

FASHION DISTRICT SOURCE BOOK



A **RESOURCE GUIDE** to the **RETAIL SHOPS** of the New York **FASHION DISTRICT** for designers, stylists, home sewers, crafters, decorators and fashion design students.

About The Fashion Center Business Improvement District

The Fashion Center Business Improvement District is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1993 to promote New York City's apparel industry and to improve the quality of life and economic vitality of Manhattan's garment district.

Through programs in the areas of marketing and promotions, economic development, physical improvement and beautification, and community service, efforts are made to ensure New York's position as the fashion capital of the world.

Funded by the district's 450 property owners and over 5,000 businesses, The Fashion Center services the heart of America's fashion industry in midtown Manhattan. Drawing upon the talents of industry and civic leaders, and working closely with the City of New York, programs are developed to make the neighborhood clean and safe and to strengthen local businesses.

Fashion Center Business Improvement District's **Fashion District Source Book**

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Programs include:

- The Fashion Center Information Kiosk, the source for New York fashion industry information
- www.fashioncenter.com, a comprehensive website of district and industry information
- Tools of the Trade, business education courses provided through the Enterprise Center of the Fashion Institute of Technology
- The Fashion District Arts Festival, an annual district-wide celebration of the arts
- Publications such as buyers guides, newsletters, and a district map
- Street beautification, signage and lighting projects
- District safety and street cleaning operations

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Getting Here From There

Finding the Fashion District is easy: it is right in the middle of Manhattan. If you can make it to Times Square, you're just a few steps from the fashion capital of the world!

Generally, it's between 34th and 42nd Streets, Fifth to Ninth Avenues. If you're taking public transportation into the city, note that the district is conveniently located near Pennsylvania Station and the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Grand Central Station is just a few blocks to the east.

If you're already in the City, just about every bus or subway will bring you here. Avoid taking a taxi here because the midtown traffic will saddle you with a fare that can bust anyone's budget. Save the money for another yard or two of fabric!

For transportation specifics, check out the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) website at <http://mta.info/nyct/subway> and <http://mta.info/nyct/bus>. But if you don't have time, these are the

main bus and subway lines that will get you to stations at either 34th Street/Herald Square or 42nd Street/Times Square:

Bus: M4, M5, M6, M7, M10, M16 M20, M24, M27, M34, M42, and M104
Subway: 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, A, C, D, E, F, N, Q, R, V and the shuttle between Grand Central and Times Square

There's no excuse not to visit!

A few other notes on finding your way around the City:

- "Uptown" and "Downtown" are relative terms, meaning north and south.
- "Midtown", a grid of numbered avenues and cross streets, refers to Manhattan between 14th and 59th Streets.
- 5th Avenue divides Midtown into East and West Sides (the Fashion District is on the West Side).
- Cross street addresses are numbered outward from 5th Avenue, going up by a hundred each block.
- Avenue addresses run from south to north.



Finding Your Way Around

Once you get to the Fashion District you'll find that everything's in walking distance, but the side streets seem to get longer as the day wears on. Plot out a path between stores before getting here so you don't have to backtrack.

The district is easy to navigate once you figure out the parameters. When looking for specific things like fabric, notions, patterns, etc., you'll see that they tend to cluster so you can limit your shopping to a more specific area.

In general, most users of this book will find what they need between 35th and 40th Streets, from Seventh to Eighth Avenues for fabrics and trim, or from Fifth Avenue to Avenue of the Americas for beads and findings. When in doubt, just stroll around one of these areas and you'll find just what you need or an idea for something else.

To locate addresses of side street stores, the Manhattan grid makes this one easy. An address with 0-99 is between Fifth

Avenue and Avenue of the Americas (aka Sixth Avenue). The 100's are between Avenue of the Americas and Seventh (Fashion!) Avenue, the 200's between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, and the 300's between Eighth and Ninth Avenues.

And if you're wondering how far you're walking, figure about one mile for every 20 north/south avenue blocks or every five east/west street blocks. When you're covering that much concrete, think comfort, not style, when you choose your shoes.

There are no park benches or much else in the way of public places to take a break other than the concrete steps of 1411 Broadway plaza (Check out the lunchtime crowd of showroom workers to see who's wearing what these days!). However, like everywhere else in the known world, you're never far from a Starbucks for a caffeine fix. And look up! – there are often quiet mezzanine levels in the coffeeshops and delis if you need a place to sit and regroup.

Jocelyn and Victoria's Fabulous Tips for Fashion District Shopping

Buying in Bulk? Even if you're making a retail purchase you might be able to maneuver wholesale prices if you're buying a large enough quantity. Always ask about student discounts or any other discount you can think of, you never know.

Cash On Hand. Take advantage of the better deals you might get for paying in cash, especially in some of the smaller shops. Negotiate a price, and then ask if they can do any better if you pay cash.

You Are Special! Having a hard time getting service or swatching? The key is to act important. A little white lie can go a long way. Don't let on that you are working on home sewing projects. Give the impression that you are sourcing fabrics for a design company. Say things like, "When we go into production we'll need a lot more, but for now we need just a few yards." Otherwise, some stores may be reluctant to cut you a lot of swatches or assist you in searching for what you want.

Think Small. Don't overlook the small mom and pop establishments. Not only can they have unique finds, they are usually less busy than the bigger stores and truly value your patronage. They will often make the extra effort to get what you need even if they don't have it in stock.

If You Don't See It... Take advantage of the employees who work in the stores-- they are incredibly knowledgeable. Not only do they somehow know where every single fabric is located in their store, they can give great advice on fabric usage, drape, and content. Don't be shy...explain your project and get an expert insight. And we all know how New Yorkers like to express their opinions.

Second Chances. For all of you indecisive shoppers who get home and realize that you can't live without that bolt of Sea Island cotton that you left behind, you need not worry! Basically, all of the stores ship UPS, so just call them up, and it's yours. This is also great if you come to the garment center just to swatch and get ideas. And this leads us to our next fabulous tip...

Get Organized. Keep your swatches organized by store as you shop! Have the store staple them to a card with their name and number so if you decide in a week that you want to purchase something, you will know exactly who to call. It also helps to take note of where in the store you got the fabric so when you call to order it you can easily explain the fabric to your sales rep.

Call Ahead. Be aware that much of the fashion district is either closed on the weekends or has limited hours. A few quick calls can save you a lot of time.

Going Out of Business. If you are looking for super-cheap muslin, or super-cheap anything for that matter, to drape or make trial muslins (we are not promising you'll find the best quality) keep your eye out for stores that are "Going out of business". Their fabric will be drastically marked down. Stock up while you are at it.

What's New? Stores come and go and it's always refreshing to check out new sources for inspirational fabrics, etc. Stop by the Fashion Center Information Kiosk for the latest list of suppliers.

NOTES

The Fashion Center Information Kiosk

This big button can be a big help to New York shoppers. Whether you are seasoned at sourcing or if you are new to the neighborhood, make the Fashion Center Information Kiosk your first stop before you shop the fashion district.

The Kiosk contains all kinds of fashion industry and district information, from where to buy buttons, bows and bolts of cloth, to trade show listings and where you can rent out a showroom. This is an incredibly useful service not only to first time visitors and tourists, but New Yorkers also use this as a resource everyday to help out with their projects, businesses, or personal shopping experiences.

There are several ways to access the Information Kiosk. However, you should know that the Kiosk, which fields thousands of inquiries from across the country and around the world, is run by only one person (even she needs a

break now and then). So while you can call, fax, or drop in, you will usually get the best, and often quickest, results by e-mailing.

Tell them you're looking for beads, brocades or bridal, and they'll send you the most recent list of area shops. Try to do it a few days ahead of your visit so you can make a few advance calls for store hours, minimums, or availability of product.

But drop-ins are always welcome at the Kiosk, a local landmark in a glass booth adorned with the world's largest button and needle. So stop by and they'll help you figure out where to find what you need. (Oh, and the oddly placed button holes in the button actually are an 'F' for Fashion...just in case you were wondering.)

The big button on the corner of 7th Ave. and 39th St., Open 10am-4pm Mon-Fri p. 212-398-7943, f. 212-398-7945 info@fashioncenter.com

How to Use This Book

We've devoted each chapter of this book to a certain category of fashion supplies. Many stores carry more than one type of product and fit into several categories, so you might find some of them in more than one chapter.

A general note from the authors about the nature of garment district retail fabric and supply stores:

The garment center (or as the publishers of this book like to call it, "the fashion district") is mainly comprised of small Mom and Pop establishments. In fact, most of the shops listed in this book fit into this small business category.

