

# DESIGNER INFO AND CREATIVE STATEMENT



**Designer name:** Prue Spencer

**School name:** Genazzano FCJ College

**Year level:** Year 10

**Name of Design:** Dressed to See

**Chosen end user group:** Visually Impaired and blind teenagers-young adult females, aged 13-20

## **Creative Statement:**

'Dressed to See' is designed to enhance the lives of blind and visually impaired teenagers-young adults. My end-user group fits into the category of blind and visually impaired teenage-young adult females aged 13-20 years. Teenagers and young adults love to dress fashionable, but most fashionable clothes do not assist people with a disability. 'Dressed to See' empowers blind and visually impaired teenagers and adults in society that want fashionable clothing that improves their mobility and independence.

'Dressed to See' features cutting edge multiple technologies that work together to guide a visually impaired or blind person. The innovative outfit includes: obstacle detecting vibrating shoes; a camera belt that translates surroundings into words which are spoken to the end-user through shoulder pad speakers embedded in the shirt; detachable heels on the shoes that double as a case for the end-user's cane; a shirt that can easily convert from long sleeves to short sleeves; an obstacle/object sensor shoe that alerts the user of surrounding obstacles; and, fashionable glasses that protect and enhance the sight of visually impaired and light sensitive end-users. These innovative design features assist the end-user group and help make their every day life easier.

Blind and visually impaired teenagers and young adults already have an extremely challenging life and they shouldn't have to worry about the look and feel of their clothes. 'Dressed to See' has researched the best wools appropriate for this outfit so that the end-user can enjoy comfortable and versatile clothing.

'Dressed to See' includes multiple types of wool to create a warm, versatile and tactile outfit. One hundred percent Merino wool is used in the shirt, skirt and socks to create a breathable, temperature controlled, comfortable, fire resistant and sun protective outfit. Merino wool's 'fire resistant' quality makes 'Dressed to See' safe and suitable for blind/visually impaired people.

The shirt is made of 100% merino wool jersey (18.5 micron, 160-165gsm), giving the end-user a breathable, wrinkle resistant and odour resistant garment. Further, Merino wool is well known as being a highly comfortable fabric for high-end fashion.

The skirt and socks are made of 100% merino mercerised wool. The mercerised wool gives the skirt and socks a 'silk-like' look, making them not only fashionable, but extremely comfortable too.

For the inside of the camera belt, laminated boiled wool is used to give the belt a solid, but comfortable texture. For the outside/exterior, soft leather is used to create a shiny look. The belt's various woollen materials create an easy adjustable, comfortable and versatile belt.

Each clothing item/feature has its very own combination of wool to suit its purpose and for maximum comfortability. The tactile properties of the various wools used help create a safe and comfortable outfit for visually impaired and blind people.

Often, fashion and clothing is made for visual appeal only and to showcase a popular 'look'. However, when has fashion ever helped a person with a disability? I believe that fashion is more than just aesthetics, it is about helping a person reach their full potential by assisting them in a practical way whilst at the same time staying ahead of current fashion.

'Dressed to See' is about changing the lives of those who can't see. My end-user's may not be able to see what they are wearing, however, by wearing 'Dressed to See', I hope they become part of creating a fashion friendly world that improves their mobility and opens up new opportunities to better engage in the world around them.

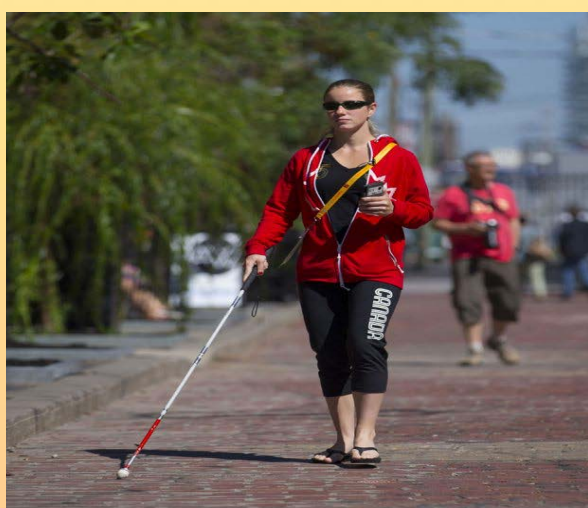


# END-USER PROFILE

**Who:** Visually impaired and blind teenage-young adult females

**Age:** 13-20

They like products that help them in their everyday life. They are interested in fashion and shopping, and they don't want their disability to stop them from living their life to the fullest. They want to look fashionable and use products that will assist them and their disability.





