

Getting to know Lutterloh

Founded in Germany during the 1930s, Lutterloh is a unique pattern drafting system where you scale up miniature patterns to your custom dimensions. The kit is available in over 30 countries and has been translated into 17 languages! We chatted with the Lutterloh family to learn more about how the system came about



Tell us a little about how the Lutterloh system and company got started.

The pattern making system 'The Golden Rule' was established in 1935 by my grandmother Maria Aloisia Lutterloh, maiden name Aigenberger.

Because she was very tall (1.85m) and with unique measurements, she always had problems finding well-fitting clothes or appropriate sewing patterns but she loved to dress in a unique, modern and beautiful way. She studied adjusting and making patterns and about the proportions of the human body. Aged just 17 years old, she founded her own company with the pattern making system, 'Der Goldene Schnitt' (The Golden Rule).

Her ambition was to make dressmakers happy! That passion, and the enthusiasm for the product, was transferred to the next generation and now all four of Maria Aloisia Lutterloh's grandchildren are involved in the business.

How does the system work and what is The Golden Rule?

The system is based on the Golden Rule that says that the human body is in perfect mathematical proportion within itself.

You take two measurements the bust (for all parts on and above the waistline) and the hip (for all part below the waistline) measurement. Then enlarge the miniature patterns from the kit to your own size using the enclosed special ruler by measuring outwards from the little crosses in each pattern piece in straight lines before marking a dot at the instructed number. Once you've transferred all the points, you simply connect the dots.

What is included in a standard system bundle?

The kit contains written instructions with pictures, an instructional DVD, sewing hints, a toolkit with all the things to draw your own made-to-measure pattern and over 280 sewing patterns (some also great for knitting).

We also bring out four seasonal supplements a year. Each supplement contains 40 patterns for sewing! In addition to the new season styles we bring out special supplements for fuller-figured women, men and children.

It's great to see you offer special packs of designs for fuller-figured women.

Absolutely! The Special Edition designs are for women with a bust measurement above 108cm. The patterns have princess seams or bust darts tailored for a fuller bust.

The XL and XXL pattern system is for women with a bust measurement above 130cm. This is a separate system with its own tape measure and sizing scale, wholly separate from the regular system to guarantee accurate results.

Your vintage patterns are so popular. Is there any chance you'll re-issue some of these gems as supplements?

We are thinking about bringing out a vintage or 'best of' supplement for our company's 80th birthday this year! After 80 years, if you looked in our magic cabinet you'd find thousands of sewing and knitting patterns.

Turn to page 58 to win a copy of the Lutterloh system worth £154!