In general, these stores tend to specialize in one thing or another (e.g., type of fabric), but also carry some assortment of the basics as well. At first glance, they all appear to be very similar. As you begin exploring them, however, you will realize, as we have, that each one is a gem, unique in its own way.

Hopefully this book will help you distinguish between the shops until you have the experience to be judgmental and choose your own personal favorites.

Fabrics

Fashion Fabrics

A&M Fabric

ALSO: TRIMS

214 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 11-6, Sun 11-5
212.354.4525

BEST PLACE TO GET ORIENTAL PRINTS

A&M has all kinds of fabrics and trims, including many unique imported Asian silks. The selection that A&M provides is a bit quirkier than others, so we definitely recommend exploring its shelves of international fabrics.



AK Corp USA

257 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6, Sat 10-5
212.944.5693, AKFabrics.net

Check them out for wool, silk, cotton, linen, stretch, denim, synthetics, rayon, acetate, taffeta.



Amin Fabrics

ALSO: COSTUME

268 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6:30, Sat 10-6:30
212.764.5184

Another resource for fancy novelty fabrics. We've read some good reviews about this store – always a good sign.

Ayazmoon Fabric

ALSO: COSTUME

214 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10:30-6:30,
Sun 11:30-5
212.869.3315, ayazmoon@aol.com

Imported designer fabrics.



B&J

ALSO: COSTUME • LEATHER

525 7th Ave., 2nd fl.
M-F 8-5:45, Sat 9-4:45
212.354.8150, BandJFabrics.com

MOST ORGANIZED FABRIC STORE

Small and organized, this is also a great place to go for high-end European fabrics. If you aren't into rummaging around, this is the place for you. For example, if you're looking for "cotton plaids", they'll be in the "cotton plaids section". Obvious? Not necessarily so in some other places. But in B&J, everything is in its designated place. Instead of being a warehouse style store, many of their fabrics are displayed by big swatches hanging on racks. You won't have any of that "well if you move these bolts around it could be hiding under here, or maybe it's up there, let me go get a ladder..." kind of thing. They aren't always as accommodating about swatching as we would like, but there's always a way to get what you want. If all else fails, there are designated times for student swatching. Call for the current schedule.

\$. Moderate to expensive (because they specialize in natural fabrics)



Bazar Fabrics Inc. (a.k.a. Butterfly Fabrics)

ALSO: COSTUME

256 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 8:45-6:30, Sat 9:30-5:30
212.575.5640

The archetypical small shop featuring imported novelties, silks, and theatrical fabrics.

Better Choice Fabrics and Trimming

ALSO: TRIM

260 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-6, Sat 10:30-6
646.366.0133, bfabrics@aol.com

This small shop specializes in ethnic, mainly Middle Eastern fabrics and trims. Luxurious and beautifully embellished, the fabrics they carry are great for saris.

Chic Fabric



ALSO: BUTTONS • TRIM

225 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-6:30, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5
212.398.9451

All types of closeout fabrics and an assortment of buttons and trimmings.

Circle Visual

ALSO: TRIM • HOME DÉCOR

225 W. 37th St., 16th fl.
M-F 9-5
212.719.5153, circlevisual.com

This is a one stop resource for fabric trims, cut and sewn products, screened and digitally printed images, and decorative items such as banners, table cloths, curtains, boxes, platforms, and trees. The store is extremely flexible with custom orders and quick to deliver. Don't be afraid of the thirteenth floor – you might have good luck up there!

City Fabrics

ALSO: TRIM • COSTUME

239 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5
212.391.1161

What caught our eye in this store was the array of colors of satin they offered. Of course Mood has more, but sometimes you need the less expensive prices that a store like City Fabrics can provide. Not everyone cares about using designer fabrics. They have some cool oriental print satins too, something Mood does not.

Day to Day Fabrics

ALSO: LEATHER • FUR • HOME DÉCOR

214 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 1-5
212.575.1577

Designer fabrics, leather, suede, fur, upholstery, drapery, lace, crypton super fabrics; they have it all.

What's Crypton?

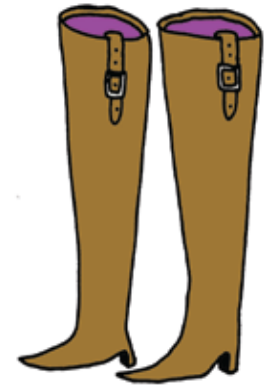
(n). crypton super fabric ('krip-ˈtän) - a fabulous, new engineered fabric. With its patented process, Crypton is leading

the performance textile industry, as it is the only textile that is stain, water, and bacteria resistant. The key to this super fabric is its weaving process coupled with its proven barrier; nothing gets through Crypton to the cushion – nothing. It's an easy-to-clean fabric that stays fresh, looking better than any other textile out there.

Designer Creator

584 8th Ave., Ground fl.
M-Sat 10-7:30, Sun 11-7:30
212.221.1499

All types of fabrics.



Dinny Fabrics

274 W. 40th St., Ground fl.
M-Sat 10-7
212.302.7160

All kinds of fabric and textiles, laces, satin.

Ebad Fabrics

ALSO: HOME DÉCOR • LACE

550 8th Ave., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat-Sun 10-7
212.869.7826, ebadfabrics.com

Its two floors hold all kinds of fabric from \$0.50/yd. to \$50/yd. When we stopped in to check it out we spoke with some of the customers and found Ebad to be a favorite among many of them. One Brooklynite I talked with said she swears by the store, because, as she put it, "They have everything. It's totally worth the hour commute." Now that's loyalty! They have everything from African lace to faux fur and including velvet, upholstery, bridal and fleece.

Fabric Czar USA Inc./ Beckenstein Fashion Fabrics

257 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-5:30, Sat 10-5
212.475.6666, fabricczar.com

BEST PLACE TO GET MEN'S FABRICS

This is the most impeccably organized store that you will ever see and holds the finest menswear fabrics in the city. It's the only store dedicated totally to menswear fabrics, so definitely make this your first stop. You'll feel privileged.



Fabric House, Inc.

ALSO: COSTUME

214A W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5
212.944.7016

Elegant costume fabrics are the specialty of this retailer. Costume and designer fabrics in cotton, linen, rayon, acetate, stretch, spandex, vinyl, lace, embroidered, microfibers; costume and designer's fabrics from India and Korea.

Fabrics for Less

ALSO: COSTUME

239 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-6:30, Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5
212.391.7504



Super cheap prices and a friendly staff. What more do you need? Because it is so cheap here, this is a great place to come for draping fabrics or fabrics for trial muslins. You can buy the actual weight fabric you want instead of always using muslin. They also have some nice menswear fabrics.

\$ Up to 70% off!

Fabrics Garden

ALSO: COSTUME

249 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-7:30, Sat 10-7 Sun 12-5
212.354.6193

They have all kinds of designer fabrics and laces; an assortment of beautiful and special novelty, embellished fabrics. Stretch, bridal and designer fabrics, curtain, drapery; silks, woolens, cottons, linen, latin class for DKNY and CKNY, special bridal section, soiree satin, peau de soie, crepe satin, charmuse, chiffon, crepes, taffetas, organza. You really ought to stop by, after all, it was featured in *New York's 50+ Best Little Shops*.

Fabrics Kingdom

554 Eighth Ave., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-6
212.764.3260

Natural, Linen, Silk, Polyester; Also available in curtain and drapery sizes.

Fashion Fabric, Inc.

**ALSO: PATTERNS • COSTUME • TRIM
HOME DÉCOR**

270 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5
212.869.0235

This shop is stocked with designer fabrics and patterns, your typical small shop variety of sequined, beaded, and embroidered textiles (carries quilting cottons too). Great color selection of silk dupioni at \$10/yd and silk charmeuse at \$15/yd.

G&R Fabric, Inc.

ALSO: TRIM • HOME DÉCOR

239 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-6:30, Sat 10-5:30
212.997.2284

All kinds of fabrics: leather, faux fur, fox, ethnic, sequin, velvet, curtain, upholstery, 90" laces.

Gray Lines Linen, Inc.



260 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6:30, Sat 10-5
212.391.4130

BEST PLACE TO BUY LINEN

Like linen? Come on over because this is the store for you. Gray Lines only sells linen, so you can imagine how many different varieties they carry. 100% linen of the European variety. Can't do better than that. (But if you can't find it here don't forget to try B4U Fabrics, another great linen supplier.)

