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STYLE TIPS FOR LOOKING
DAPPER AT 50+



INTRODUCTION

Firstly, we would like to start this guide by saying that there are no hard and fast rules that apply to you based on age. Style really comes down to one's confidence in what they are wearing and therefore if you feel confident, wear it. However, there are some basic rules that apply to a man of any age which generally break down into how the individual items fit, and how they complement each other. Read on to see our essential tips for the gentleman.



Image source: articlesofstyle.com

1 ENSURE YOUR JACKET FITS WELL

Let's start with the jacket, as it is the most noticeable aspect of any outfit. Selecting a jacket and getting it tailored to fit your body says a lot about the image you wish to project. A few simple tests can determine how well the jacket fits:

- Can you slither one hand in between your chest and your buttoned suit jacket? If so, it's a good fit, if it's looser than this, it's too big.
- If you lean against a wall, does the shoulder pad of your jacket hit the wall and start to bunch up before your shoulder makes contact with it? If so, you need a smaller size jacket.
- If you curl your fingers as your arm hangs at your side; does the jacket length fall gently into your hand? If so, it's just right; if not, you need a longer or shorter jacket.
- When your hands are at your sides, can you see a quarter to a half inch of your shirt cuff? If buying a jacket off the rack, err on the side of a longer sleeve length as you can then get it tailored to the correct length.
- It's important to consider slight weight gain and loss when having your suit tailored. So never go too tight, it leaves no room for slight expansion and will ruin the overall tailored look you're trying to achieve.
- The shoulder and sides of the jacket should also cut neatly and tightly over your body, without any wrinkling, pulling or puckering. This is extremely important even if you are buying an off-the rack suit with an eye to later altering it. Armholes need to be cut sufficiently high as the armhole cut right up under your arm will give the body of the jacket more shape i.e. more of an hourglass figure and not a vertical line. The second button down should be somewhere close to your belly button.
- A nice Savile Row flourish can be achieved by asking your tailor to unstitch your jacket sleeve buttons to achieve what's known as a working cuff - (most ready to wear versions come pre-stitched) and leaving the first one unbuttoned, will gain you a nice bespoke touch.
- Finally, never do up the bottom button on a suit. The middle and top buttons can be buttoned depending on the occasion and unfastened when seated.



TROUSER FIT

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You can easily have your trousers altered, so below are some of the things to be mindful of. The rise, or the area between yourself and the trouser crotch cannot easily be tailored, so make sure that this area feels comfortable and gives you some room, without excessively hanging down. Trouser break does come down to person preference, however to always look refined we would recommend that you choose a half break as shown below.



Image source: articlesofstyle.com

The other options are having no-break, where the trouser leg just touches the shoe is more of a contemporary look, while the full-break where a fold runs around the bottom of the trouser is a retro look dating back to the 1920's and 1930's.

Some off-the rack suits may come with unfinished trousers to ensure that you will be able to tailor the leg exactly right.

You may also wish to have your tailors taper the trouser legs from the knee or from the thigh depending on your shape for a sleek contour. A nice finishing touch

Image source: articlesofstyle.com



if you have a good tailor would be asking to finish the trouser at a slant, so that the line of the crease down the leg at the back and the front is precisely fit to the shoe you intend to wear these trousers with.

If you're brave enough, you may wish to try the cropped trouser look for the summer months - which means exposing your ankle. Not everyone can pull this off but those that do (such as most Italians and Japanese - Pitti Uomo being a case in point) gain admiring glances. It's popularity justifies its inclusion in our essential rules.

If your trousers have belt loops, wear a belt always. If they have buttons or side tabs, wear braces. Do not wear both together. Finally pleats at the waist are never favourable to creating a smooth silhouette.



Image Source: mrporter.com

SHOES MAKE THE OUTFIT

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Investing in a few pairs of exquisitely made shoes will do wonders for every outfit you own. We have video guides on our website that recommend types of shoes for different occasions and how to maintain your shoes, which every gentleman recognises is critical to their appearance. You can find them on the following link:

<http://www.rampleyandco.com/pages/videos>

However, a few rules of thumb are:

- Match your belt to your shoe and also watchband if possible
- Square toes do not go with suits
- Shoes with a shiny finish should only be worn with suits, otherwise go for a matt finish

MATCHING YOUR SUIT COLOUR TO YOUR SHOES

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Below we set out the colour rules when matching your shoes to your suit. Also, always ensure your belt is both a similar colour and finish to your shoes.

