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Esquire

## This Is Basically the Perfect Shirt for Travel

Brooklyn-based Outlier just released a merino broadcloth button-front.



Outlier



BY JONATHAN EVANS AUG 8, 2017



**W**hen the team at [Outlier](#) develops a new product, they take their time. Case in point, the brand's new merino woven shirt. A knitted merino T-shirt has been part of the Outlier stable of products for years, thanks to the material's heat- and odor-regulating properties—not to mention comfort. But in 2010 when cofounders Tyler Clemens and Abe Burmeister started looking into a button-front broadcloth version (aka, made from a traditional shirt fabric), they hit a wall. Shirting mills were focused on cotton and linen, and suiting mills saw shirts as "beneath them," says Clemens.

**SHOP:** [outlier.nyc](#)

So Outlier decided to make its own fabric. It took seven years and a few failed attempts, but today the brand is launching a trio of woven merino shirts created in partnership with Albin (the family-owned group that has Thomas Mason and Albiate under its umbrella). And even if you're not a fabric nerd, you should have these shirts on your radar. Aside from the cut (expert) and the feel (incredibly soft), they're pretty much perfect for travel thanks to merino's long-wearing nature. (Read: you don't need to wash them as much.) We sat down with Clemens to talk about how everything came together.



Outlier

## On the fabric itself:

It's nature's finest performance fabric woven with all the knowledge of a traditional Italian shirting mill. Beautifully soft to wear and remarkably dry to the touch, merino pulls moisture to the core of the fiber, allowing you to wear it longer in comfort. It's wrinkle-averse and naturally odor-resistant so you can wear it day in and day out without worry.

It really starts at the fiber level where we sourced a 16.5 micron merino wool and then spun it into a 90s two-ply yarn to create a super soft and luxe-feeling broadcloth shirting. Basically a Super 140s-level shirting fabric. Although Albini are masters at making Italian shirting fabrics, they did not have as much experience with washable wool, so we set out and connected our wool supply chain to create this fabric: a 100% washable wool shirting created to be worn in all seasons for everyday wear.



Outlier

## **On the three shirt silhouettes:**

The Albini Merino Broadcloth comes in three different styles. We wanted to push what we could do with this fabric in a few different directions so the first style we developed was the [Y-Front](#). This style was intended to be the more casual shirt that you could wear open or even paired with track pants, but would also look great buttoned all the way up with chinos or a five-pocket pant. We've also found it performs well in summer heat because there's no collar.

The second is the [Hidden Placket shirt](#), which could be used in more semi-formal settings but would subtly push boundaries in terms of design and aesthetic. It has a covered placket piece, split back yoke and a unique set-in chest pocket.

The third shirt is our [Button-Up](#), which is intended to be worn as an everyday shirt—something that can be worn to work or used after for maximum versatility.

## **On what's next for Outlier:**

Right now we're working on some pieces for high summer use and some more shirts as we move into fall. Every week we release new product, so check back Tuesdays to see the latest. We're always on the hunt, digging up new fabrics, trying to push silhouettes and construction and striving to take our products to the next level.