\$7-\$15/yd. (impressive!)

Hamed Fabrics Inc.

ALSO: COSTUME • LEATHER

251 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-Sat 9-6:30
212.302.2440

Cotton, Silk, Linen, Wool, Leather, Rayon, Acetate, Nylon, Polyolefin, Stretch, Spandex, Vinyl made in Korea, Japan, France, Swiss, India; All kinds of hand cut laces.

John Malone Textiles

ALSO: TRIM

488 7th Ave., Suite 12G
M-F 10-6
212.719.2100

Silk, wool, cotton; blends, solids, prints, lace, embroidered, bridal, theatrical, dance, curtain, drapery, upholstery; beads, laces, ribbons.

Lennox Textile Corp.

244 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 10-6, Sat 10-5
212.840.8804

All kinds of fabrics. Stop in and see.

Meeta Fabrics Inc.

584 8th Ave., Ground fl.
Mon-Sat 10-7:30, Sun 11-7
212.221.1499

A variety of fabrics, lots of bright colors and sequins. Probably a good shop if you're a belly dancer.



Metro Textile Corp.



265 W. 37th St., Suite 908
M-F 8-6
212.209.0004

Fashion fabrics at close out prices including silk, wool, cotton, linen, acetate, velvet, rayon, nylon, stretch, vinyl.

Mood



**ALSO: HOME DÉCOR • TRIMS • LEATHER
FUR • LACE • NOTIONS**

225 W. 37th St., 2nd-4th fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-4
212.730.5003, moodfabrics.com

**BEST VARIETY/SELECTION
TRENDIEST HOME FURNISHING**

This 25,000 sq/ft fabric mecca is first on our list for good reason. It is THE place to go in NYC for fine designer fabrics. But buyer beware – it is not unheard of to lose half of your day wandering its three floors. It is a great place for slow or browsing shoppers to visit and that's not just because of the air conditioning. Unlike a few of the smaller stores, you never feel rushed or pressured by employees looking over your shoulder trying to persuade you to make purchases.

So why is this our favorite store? It comes down to selection, quality, and staff.

Selection: Mood carries a huge (and we mean HUGE!) selection of high end European fabrics handpicked from today's top designers such as Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Perry Ellis, Marc Jacobs and more. If there isn't enough fabric on the bolt you want, just ask if they have more in stock at their warehouse. Return visits are a must if you're in the neighborhood because they always seem to have new fabrics coming in from Europe. The lace section is fabulous with incredibly decadent finds, ranging up to \$400/yd., and the novelty silks, chiffons, cashmeres and metallics, are to die for. And did we mention the tweeds...?

Quality: We've found that in fabric stores, a large amount of goods can mean a sacrifice in quality, i.e., low end junk we wouldn't use for doll clothes. In Mood's case, however, they have somehow managed not only to have a lot of fabric, but actually a lot of GOOD fabric. You will find mostly natural fabrics here. If you are desperately seeking sparkly polyester, you have come to wrong place my friend. But tacky synthetics aside, if you can't find it here, you probably wouldn't want it anyway.

Staff: Knowledgeable, creative and accommodating, Mood's employees are simply a great resource. If you have something in mind that you need but you're not exactly sure, flag down a Mood staffer instead of wandering around aimlessly. They'll save you time in narrowing down your search. And don't be shy about explaining your project; they give great advice. If only there were Mood employees for all of life's little problems.

\$: Moderate to pricy, but totally worth it.
*Great for a last stop on your shopping excursion – they're open evenings until 7pm!

Moon Tex

261 W. 35th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sun 10-5
212.631.0970

Fabric, fusible interfacing, and lining.

Neon Fabrics, Inc.

ALSO: COSTUME

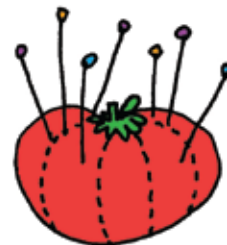
239 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat-Sun 10-6
212.221.9705, NeonFabrics.com

All kinds of fabrics; laces, beaded, poly, cotton, linen.

New York Elegant Fabrics

222 W. 40th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6, Saturday 10-5
212.302.4980, nyelegant.com

Sequins, Fake Fur, Shirting, Cotton, Silk, Linen, Wool, Stretch, Laces, Synthetics, Rayon, Acetate, and Taffeta.



Nousha Tex

ALSO: LACE

253 W. 35th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sun 10-5
212.268.7770

Fine fabrics, wovens.

Paron Annex



ALSO: COSTUME

206 W. 40th St., Ground fl.
M-Sat 9-5:45, Th 9-7
212.768.3266, paronfabrics.com

BEST DEALS

Don't get all snooty because this is a "clearance" store. After all, it's Paron's clearance store and you wouldn't want to miss what could be some of the best deals in town. Whenever Paron updates their stock, they move some fabric next



door to Paron Annex and mark it down to 50% off! All of it, every day. As long as you don't mind your Chanel tweeds or \$70/yd. silks to be "so two seasons ago" this store is essential to stretching your designing dollars. It's the Century 21 of the garment district.

Paron West

ALSO: PATTERN • COSTUME • LEATHER

206 W. 40th St., Ground fl.
M-Th 8:30-7, F 8:30-6, Sat 9-5,
Sun 11-4
212.768.3266, paronfabrics.com

Yes it's a small store, but think of it this way: they have all of the nice stuff with all of the junk weeded out. It's true: if it doesn't measure up to luxury standards, they don't sell it. They seem to put more care into hand picking the fabrics to carry than many other stores and therefore do half of your work. You'll end up choosing from only the best designers such as Chanel, Isaac Mizrahi, Bill Blass, Calvin Klein, Tamotsu, Anne Klein, Carolina Herrera, Donna Karan, and Ralph Lauren.

Need a few more reasons to shop here?

- The knowledgeable staff is fluent in Russian, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Hebrew, Portuguese, Brooklynese and certainly communicated clearly with a couple of students from Ohio.
 - Constantly updated stock.
 - Their motto: "If we don't have it, we'll find it." Not a myth, we've seen it happen. Even by the next day.
-

Prestige Textiles

258 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6:30, Sat 10:30-6
212.997.3900

Domestic upholstery and drapery fabrics. Specializing in chenilles, sheers and trims. On site decorator and drapery workroom.

Rosen & Chadick Fabric

561 7th Ave., 2nd fl.
M-F 8:30-5:45, Sat 9-4:30
212.869.0142

This store is impeccably organized and has two large floors full of fabric. It's like a mini-Mood and may someday be just as fabulous. We shall see.

* appeared to have many fabrics suitable for menswear, which can be hard to find.

Royal Fashion Center, Inc.

ALSO: TRIM

214 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6:30, Sat 10-6
212.398.0215, royalfabric.com

This is a large store that offers everything including laces, beaded laces, trimmings, silks, linen, organza, cotton, linen, wool, and vinyl. They specialize in silk shantung embroideries, organza and chiffon embroideries, and silk taffetas in great striped designs. Two thumbs up for this beautiful assortment!

* Don't forget your student ID, it will get you 10% off here!!!!

Safa Fabrics

ALSO: HOME DÉCOR • LACE

237 W. 35th St., Ground fl.
M-F 10-5, Sat-Sun 9-7
212.239.3415

They carry lace, tapestry, silk, brocade, drapery, and home furnishing, but it's the handwoven silks that set this store apart from the others. They also carry a lot of lace voile.

Swan Fabrics

ALSO: TRIM

244 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5
212.764.4116

Specializes in European haute couture fabrics, lace, and trims. Most of their silks are made in France, England, Italy, and India.

Textile Kingdom, Corp. \$

ALSO: PATTERNS • TRIM • HOME DÉCOR NOTIONS

554 8th Ave., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-6
212.764.3260

You can find a little bit of everything here... zippers, faux flowers, fabric, trims and a small selection of old, used patterns. If you like to rummage around for deals and treasures, this is your store. Fabrics come in drapery sizes too.

Usha Fabric

270 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 10-5
212.997.8570

They have all kinds of fabric including poly chiffon, charmeuse, satin, crepon orgenza, cotton, linen, China silk, taffeta even tissue lame and men's suiting.

Vogue Fabrics, Inc.

240 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-7:30, Sat 10:30-6:30,
Sun 12:30-5:30
212.921.1867

Vogue specializes in eveningwear/special occasion fabrics, very embellished (beaded, embroidered, sequined) and fancy. Think: prom. It's all polyester, so it's pretty and pocket book friendly.

