

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO PLM FOR FASHION



BY

TECHPACKER

C O N T E N T S

- 02 What is a fashion PLM?
- 04 Six reasons why teams of all sizes should embrace a fashion PLM.
- 06 The challenges of adopting a PLM in the fashion business.
- 10 How to choose a PLM for your small fashion business.
- 18 Best PLM software for fashion in 2022.
- 31 Seven steps to a successful implementation of your new fashion PLM system.
- 38 Six reasons to choose Techpacker over fashion PLM software.
- 40 Get more value from your tools with Techpacker integrations.

1

WHAT IS A FASHION PLM?

Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) is an information management system that manages data during the development of a product, from concept to manufacturing.

The main purpose of the PLM solution is to provide a central place for managing the product lifecycle efficiently and cost-effectively.

PLM tools are centered around the design, planning, testing, manufacturing, and marketing of a product. It also ensures good communication between departments and keeps everyone updated.



WHY IS A PLM IMPORTANT?

In the fast-growing fashion business, PLMs are a must-have for small and large teams alike. Fashion brands are expected to continuously reinvent products and [speed up time-to-market](#).

PLM shows brands a holistic view of the entire product development process in one snapshot. It also provides brands with granular control over every part of product design and supplies real-life uniform data across the entire supply chain.

PLM IN FASHION



PLANNING

Planning materials sourcing. Calculating a cost of a garment. Connecting with manufacturers for a production quote. Setting marketing goals. Ensuring ongoing communication between departments.



MANUFACTURING

Preparing for bulk manufacturing. Finalizing tech packs. Managing the materials supply. Quality control of bulk manufacturing.



CONCEPT CREATION

Visualizing an idea. Managing mood board creation. Preparing technical sketches, spec sheets, construction details, fabric selection. Defining the target market.



TESTING

Sample making. Requesting a garment sample from manufacturer. Sample quality control, testing, measurements adjustments if needed.



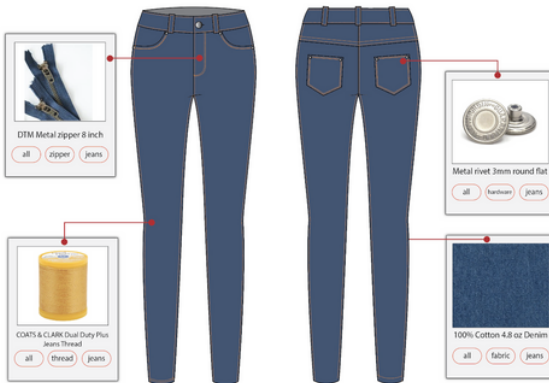
MARKETING

Marketing research and analytics. Advertising of clothing and accessories to the target market. Setting a marketplace. Selling to the consumer.

2

SIX REASONS WHY TEAMS OF ALL SIZES SHOULD EMBRACE A FASHION PLM.

PLM software used to be a tool that only luxury fashion brands could afford. Now there are plenty of more affordable PLM solutions for small to medium size teams. There is [a number of reasons](#) why growing fashion teams should embrace fashion PLM.



1. THE NEED FOR SPEED IN FASHION DEMANDS IT.

As a fashion brand, you're expected to continuously reinvent products and speed up your time to market.

2. SOME CLOUD PLM WORK LIKE REGULAR APPS NOW.

Cloud PLM for the fashion industry is a relatively recent arrival to the software market compared to old-timers like ERPs. It means cloud PLMs aren't weighted down by legacy code and creaking infrastructure.

3. YOU CAN'T AFFORD SILLY MISTAKES.

This is especially true if your team is sticking to the old-fashioned way of managing and communicating product data: Excel + Email. Every time someone enters data into a spreadsheet, there's the possibility of a typo, overwriting key data, miscopying something, or putting data in the wrong place.

4. IMPLEMENTING A PLM NOW LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE GROWTH.

A PLM lays the foundation for future growth by giving your team, for example, real-time communication, a shared version of the truth across the entire supply chain, and the power to automate manual tasks.

5. COSTS AND IMPLEMENTATION TIME HAVE COME DOWN A LOT.

With the advent of software-as-a-service (SaaS), you get to pay a monthly fee to access the PLM over the web. No more software or hardware to buy, install, maintain, or upgrade. This cuts the cost and implementation time of a fashion PLM to a fraction of what it was only a few years ago.

6. YOU HOLD AN ADVANTAGE OVER BIG BRANDS.

As a small team, you're starting from a clean slate. Plus, you also don't need to weigh yourself down with a complex full-suite solution.

3

THE CHALLENGES OF ADOPTING A PLM IN THE FASHION BUSINESS.

There is no doubt that the fashion PLM system is a great strategic process to manage product information from concept to manufacturing. But adopting a new PLM software [isn't so easy](#), as they are complex, require special training and it's quite an investment, especially for medium to small size teams.

1. INTEGRATION CHALLENGES.

Most design teams use software like Excel and Adobe Illustrator for all their tech pack needs. Making the switch to PLM software from Excel or Adobe Illustrator can be a daunting task. All existing product development info like measurement specs, costing sheets, bill of materials, and design data like technical sketches need to be transferred into a new system. That leads to lots of formatting and copy/pasting.

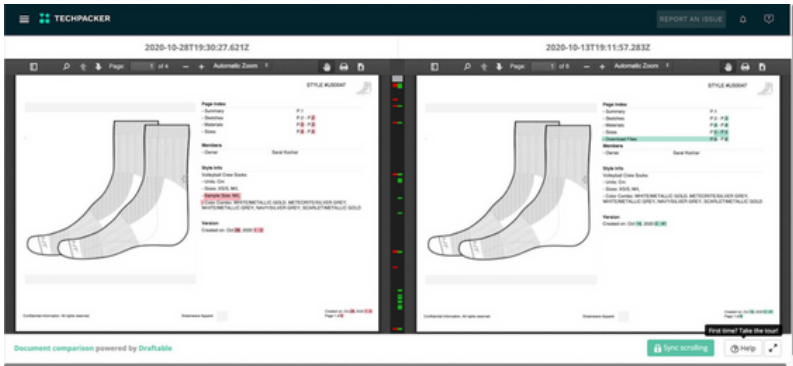
But with the cloud-based modern PLM system like Techpacker, this transition can be a lot smoother. Techpacker lets you upload your entire Excel sheet data directly to Techpacker within seconds.

