

Some promotional team photos depicted the Irish side wearing Vauxhall sponsored versions of the 90–92 Umbro home kit.



H 1986–1990

Design: ADIDAS

Thanks to their impressive performances in the qualifying campaign, Northern Ireland achieved a second consecutive appearance in the World Cup finals. A few months prior to the start of the tournament, another slick and alluring adidas kit was launched. The jersey featured a multi-trimmed wrapover V-neck and a complex arrangement of diagonal shadow stripes interspersed with smaller vertical bars. The shorts and socks remained the same as those from the previous strip including the additional adidas logo on the socks.

Worn in: The 3–0 defeat to Brazil in Northern Ireland's last game of the Mexico 86 World Cup finals. Also worn throughout a dismal Euro 88 qualifying campaign.

Worn by: Colin Clarke, Nigel Worthington.



A 1986–1990

Design: ADIDAS

A white reversal of the home kit was selected as the next Northern Ireland away kit. It featured all the trappings of the home – the only difference came from the inclusion of non-contrasting wrapover V-neck and cuffs. At a time when most international kits were retained for, at the most, three years, this last set of adidas strips eventually lasted for four. Unfortunately, by the time the kits were mothballed in 1990, Northern Ireland's football fortunes had slumped dramatically.

Worn in: Another epic World Cup finals match vs Spain during Mexico 86, when the shirt was worn with the white shorts of the home kit. Sadly the result did not go Northern Ireland's way and they were beaten 2–1.

Worn by: Jimmy Quinn, Alan McDonald.



H 1990–1992

Design: UMBRO

After a 13 year gap, Umbro returned to Belfast bringing with them an outrageous new style of strip that split the opinion of the Northern Ireland faithful. The shirt fabric comprised a complex geometric array of green and white triangles alongside extremely thin pinstripes. It was certainly a vast move-on from the simple sophistication of the adidas era. A neat button up neck design was introduced along with a little navy blue trim – the first time in many years the colour had been incorporated into a Northern Ireland kit.

Worn in: A good 1–1 draw with Denmark (1990) in the first qualifying match for the Euro 92 Championship followed later by a hard-fought 2–1 win over Austria in the same tournament.

Worn by: Iain Dowie, Kingsley Black.



A 1990–1993

Design: UMBRO

After years of white away kits, Umbro really rocked the boat with the introduction of navy blue in 1990. Although green has become long established as the colour of both Ireland's football sides, navy blue was worn regularly by Northern Ireland as recently as 1931. The printed design of this strip followed that of the home (officially entitled 'St Etienne' in the Umbro catalogue of the time) with the addition of green as third colour to compliment the navy and white. The strip was retained for a year longer than the home to allow Umbro to stagger the issue of new Northern Ireland strips.

Two versions of the Northern Ireland badge were worn during the lifespan of the 98–99 OS home shirts – one outlined in navy and one in white.



H 1999–2001

Design: PATRICK

After the abstract expressionist lustre of the previous home outfit, a more familiar, if not slightly pedestrian, two-colour design arrived at Windsor Park courtesy of Patrick, an apt name for an Ireland kit supplier! The kit was worn for the first time in a Belfast friendly against France in August 1999 that ended in a 1–0 defeat for Northern Ireland. A simple collar was introduced, along with Patrick's familiar dual stripe trim that in this instance ran just along each shoulder. Fine white piping completed the shirt. The dual stripe theme was also continued as part of the shorts trim.

Worn in: A thrilling 4–3 defeat to Bulgaria and a cracking 3–0 win over Iceland (both 2001) in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers.

Worn by: Mark Williams, Peter Kennedy.



A 1999–2001

Design: PATRICK

Following the red experiments of the previous two away strips, it was back to blue for Sammy McIlroy's team with this attractive Patrick change kit. The shirt featured white sleeves coupled with green underarm panels and a dual stripe trim. A similar collar to the home was included, although now it also incorporated a wrapover neck. The shorts (which were also worn with the home shirt on at least one occasion) featured broad green trim, accentuated with white piping.

Worn in: A friendly 3–0 win against Malta in 2000, Northern Ireland's goals coming from Hughes, Quinn and Healy.

Worn by: Colin Murdock, Danny Sonner.



H 2002–2004

Design: PATRICK

Previewed in December 2001 and worn for the first time in a February 2002 friendly against Poland (the Poles winning 4–1), the new home kit saw the reintroduction of navy blue as an integral element of the first choice outfit. The colour was included as part of the slick V-neck and the distinctive white-trimmed side panels – the design of which was continued on the shorts. It was a much more contemporary looking kit for Northern Ireland, but unfortunately accompanied a truly awful set of results: this strip was never worn in a winning competitive match.

Worn in: 2003 defeats against Greece (2–0) and Armenia (1–0) in the Euro 2004 qualifiers.

Worn by: Andy Smith, David Healy.



A 2002–2004

Design: PATRICK

After disappearing from the British league for much of the late 80s/early 90s, Patrick kits became much more widespread as the decade progressed. Their last away strip for the Northern Ireland squad again reverted to a smart, but fairly, basic white and green – the first time in six years that this once familiar Northern Ireland away kit colour scheme had been worn. The glossy shirt featured a simple wrapover collar (similar in design to that on the 99–01 jersey) and green piping. A poor Euro 2004 qualifying campaign led to the departure of Sammy McIlroy in 2003.

Worn in: A 5–0 humiliation at the hands of Spain in a 2002 Belfast friendly in which the kit was shown off to the home supporters.

Worn by: George McCartney, Pat McCourt.