Weavers Fabrics Inc.

ALSO: COSTUME

257 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:00-6:30, Sat. 10:00-5:30
212.840.1492

Importer of exclusive novelties. They say that they specialize in silk, woolen, velvets, laces, linen, embroideries, cotton, sheer, brocades, theatrical and bridal fabrics, plaid, silk blends.



Stretch Fabrics

Spandex House



ALSO: COSTUME

263 W. 38th St., Ground & 2nd fl.
M-F 9-6:30, Sat 10:30-5:30,
Sun 11:30-5
212.354.6711, SpandexHouse.com

BEST ASSORTMENT OF STRETCH FABRICS

Spandex House holds one of the largest collections of spandex in the world. From stretch velvet to lace to hologram spandex and fishnet, if it stretches, you'll find it here. You can find a lot of theatrical costumes and display fabrics. It might seem scary at first (picture wall-to-wall dance recital costumes for 8-year-olds), but head upstairs and you will find some quality fabric.

Spandex World



ALSO: COSTUME • FASHION FABRICS

228 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6, Sat 10-5
212.391.2310, spandexworld.com

Smaller than Spandex House, but same idea. Costume and designer fabric; Spandex, stretch, and you can also pick up some fake fur, sequins, leather. Fabrics start as low as \$5/yd.

Stretch House Inc.

ALSO: COSTUME • FASHION FABRICS

218 W. 37th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6, Sat 10-5
212.868.0944, stretchhouse.com

Great source for any type of spandex or stretch fabric.

Stretch It Inc.

ALSO: COSTUME • FASHION FABRICS

263 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sun 10-5
212.626.7800

Surprise! Not only do they have more stretch fabric than most stores, they have woven linings, interlining, lycra, fusibles, waft, muslin, kraft, fake fur, chiffon of all kinds and blends.

Stretch World Inc.

ALSO: COSTUME • FASHION FABRICS

252 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-6
212.398.3004, stretchworld.com

Like all of the specialty stretch stores, it has fabrics for swimwear and costumes, holographic images, sparkles, stretch velvets, spandex and lycra.



Leather

B&J

ALSO: COSTUME • LEATHER

525 7th Ave., 2nd fl.
M-F 8-5:45, Sat 9-4:45
212.354.8150, BandJFabrics.com

MOST ORGANIZED FABRIC STORE

In addition to all of those great things we've said about this place already, add great selection of leather as well.



Day to Day Fabrics

ALSO: FASHION FABRICS • FUR
HOME DÉCOR

214 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 1-5
212.575.1577

Designer fabrics, leather, suede, fur, upholstery, drapery, lace, crypton super fabrics; they have it all.



Global Leathers

ALSO: FUR

253 W. 35th St., 9th fl.
M-F 9-5
212.244.5190, globalleathers.com

BIGGEST ASSORTMENT OF LEATHER

Big inventory of amazing skins in every color of the rainbow. Their assortment of leather includes suede, metallic, pearlized, exotic, embossed, novelty, laser cut and perforated. It's pretty cool to see, even if you aren't into leather. And if you are into leather...enjoy!



Leather Impact

256 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-5
212.302.2332, leatherimpact.com

Leather Impact is one of the few stores that lets you swatch (2-3 per visit), a critical quality for all the stores we like, and a friendly staff. Check them out for leather, suede and furs embossed, perforated, metallics, pearlized, and embroidered. Also a variety of shearling, goat hairs (curly, borrego, short hair, long hair); Mongolian lamb; cow hair hides, calf hair hides, leather lacing and strips; Reptiles and exotics like ostrich and alligator.

Leather Suede Skins

ALSO: FUR

261 W. 35th St., 11th fl.
M-F 9:30-5
212.967.6616
LeatherSuedeSkins.com

Small, friendly store filled with any type of leather imaginable. Skins from every animal, every color of the rainbow, and every weight can be found here, including patents and suede. It's an amazing store with an attentive staff.

Mood



**ALSO: HOME DÉCOR • FASHION FABRICS
TRIMS • LACE • FUR**

225 W. 37th St. 2nd-4th fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-4
212.730.5003, moodfabric.com

**BEST VARIETY/SELECTION
TRENDIEST HOME FURNISHING**

Mood's leather department is impressive. What did you expect? It has its own sales person and offers a large selection of colors, weights, and varieties of quality leather. Mood's connections with European suppliers are evident once again, in its array of leathers.

New York Elegant Fabrics

ALSO: HOME DÉCOR • FUR

222 W. 40th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6, Sat 10-5
212.302.4800, nyelegant.com

EASIEST STORE TO NAVIGATE

Although they are mainly a fabric store, they carry a few good leathers including lamb skin. It's worth a look.

Paron West

**ALSO: FASHION FABRICS • PATTERNS
COSTUME**

206 W. 40th St., Ground fl.
M-Th 8:30-7, F 8:30-6, Sat 9-5,
Sun 11-4
212.768.3266
manhattanfabrics.com
paronfabrics.com

Paron offers only scraps of leather, and does not give swatches. However, if you are only doing detailing on a garment or bag, it is perfect.



Fur

Day to Day Fabrics



ALSO: **FASHION FABRICS** • **LEATHER**

214 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 1-5
212.575.1577

Designer fabrics, leather, suede, fur,
upholstery, drapery, lace, crypton super
fabrics; they have it all.

Fur and Furgery Inc.

ALSO: **TRIM**

211 W. 37th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6, Sat 9-4
212.244.7601 or 212.244.7603
FURANDFURGERY.com

Fur and fake fur apparel, trims, textiles,
accessories and millinery.

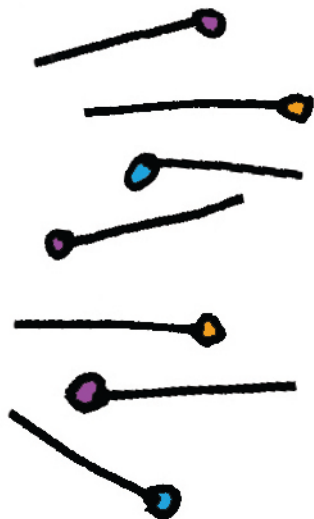
Global Leathers



ALSO: **LEATHER**

253 W. 35th St., 9th fl.
M-F 9-5
212.244.5190, globalleathers.com

If you ever finish looking at the fantastic
leathers, you can browse their fabulous
furs including shearling.



Mood

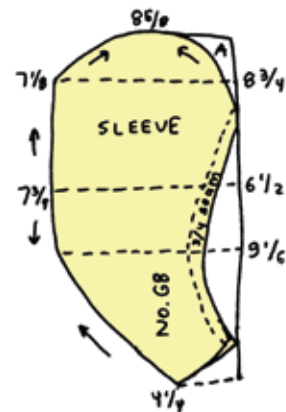
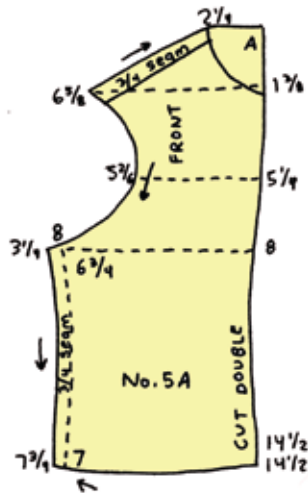


ALSO: **FASHION FABRICS** • **TRIM**
LEATHER • **LACE**

225 W. 37th St., 2nd-4th fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-4
212.730.5003, moodfabrics.com

BEST VARIETY/SELECTION
TRENDIEST HOME FURNISHING

Yes, they have fur too.



Home Décor

Amin Fabrics



268 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6:30, Sat 10-6:30
212.764.5184

They carry the usual assortment of closeout fabrics, but you can always find some upholstery and other home décor fabrics when you need them.

Day to Day Fabrics

ALSO: LEATHER • FUR

214 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 1-5
212.575.1577

This store carries crypton super fabrics which are great for upholstery since they are stain and bacteria resistant. Super.

• crypton super fabrics—see pg 18.

Fashion Fabric, Inc.

**ALSO: PATTERNS • COSTUME • TRIM
FASHION FABRICS • NOTIONS**

270 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5
212.869.0235

The basement is filled with home décor textiles. If you can get past the fact that you are literally in a basement, you will have a field day with their massive amount of cheaply priced textiles.

G&R Fabric Inc.

**ALSO: FASHION FABRICS • FUR
LEATHER • TRIM**

239 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-6:30, Sat. 10-5:30
212.997.2284

They offer a variety of upholstery and other fabrics, but you'll want to come here for the 90" lace. This size lace is great for drapery and hard to find elsewhere.