		DESCRIPTION	TOL(+)	TOL(-)	S	M	L	2XL	3-XXL	
☰	<input type="checkbox"/>	Row 0	0.5	-0.5	43	45.5	48	50.5	50.5	⊗
☰	<input type="checkbox"/>	Row 1	0.5	-0.5	41.5	44	46.5	49	49	⊗
☰	<input type="checkbox"/>	Row 2	0.5	-0.5	44.5	47	49.5	52	52	⊗
☰	<input type="checkbox"/>	Row 3	0.5	-0.5	33	34.5	36	37.5	37.5	⊗
☰	<input type="checkbox"/>	Row 4	0.5	-0.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	⊗
☰	<input type="checkbox"/>	Row 5	0.5	-0.5	5	5	5	5	5	⊗
☰	<input type="checkbox"/>	Row 6	0.5	-0.5	19.5	20	20.5	21	21.5	⊗
☰	<input type="checkbox"/>	Row 7	0.5	-0.5	3	3	3	3	3	⊗
☰	<input type="checkbox"/>	Row 8	0.5	-0.5	24	25	26	27	28	⊗
☰	<input type="checkbox"/>	Row 9	0.5	-0.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	⊗
☰	<input type="checkbox"/>	Row 10	0.5	-0.5	63.5	65	66.5	68	68	⊗

2. MANUFACTURING CHALLENGES.

Despite the desire to create a seamless tool, many PLM solutions can prove to be a roadblock to product development, and alignment with manufacturing. This is because most manufacturers have their own set of processes to create and manage information in their own formats. So, once the design information is transferred to the manufacturers, they have to go through a time-consuming process of data conversion while the communication is managed outside on a different channel. This often results in data loss and extra work, disrupting the product turnaround goals.

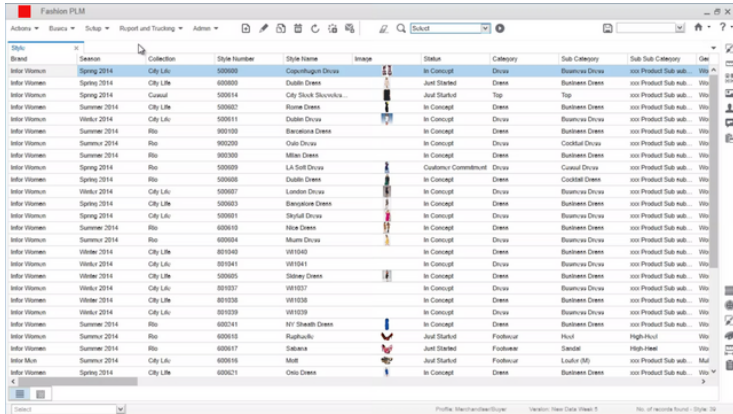
Techpacker came up with the solution for it. We developed a dedicated manufacturer's portal adhering to the processes of how manufacturers like to manage product development information and comments with their clients. A system that is built around the tech packs. Manufacturers can easily access high-quality design images, and specifications, track tech pack versions, and even communicate right through the platform that is cost-efficient and easy to implement.



Manufacturers can compare tech pack versions after the first sample round.

3.COMPLEXITY AND USER INTERFACE ISSUES.

PLM systems were created with engineers in mind, not creatives like fashion designers. All the folders are spread out, and the whole product development picture is not visual enough. Simple tasks like opening, updating, and setting up a tech pack live take a number of steps. The more steps there are, the more chances for mistakes to happen, and locating an issue can take a while as well.

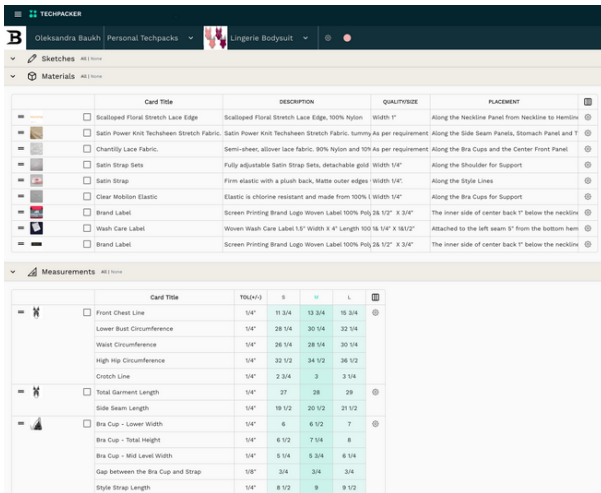


Brand	Season	Collection	Style Number	Style Name	Image	Status	Category	Sub Category	Sub Sub Category	Get
Infra Womens	Spring 2014	City Life	500600	Capelhorn Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Spring 2014	City Life	600600	Dublin Dress		Just Started	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Spring 2014	Canvas	500614	City Street Skivvies		Just Started	Top	Top	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Summer 2014	City Life	500607	Rome Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Winter 2014	City Life	500611	Dublin Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Summer 2014	Rio	900100	Barcelona Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Summer 2014	Rio	900200	Oslo Dress		In Concept	Dress	Casual Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Summer 2014	Rio	900300	Milan Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Spring 2014	Rio	500600	LA Soft Dress		In Concept	Dress	Casual Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Spring 2014	Rio	500608	Dublin Dress		In Concept	Dress	Casual Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Winter 2014	City Life	500607	London Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Spring 2014	City Life	500603	Barcelona Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Spring 2014	City Life	500601	Skyfall Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Summer 2014	Rio	600610	Nike Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Summer 2014	Rio	600604	Miami Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Winter 2014	City Life	001040	WR1040		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Winter 2014	City Life	001041	WR1041		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Winter 2014	City Life	500605	Sidney Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Winter 2014	City Life	001037	WR1037		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Winter 2014	City Life	001036	WR1036		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Winter 2014	City Life	001039	WR1039		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Summer 2014	Rio	600241	NY Strength Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo
Infra Womens	Summer 2014	Rio	600610	Rugbali		Just Started	Footwear	Hood	High Hood	Woo
Infra Womens	Summer 2014	Rio	600617	Sidney		Just Started	Footwear	Sandals	High Heel	Woo
Infra Mens	Summer 2014	City Life	600616	Matt		Just Started	Footwear	Loafer (SD)	xxx Product Sub sub.	Mul
Infra Womens	Spring 2014	City Life	600671	Oslo Dress		In Concept	Dress	Business Dress	xxx Product Sub sub.	Woo

Example of a fashion PLM system.

The main reason for that is that many PLM systems were designed without taking into account the complex nature of the fashion business. Certain variables like size, color, and collections are integrated with ease. But due to a shorter product lifecycle in the fashion industry, integration of a greater variation of products has been challenging.

A solution for that is selecting the PLM system that is specifically designed for the fashion industry. Techpacker displays all your design info visually - in one place. You get to see the big picture in one glance and edit on the go. Just like a mood board, this lets you focus and coordinate your work.



Techpacker displays all your design info visually.

4. THE LEARNING CURVE AND INVESTMENT.

PLM systems are bloated with features. To make the most of PLM software, all departments, including designers, product developers, merchandisers, and accounting teams, will need special training to use it. As well as the resources that your company will spend on training and a high subscription fee for using the PLM software.

