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Smart shirt rolls up its own sleeves

By Robert Uhlig Technology Correspondent Last Updated: 12:42AM BST 26 Jul 2001

A SHIRT that never needs ironing and which rolls up its own sleeves when its wearer gets too hot has been unveiled by an Italian fashion house.

Made of an alloy called nitinol interspersed with nylon, the shirt has a characteristic called shape memory that enables designers to incorporate several advanced features.

"The sleeve fabric is programmed to shorten as soon as the room temperature becomes a few degrees hotter," said Susan Clowes, for Corpo Nove, of Florence, the shirt's developer.

The £2,500 shirt could be a traveller's dream, New Scientist reports. Creases can be removed even while the shirt is being worn because the nitinol alloy returns to its original shape when heated to a certain temperature.

"Even if the fabric is screwed up into a ball, pleated and creased, a blast from a hairdryer pops it back to its former shape," Miss Clowes said.

City workers are unlikely to be wearing the shirt, not least because it is available only in metallic grey.



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