Mood



**ALSO: FASHION FABRICS • TRIM
LEATHER • FUR • LACE**

225 W. 37th St., 2nd-4th fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-4
212.730.5003, moodfabrics.com

BEST VARIETY/SELECTION TRENDIEST HOME FURNISHING

I know, you are probably tired of hearing us rave about Mood, but let us just say this regarding its home décor section: it is very fashionable, very stylish, and very New York. Check it out.

New York Elegant Fabrics

**ALSO: FASHION FABRICS • FUR
LEATHER**

222 W. 40th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6, Sat 10-5
212.302.4980, nyelegant.com

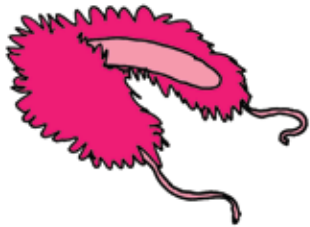
Part of their second floor is devoted to home decor, and they even have cushion filling.



Prestige Textile, Inc.

258 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6:30, Sat 10:30-5:30
212.997.3900

Prestige specializes in upholstery and drapery and has a bigger but more traditional selection than Mood. They are best known for chenilles, sheers, and trims which they import from Europe. What sets them apart are their custom window treatments, duvet covers, pillow shams and table cloths. Where else can you get a free consultation and estimate by an in-house decorator?



Fabrics Kingdom, Corp.

**ALSO: FASHION FABRICS • TRIM
PATTERNS • NOTIONS**

554 8th Ave, Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-6
212.764.3260

It's not a home décor store; however, they carry drapery width fabrics. This is fabulous if you like to get creative with home decorating. Note: They definitely take liberties using the word "kingdom" in their name.

Safa Fabrics

ALSO: FASHION FABRICS

237 W. 35th St., Ground fl.
M-F 10-5, Sat-Sun 9-7
212.239.3415

Jobber of laces, tapestry, silk, brocade, drapery, home furnishing.



Lace

Tip: Visit the stretch fabric stores for stretch lace!

B&J

ALSO: **COSTUME** • **LEATHER**

525 7th Ave., 2nd fl.
M-F 8-5:45, Sat 9-4:45
212.354.8150, BandJFabrics.com



Dinny Fabrics

ALSO: **FASHION FABRICS** • **TRIM**

274 W. 40th St., Ground fl,
M-Sat 10-7
212.302.7160

Selling both wholesale and retail, you can find bridal fabrics, laces, trimmings, appliqués, gloves, sequins, costume jewelry, artificial flowers etc.



Ebad Fabrics

ALSO: **FASHION FABRICS** • **HOME DÉCOR**

550 8th Ave., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat & Sun 11-6
212.869.7826, ebadfabrics.com

Ebad carries African Lace voile, which is quite a novelty and not the sort of thing you expect to find walking up Eighth Ave.



Lace Star, Inc.

ALSO: **FASHION FABRICS** • **TRIM**

215 W. 40th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6
212.840.0555

BEST LACE

Walk in and be prepared to be speechless. If lace had a heaven, this would be it. You can find laces in colors, patterns, and beaded in ways that you didn't know existed. And nothing looks cheap, which is the thing that impressed us the most. But then again, it is all imported from Italy and France and one yard of this beaded delight will cost you no less than \$250! Start saving up now. They say they have been rated the best lace store in the country and you can understand why – this place is absolutely incredible.

Mood



ALSO: HOME DÉCOR • FASHION FABRICS • TRIM • LEATHER

225 W. 37th St., 2nd - 4th fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-4
212.730.5003, moodfabrics.com

They even have a special section for expensive novelty laces.



Nousha Tex



ALSO: FASHION FABRICS

253 W. 35th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sun 10-5
212.268.7770

Noshu Tex has a good bit of lace voile, which is not common on streets other than 35th.

Rosen & Chaddick

561 7th Ave., 2nd fl.
M-F 8:30-5:45, Sat 9-4:30
212.869.0142

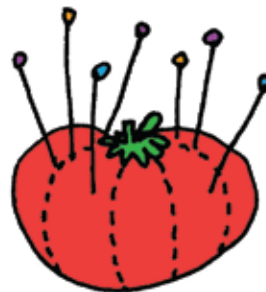
Lorem Ipsum

Safa Fabrics

ALSO: FASHION FABRICS

237 W. 35th St., Ground fl.
M-F 10-5, Sat & Sun 9-7
212.239.3415

This store specializes in lace voile, not regular lace.



Sposabella Lace



ALSO: FASHION FABRICS • BRIDAL TRIM • BUTTONS

252 W. 40th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-6, Sat 9:30-5
212.354.4729, SposabellaLace.com

BEST BRIDAL

Yes, it may be a bridal store (and arguably the best in the city at that), but don't be afraid to come here for all of your lace needs. You can be assured that their product is top quality and fabulous. The added bonus is that the owner is so nice and helpful. Who doesn't need a little attention from someone like that once in a while? See the bridal section for more on Sposabella.

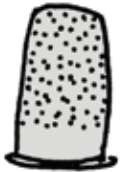
Bridal

B&Q Arts Co.

ALSO: TRIM • LACE

210 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 10-6, Sat 10-5
212.869.2930

Selling both wholesale and retail, you can find in this store bridal fabrics, laces, trimmings, appliqués, gloves, sequins, costume jewelry, artificial flowers etc...



Jin Guang Import & Export

ALSO: BUTTONS • TRIM

60 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-6:30, Sat 9:30-6
212.302.3934

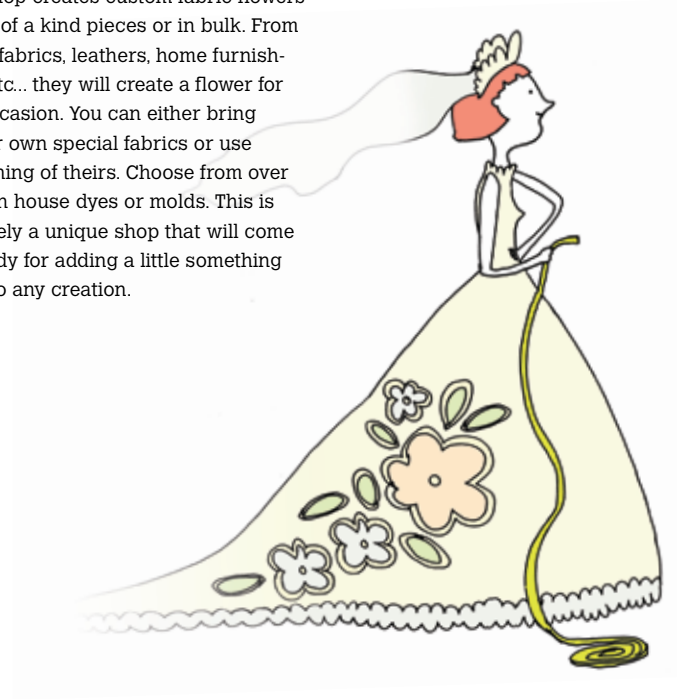
Selling both wholesale and retail this store carries bridal fabrics, laces, trimmings, appliqués, gloves, sequins, flowers and buttons.

M&S Schmalberg, Inc.

ALSO: TRIM

242 W. 36th St., 7th fl.
M-F 8:30-4:30
212.244.2090
customfabricflowers.com

This shop creates custom fabric flowers in one of a kind pieces or in bulk. From bridal fabrics, leathers, home furnishings, etc... they will create a flower for any occasion. You can either bring in your own special fabrics or use something of theirs. Choose from over 1,000 in house dyes or molds. This is definitely a unique shop that will come in handy for adding a little something extra to any creation.



Trim Stores

Though most fabric stores have at least a few trims, as we have denoted with our trim symbol. However, in this section we are focusing on the stores that specialize in this product.



Action Trim, Ltd.

247 W. 38th St., 8th fl.
M-F 10-4:30
212.391.8670, actiontrim.com

Manufacturer of woven label and hangtags in USA & China

Active Trimming Group

ALSO: BUTTONS • NOTIONS

247 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 8-6:30
212.921.7114

This is a store with a wide variety of notions and trims. Here you will find they are an importer of trims, notions, nylon webbing, snap tape, bra cups, beaded fringe, cutting mat, thread, buttons, tassels, patches, laces, etc...

Artistic Ribbon and Novelty Co.

