

A man's guide to

# **WEARING** JEWELRY

Presented by **Real Men Real Style**



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So have fun and learn to dress sharp!

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## Introduction

I've written before on how a man should wear cufflinks, watches, rings & accessories.

But what about buying it in the first place?

The reality is that most of us aren't that comfortable in jewelry stores.

Between the high price tags and the technical trade language it's easy to feel out of your depth, whether you're buying for yourself or a loved one.

Take our quick tips and make your next trip to the jewelry store a painless one.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antonio Centeno". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Antonio Centeno  
Founder, Real Men Real Style



## 1. A Man's Guide To Buying Jewelry

### Know What You Want Before Going

Don't ever walk into a jewelry store and say you're "looking for something nice for myself/my wife/a friend."

That's a great way to get ushered immediately to the most expensive items, and even if the salesperson tries to be genuinely helpful you're still relying on someone else's taste, which may or may not match the taste and wardrobe of the person you're buying from.

Instead, walk in with a clear idea of the basic characteristics you want, even if you don't have a set of technical terms in mind.

Here are a list of jewelry descriptors you should determine before shopping:

#### Jewelry Color

Do you want plain gold- or silver-colored jewelry, or are you looking for something with a colored stone? If so, what color? This is your most effective triage, since it automatically eliminates a huge chunk of wrong-colored options.

#### Specific Metal

Not all silver-tone jewelry is silver, nor is all gold-tone jewelry gold. If you're set on a specific metal rather than a general color, say so. It helps eliminate a lot of options.

#### Jewelry Proportions

Don't be afraid to use unscientific terms here. If you want a slender chain, say so. If you want a big, chunky ring, say that.



Give good, descriptive words rather than worrying about technicalities. It's your job to tell the jeweler "I want a nice set of cufflinks that aren't too ostentatious"; it's his job to know what pairs would match that description.

## Price

You may not want to mention this up front, but have a limit in your head and stick to it. If you're offered something above it just say "sorry, that's more than I was looking to spend" and offer a lower figure. Some jewelers will be willing to haggle over a specific piece's price, while others will direct you to similar but less-expensive options.

Believe me on this one – you will notice a big difference in going to the jewelers and saying "I'm looking for a moderately-priced gold-colored watch with a narrow band and a plain, modern facing" versus going in and saying "I need a nice watch for work."

## Talk to a Jeweler You Trust

Most jewelry purchases aren't made on the spot.

You can do it that way, but it's better to talk a specific piece over with a friend. If that friend is someone who knows the ins and outs of the jewelry industry, so much the better.

If you aren't lucky enough to have a good friend who's also a professional jeweler, ask around the family. You may be surprised who your relatives know – some older men have been dealing with the same family jeweler for decades, and could easily pass on a question or two for you.





When you're asking for a professional's second opinion, focus on the things they have expertise in: technical questions, details of quality and weight, origins of stones, etc. You're trying to fill in the gaps in your own knowledge, not just get an opinion on your taste.

Of course, you may end up wanting to simply purchase from a jeweler you or a family member knows and trusts, and there's nothing wrong with that.

Just be aware that the best second opinions will always come from people with no vested interest in the sale.

## Know Enough to Ask the Right Questions

Whether you're dealing with a friendly third party or with the man/woman who's going to make the final sale, you need to know what questions to ask. This is where most men get frustrated or intimidated.

This is where most men get frustrated or intimidated.

Our advice: don't try to grasp it all at once, and don't try to pretend you know more than the jeweler – you don't. Just go in with a solid grasp on the most basic qualities of precious metals and precious gems:

## Gold & Precious Metals

### Hallmark

This is the manufacturer's stamp on a precious metal like gold. It should represent either the karat weight(see below) or the purity as a percentage. Percentages are given as three-digit decimals, such that a stamp of ".750" would indicate 75% pure gold.



### Karat weight

A traditional measurement of gold's purity dating back to before very specific measurements were available.

Basically it is a 1-24 scale, with 24 karats theoretically implying pure gold. In practice, anything higher than .999 pure is rated as 24K

## Diamonds & Precious Gems

Men buying diamonds in particular are urged to consider “The Four Cs” – carat, cut, color, and clarity. Not all of these apply in quite the same way to other precious stones, but they're useful terms to know:

### Carat

When it's spelled with a C instead of a K, you're no longer talking about precious metal. Instead, a carat is a measurement of mass for precious stones, equal to 0.2 grams.

People mostly equate this with size, but that's not necessarily accurate – a good jeweler can cut a diamond (or other stone) to look bigger than a poorly-cut stone of heavier carat weight might. It's important to know that heavier stones are increasingly rarer, and the price jumps exponentially rather than directly.

A 3-carat stone will cost far more than double what a 1.5-carat stone might. Similarly, you can get a good price on stones that came in just under a carat weight: a .9-carat diamond will cost substantially less than a 1-carat.



## Cut

This is the measure of quality, not the shape of the stone. In the U.S. precious stone cuts are rated as Ideal, Very Good, Good, Fair, or Poor.

