The Denim and Vinyl Traveler’s Jacket
Sabrinna Margova Islam, Kara L. Gottesman, Aileen Lin,
Kent State University
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Abstract

The designer jacket we have created caters to the modern day globetrotter. Our garment takes into account the aspect of safety, the amount of space, and the organizational compartments needed to carry around items of value travelers require. Our client is a 24 year old international student from Xi’an, China who often travels back and forth from her home town and Kent State University. While traveling, pickpocketing is a rampant issue our client and many tourists must
worry about. Our secure traveler’s jacket ensures safe keeping of valuable documents as well as organizational pockets and compartments which allow for quick access. Showing necessary documents to the TSA and going through security is often times stressful and fast paced which is why having organizational compartments would be incredibly helpful for quickly pulling out necessary items, especially if you know where they are and are easily accessible on your person. With our jacket, customers will be able to rest easy knowing their valuable belongings will be easily accessible to the wearer, safe from the rain, and safe from thieves allowing our client, Gina, to rest easy and focus on her destination.
**Glossary**

**Anti cut/anti slash** - Cannot be penetrated with a sharp object

**Drop Shoulder** - A seam connecting the sleeve of a jacket to the bodice, that is sewn together lower than usual.
Muslin- A mock up or practice version of a garment made out of muslin fabric
Petty Theft- A thief who steals small items quickly and inconspicuously
Pickpocketing- A person who “picks” or steals from people’s pockets
Pucker- When fabric on a garment pulls or gathers causing an uneven appearance
TSA- Transportation of security information
Xian- A large city in central China

Intro

The designer jacket we have created caters to the modern day globetrotter which takes into account the aspect of safety, the amount of space, and the organizational compartments needed to carry around items of value travelers require. While traveling, people often carry important documents such as passports or birth certificates, as well as other
valuable items such as wallets, medication, maps, and food and in many countries pickpocketing and robbery are a very real issue. Young students often worry about having important items of value stolen as well as losing or damaging their possessions so our group wanted to create a waterproof jacket which our client, Gina, can carry all items of value on her person. It was also taken into account the fact that it is necessary to show authorities and TSA necessary documents quickly and efficiently so our jacket provides organizational compartments one can quickly and efficiently show authorities.

**Methodology/ Review of literature**

Our client’s name is Gina Chen and she is a 24 year old fashion forward international student from Xian China. It is often said that Xi’an is the pickpocket capital of China (2009). The first incredibly useful function of the traveler’s jacket is the organization factor. Often times while traveling, travelers will have to go through TSA which requires one to show their passport and place items on the conveyor belt to go through the X-ray and be inspected. Due to the fact that so many people are trying to quickly get through TSA and catch their flights, people are often scrambling to find the items needed to put in grey bins to be X-rayed. The traveler’s jacket will help save time by keeping one’s item’s organized and secure in individual pockets as opposed to in a bag or purse where items are all jumbled together. Also in China, travelers are often asked to show passports similarly to how in the U.S citizens are asked to show their i.d.s. Due to the fact that the jacket we have created has a pocket specifically for passport storage, it will be easy to show necessary documents when asked (Sylvester, 2015).
A second incredibly important function of the traveler’s jacket is the protection against petty theft. Due to the crowded bustling city atmosphere, it is incredibly easy for robbers to quickly and inconspicuously pull an item of value out of unguarded pockets. The most common places people are to get robbed are at transportation stations, tourist attractions, and airports. Pickpockets often operate as packs, one person will distract you while others will take you belongings while you are being distracted (Worldnomads.com). Due to the fact that our client is an international student and often travels back and forth from the U.S and China, she often times has to carry valuable belongings in her pockets for the 12 hour plane ride and 18 hours for layover (Marshall, 2017). The stress of having to worry about her belongings is constant during this period of travel, so to alleviate the stress, the traveler’s waterproof jacket that we have created, allows for the wearer to store valuable documents and monetary items in the pockets inside of the jacket in multiple secure areas.

The third important function of the traveler’s jacket is its anti cut/anti slash prevention. Petty thieves will only go so far as to steal from naive tourists who don’t keep tabs on valuables in shallow outer pockets, however, more determined thieves will go so far as using blades, scissors, and knives to cut open bags, purses, and outer pockets (Green, 2013). Because our jacket has two layers, the inner layer being made of denim, and the outer layer being made of thick vinyl, it is difficult to slice through due to the thickness of both materials.

Results

- Does the garment fit the client?
- Does the client like the garment/ is it her taste?
-Does the client think that the jacket would make the traveling experience better

**Recommendations**

While sewing the first muslin we discovered that the drop shoulder sleeve puckered. We discovered that the sleeve pattern had not been rounded enough in the armhole so there was too much fabric to work with while sewing the sleeve. After the arm hole was rounded, the sleeve ended up fitting perfectly in the second muslin.

1st muslin with pucker

2nd muslin without pucker