# MOOD BOARD



GOOD VIBES



YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL

blazed

DONT TOUCH ME

never let them take the light behind your eyes

100

Mon Cheri

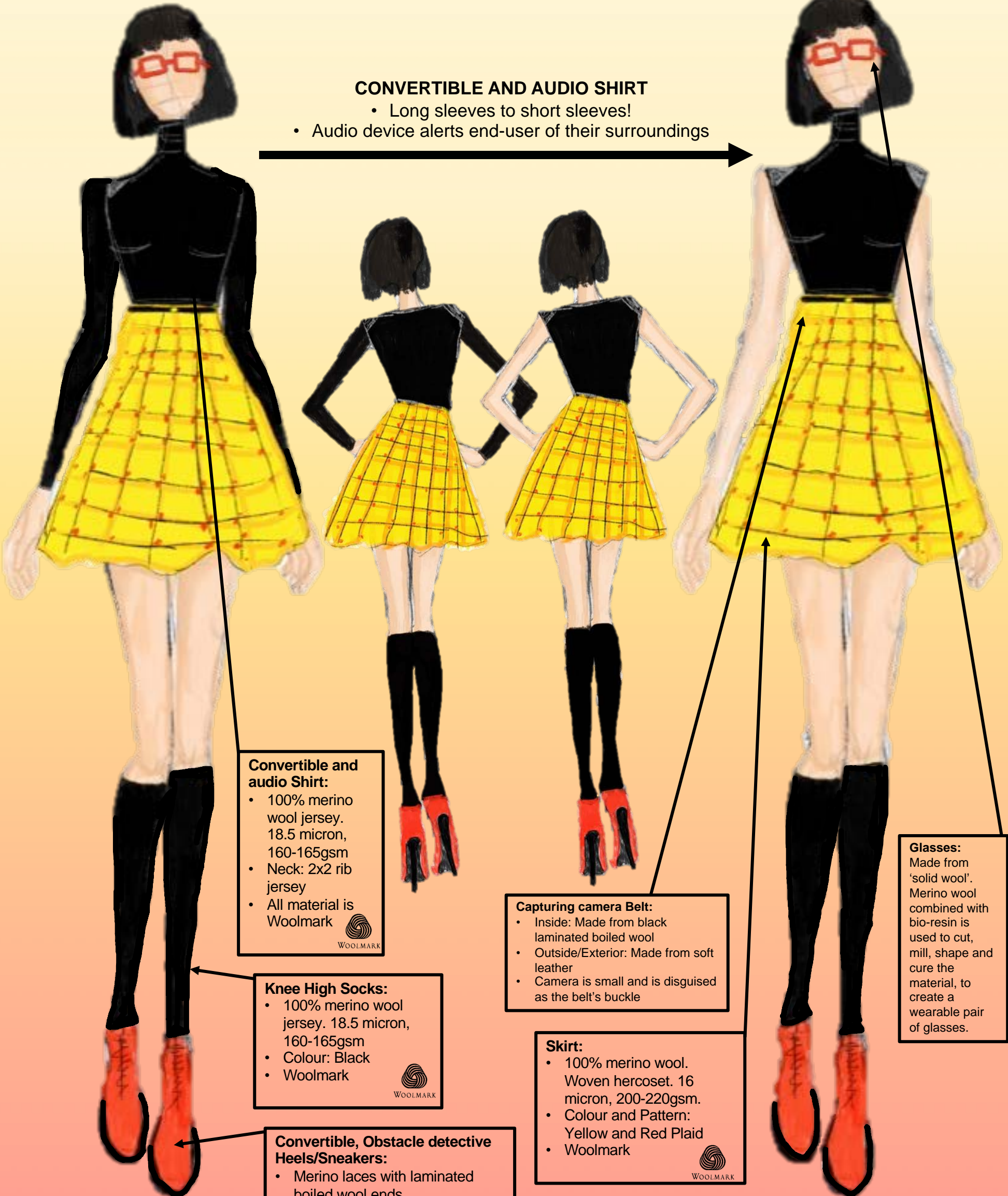
WOOLMARK



# 'DRESSED TO SEE'


## CONVERTIBLE AND AUDIO SHIRT

- Long sleeves to short sleeves!
- Audio device alerts end-user of their surroundings



**Convertible and audio Shirt:**

- 100% merino wool jersey. 18.5 micron, 160-165gsm
- Neck: 2x2 rib jersey
- All material is Woolmark



**Knee High Socks:**

- 100% merino wool jersey. 18.5 micron, 160-165gsm
- Colour: Black
- Woolmark



**Convertible, Obstacle detective Heels/Sneakers:**

- Merino laces with laminated boiled wool ends
- Outer surface - red colored boiled wool (Felted)

**Capturing camera Belt:**

- Inside: Made from black laminated boiled wool
- Outside/Exterior: Made from soft leather
- Camera is small and is disguised as the belt's buckle

**Skirt:**

- 100% merino wool. Woven hercoset. 16 micron, 200-220gsm.
- Colour and Pattern: Yellow and Red Plaid
- Woolmark



**Glasses:**

Made from 'solid wool'. Merino wool combined with bio-resin is used to cut, mill, shape and cure the material, to create a wearable pair of glasses.

