

Before you say “I’ll take it.”

The photo caught your eye. Before you decide, run through this list.

- ☐ I’ve seen **the whole garment**, front and back, and the details I need.
- ☐ I know **where the flaws are**, how much of the garment they affect and whether they change how I would use it.
- ☐ I’ve compared **measurements taken the same way** with a similar garment that fits me well.
- ☐ I know which details **are missing or uncertain**. Reading the listing has not made them certain.
- ☐ I’ve read **the care instructions** available; if I’m unsure about a treatment, I ask before trying it.
- ☐ I’ve checked **the full cost and the terms**: garment, shipping, any fees and any work needed.

The label says M. But which M?

For a top, compare the armpit-to-armpit width with the garment laid flat and unstretched. This is a flat measurement, not a measurement around your chest.

For length, specify the starting point on the shoulder and where you finish at the hem. Ask for a photo with the tape measure. Cut and stretch matter: similar measurements do not guarantee the same fit.

Important questions still unanswered? You can wait. This list helps you ask questions; it does not certify the garment.

Ask for something they can show you.

“Could you send the armpit-to-armpit and shoulder-to-hem measurements with the garment laid flat? If possible, add a photo with the tape measure so I can compare the same points on my own top.”

About a flaw: “Could you show me the worn cuff, both close up and with the whole sleeve in view?”

About what’s included: “Is the belt in the photo included, or is the listing just for the trousers?”

The washing machine can wait.

Start with the care label. The fibre alone is not enough to choose a treatment. If instructions are missing or you’re unsure, ask a professional cleaner. For alterations, speak to a tailor before counting on a repair.

If you no longer wear it.

Describe your garment with facts you can observe: labelled size, measurements and method, readable labels, flaws, repairs and missing parts. For Vinted: your own photos of the actual item, no stock photos, retouching or unrelated brands. If you doubt its authenticity, don’t list it until those doubts are resolved.

Would you wear it tomorrow? An occasion and an outfit using what you already own are a good starting point. You don’t have to buy it.

Sources and limits. Original text based on the RUMBAHP materials (December 2025). Checked on 28 September 2026 against Vinted: describing an item (Italian page), catalogue rules and GINETEX: care instructions. Comparing with your own garment is the method I suggest. It does not certify authenticity, age, fit or absence of flaws. The terms of sale and the garment’s instructions still apply. This is a guide by Ortolano; the Vinted links lead to its rules.