This scale was only introduced in 2006, and not all diamonds or other precious stones will have a stated rating.

Since it's difficult for an untrained eye to judge, look for a stone with an established rating or have a professional take a look for you.

## Color

Diamonds specifically are rated on a scale from Z to D, with D being a perfectly clear and colorless diamond. Anything J and up is considered high-quality, and accordingly expensive. Co

or matters more if you're buying a big stone – it's not worth spending lots of money for a perfectly colorless diamond if it's too small for coloring to be noticeable.

Some cuts will help make a colored or "clouded" diamond look clearer – this is a good question for the jeweler (or an experienced friend).

## Clarity

Diamonds and other stones usually contain imperfections. There are ratings based on how they look to the naked eye and under magnification, but you run into a problem here – depending on where in the stone the imperfections (called "inclusions") are, they might make the gem look more or less flawed.

It's possible to have two stones of the same cut and the same clarity rating that look quite different to the naked eye.

This is one reason to only purchase jewels in person, never online based on the written grading.

## Find the Right Place to Buy

Not all jewelers are created equal. Some have larger selections, some have better prices; some have more helpful and knowledgeable staff. If you're very lucky you'll find one that's good at all those things, but it can be tough. Know your options:

### Big Chains

The "shopping mall" jewelers. You may know some of the names from radio ads: Jared's, Goodman's, etc.

These focus on the most common types of jewelry: wedding and engagement rings, earrings for women; watches and chains.

They tend to have good return policies and other customer service features. The staff may not be as knowledgeable as an independent jeweler, and in some cases be aware that you'll be dealing with a sales clerk rather than a professional jeweler at first.

These are fine places to look for basic jewelry needs, just be sure you're getting an experienced opinion on the quality, and don't expect to find anything too out of the ordinary.

### Family or Independent Jewelers

Something of a dying breed, most major cities still have a jewelers' neighborhood. Expect to find a smaller selection with a more eclectic selection of styles than you would at a big chain store.

These can be great places to find unusual, eye-catching pieces, and the jeweler will usually have ample knowledge and expertise.

On the other hand, returns and exchanges may be more difficult, and there won't be a fixed catalog to choose from – you're at the mercy of the jeweler's selection.

### Antique and Pawn Shops

Any second-hand jewelry offers two big opportunities: the chance to score a really unusual piece, and the chance to get majorly ripped off.

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Exercise caution! If you're not a jeweler, you're not really qualified to judge a piece based on its appearance and whatever documentation it might or might not come with.

Don't shell out serious money without a jeweler's opinion or a really good return policy.



## Conclusion: Jewelry Buying for Men

The above four points emphasize knowledge.

That's because you'll be more comfortable [buying jewelry](#) if you have a little knowledge going in. You don't need to be an expert (though it helps to know one), but you do need to know – roughly – what you want.

It's the only sure way to avoid buying what a salesperson wants you to have instead.

[Click here to watch](#) a quick overview on male jewelry.



## 2. Ring Finger & Symbols

Rings.

They have a long history with mankind.

These small pieces of jewelry have been used by kings, merchants, and just regular men to relay messages and signal power, trust, and love.

[Click here](#) to view our ring finger symbolism infographic.

### Which Finger Should You Wear a Ring On

Most guys don't have a lot of experience with the finer points of ring wearing etiquette.

That's not a problem because if you're reading this you're about to learn more in 5 minutes than what 95% of the population knows about rings and their relationship to various fingers.

Cool!

Alright... let's get started!

There are many traditions regarding jewelry in general and rings in particular.

Rings allow you to make a statement without saying a word.

They can send the message you're not available (married), that you attended the Naval Academy (yes, I see your ring Annapolis man), or that you're from a culture not afraid to display wealth on the hands (think bling bling)

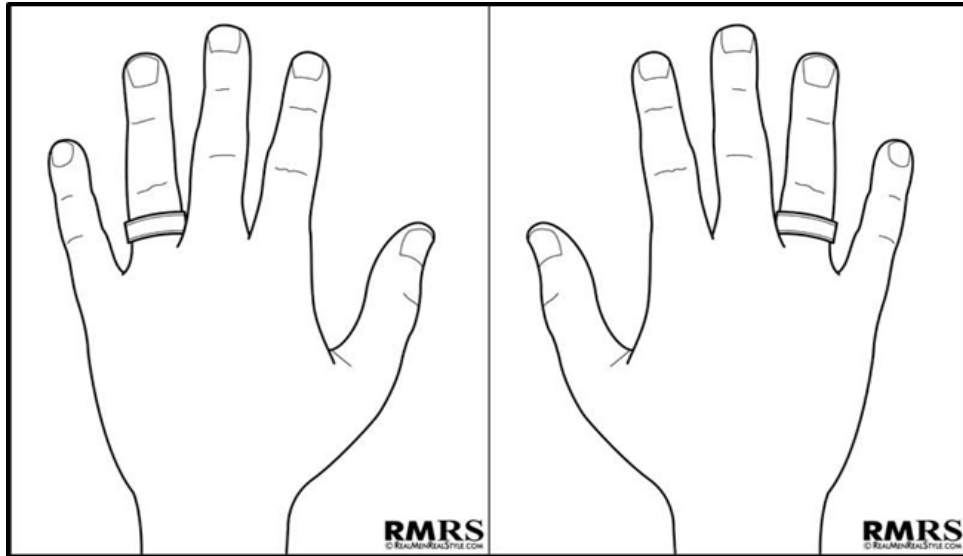
Now be aware - wearing a signature ring is not a statement everyone will get. But like a lot of fashion choices, they're there for the people who notice, and being part of the elite club that "gets it" is part of the fun.