A solution to that is building a custom PLM system that will be tailored specifically to your business. A system that does not remove or disrupt the existing workflow of each department but rather connects them to yield optimal results. For example, integrating industry-leading software into your management system.

Techpacker lets you build your own custom PLM system by easily integrating with the top fashion industry solutions so your team can continue working with their current choice of technology.

4

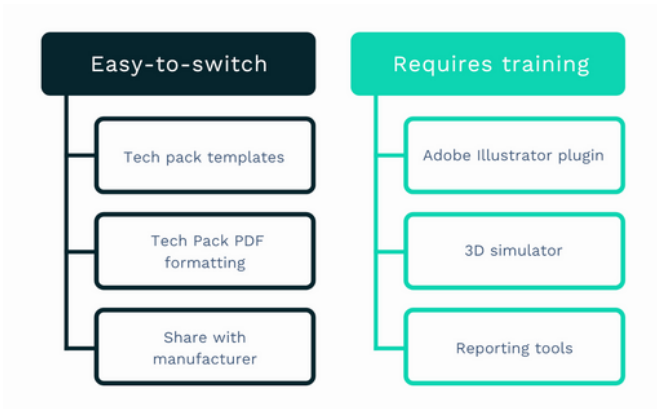
HOW TO CHOOSE A PLM FOR YOUR SMALL FASHION BUSINESS.

The right PLM solution will provide your team with a central place for managing the product lifecycle efficiently and cost-effectively. Choosing from a variety of PLM systems entails a careful decision-making process and includes many aspects like ease of use, features, pricing, and your own business goals.

The ultimate goal in this journey is not necessarily to choose the most advanced PLM, but a solution that best suits your fashion business needs and your budget. There are [seven factors to consider](#) when choosing the right fashion PLM.

1. EASE OF USE.

When searching for a PLM solution, most design teams are mostly looking for a central place for the entire team to design, develop, and brainstorm. In short, an easy data management system. A PLM platform should be visual and allow a user to easily log in and get a sense of how the basics work.



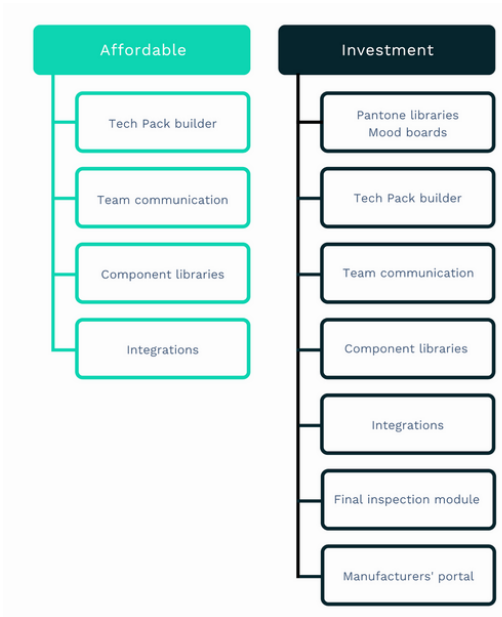
If you have experience with PLM solutions and are looking for more advanced features, your team might require some special training and extra time to adjust. For example, a PLM platform that has integration with 3D tools requires knowledge of 3D prototyping or hiring a 3D designer.

Before you begin your selection process, identify how much time you have to adopt a new solution and onboard the entire team. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you looking for a quick switch or do you have the resources to invest in training?
- Are you looking for a simple data management tool or for an advanced PLM platform?

2. THE COST OF IMPLEMENTATION.

Before, only large corporations could afford to adopt PLM solutions. Now, there are plenty of options available for small to medium-sized teams. Some of them offer a free trial or a starter pack for “essentials”.

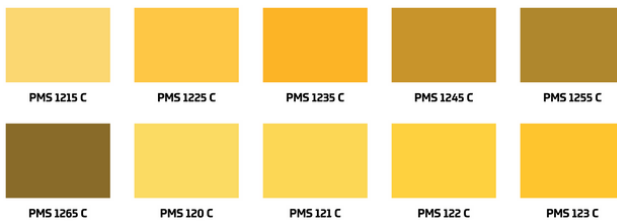


The cost of a fashion PLM depends on what features it offers.

The basic PLM for fashion should include tools needed to create factory-ready tech packs and have integration options so you can use platforms like Adobe Illustrator in a bundle.

Having a communication channel within a platform is a plus, so you can keep all product development and sample-making comments well organized and the team's communication can stay up-to-date.

Some PLM systems offer extras like Pantone libraries, tools to create inspirational mood boards, flexible calendars to manage deadlines and meet market windows, Final Inspection Modules to set acceptable quality levels and evaluation points for suppliers, etc. Obviously, such PLM systems are higher in price.

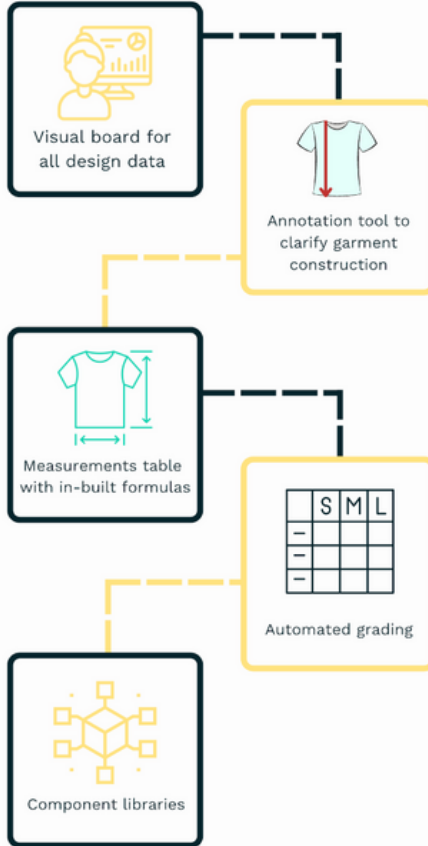


3. TECH PACKS.

Tech pack is a blueprint of every fashion product. And the ultimate goal of every fashion PLM is to make the process of building tech packs fast and easy. A great PLM has to also act as organized storage for all your design assets. A technical designer should be able to easily locate a measurement table from the past season, for example, and reuse it in future collections.

Some PLMs make it simple by providing the ability to build component libraries that can be easily re-used to build new tech packs. That also helps to keep the sizing consistent throughout collections and avoid fluctuations between measurements.

Tools for faster and better Tech Packs



In-built product annotation tools also come in handy when you need to quickly annotate your sketches to clarify product construction, without the need to waste time switching to Illustrator.

PLMs with in-built formulas and automated grading help build measurement tables fast and avoid unnecessary mistakes.

