which are a distinctive feature of today's modern kilt.

This was one of many modifications made to Highland dress. It was a development that the kilt was undergoing already, and a style previously worn by some.

THE DRESS ACT 1746

During the Jacobite uprising, the act was passed in an attempt to suppress Highland culture and bring clans under government control. An exception was made for the soldiers of the British Army—each of which was given different tartans so they could be identified.

First sentence - 6 months imprisonment

Second sentence - 'to be transported to any of His Majesty's plantations beyond the sea, there to remain for the space of seven years.'

Third sentence - life imprisonment or beheaded

During the ban, it became fashionable for Scottish romantics to wear kilts as a form of protest.

I SWEAR AS I SHALL ANSWER TO
GOD AT THE GREAT DAY OF
JUDGEMENT, I HAVE NOT AND I
SHALL NOT HAVE IN MY POSSESSION
ANY GUN, SWORD OR ARMS
WHATSOEVER, & NEVER USE
TARTAN, PLAID OR ANY PART OF THE
HIGHLAND GARB, AND IF I DO SO
MAY I BE ACCURSED IN MY
UNDERTAKINGS, FAMILY, AND
PROPERTY, MAY I NEVER SEE MY
WIFE NOR CHILDREN NOR FATHER,
MOTHER, OR RELATIONS, MAY I BE
KILLED IN BATTLE AS A FUGITIVE
COWARD, AND LIE WITHOUT
CHRISTIAN BURIAL IN A FOREIGN
LAND, FAR FROM THE GRAVES OF MY
FOREFATHERS & KINDRED; MAY ALL
THIS COME UPON ME IF I BREAK
THIS OATH.

THE ACT OF 1746 FOR THE "ABOLITION AND PROSCRIPTION OF THE HIGHLAND DRESS" WAS HARSHLY ENFORCED,
PARTICULARLY AGAINST JACOBITES, UNTIL ABOUT 1760, AND NOT REPEALED UNTIL 1782.
SOME OFFENDERS WERE SHOT AND SUSPECTS HAD TO SWEAR TO THIS OATH.

EXCERPT FROM THE ACT -

“THAT, FROM AND AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF AUGUST, ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND FORTY SEVEN, NO MAN OR BOY, WITHIN THAT PART OF GREAT BRITAIN CALLED SCOTLAND, OTHER THAN SUCH AS SHOULD BE EMPLOYED AS OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS IN HIS MAJESTY’S FORCES, SHOULD, ON ANY PRETENCE WHATSOEVER, WEAR OR PUT ON THE CLOTHES, COMMONLY CALLED HIGHLAND CLOTHES; (THAT IS TO SAY,) THE PLAID, PHILEBEG OR LITTLE KILT, TROWSE, SHOULDER BELTS, OR ANY PART WHATSOEVER OF WHAT PECULIARLY BELONGS TO THE HIGHLAND GARB, AND THAT NO TARTAN, OR PARTLY-COLOURED PLAID OR STUFF SHALL BE, USED FOR GREAT COATS OR FOR UPPER COATS, UNDER THE PENALTIES THEREIN MENTIONED; AND THE TIME APPOINTED FOR LAYING ASIDE THE SAID HIGHLAND DRESS WAS, IN CERTAIN CASES THEREIN MENTIONED, FURTHER PROLONGED BY SEVERAL ACTS, ONE MADE IN THE TWENTIETH, AND THE OTHER IN THE TWENTY-FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HIS SAID LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE SECOND: AND WHEREAS IT IS JUDGED EXPEDIENT THAT SO MUCH OF THE ACTS ABOVE MENTIONED AS RESTRAINS THE USE OF THE HIGHLAND DRESS SHOULD BE REPEALED: BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED BY THE KING’S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE LORDS SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL, AND COMMONS, IN THIS PRESENT PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED, AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE FAME, THAT SO MUCH OF THE ACTS ABOVE-MENTIONED, OR ANY OTHER ACT OR ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, AS RESTRAINS THE USE OF THE HIGHLAND DRESS, BE, AND THE FAME ARE HEREBY REPEALED.”

KILT TO TROUSERS

LAWS —>
BECOMING ACCUSTOMED

INDUSTRIAL ERA —>
SAFETY AND FUNCTION



SIR WALTER SCOTT

Thanks to the author Sir Walter Scott and his desire to revive a romantic vision of Gaelic culture and Highland dress, the kilt and tartan made a comeback in the early nineteenth century.

