
Do you want your designs to be made in the UK?

Production and manufacture in the UK may be cheaper and quicker than overseas? While it is not cost-effective to make T-shirts in the UK, more expensive items can be produced more easily and at a lower price in the UK.

Kate Hills
Founder
Make it British

Predicting that a UK manufacturing base would one day be essential if companies were to remain competitive, Kate set up Make it British in 2011 as a way of supporting UK manufacturers and those companies that wanted to make in the UK.

Make it British acts as a platform to promote British-made brands and UK manufacturers and aims to raise awareness of all of the fantastic manufacturing that still takes place in Britain.



Brands Manufacturing in the UK

Many large luxury brands own factories in the UK. Here are some examples:

- Bremont – manufactures its watches in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire
- Burberry – has two factories in Leeds, manufacturing its trench coats
- Chanel – owns Barrie Knitwear in Scotland
- Johnstons of Elgin – mill producing cashmere scarfs and other garments in Scotland
- Prada - owns Church Shoes which have a factory in Northampton, not in Italy where there are many shoe manufacturers
- Margaret Howell – owns a shirt factory in North London
- Mulberry – owns two factories in Somerset manufacturing many of their luxury leather bags
- Ralph & Russo - make their couture garments in London

Most of these brands could use third party manufacturers overseas with lower labour costs but they have decided against it.

Fashion Enter

When Christian Dior was alive, he also had many of his garments made in the UK. Luxury department store, Harrods, uses [Fashion Enter](#), a garment factory in London which manufactures products for several luxury fashion brands.

Car Manufacturers

At the top end of car manufacturing, these brands manufacture in the UK:

- Rolls Royce - Goodwood, West Sussex
- Bentley - Crewe
- Aston Martin - Warwickshire
- Jaguar Land Rover - Midlands
- McLaren - Surrey

McLaren makes many of the Formula 1 cars in the UK. A new luxury car maker, Grenadier, will be manufacturing in 4x4 vehicles in Wales from 2022.

Advantages of Manufacturing in the UK

Here are some of the many advantages of manufacturing in the UK:

- Lead times in agreeing on samples and producing the final product are shorter
- Costs can be lower when freight costs are built-in
- Positive PR since products are 'Made in Britain'

Make it British

For smaller brands who do not have the resources or need for their own factory then finding a suitable partner can be made easier by accessing the website [Make it British](#) which Kate Hills founded in 2011.

Make it British is a platform to help UK manufacturers and British-made brands find more customers as well as a resource for designers wanting to find manufacturers to make their products.

Through Make it British, Kate helps facilitate connections between designers, brands and UK manufacturers using a database of hundreds of British factories, predominantly in the clothing and textiles sector. Clients have included start-ups, established designers that show at London Fashion Week, as well as retailers with outlets on the British high street.

Make it British also helps to promote companies that manufacture in the UK through various online marketing channels and provides up to the minute editorial on the people, products and places that are important within British manufacturing.

Make it British classifies manufacturers in a [Manufacturers Directory](#) as:

- Clothing
- Accessories
- Fabric and Yarn
- Machinery and Engineering
- Trim and Components
- Packaging and Printing
- Creative and Business Services

The [UK Fashion & Textile Association](#) (UKFT) may also be useful to find the most suitable manufacturer.

© 2020 The Fashion and Design Club Limited. All Rights Reserved.