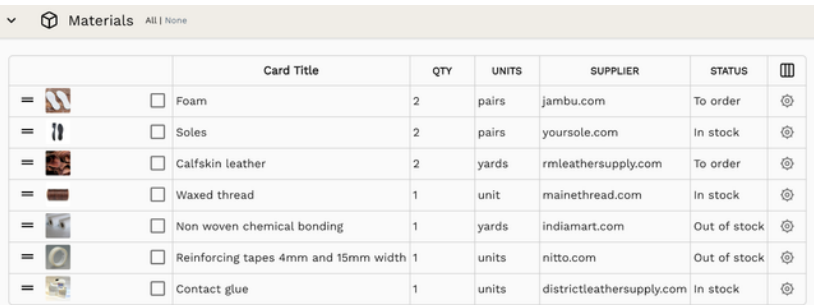
4. REPORTING.













In the fashion business, reporting tools are very important. For example, a brand needs to know the material consumption and how much needs to be ordered. Or how many items per style are sold each season and what needs to be restocked. Ideally, the PLM system has to be able to report on any data point that you want to collect.

For brands with larger inventories, the whole reporting process becomes even more complicated. The ability to quickly update the status of every material, without going into each tech pack file is a must. Otherwise, it takes too long and causes many mistakes.

Make a list of reporting features that your brand needs. For example:

- ✔ Materials consumption per garment.
- ✔ In-stock and out-of-stock materials.
- ✔ Sales reports for demand planning.



	Card Title	QTY	UNITS	SUPPLIER	STATUS	
<input type="checkbox"/> 	Foam	2	pairs	jambu.com	To order	
<input type="checkbox"/> 	Soles	2	pairs	yoursole.com	In stock	
<input type="checkbox"/> 	Calfskin leather	2	yards	rmleathersupply.com	To order	
<input type="checkbox"/> 	Waxed thread	1	unit	mainthread.com	In stock	
<input type="checkbox"/> 	Non woven chemical bonding	1	yards	indiamart.com	Out of stock	
<input type="checkbox"/> 	Reinforcing tapes 4mm and 15mm width	1	units	nitto.com	Out of stock	
<input type="checkbox"/> 	Contact glue	1	units	districtleathersupply.com	In stock	

On Techpacker all statuses are visually seen on the Materials boards. You can see what you have in stock or what needs to be replenished.

Tip: make a list of things that you would like to monitor while your team is working on the product.

Some PLM systems also offer tools to track the progress of your product development. For every stage of your tech pack, you can set start and end dates. And track the completion progress in percentages to keep your team members up to date on the state of the tech packs.

Such PLM systems also offer a trackable log of each change made to these planned start and end dates. The activity log will record which team member added or amended the planned dates, the time, and the date the change was made.

5. MANUFACTURER'S ONBOARDING.

Sample-making and production are two important stages of every product development process. While many PLMs offer an option to share tech packs directly with the manufacturers, some provide a channel to directly communicate with factories or even an option to onboard them.

While not many manufacturers are ready to invest in adopting PLM solutions for their business, PLMs that provide an opportunity to keep correspondence with the factory in one place is gaining popularity. We can all agree that having production comments spread out throughout emails is messy.

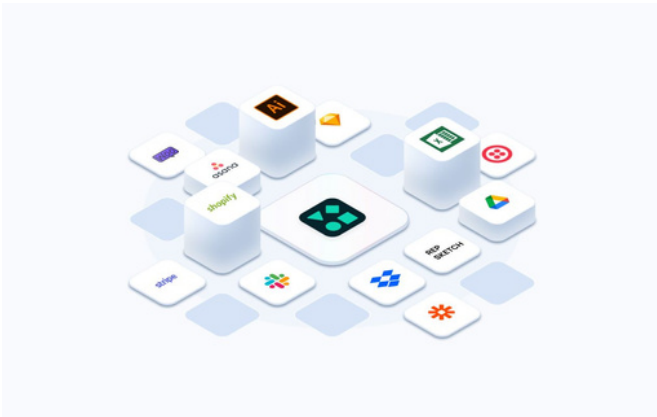
While managing multiple tech packs and having hundreds of garments in production, it is almost impossible to locate a specific comment or status update about each sample in the email thread. So many businesses who are shopping for PLM software, are looking for a solution that keeps correspondence with manufacturers organized and in one designated place.

Tip: if you are looking for a solution that provides an option to onboard manufacturers, look for a PLM system that has a centralized vendor portal.

6. AUTOMATION AND INTEGRATION.

Automation and integration have been proven to increase a team's efficiency. A good selection of third-party integrations helps the design team be more productive as well as cover the functions that many PLMs don't have, like communication channels, graphic design plugins, or point-of-sale systems. Integrations can make the onboarding process a lot easier. For example, with Google Sheets integration, you can transfer all your existing data from your spreadsheets to your new PLM system, without the need to copy and paste it.

If you are using Adobe Illustrator to draw flat sketches, a PLM that has integration with this platform will save you a ton of time. You will be able to easily transfer and edit technical sketches without leaving your Illustrator workspace. Not even mentioning how much time you will save on formatting!



There are other essential integrations for fashion businesses, like Shopify for e-commerce. You will be able to create listings right from your PLM platform. Slack integration for team communication, Replika for fashion flat templates, Dropbox for secure data storage, and many more.

The great thing about integrations is that you get to build your own custom PLM solution. You only choose the ones you need, tailored to your business needs.

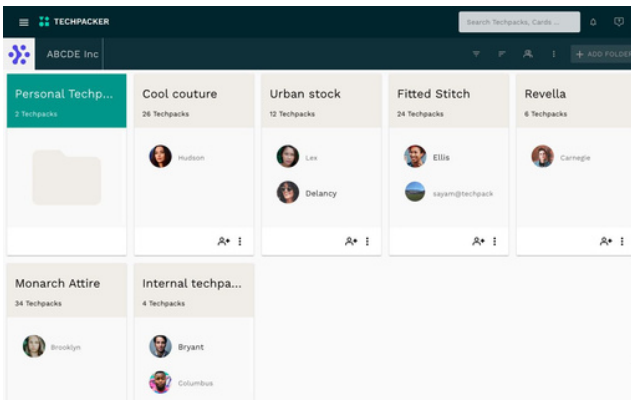
7. SECURITY.

PLM systems are often adopted by fashion consulting firms that manage multiple clients on a daily basis. These consulting firms work with a great amount of fashion data. And they need it to be not just well-organized, but also securely accessible for their clients.

As a solution to this, some PLM platforms allow design teams to create separate folders for each client. These folders can be accessed only by those you give permission to.