In 1822, King George IV was to visit Edinburgh for the first time. Sir Walter Scott and Stewart of Garth were responsible for organizing the whole event. Scott asked all who were attending to wear full Highland dress.

This created a sudden high demand to weave tartans. The mills of the day had to build and convert more sheds for weaving simply for this one event. Then local tailors now had the task of creating a full Highland dress for both Highlanders and lowlanders. Now the Highland dress industry had truly begun.



VISIT TO EDINBURGH 1822

KING GEORGE IV



HOW KILTS ARE MADE



Historically, Scottish clothing first came in solid-coloured plain wool. Then later on, coloured check tartan designs were brought in.

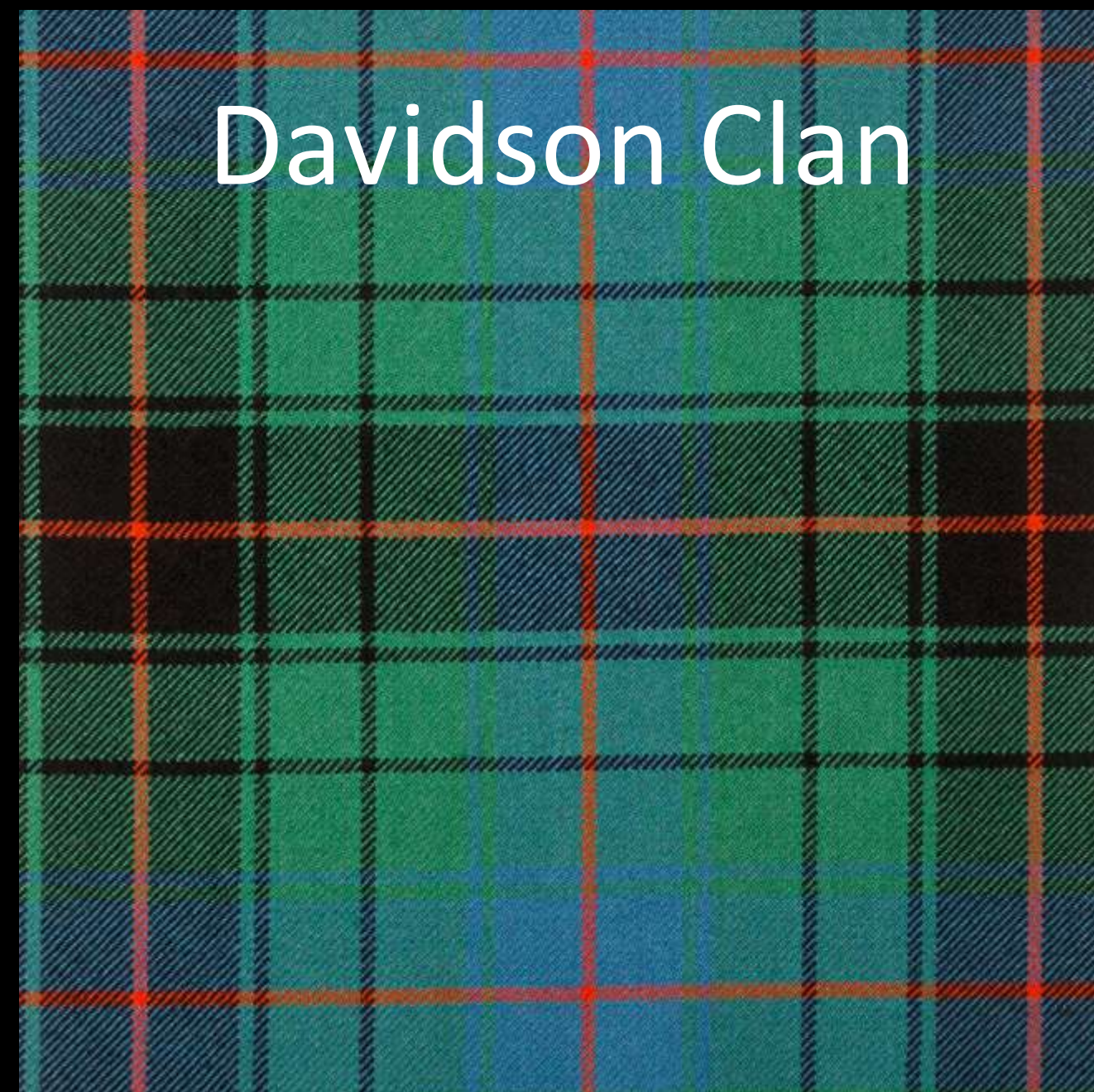
A FEW FACTS:

- cloth needed for great kilt - 7-9 yards
- cloth needed for modern kilt - 5-8 yards
- average time to hand-sew kilt - 40 hrs
- average time to hand-stitch kilt - 20 hrs
- average time to hand-weave tartan - 15-20 hrs
- there are kilt-making academies



HOW KILTS ARE MADE

One of the most appealing aspects of an authentic Scottish kilt is the tartan pattern, made from a sett. The sett is a repeating colour pattern made up of a series of woven threads which cross at right angles. The association of particular patterns with individual clans or families can be traced back centuries. Today there are particular tartan patterns not only for family clans, but also for organisations, societies, districts, counties, schools, sports teams, sporting activities, and even individuals.



Sett



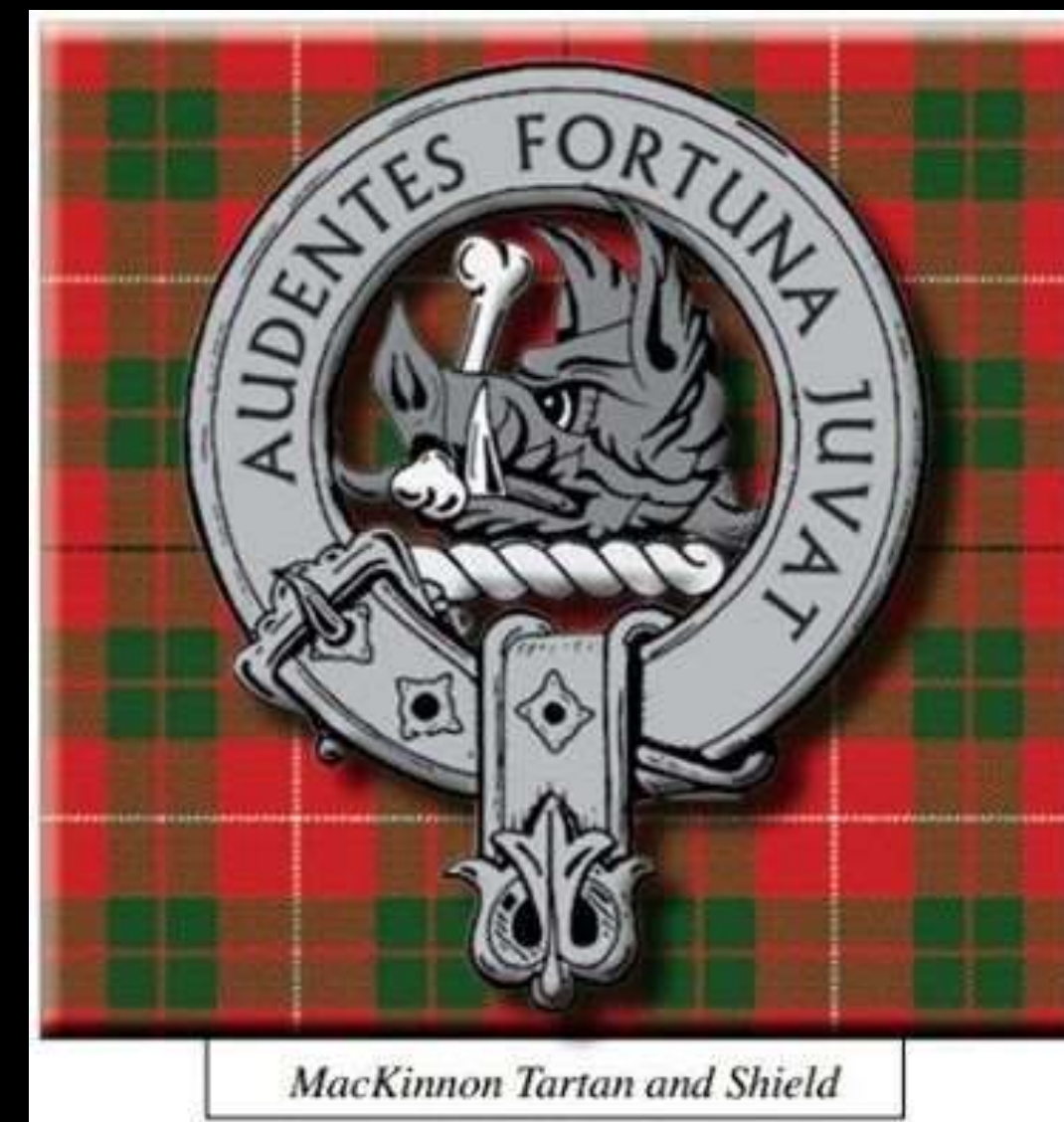
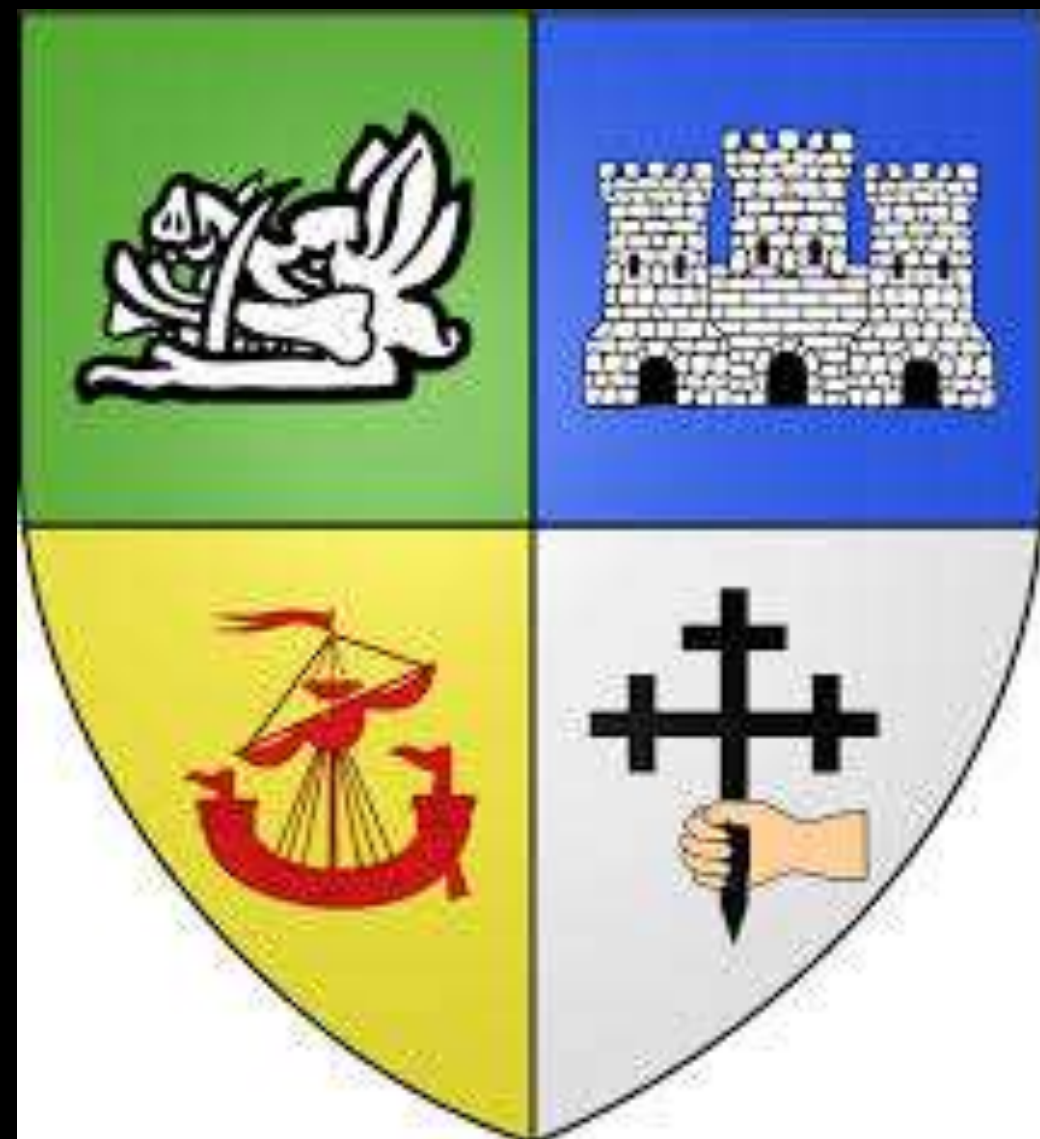
Tartan



