

TRADITIONAL DESIGN

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Stefanie Schwankner, Manager Export & Project Finance Brückner Group

“I suppose I am what you would call a proud Bavarian,” says Stefanie Schwankner. Accordingly, she sets great store by the local dialect, local customs – and traditional clothing. While the men wear lederhosen, waistcoat and jacket, traditionally minded Bavarian women like to wear a dirndl. “Whether at big festivals, in the beer tent or at family gatherings, you're always well-dressed in a dirndl – that's what we say here in Bavaria.”

Stefanie, who works as an Export & Project Finance Manager in the Brückner Group, sews the traditional clothing herself: “My grandmother always used to sew. I used to love sewing as a child, especially cushions, curtains or fancy dress. And then in 2010, I went to a sewing course for dirndls.” She took over her grandmother's robust sewing machine, which was almost 50 years old. “It still works perfectly,” she laughs. However, there are some parts – like decorative elements or the hem of the dress and apron – that she sews painstakingly by hand.

The young costume designer has sewn five complete outfits for herself to date – three dresses and various tops and aprons. “You can mix and match them at will depending on the occasion: for instance, a silk apron is more festive than a cotton or linen one.” The 29-year-old buys her materials from regional retailers specialising in traditional costume materials: “You can also find buttons, lace and other accessories there.”

Stefanie is proud of her dirndls. With her boyfriend Sebastian, she likes going out in public in traditional dress. “He comes from Tyrol (Austria), and on these occasions he wears lederhosen and a shirt matching my dirndl.”

THE DIRNDL is a traditional form of women's clothing in Bavaria. It consists of an intricately stitched dress, apron and blouse.

25-30 HOURS are needed just to sew the dirndl.

THE SEWING MACHINE used by Stefanie Schwankner is 60 years old.

LINEN, COTTON AND SILK are the materials used.



STEFANIE SCHWANKNER

Lives in: Palling (Germany)

Joined the Brückner Group: 2015

Loves: Home, travelling, getting to know new countries and people