22 West 21st St., Ground fl.
M-F 8-4:30
212.255.4224, artisticribbon.com

Artistic Ribbon offers a range of ribbon suitable for numerous custom applications from basic satin grosgrain, sheer and velvet, to dot and checked, plaid and tartan. They also have a closeout bin stuffed full of rosebuds and ribbon with drastically reduced prices. Ribbon services include cutting of strips, dying, printing, and custom bows.

B&Q Arts Co.

ALSO: BRIDAL • LACE

210 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 10-6, Sat 10-5
212.869.2930

Selling both wholesale and retail you can find bridal fabrics, laces, trimmings, appliqués, gloves, sequins, costume jewelry, artificial flowers etc...

Bobbi Trim Ltd.

132 W. 36th St., 8th fl.
M-F 9-6
212.216.0022
Pono4BobbiTrim.com

This small store is quite a find; it has all kinds of trims and can definitely help you out just as much as any other trim store out there despite its small size. The variety of ribbons, and other trims is incredible.

Cody's Tassels and Trim

ALSO: FASHION FABRICS

200 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-5:30, Sat 12-4
212.354.3046

Just as the name implies, this is the place to come for tassels. It's a clean, attractive store that is small enough that you won't feel overwhelmed. They have a few bolts of unique fabrics as well.

Daytona Braids & Trimmings

ALSO: BUTTONS • LACE

251 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6:45, Sat 9:30-5:15
212.354.1713 or 212.268.0083

This store has a large variety of trimmings for both wholesale and retail. They carry ribbons, passementeries, cluny laces, ric rac, braids, cording, frogs, feathers, buttons, maribou, and fringe.

Elvee Rosenberg Inc.

11 W. 37th St., Ground fl.
M-F 8:30-5
212.575.0767, ElveeRosenberg.com

Stop in for all types of fashion beads, simulated pearls, cabochons, sterling silver, Austrian crystal, and related jewelry parts.

Excel Zipper and Trim

ALSO: TRIM

244 W. 39th St., 2nd fl.
M-F 8:30-5
212.354.6111, zipperstrandtrim.com

Stop by for zippers, seam binding, ribbons, elastics.

Gettinger Feather Corp.

16 W. 36th St., 8th fl.
M-F 9-5
212.695.9470, gettingerfeather.com

BEST BRIDAL

This is a great place to go if you are looking for feathers. There is a sales minimum of \$20 with a variety of different kinds of feathers including peacock, ostrich, pheasants, goose, rooster, natural and colored feathers; exotic and domestics; fans and boas. You'll be tickled pink!

Hyman Hendler & Sons

21 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-5
212.840.8393, HymanHendler.com

This is a strictly ribbon establishment, and an impressive one at that. It can be a bit expensive, but you can't beat it; they literally have every single ribbon in every color, print, width, and material that you can think of. The best part is that here you can find great quality ribbon made of fibers such as 100% cotton, or silk, which compared to your typical synthetic grosgrain, is quite luxurious.

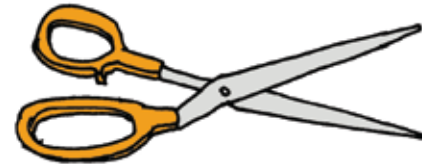
\$ pricey

Jin Guang Import & Export

ALSO: BUTTONS • BRIDAL

60 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-6:30, Sat 9:30-6
212.302.3934

Manufacturer of hats and sequin accessories, sequin appliqués, feathers, trimmings, buttons, flowers, and bridal accessories.



John Malone Textiles

ALSO: FASHION FABRICS

488 7th Ave., Suite 12G
M-F 10-6
212.719.2100

Ribbons, beads, and lace trims.

Joyce Trimming Inc.

ALSO: BUTTONS

109 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 8:30-6:30, Sat 10-5
212.719.3110, joyce.com

Joyce carries a wide selection of rhinestones and beads as well as Swarovski crystals and metal studs. They also have plenty of other items such as patches, buttons, paillettes in every color, and trims galore. They also allow two swatches per visit, no cheating!



Lin's Trimming

ALSO: BUTTONS

256 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 10-6, Sat 10-5
212.764.2166

Lin's carries beaded trims, rhinestones, feather trims, ribbons, buttons, custom designs, and artificial flowers.

M&J Trimming



ALSO: BUTTONS

1010 6th Ave, Ground fl.
M-F 9-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5
212.204.9595, mjtrim.com

BIGGEST SELECTION OF TRIMS (AND OUR FAVORITE!)

In here you can find just about anything you wish. It's the largest trim store in Manhattan and will help you with anything you are looking for. Even if you aren't in the need of trimming, it can be very inspiring just to browse. They carry: Swarovski rhinestones, ribbons, buttons, home décor, beaded trims, buckles, handles, lace, fur and feathers, fringe, beads, tassels and more!

M&S Schmalberg, Inc.

ALSO: BRIDAL • HOME DÉCOR

242 W. 36th St., 7th fl.
M-F 8:30-4:30
212.244.2090
customfabricflowers.com

This shop is creates custom fabric flowers in one of a kind pieces or in bulk. From bridal fabrics, leathers, home furnishings, etc.. they will create a flower for whatever use you have in mind. You can either bring in your own special fabrics or use something of theirs. Choose from over 1000 in house dyes or molds. This is definitely a unique shop that will come in handy for adding a little something extra to any creation.

Margola Corp... dba Geisler Ganz

48 W. 37th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-5:45
212.695.1115, margola.com

Here there is a sales minimum of \$50, but they have many trimmings you might not be able to find elsewhere. They are a manufacturer and importer of rhinestones, buckles, metal, crystal, casting, and beads (crystal, plastic, seed, bugle, and wood).

New York Zippers & Trimming Corp.

ALSO: NOTIONS

320 W. 37th St., Ground fl.
M-F 8:30-7
212.971.0701 or 212.967.5257
nyzipper.com

They feature nylon, plastic, metal, invisible, and dye to match zippers (!), sewing thread (spun poly-cotton blends), drawstring cording, flat cording, and plastic tipped shoelaces, tapes, elastics, fasteners, labels and much much more.

Pacific Trimming Inc.

ALSO: BUTTONS • NOTIONS

218 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 8:30-7, Sat 10-6
212.279.9310 or 212.268.3333
pacifictrimming.com

This store has everything you could possibly want for sewing projects. If you ever need to find a certain button or closure for a garment, this is the place to go. We cannot sing its praises enough; it just always has what we need. It is a bit hidden (like a little secret), but seek and you shall find.

Panda Trimmings

247 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 8-6, Sat 8-3
212.302.9434, zipperbank.com

Stop in for thread, notion, name label printing, elastics, zippers, trims, needles, buttons, invisible zippers, scissor sharpening, print care labels, hangers, polybags, seam bindings, garment bags, all kinds of sewing supply and cleaner supply.

So – Good Inc.

28 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-5
212.398.0236 or 212.768.1325

There is a sales minimum of \$10 here, but buying in bulk is not necessarily a bad thing. They have everything you need now and what you will need later such as ribbons in satins, velvets, gros-grain, stripes, dots, jacquards, picots, metallics, and so on and so forth.

Sposabella Lace



ALSO: FASHION FABRICS • BUTTONS
BRIDAL • LACE

252 W. 40th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:30-6, Sat 9:30-5
212.354.4729, SposabellaLace.com

Primarily bridal trims, but we suppose it could be suitable for certain evening wear as well.



Tinsel Trading Co.



ALSO: BUTTONS

1 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9:45-6, Sat 11-5
(sometimes; call first)
212.768.8823 or 212.730.1030
tinseltrading.com

This classy, beautiful store houses a fabulous collection of ribbon, appliqués, beads, buttons, thread, flowers, leaves, fringe, sequins, tassels, and passementerie. One thing is for sure—the people who run this place have a definite sense of fashion and taste, and it is reflected in their products. They also have numerous vintage trims, especially of the metallic variety, though these usually need to be ordered.

Trims de Carnival

ALSO: **BUTTONS**

40 W. 38th St., Ground fl.

M-Sat 9:30-5:30

212.730.2774 or 212.730.2775

tdcnewyork.com

This store is full of fancy little trims. From buckles to appliqués to buttons and straps...they are all adorned with rhinestones. If glam is the look you are going for, they will have what you need.

Vardhman, Inc.

ALSO: **NOTIONS • BUTTONS**

269 W. 39th St., Ground fl.

M-F 10-7, Sat 11-6, Sun 12-5

212.840.6950, vardhman.us

This store has knitting yarn and other knitting accessories to go with it. You can also find handbag handles and frame, hardware, and imported buttons made of bone, horn, shell, wood, glass, metal and coconut.