Kilt

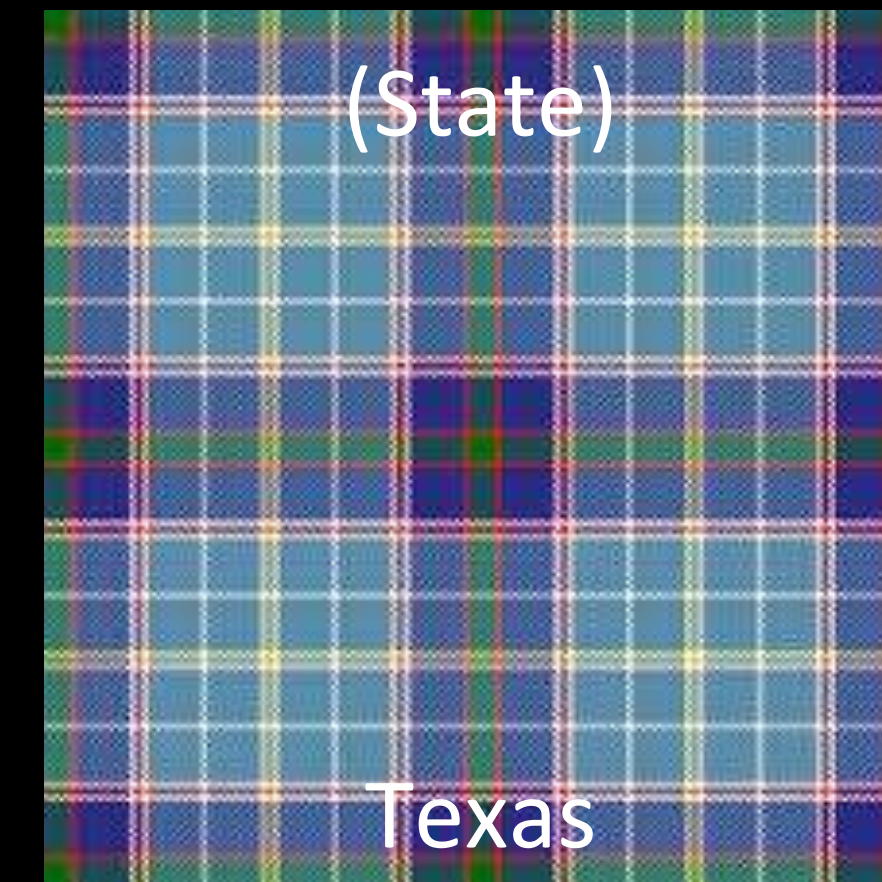


MACKINNON CLAN
FORTUNE ASSISTS
THE DARING



KILT TARTAN PATTERNS

Today there are particular tartan patterns not only for family clans, but also for organisations, societies, districts, counties, schools, sports teams, sporting activities, and even individuals.