# 'DRESSED TO SEE'

## Garment: Convertible, Obstacle detective HEELS/SNEAKERS



### Material description:

- Merino laces with laminated boiled wool ends
- Outer surface - red colored boiled wool (Felted)

### Convertible heel feature:

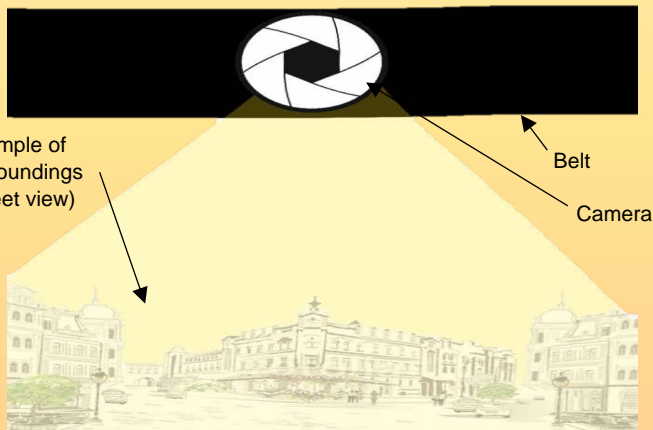
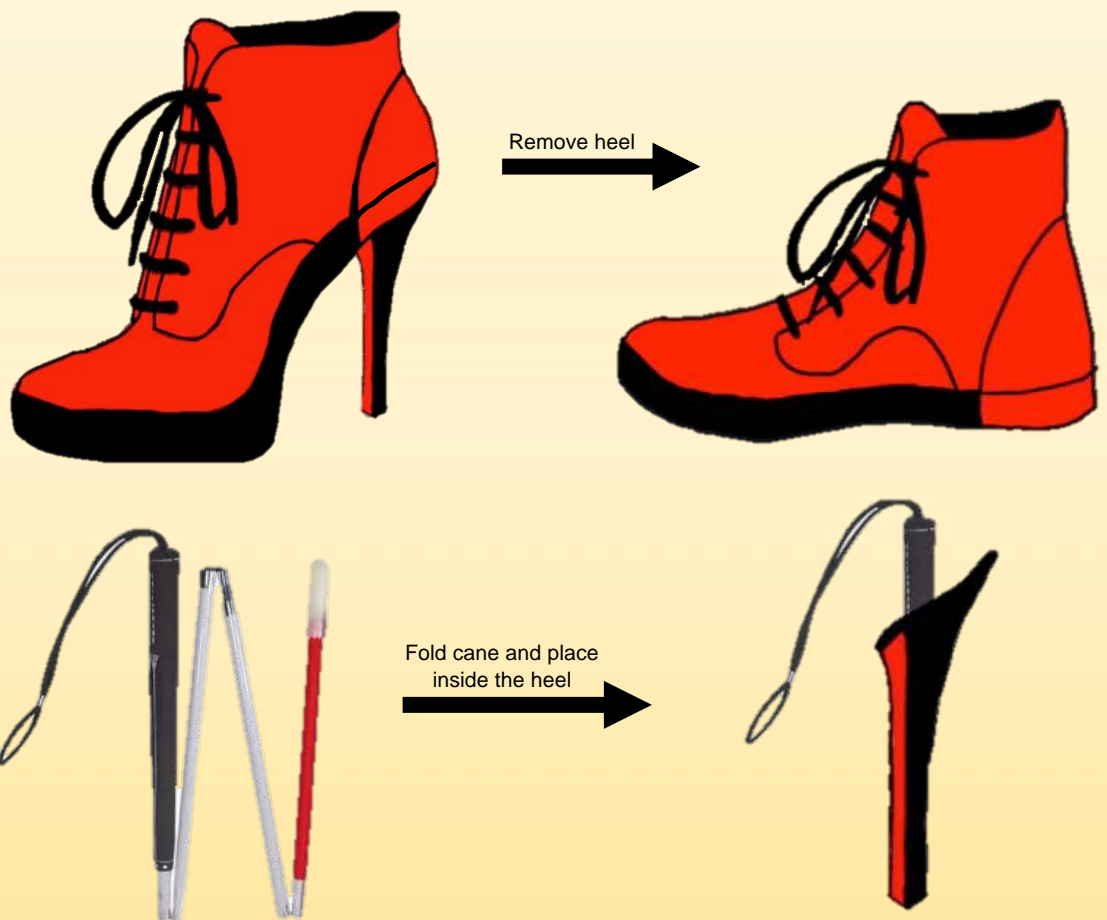
- Heel clips on and off to back sole of shoe via a clipping mechanism
- Sole of shoe is red

