THE HIGHLANDER COLLECTION

THE HIGHLANDER COLLECTION: A tartan design is a pattern of intersecting stripes that run horizontally & vertically through a woven fabric to form a plaid pattern. The word "tartan" actually refers to the weave construction for these plaids: each yarn passed over two yarns & then under two yarns & so on...forming a 2 x 2 twill weave. The original plaid patterns utilized a limited range of dye colors & were woven with coarser types of wool. Tartan plaids were typically used to make kilts, skirts & other accessories.

A "Clan Tartan" is the regular "sett" or pattern of a clan or family. ("Clan" is a term used for family). Tartan plaids have become associated with various clans from Scotland & Ireland. The idea of Clan Tartans was created when Sir Walter Scott suggested "Let every man wear his tartan" when King George IV was to first visit Scotland. By the end of the 19th Century, all of the recognized clans had their own distinctive tartans. The significance of the tartan plaid as a national dress, formed a clan tartan for every "name", even for those that previously had none. Since the clans & families tended to be regional, the tartan came to represent the family from that specific area or district. There are three districts in Scotland in which tartan plaids are associated: Highlands, Lowlands & the Border, which is the area between these two districts.

Tartan plaids can also come in a variety of color ways. There are two different types of tartan plaids used for clothing: "*Hunting*" tartans, which have more subdued & darker color character & "*Dress*" tartans, which are brighter in coloration. "*Hunting*" tartans were used for sport or everyday wear. Dark colors were predominant so that the wearer could blend in with the environment. They typically used green, navy & sometimes brown as the main yarn colors. "*Dress*" tartans were used for more formal or special occasions. They were sometimes made by changing the background color of the clan to white. However, red & yellow were also used in "*Dress*" tartans as the dominant ground color.