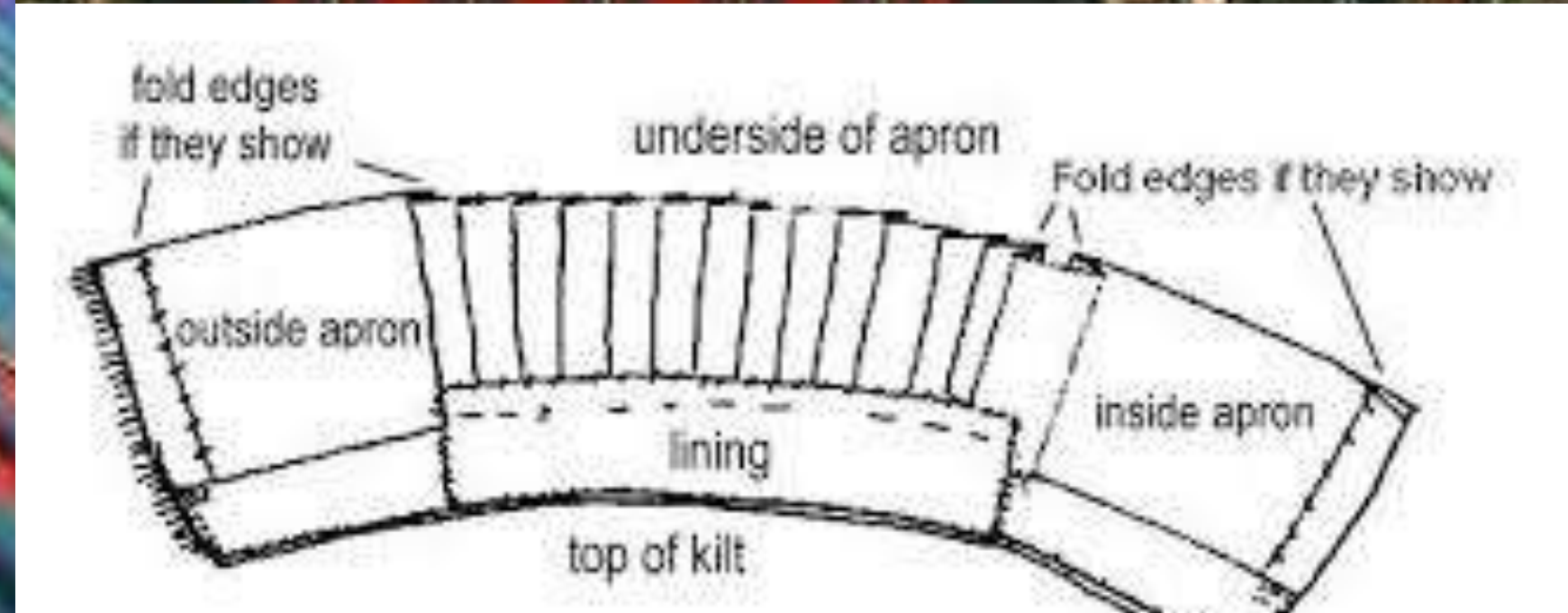


About 3,500-7,000 registered tartan designs. If you're looking for a specific colour/tartan, search the Scottish Register of Tartans' online collection to find the precise colour combination and design. You can even design your own.



WHAT AND HOW

Most kilts are made of twill woven worsted wool, which creates a distinctive diagonal-weave pattern in the fabric. This kind of twill, when woven according to a particular sett, is called tartan. Today, tartans are made in 3 different cloth weights, all of which serve a different purpose. Light weight cloth is generally considered to be in the 10 to 11 oz range. Medium weight cloth is 12 or 13 oz. And heavy kilt weight is considered to be 15 or 16 oz per yard. After acquiring 8 yards of tartan, the kilt can be made. Traditionally, all kilts were fully hand stitched by kilt makers, which is a lengthy process, taking on average approximately 15 hours for one kilt. Average cost of a handstitched 5 yd kilt in a common pattern is £250+. You can find kilts as cheap as £50.



PRINCE CHARLIE KILT OUTFIT



Prince Charlie Jacket & Waistcoat

Bow-tie with a Prince Charlie

Wing Collar Shirt

Fly Plaid (Optional, worn with a plaid brooch)

Dress Sporrán and sporran strap

No belt is worn with a Prince Charlie

Kilt Pin

Sgain Dubh

Flashes, either tartan to match kilt or single colour

Kilt Hose

Brogues

OTHER KILT OUTFITS

Jacobite shirt

Kilt Belt

Buckle

Ghillies

Bonnet



CASUAL KILT ATTIRE



WHEN ARE KILTS WORN TODAY?

HOLIDAYS, WEDDINGS, BIRTHDAYS, SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL EVENTS, MILITARY, EVERYDAY WEAR, SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING, HIGHLAND DANCING, HIGHLAND GAMES, WORK, BANDS, ETC.



FOR THE LADIES



HOSTESS KILTS,
MINI-KILTS, SKIRTS
& DRESSES

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT:

- Everything about the kilt was important as a COVERING: it protected them from harmful weather; kept them warm; served as a bed; and it was adaptable for all circumstances. On top of that, they were unique and special for each individual.
- Those characteristics also could be used to describe both GOD'S GRACE and His FAITHFUL PROTECTION.
- Reflect on Psalm 91:4, Psalm 3:3-5, Ezekiel 16:8, and Habakkuk 2:14 and discuss what it means for God to cover us. Find another verse to add to this list.

PSALM 91:1-4

My Refuge and My Fortress

1
He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

2
I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

3
For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

4
He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

EZEKIEL 16:8

- 8 “When I passed by you again and saw you... I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine.”

PSALM 3:3-5

- 3 But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high.
- 4 I call out to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy mountain.
- 5 I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.

HABAKKUK 2:14

14

For the earth will be filled
with the knowledge of the
glory of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

PASTOR GABRIEL PEREA

THE END



SOURCES

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~The Scottish Banner, April 2008, Matthew Newsome, GTS, 2008

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