Some PLM systems also offer view-only options. So your clients can preview the tech pack without having the ability to edit anything in it. Similarly, you can give certain permissions to each team member. For example, you can select to grant different types of roles and permissions. Like setting an admin, editor, or a person who manages the costings or sourcing only. When switching to a new PLM platform, you want to make sure that all your design data will be safe.

Check what security standards the new system sticks to. You also need to be able to access your work files from anywhere, anytime. A PLM system should offer data backup and recovery, and data encryption for security.



On Techpacker all tech packs can be organized into folders to keep client's data secure.

5

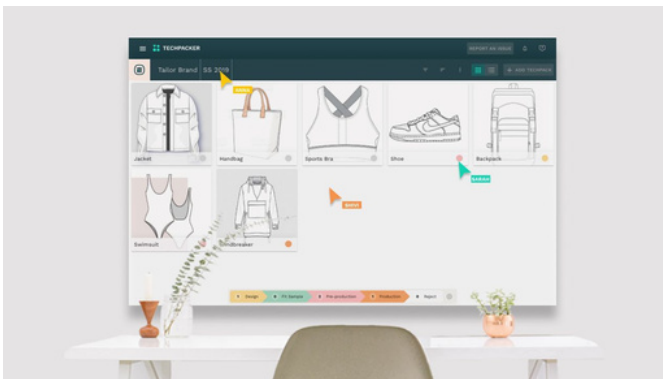
BEST PLM SOFTWARE FOR FASHION IN 2022.

The fashion market offers many PLM options to choose from, and we understand that it can be challenging to decide where to start. Below are [six PLM solutions](#) that represent a variety of price points and features.

BEST AFFORDABLE PLM

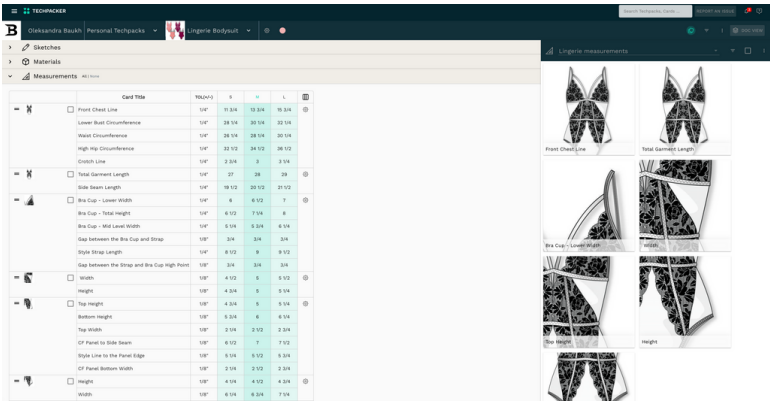
Techpacker is a powerful cloud-based data management tool for fashion brands and manufacturers. It helps both sides to collaborate effectively through all stages of product development.

[Techpacker](#) helps design teams create comprehensive [tech packs](#). It provides pre-set tables for Bill of Materials, Costing Sheets, Measurement Sheets, and re-usable libraries - secure storage for all your technical data that can be utilized across multiple tech packs. With a click of a button, all the design data and sketches can be transformed into a PDF document that can be directly shared with the manufacturer.



Instead of creating a brand new complex software, Techpacker is bringing industry-leading software right into your Techpacker workspace.

Connect Techpacker to your Adobe Illustrator to easily adjust sketches, seamlessly integrate Excel Spreadsheets, instantly create Shopify listings using your tech packs or securely keep your files with Dropbox.



Build new tech packs fast with card libraries

FEATURES

- Easily transfer your data from Excel to Techpacker.
- Transfer technical sketches using the Techpacker’s Adobe Illustrator plugin.
- Add callouts to your technical sketches directly on Techpacker.
- Develop comprehensive tech packs including Measurement Specs, Grading Sheets, Bill of Materials, Costing Sheets, Fit Sheets, etc.
- Build reusable component libraries for future collections.
- Communicate with the entire team in real-time.
- Share tech packs directly with the manufacturer, and receive comments and updates from them. Compare tech pack versions during the sample-making.
- Track product development stages and get status updates on each product.
- Easy integrations with other software.

PRICING

The basic plan starts at \$45 per user per month.

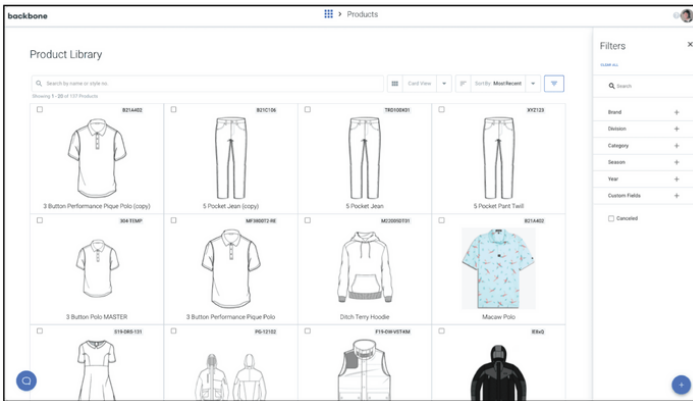
SUMMARY

Although Techpacker is not entirely an end-to-end PLM solution, its powerful integration setup lets you customize your own by connecting your current apps and services. That's why it's an affordable option for many modern fashion businesses. Plus their user interface is extremely designer-friendly so it's a perfect solution to avoid the headache of implementation.

BEST PLM FOR SCALING A BUSINESS

[Backbone](#) is a digital workspace that helps product creators create, collaborate, and scale. Backbone PLM was created to meet the needs of emerging modern DTC brands.

Backbone PLM provides design teams with all tools needed to develop and share flexible tech packs. Including Measurement Spec Sheets, Bill of Materials, and component libraries that can be reused in future tech packs. The system also provides you with powerful reporting tools for line sheets and utilization data.



FEATURES

- Transfer technical sketches using Backbone’s Adobe Illustrator plugin.
- Build component libraries that can be reused, edited, or updated with ease.
- Manage product and component colorways using Pantone libraries.
- Draw callouts and add annotations to the technical sketches.
- Backbone provides you with the tools needed to develop Measurement Specs and a Bill of Materials.
- Use reporting tools for line sheet reports and component utilization reports.
- Integrations with top fashion industry software.