NOTES

Patterns

Patterns are not as prevalent as you might think, but then again, this isn't exactly the golden era of home sewing.

Fashion Fabric Inc.

**ALSO: NOTIONS • FASHION FABRICS
COSTUME**

270 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5
212.869.0235, fashionfabric.biz

They don't have a huge selection of patterns, but compared to other stores, it's an up-to-date, thorough collection of what Vogue and Butterick have to offer.

Paron West

**ALSO: FASHION FABRICS • COSTUME
HOME DÉCOR • TRIM • BRIDAL**

260 W. 40th St.
M-Th 8:30-7, F 8:30-6, Sat 9-5,
Sun 11-4
212.768.3266

They carry Burda and Quicksaw pattern sets.

Sew Fast Sew Easy

ALSO: NOTIONS

147 W. 35th St., Suite 807
M-Sat 12-6
212.268.4321, sewfastseweasy.com

Sew Fast Sew Easy has some really cool, up to date patterns with clear (yes, by clear we mean maybe someone besides a pattern maker can actually understand the directions). Many of their products are tailored to novice sewers and come in sewing kits to make your projects go more smoothly. You can also buy sewing machines and dress forms here, as well as take sewing lessons. SFSE is a great resource for sewers of all levels.

Textile Kingdom, Corp.

**ALSO: NOTIONS • FASHION FABRICS
TRIM • HOME DÉCOR**

554 8th Ave
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 11-6
212.764.3260



Beading Stores

While a lot of stores, especially trimming stores, carry a selection of beads, the shops in this section specialize in them.



Beads World, Inc.

1384 Broadway, Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat-Sun 10-6
212.302.1199, beadsworldusa.com

This store has a wonderful supply of beads. Here you will find many different kinds of beads, as well as sequins, stones, cords, strings and other supplies. You gotta love these stores that dedicate themselves to one sort of item – so much to choose from.

Fun 2 Bead

1028 6th Ave., Ground fl.
M-Sat 10-8, Sun 10-6
212.966.2748, fun2bead.com

It certainly is! Fun 2 Bead is right up there with New York Beads Inc. in that it has everything a bead lover could want: beads, findings, tools, silver, books, videos, beading services, Swarovski crystals, pearls, pendants and more.

Genuine Ten Ten

1012 6th Ave., Ground fl.
M-F 10:30-7:30, Sat 11-6:30,
Sun 12-6:30
212.221.1173, j-genuine.com

Genuine is not your typical bead shop, but a treasure trove of jewels, pearls, and semi-precious stones to die for. Absolutely gorgeous. Oh, and they have beads too.

Lavaliere Sterling & Stones Inc.

1006 6th Ave., Ground fl.
M-Sat 9-7:30
212.278.8133, lavalierenyc.com

Check them out for semi-precious stones, findings, sterling silver, accessories, and beads.

Margola Corp... dba Geisler Ganz

ALSO: TRIM

48 W. 37th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-5:45
212.695.1115, margola.com

Margola has some beautiful crystal, plastic, seed, bugle, and wooden beads, but they do have a sales minimum of \$50 (ouch!) which isn't easy on the student shopper.



Buttons



Botani U.S.A.



263 W. 36th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6
212.244.3222, botaniusa.com

We love this little button shop because you can find a lot of great stuff here. This is another one of those stores that is small in size but has the variety of a large store. So if you're a button aficionado (and you know who you are), stop by Botani to enjoy their beautiful collection.

B.T. Button Inc.

327 W. 36th St., 7th fl.
M-F 9-6:30, Sat 9-4
212.239.7053

They specialize in fabric covered buttons, which are surprising very hard to find in the garment center. Don't waste your time trying regular button stores for these specialty items. Just come here!

Lou Lou Button

ALSO: NOTIONS

69 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 9-7, Sat 10-6
212.398.5498

Manufacturer and importer of plastic buttons, metal, casting, and thread.

M&J Trimming

ALSO: TRIM

1008 6th Ave., Ground fl.
M-F 9-6, Sat 10-5
212.204.9595
mjtrim.com

M&J has a whole room devoted to buttons, from novelty to classic. Many of their buttons have a playful edge, and they carry over 10,000 different styles. Check it out.



Notions



American Sewing Supply

224 W. 35th St., Suite 500B
M-F 9:30-5:30
212.239.3695 or 212.239.3696

Here you will find professional supplies and equipment for tailors, pattern makers, cleaners, alteration, dressmakers, bridal shops, and home sewers. Catalog available upon request.

Excel Zipper and Trim Co.

244 W. 39th St., 2nd fl.
M-F 8:30-5
212.354.6111, zippersandtrim.com

Trims, seam rippers, needles, thread, rulers, pattern paper, muslin....you name it, they've got it.

Leader Thread Corp.

229 W. 36th St., 4th fl.
M-F 8-4:30
212.695-3662 or 212.563.1928
leaderthread.com

Sewing and embroidery thread, zipper, velcro, elastics, care labels, snaps, hooks, drawcord, pins, seam binding, boning, button envelopes, Dennison guns and bullets.

Millennium Steel & Rack Rentals

340 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-Sat 8-4:30
212.594.2190

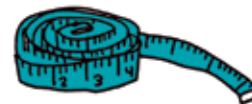
Ok, so rolling racks aren't really notions but frankly, we didn't know what other category to put this in. Rolling racks aren't a typical home sewer accessory, but if you need a place to keep all the garments you are making or like to keep your fabric folded over hangers, it's a great investment. Also, hanging patterns is an easy way to keep them organized, accessible, and crease free. You can buy or rent.

Panda Thread

ALSO: TRIM • BUTTONS

247 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-Sat 8-6
212.302.9434 or 212.302.9488
zipperbank.com

Panda is a small store with a large supply which you can buy in bulk or individually. Here you will find notions such as zippers, needles, trims, buttons, scissors, name label printing...and so much more. We've heard that a lot of industry professionals use Panda.



Sew Fast Sew Easy

ALSO: **PATTERNS**

147 W. 35th St. Suite 807
M-Sat 12-6
212.268.4321, sewfastseweasy.com

They have some great merchandise: the Lace Tanga Kit (sounds fun), magnetic seam guides, needle punches, peter-shams, sewing baskets of all sizes, canvas totes, knitting needles, scissors, seam rippers, tape measures, tracing wheels, and survival sewing kits (both left and right handed). Whew. And best of all, a lot of this is in their Stitch N Bitch line, so it is both cute and useful. Then they have the Dritz Body Double Mannequins and quite a selection of machines and sergers. See the Sew Fast Sew Easy Article on pg 78.



Sil Thread, Inc.

ALSO: **BUTTONS**

257 W. 38th St., Ground fl.
M-F 8-6, Sat 9-3
212.997.8949

Sil has all those necessities like thread, hangers, polybags, shoulder pads, all kinds of tags, iron, seam binding, scissors and sharpening, cutting and pattern papers, elastics, wash care labels, YKK zippers, velcros, shipping tags, garment bags.

Steinlauf & Stoller, Inc.

ALSO: **TRIM • BUTTONS**

239 W. 39th St., Ground fl.
M-Th 8-5:30, F 8-5
212.869.0321
steinlaufandstoller.com

MOST POPULAR PLACE TO BUY NOTIONS

This notion store is a fabulous little shop. Although it is small, the prices are very good, and they always seem to have what we've needed for personal projects or business. If you can't find something you need, just ask the friendly workers because some items appear to be somewhat hidden. We've heard many people rave about this store, and a lot of designers we know are completely loyal to it. They have those 2,000 yd. factory spools of 100% cotton sewing thread that are so hard to find, and they will make custom length zippers while you wait!



Sew On and Sew Forth

You know it's love by the symptoms: a tingling sensation, sweaty palms, a desire that keeps you wanting more.

Of course for others, it's more practical: don't be dependant, do it yourself. Whatever your reasons for wanting to knit, stitch, sew, quilt, bead, etc., it always helps when someone shows you how to get started.

So if you're ready to unleash your inner Martha, here are a few places in and around the Fashion District that will help you along:

Sew Fast Sew Easy!

