adidas designer Q&A- Manchester United 2015/16 Home Shirt

**Inigo Turner, adidas senior designer**

**How many people are involved in the planning, developing and making of the kit?**
Not so many. In terms of the content itself, usually from over here, we have myself as designer and my superior and we'll share it among the teams. We have around eight designers, our marketing colleagues and the product manager. The development guys are the ones who actually make the jersey come to life in the end. Obviously, we also run it through our communications department as well because they produce the material you see in videos and the printed media.

**Why the classic look?**
We have a few directions and then discuss it internally and see which one best fits the story we want to tell. We're pretty confident with the whole story about the two partners coming back together that this was a clear direction and one we're really comfortable with. We felt the first jersey back should be a celebration of this so it needed to be red, the V-neck was very iconic and very much a Manchester United adidas shirt and, obviously, just the three white stripes. This means, on a very basic level, this was a clear winner. It wasn't so difficult in the first season because we've waited a long time and wanted to celebrate the look of us both together.

**Is there a certain type of red used on the strip?**
It is called 'real red'. It was crucial that the red used is correct. The club has an archive of jerseys, all of which have a similar red to them, so we wanted the colour which United are synonymous with now and also the one which is close to the one we had in the past. So it involved looking at the current red and then checking it against the one we had on the old adidas shirt. They're not actually that far apart so we chose one which fits for both. It's a unique red for the club and we hope the fans will like it.

**What are the future plans for the away kit?**
The colours are definitely not set as the away strip changes more than the home kit. The away ones are always an area where we can try new things and it's usually an important discussion with the club. There is more of an experimental process. For instance, the adidas designs in the early nineties were marmite jerseys, so you either loved them or hated them, but they have become quite iconic now.

**Tell us some secrets of the new kit...**
The blue away strip between 1990 and 1992 was a key thing we wanted to include in the shirt. On the hem of the waist on the home jersey, we have this debossing and it's the 'M' graphic from the kit we all remember from the 6-2 win at Arsenal and the Rumbelows Cup final success as this was the inspiration point for that. We wanted to have cues to the old jerseys and show we'd looked into the past and re-imagined them into a modern shirt or re-interpreted it. The 1982 jersey inspired the overall look of the shirt with the V-neck and coloured engineered collar, which is tipped red and black and then the white cuff. The waistband was more of a subtle nod to that 1990s away shirt but it brings an extra level of detail on the kit which the fans will notice, not at first glance, but understand the reference later on.

**What about any technology used in the shirt itself?**
The actual fabric on the front panel is this hoop stripe. This is a ventilation structure which is ventilating the players more so it’s basically designed to increase player performance and ventilation whilst they’re playing. So that was the key performance technology in that engineered fabric on the front panel on the shirt fans can buy. The actual one the players wear will be the adizero, which is the lightest jersey we offer at adidas and is designed to make the players run faster and play faster.

**Is there anything different about the backs of the shirt?**
We came up with a font specifically for United [for the name and number] which was inspired by the one worn on the 1982 jersey. The shape of it was very iconic and we really want to have a holistic look to the kit. Obviously in the Premier League, United will wear the Premier League fonts but this is more for European competition. We worked together with the club and they really liked the holistic package and the thought that went into everything in the jersey. The overall look of the kit was inspired by the 1982 jersey and re-imagined and, then again, the same with the font. We used that but turned it into something relevant and modern.

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**Notes to editors:**

**About adidas Football**

adidas is the global leader in football. It is the official sponsor / official supplier partner of the most important football tournaments in the world, such as the FIFA World Cup™, the FIFA Confederations Cup, the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Europa League and the UEFA European Championships. adidas also sponsors some of the world’s top clubs including Manchester United, Real Madrid, FC Bayern Munich, AC Milan, Juventus and Chelsea. Some of the world’s best players also on the adidas roster are Leo Messi, Gareth Bale, Thomas Müller, Luis Suárez, James Rodríguez, Diego Costa and Mesut Özil.

**About Manchester United**

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