PRICING

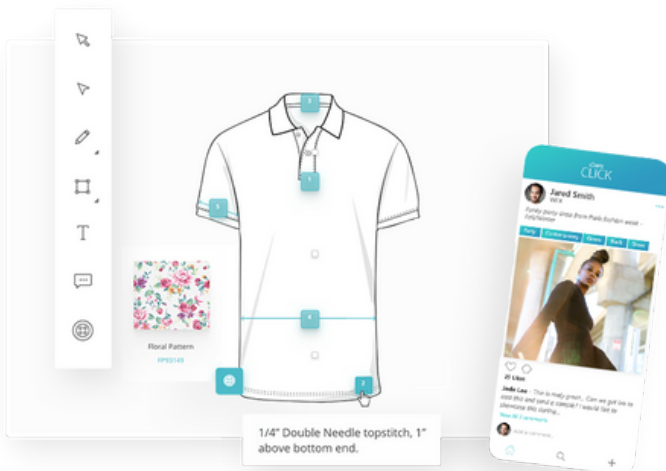
The basic plan starts at \$99 per user per month.

SUMMARY

Backbone is a great solution for growing teams. They allow businesses to easily scale while using the same system.

BEST PLM FOR MULTI-CHANNEL COMMUNICATION

[WFX PLM software](#) is an end-to-end product lifecycle software for the apparel, footwear, accessories, and consumer goods industries. It enables easy collaboration among internal teams and vendors. WFX PLM allows companies to centralize all product development information and provides inbuilt tools to share tech packs, costings, RQFs, Sample Requests, and Purchase Orders.



WFX is end-to-end and covers the entire life cycle from concept to production. Its platform, mobile apps, and analytics provide a 360-degree view of product data across your company.

FEATURES

- Connect to Adobe Illustrator to push product information & artwork automatically to WFX.
- Capture photos of style ideas and product inspiration while on buying trips and trade shows.
- Collection planning: view margins, costs, and revenue for an entire collection or range.
- Create tech packs with a comprehensive product and material attributes, images, Bill of Materials, graded measurements, specs, and multilingual care instructions.
- Clarify product construction with an in-app annotation tool.
- Capture comments and approvals. Easily notify vendors of revisions.
- Build product costs. Manage all cost types - Cut Make, FOB, Landed & Delivered.
- Create sample and purchase orders. Track stages of products in development and their timelines.
- Improve communication flow with a centralized vendor portal.
- Track each product's status and identify delays.
- WFX PLM can be used alongside any custom-built application or other tools.

PRICING

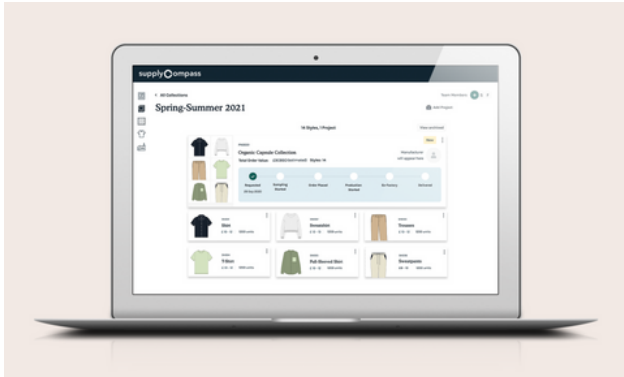
Reach out directly for pricing.

SUMMARY

WFX is a great PLM solution for brands, that want to manage the entire product lifecycle and communication on a single platform.

BEST EASY-TO-USE PLM

[Supply Compass](#) is Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) technology for fashion and apparel. Supply Compass focuses on enabling quick and easy collaboration between fashion brands and their whole manufacturer network.



Supply Compass provides design teams with a shared workspace for product development, communication, and order details. This PLM solution can be used as a full production system or use features of it alongside other business systems.

FEATURES

- Create component libraries with Supply Compass Style Builder.
- Develop digital tech packs and share them with manufacturers.
- Collaborate directly with manufacturers through the sample-making process.
- Manage collections and orders.
- Create inspirational mood boards with annotations feature.
- Track product stages, and set key dates and milestones.
- Manage purchase orders.

PRICING

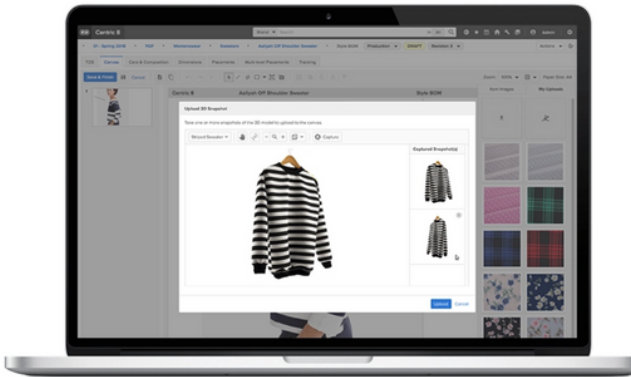
Starts at \$350 per user per month.

SUMMARY

Supply Compass is easy to use for teams of all sizes. It is a great solution for fashion brands that want to build a close relationship with manufacturers.

BEST PLM FOR BRANDS WITH MULTIPLE PRODUCT STYLES

[Centric Software](#) is a PLM solution created for a variety of industries. Centric PLM covers the whole product lifecycle process and helps brands increase speed to market, drive margin improvement, enhance global collaboration, and ensure compliance across a global supply chain.



FEATURES

- Merchandise planning: manage seasons, departments, and collections.
- Create technical documentation for multiple product styles.
- Easily-managed materials library.
- Supply chain visibility and control with Centric Product Sourcing.
- Dynamic electronic collection of books for presentations.
- Flexible calendars to manage deadlines, resolve bottlenecks and meet market windows.
- Set acceptable quality levels and evaluation points for suppliers with the Final Inspection Module.

PRICING

Reach out directly for pricing.

SUMMARY

Centric PLM is great for brands with large inventories and multiple product styles. If you are looking for a solution that will help manage production and quality control, this one is for you.

BEST PLM FOR EASY IMPLEMENTATION

[Gerber Yunique](#) is product lifecycle management software for the apparel and retail industries. The cloud-based solution provides a single, reliable source for all product information that can easily be integrated into multiple design programs.

Gerber Yunique PLM Fast Start is the perfect choice for small to mid-sized fashion companies looking to implement a product development platform easily and quickly.



FEATURES

- Get started immediately with pre-populated templates and industry-standard data using the Gerber Yunique PLM Fast Start.
- Create and modify styles, color palettes, images, and more without ever leaving Adobe Illustrator.
- Snap photos for inspiration, while merchants and sales professionals can communicate easily using visuals.
- Manage and track samples from prototype request to final approval.
- Integration with design tools like AccuMark 2D/3D.
- Stay on top of key milestones with real-time data.
- Build new designs based on past sales reports.

PRICING

Reach out directly for pricing.

SUMMARY

Gerber Yunique PLM is a great option for companies that are looking for easy implementation of a new data management system.

6

SEVEN STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUR NEW FASHION PLM SYSTEM.

Once you have selected the right PLM solution for your small fashion business, the next phase is to implement it into your work routine. We developed a guide consisting of 7 steps for small to medium size businesses to [implement a new PLM](#).