147 W. 35th Street, Suite 807
New York, NY 10001
212.268.4321
www.sewfastseweasy.com

Sew Fast Sew Easy covers the market for home sewers and provides some of the best sewing lessons in town, on-site, on-line, or on-video. They teach for both home sewing machines and sergers, and best of all, if you are looking to buy,

you can test drive and get acquainted with any of the machines they sell! Through SFSE you can learn:

- How to use 7th Ave. sewing skills
- How to get your own custom fit
- How to buy the best fabric for your project
- How to identify different types of fabric
- How to cut properly
- Pattern and sewing terms
- Special pressing techniques
- How to mark and sew hems

But that's not all. They also carry patterns packaged into easy to use sewing kits. We hear the instructions are great – a big plus for any of you just beginning. Then there are the Sew Fast Sew Easy books, the notions, the dress forms, the sewing baskets, and the machines.

Ahhh...sewing machines. Not as common as you may think in the fashion district. But you can check them out in their showroom or through their website.

And p.s., it's not just sewing. SFSE, originators of the Stitch 'n Bitch Café, also has lessons, patterns and supplies for knitting, crocheting, and making accessories. Check out www.sewfastseweasy.com for the full scope of skills they teach. Be all that you can be.

Fashion Institute of Technology

7th Avenue and 27th Street
New York, NY 10001
212.217.7999, www.fitnyu.edu

Learn to knit at FIT? They'll swear on a stack of Vogues that these courses are offered for "professional development", but this looks to us like a good opportunity for a crafter or home sewer to sharpen their skills with some of the industry's best.

Visit the FIT website and under non-credit classes check out the Wearable and Decorative Arts section for courses such as:

Bauble, Bangle, and Bead Stringing

Beaded Jewelry Charm Bracelet Workshop

Creative Stitch Technique

Beaded Jewelry Creations with Swarovski Crystals

Wire-Wrap Jewelry Workshop

Collectible Jewelry

Beaded Wire Earrings

Beaded Jewelry Studio

Hand-Made Costume Jewelry:

From Design to Creation

Knitting for Pleasure

Knitting for Novices

Beginners' Machine Knitting

Machine Knitting II

Advanced Machine Knitting: The Ribber

Advanced Machine Knitting Weekend

Crochet for Pleasure

Learn to Sew Like a Pro

Hand Sewing, Mending, and Alteration Essential

Floral Ribbon Trim for Accessories

HandbagDesigner101.com

www.handbagdesigner101.com
Telephone: 866-206-9067 x2342

Looking to hop on the handbag craze? Do you think you've got what it takes to create the bag to hold what you've got? Contact local fashion accessories expert Emily Blumenthal (creator of trendy Yasmena handbags, among others) to set up affordable bag business consultations. You can start by checking out her website for the aficionados and start-ups, www.handbagdesigner101.com. It's a great source for sources, trends, ideas, and events for all you baggies out there.

Best Places to Swatch Fabric

Mood Fabrics

225 W. 37th St., 2nd fl.
212.730.5003

Mood, the landmark fabric store, will swatch anytime, but you must have a salesperson help and cut it for you. However, the salespeople are more than willing to help you if you need it, and there is a huge variety of fabrics to choose from.

NY Elegant Fabric Inc.

222 W. 40th St.
212.302.4980

Elegant will swatch for you between 10 am–12 noon on weekdays. This is one of the easier places to find someone to help you swatch. The fabrics are plentiful, and because the store is not as busy as some of the others, it's less hectic finding a salesperson to help you. In our opinion, the less-stress factor makes this one of the best places to swatch. (bonus: they have little pre-cut swatches on each bolt ready to take!)

Paron Fabrics

West 206 W. 40th St., Ground fl.
212.768.3266

Paron will also swatch for you, as long as you ask a salesperson for help. There is a lot of variety in their selection of fabrics, and the workers are friendly, knowledgeable, and always willing to give you the help you need.

B & J Fabrics

525 7th Ave., 2nd fl.
212.354.8150

B & J, another famous fabric shop, opens at 9 am and has the same policy as most of the others...you can swatch anything as long as you find someone to do it for you. If you're a student, B & J provides special weekday morning hours. Give them a call for the current schedule.

Know Your Fabrics

Cottons

FLANNEL cotton is plain or twill weave. On one or either side there is a slight nap.

FLANNELETTE is a soft cotton fabric with a nap on one side.

GAUZE, similar to cheesecloth, is sheer and lightly woven.

GINGHAM is a lightweight, washable fabric that is woven in checks, plaids or stripes.

MUSLIN is a plain weave cotton fabric. It comes in all different weights and is usually natural.

ORGANDY is a crisp cotton fabric, known for being sheer.

OUTING FLANNEL is soft cotton that is napped on both sides. Often used for sleepwear.

OXFORD is shirting fabric with a lustrous, soft finish. It often has narrow stripes and is woven in plain or basket weave.

PIMA COTTON, from Egyptian cotton, is one of the finest cotton fabrics in quality.

POLISHED COTTON has a shiny appearance due to a chemical finish. It is either a satin or plain weave cotton

POPLIN is a plain weave fabric with a rib that goes across the cross grain.

SATEEN is a satin weave cotton fabric.

SEERSUCKER is a lightweight cotton fabric crinkled into lengthwise stripes.

TERRY CLOTH is a looped pile fabric that is either woven or knitted. This material is used for towels and such due to its absorbency.

VELVETEEN is an all-cotton, short pile fabric resembling velvet.

Silks (and silk weaves)

BROCADE is a jacquard weave with an embossed effect and contrasting surfaces.

CANTON CREPE is a soft crepe fabric with small cross grain ribs. It is similar to crepe de chine but heavier.

CHARMEUSE is a satin weave silk with a crepe back

CHIFFON is transparent soft and light silk.

CHINA SILK is a plain weave silk that most people identify as the touch of silk.

This fabric comes in a variety of different weights.

DOUPIONI is reeled from double cocoons nested together. The threads are uneven and irregular. It is identifiable by both touch and sight.

GEORGETTE sheer crepe silk, is heavier than silk and has a crisper feel to it.

ORGANZA is similar to cotton organdy, but it is transparent and is also made from silk.

SILK SHANTUNG is a doupioni type of silk that comes from the Shantung Province of China. Is also irregular to touch.

SILK BROADCLOTH is a plain weave silk in many different weights; crisper than regular silks.

SILK LINEN has a linen look and feel to it but is made with a nubby yarn in a plain weave. There are a variety of weights. It is different from Doupioni in that the nubby lines run both lengthwise and crosswise.

Wool

BEAVER CLOTH is a napped heavy woolen overcoating; it is pressed down to resemble beaver fur.

BOTANY/MERINO WOOL is fine wool made from worsted wool yarn. It is soft and luxurious, resembling cashmere

BROADCLOTH is an all woolen/worsted fabric that has a slight feel of velvet to it.

CHINCHILLA CLOTH is a heavy, almost spongy woolen fabric with a long nap that has been rubbed into a curly, nubby finish.

FELT fabric is a compact sheet of entangled, wool, fur, sometimes cotton fibers. The felt is made by processing a mat of fibers with moisture, heat, and pressure. It is not a woven fabric.

FLANNEL wool is a soft, lightweight fabric with a small nap on one or both sides.

GABARDINE is a tightly woven, high sheen wool twill.

HERRINGBONE WOOL is woven in a twill that is reversed at normal spacing; this will create a sawtooth line.

HOUNDSTOOTH CHECK has a four pointed star check in a broken twill weave.

LAMBSDOWN is a heavy knit fabric that has a thicker fleeced nap on one side. It can be used for blankets.

LODEN FABRIC is thick, soft, waterproof and windproof wool used in outerwear.

MELTON is a heavy, thick, short napped fabric without a finish press or gloss.

TWEED is rough textured wool, originally homespun and slightly felted. This fabric is sturdy with a mottled color.

VIRGIN WOOL is wool that has never been processed into fabric and is usually an off white.

Credits



Victoria Somers

Victoria is a recent graduate of Kent State University, where she majored in fashion design to indulge her passion for sewing and draping fabrics. After spending a semester at KSU's New York studio, Victoria decided to leave her hometown of Oil City, Pennsylvania to pursue her dreams of becoming a Seventh Avenue designer.

Jocelyn Simms

A native of Moon Township, PA, Jocelyn graduated in May 2007 with a degree in fashion design from Kent State University, where she won the National CFDA Portfolio Scholarship Contest. While she also studied in Florence, Italy, Jocelyn's immersion in fashion in our district for a semester convinced her to start her career as a designer in New York City.



Photos: Gary Hanwood, Kent State University

Illustrations

Alli Arnold

Design

Worldstudio



THE FASHION CENTER

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