### Cane to heel Case feature:

- As mentioned above, the heel of the shoe can be removed. Once removed, the end-users foldable cane can be placed inside the heel. (see diagram on the right)
- The heel then acts as the cane's case, keeping it secure and safe. A separate lid can be attached to the top of the heel to close the case.

### Technological feature:

- Obstacle/object detection. Proximity detectors are hidden inside the sole, midsole and toe box of shoe. The proximity detectors detect the lower surroundings of the end-user, such as a street curb.
- Once obstacle is detected, vibration will occur on a specific side of the shoe, the side where the obstacle is located.
- The feature can be turned of and on by the end-user via a Bluetooth connected mobile phone app.



## Garment: Capturing camera BELT

### Material description:

- Inside: Made from black laminated boiled wool
- Outside/Exterior: Made from soft leather
- Camera is small and is disguised as the belt's buckle

### Technological feature:

- Camera captures the end-users surroundings. It then translates surroundings into words which are spoken to the end-user through shoulder pad speakers embedded in the shirt.
- For example, if there is a vehicle approaching the end-user, the camera will detect it and send this information to the audio device, which will then speak to the end user alerting them of the approaching vehicle.

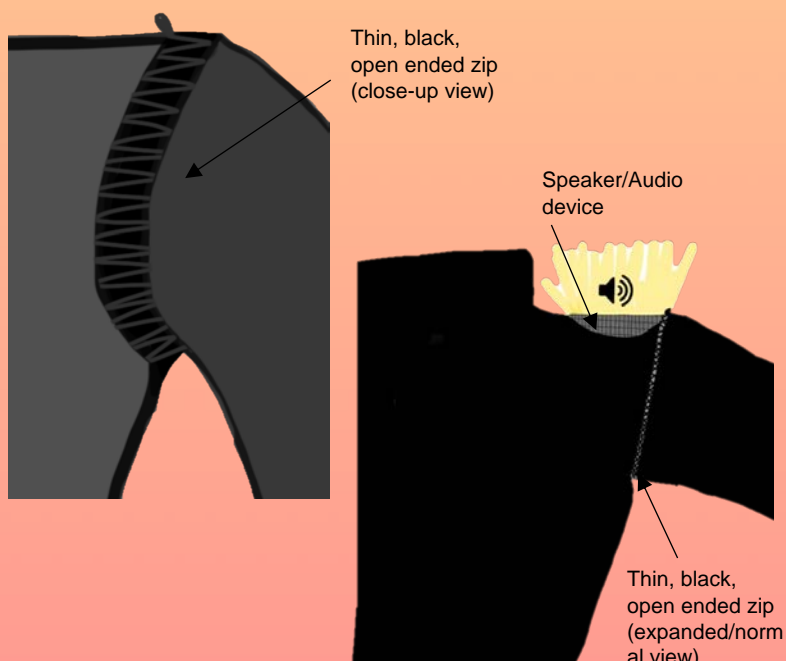
## Garment: GLASSES

### Material description:

- Made from 'solid wool'. Merino wool combined with bio-resin is used to cut, mill, shape and cure the material, to create a wearable pair of glasses.

### Product description:

- For visually impaired and extremely light sensitive end-users. Not made for legally blind end-users.
- Polycarbonate UV protective lenses come fitted. However, end-user can change lenses if desired.



## Garment: Convertible and audio SHIRT



### Material description:

- 100% merino wool jersey. 18.5 micron, 160-165gsm
- Neck: 2x2 rib jersey
- All material is Woolmark

### Convertible feature:

- Long sleeves can be removed with an open ended zip. The zip is easy for a visually impaired/blind person to unzip and remove long sleeves.
- Once unzipped, the end-user is left with a short sleeve top.
- Thin black open ended zip

### Technology feature:

- As mentioned in the 'Capturing camera belt' section, the camera captures the end-users surroundings. It then translates surroundings into words which are spoken to the end-user through shoulder pad speakers embedded in the shirt.
- The speaker is hidden underneath the shoulder pad of the shirt. When surroundings are analysed and translated, the speaker will voice the information so that the end-user can hear it and be aware of their surroundings.
- Volume can be controlled via the Bluetooth telephone app