STEP 1. IDENTIFY THE RIGHT TEAM FOR THE PROJECT.

Identifying the right team for the project is a crucial part of the PLM implementation process. And the entire journey depends on this stage. Start by preparing a list of stakeholders who will be a part of the implementation process. In the future, they will work closely with the PLM team.

A list of stakeholders may include the following positions:

PLM LEAD

A PLM lead is a person who can own the entire implementation project and be the eyes and ears for all the communication that happens throughout the process. They can track the implementation progress as well as make sure that the system is being utilized in the correct direction and as envisioned.

KEY USERS

Prepare the list of initial key users who would be actively involved in the meetings and training. They could be from various departments. For example, you can have the product manager represent the design aspect of the business, the merchandiser takes care of the communication with the manufacturer, the technical person involved in all the tasks related to operations, etc.

END USERS

Having a list of end users along with all their details handy is always a great idea to avoid any delays in the process and make sure that the department owners or key users are aware of their team.

IT MANAGER

Identify the right personnel from the IT department to be a part of the initial set-up process and make sure they are well trained on all the aspects for future troubleshooting if required.

ACCOUNT MANAGER

It can be a good idea to include your concerned account manager or portfolio manager to ensure there is transparency in the expectations and the results.



STEP 2. ALIGN THE NEW SYSTEM'S POTENTIAL WITH YOUR GOALS.

The first kick-off call is that golden opportunity where you discover the best potential of the system and align it with your goals, ensuring that the further plan goes as per the vision and intention. The agenda of the kick-off call can be structured as below:

CURRENT PROCESS OUTLINE.

Includes discussing and explaining everything about your current process with the PLM team and mentioning all the possible required details.

CURRENT CHALLENGES.

Outline the challenges in the current process or system. For example, in the current system, the tracking of progress through the stages of the product development is not transparent. The last update/progress is made by whom and when is not trackable by all.

SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM GOALS.

There is always an end goal while implementing any PLM, but it can be more efficient if you divide your end-term goals into 2 parts: short-term goals and long-term goals. Short-term goals are the immediate priority goals for the new PLM and the relevance of achieving those in the current process. Long-term goals - the long envisioned and ultimate goal for the new PLM that you want to achieve after about 6-8 months of using the system.

DISCUSS THE DATE REQUIRED.

Clearly underline all the requirements and the information that is needed for the PLM account set-up and initial rollout.

STEP 3. PROVIDE ALL THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AND DATA.

Try to provide all the required data for the account set-up and data in-house. For example:

- The users' list
- The organization chart
- The current product development data
- The current format of communication with manufacturers
- The historic data to be in-housed

STEP 4. SET UP ACCOUNTS AND INTEGRATIONS.

After understanding the PLM system well and the scope of the new system, it is always a good idea to define the settings and customizations required for the initial set-up. For example:

- Default settings for the organization
- User roles and permissions
- Admin settings
- Customizations required
- Integrations required
- Data to be in-housed or migrated

It is highly possible that you might need to pen down all the requirements that will be needed in the future after the system is implemented. Discuss this with the PLM team beforehand and ensure the right approach to incorporate those in the future. For example, you need to integrate your inventory management platform with the PLM to create a live inventory in the system. But that is something that is a future requirement as you would like to do that only when the PLM is fully adopted by your team. Discuss the roadmap for the same beforehand and keep all the requirements handy.

STEP 5. INTERNALLY TEST THE PLM SET UP.

Once the set-up has been done and the current process has been mapped in the PLM, make sure your PLM lead tests it internally and gives the go-ahead for the further roll-out. You need to make sure that all your product development stakeholders and end users will be able to use the system without any failure and with the least amount of friction.

For example, you can check if:

- The users' profiles and their information are set up correctly, along with the respective roles and permissions.
- The company's information is housed correctly.
- A pilot run of the flow is set up in the new system.

STEP 6. TRAIN THE USERS AND GO-LIVE.

After all the set-up is finalized and approved, roll it out to your users and demonstrate the entire PLM system and their roles in the new system. Train them well for their respective roles and make sure to help them if they are facing any difficulty in understanding or learning. And guide them to reach out to the concerned person from the PLM team to raise any query, or if any future help is required.



STEP 7. TRACK THE USERS' ADOPTION.

It's not only about getting your users trained and rolling out the system to the team. The next milestone is to ensure product adoption by your team and the smooth incorporation of the change into the existing process. Some of the ways you can track the progress are:

- Track login frequency.
- The time spent on the platform or views on the page.
- The data input into the system by each user.
- Track and analyze the reports generated by the PLM.
- Track KPIs and milestones within the platform. For example, reducing the time of inputting the designs of the product, streamlining the communication channel within the team, reducing input errors, and increasing accuracy with the inputs, etc.
- Keep a weekly or bi-weekly meeting between your key point of contact or the PLM Lead and the PLM team to make sure you are closing the loop.

Product adoption takes time and it has a learning curve, so set realistic expectations with the end users and the system. The tracking of their progress will help avoid any long-term issues, and the blockers can be nipped in the bud if known at the right time, hence aligned with the smooth transition.

7

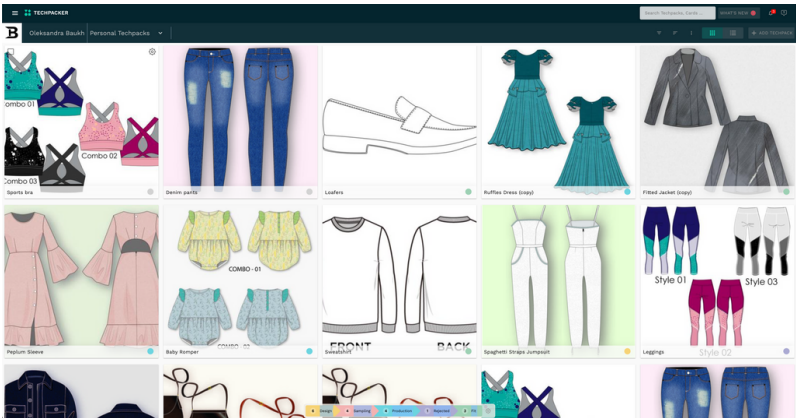
SIX REASONS TO CHOOSE TECHPACKER OVER FASHION PLM SOFTWARE.

If you're looking for a platform to design and manage your fashion products in the most effortless way possible, [Techpacker](#) is the platform for you.

On Techpacker you can find everything that a traditional PLM has like tech packs, [versioning](#), [bill of materials](#), [design libraries](#), [costing](#), etc. But it does a few things that fulfill your real needs better.

YOUR DESIGN ELEMENTS ARE DISPLAYED VISUALLY.