- Black Suits: Only black shoes will do
- Navy Suits: Black, burgundy, or brown
- Dark Grey Suits: Black or burgundy
- Light Grey Suits: Light brown, burgundy or black
- Beige Suits: White (casual only) and light brown shoes

CONSIDER THE SOCKS

5

Whether you opt for exquisite materials and simple colours or relish the flair and surprise of a rush of hue and pattern, give some thought to your socks. To us, good socks are like good food – you have to eat, so why not savour?

There are two typical ways to match your socks to your outfit. The more conservative approach is to match your socks to your trousers.

The more flamboyant approach is to match your socks to your pocket square, shirt or tie.



SEEK OUT A GOOD TAILOR

6

Altering of a full off-the-rack suit should cost you in the range of £50 - £90 (US\$72 - \$130). This would include adjusting the waist of the trousers and tapering/shortening the legs as well as shortening of the sleeves.

If a bespoke suit is outside your means, spending a little extra getting an off-the-rack-suit tailored will markedly improve how it looks, and along with a few carefully selected accessories will ensure you look dapper without having to go overboard with your spending.

DO NOT COMPROMISE THE LINES OF YOUR SUIT BY OVER FILLING YOUR POCKETS

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If you have taken time to have a suit fit you well, don't ruin the tailored lines by putting a bulky wallet or other items in your pockets. If you have a number of products to carry, invest in a leather folio, satchel with carry handles, or a briefcase. If looking to purchase a briefcase we would

KNOW WHICH COLOURS BEST SUIT YOUR SKIN TONE

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With confidence and self-possession, anyone can wear any colour; but depending on your complexion, there will be some that provide more contrast and bring out your features.

Generally speaking, if you are fair hued and burn easily in the sun, your features may be in danger of fading into your skin tone and certain colours will exaggerate this. In this case, darker colours will set them off nicely. Look for colours with depth rather than stark, light, or bright hues. Brown, burgundy, green, and blue, from navy to cobalt, would make good choices. From this base you can add a few touches of bright colours to add a little flare without the possibility of washing you out.

Perhaps your skin easily goes brown in the sun? If so, we recommend seeking out shades that lean towards the outer ends of the spectrum. Brighter or darker than the median is a good way to go, avoid muddy or mustardy tones unless you are deeply tanned and anything that blends in with your skin too closely.

For darker-skinned individuals, pretty much anything is a go colour-wise. To add some elegance to brighter shades and avoid the impression that you are undergoing the imitation of a peacock, you might want to consider balancing them with darker tones.

DO NOT MATCH YOUR TIE TO YOUR POCKET SQUARE

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Image source: eligiblemagazine.com

Unless your style aspiration is to appear like an American sportscaster, your tie and pocket square should never directly match. To give the impression of coordination, your tie and pocket square can complement each other. You can achieve this by taking a minor colour in your pocket square, and have that as the primary colour in your tie or vice versa.

CHOOSING YOUR TIE

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Firstly, when choosing your tie for the day or evening, its width should match the width of your lapels; so if your jacket has a wide lapel, go for a wide tie.

When tying your knot, the size of your knot should match the side of your collar. For smaller collars go for a half Windsor, for a larger collar go for a full Windsor. In terms of length, your tie should just graze your belt buckle.



Image source: @sartorialale



A BEAUTIFUL WATCH WILL ALWAYS ELEVATE YOUR LOOK

- 11 A beautiful watch does not necessarily mean an expensive one. Go for timeless designs that display an understated elegance. Avoid flashy watches or pieces with overly large faces as they often convey a sense of someone that is trying too hard.

ALL METALS SHOULD MATCH

- 12 Your cufflinks, belt buckle, the fastenings on your braces, and any doodads in your shoes and buttons should be in a symmetrical metal, to give the streamlined impression of a consolidated personality. Your wedding ring and watch do not count, although coordinating your watchstrap if metal is a further touch of class.



WHEN IN DOUBT, OVER-DRESS

- 13 If you are attending an event and you are not sure the level of the dress code always choose to over-dress. There is never anything wrong with standing out in a crowd by being better turned out than everyone else.

