Knitting, tennis and prestige

The annual three-day fashion and technical event staged by Santoni in its Brescia headquarters has become a fixture in the hectic schedule of September shows across Europe. In 2004 it fitted (almost) in between Première Vision in Paris, several press launches and the Go Outdoors exhibition in the United Kingdom. Santoni calls the event a 'private show' but, given the 800 or so attendees on the first evening, it must be said that privacy was the least likely description that could be applied to this prestigious presentation.

Italy's top lady on the tennis court, Francesca Schiavone, found herself in the unfamiliar and possibly daunting surroundings of the fashion catwalk as she led a glittering exposé of the latest seamless fashion and hosiery produced on Santoni machines – interspersed with technical presentations of the products themselves.



Italian womens tennis number one, Francesca Schiavone, on the Santoni fashion catwalk. Sponsored by Diadora, she is currently ranked 15th in the world.

Santoni

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Brands and boasts

Currently ranked 15th in the world order, Schiavone is sponsored by Diadora and so it was no surprise to find the brand running high on the list of sportswear inputs - which also included those from Infinito, Tecso, Nike and Lotto. Considerable capital was made in the ability of the new seamless knitting technology to produce graduated compression values in sports-specific and athletic clothing. Santoni's latest SM4-TL2 4-feed machine, for instance, allows the production of fully finished outerwear garments with reinforced areas in just over ten minutes. Underwear can be knit-finished in a mere four minutes.

The complementary SM4-TR2 is a 4-feed machine that can knit fishnet fabrics as well as producing an anti-drop stitch structure. The latter means that it can produce a similar product to that of the Santoni 8-feed SM8-TOP2 machine but enables an additional colour to be added on each course.

In all 33 of Santoni's customers and partners showed their seamless garments and highlighted what they saw as the benefits accruing to their involvement with the Italian specialist machine manufacturer.



Santoni's SM4-TR2 model. A 4-feed machine, it is capable of producing fishnet knit and adding colour in successive courses.

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