Techpacker knows how your creative mind works. It displays all your design info visually - in one place. You get to see the big picture at one glance. Your entire fashion design, with all its intricate details. Just like a mood board, this lets you focus, coordinate your work and get your creative juices flowing.



YOU BUILD AND MANAGE YOUR FASHION PRODUCTS LIKE PLAYING WITH LEGO BLOCKS.

Techpacker lets you manipulate your design info visually. Logo, fabric, or point of measurement, each of your design detail is now a [Card](#). Think of cards as Lego blocks. You can assemble them in any number of ways to create new tech packs. Swap them between tech packs, edit them, and reuse them in seconds. Creating and copying specs is effortless. You drag and drop instead of uploading. And making updates to a tech pack becomes lightning fast.



TECHPACKER MAKES COMMUNICATION LASER-FOCUSED.

One of the biggest issues of traditional PLM systems is that their communication channels are pretty old-fashioned. Talking between departments, team members, and vendors is done in a long-winded dialogue similar to an email thread.

On Techpacker, conversations aren't spilled out all over the place or collected in one messy inbox. You can chat in real-time on any card.

8

GET MORE VALUE FROM YOUR TOOLS WITH TECHPACKER INTEGRATIONS

Instead of creating brand new complex software, we are bringing [industry-leading software](#) right into your Techpacker workspace. The result is your own PLM system tailored specifically to your company's needs.

The major points that make it so great are:

SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATE EXCEL SPREADSHEETS.

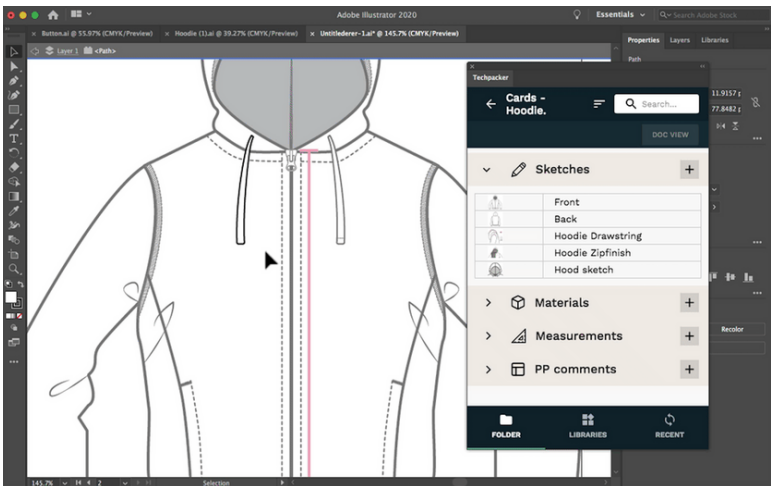
There is no doubt that your Excel spreadsheets can carry a lot of important technical data. In other words, you've got a lot invested in Excel. Grading sheets, costing tables, bill of materials, you name it. A lot of that data can be reused to build new tech packs. Making the switch to a PLM solution can be daunting and time-consuming if you have to learn how to use the new system.

With Techpacker's Excel integration you can easily transfer your design files and edit them down from there. It's especially helpful when working with the costing department. Simply transfer your Excel costing info to your tech pack, edit, and reuse at any time when needed.

CREATE TECH PACKS IN ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR.

Fashion designers use Adobe Illustrator primarily to draw technical sketches. After the drawings are complete, designers download them in a specific format and add them to their tech pack. And if any edit is needed? They go back to Illustrator, edit the sketches, download them again and upload them to the tech pack...again. Lots of back and forth!

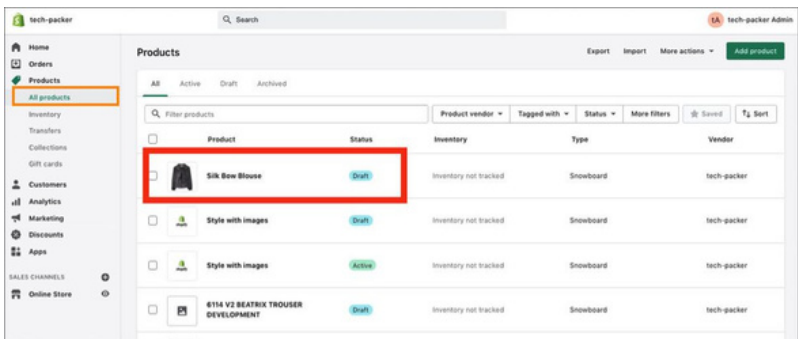
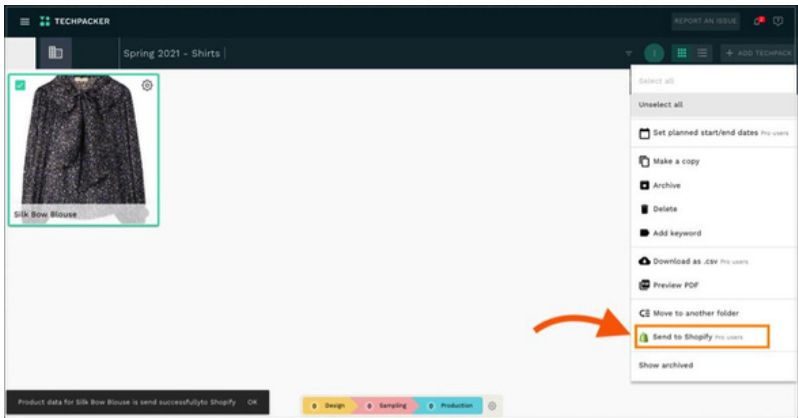
Can you imagine how much time can be saved if there was no need to switch between the platforms for a single edit? With our Adobe Illustrator integration, you will not only sync every edit without the need to transfer files every time. You will also be able to [build tech packs right in Illustrator](#).



BRING PRODUCTS TO MARKET FASTER.

If you are already selling your products through Shopify you definitely know how long it takes to create product listings with photos, sizing info, and description. With Techpacker's Shopify integration you can transfer all the essential info to your online store straight from Techpacker.

In [a few easy steps](#), you can integrate your design sketches or photos, sizing options, and descriptions of the garment from your tech pack to your Shopify marketplace. This is especially helpful for brands with bigger inventories. You won't need to manually export and format files between platforms anymore. And the best thing - Techpacker will synchronize all edits for you. If anything changes in your tech pack, your Shopify listings will automatically reflect that.



KEEP YOUR FILES SECURE WITH DROPBOX.

Looking for a solution to centralize your work data and make sure you never lose a single file? Take advantage of our Dropbox extension. In a few clicks transfer your tech packs to your Dropbox folders. Safely store your design assets in a single place, and organize and recover the needed files at any time.

Once your project is completed, securely share it. Complete it with password protection and expiration date. Make sure your manufacturer receives them with delivery confirmation.