So if you're someone who's considering wearing a ring purely for the style of it (rather than just a wedding band), here are a few of the traditional associations for rings on fingers.

Rather watch me talk about rings and symbolism of each finger?



[Click here](#) to watch my Ring Fingers & Symbolism video on YouTube.



Click the above image to view a larger infographic.

## First – Right Hand vs. Left Hand

For the most part there aren't any steadfast rules about which hand you wear your ring(s) on.

Engagement and wedding rings are exceptions – there are a lot of specific cultural traditions – but at the end of the day there are so many cultural traditions that it becomes an anything-goes situation anywhere that's not completely homogeneous.

Just for example, most American men will wear their wedding band on their left ring finger, but a man married in an Eastern Orthodox church could end up using the right hand instead (I do this – watch my videos and you'll see!). And engagement rings are rare enough on men already that there is no set tradition.

Some schools or organizations may have rules about how to wear their rings (in which case you'll be told), but most will leave it up to their members.

So for pretty much any ring, don't worry about right hand vs. left hand rules.

As far as symbolism goes, the right hand is generally seen as the "physical" hand – the active, dominant one that makes most of your gestures.

The left is thought of as the "mental" hand, representing your character and beliefs.

Those are based, unsurprisingly, on a right-hander's view of the world.

A left-handed man might personally find it appropriate to reverse the whole thing. At the end of the day we're talking about some very general concepts here – don't be afraid to go your own way.

## The Little (Pinky) Finger

This is often the first choice for a man who wants to wear a "statement" ring.

Pinky rings have a couple of advantages: they don't have religious or cultural associations in most cultures (unlike the ring finger), and, like rings on the fourth finger, they don't touch or interfere with the index/pointer finger at all.

It also isolates the ring from your body a bit, making it more of an eye-popping statement.

As a result, pinky rings tend to be among the "busiest" or flashiest of designs.

It's where you wear things when you want attention paid to them.

People who like astrological or palmistry-related symbolism will associate the little finger with intelligence and persuasion.

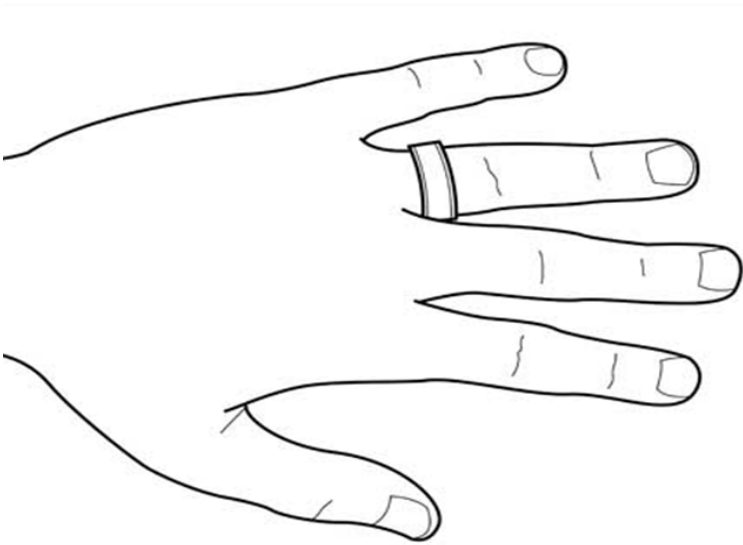




It represents Mercury, which was (for obvious reasons) associated with the element of mercury, so you're not going to have a ring made of the relevant metal here – mercury is liquid at room temperature, and highly toxic to humans.

## The Fourth (Ring) Finger

In the US and much of North & South America, the ring finger is most commonly associated with wedding symbolism: a band on the right fourth finger indicates engagement, while a band on the left fourth finger indicates marriage.



That said, nearly all men opt for a simple [gold or silver band](#) for their wedding or engagement rings.

A large ring with a jewel or a three-dimensional design on it is far less likely to be taken for something related to your marital status.

That's not to say that people don't wear some very strange and artistic things as wedding bands, from time to time, but it's not the cultural norm.

A distinctively decorative ring on the fourth finger probably won't be assumed to be a wedding or engagement ring, while a plain metal band or one with minor, same-tone etchings or designs probably will be.

Symbolically, the ring finger is associated with Earth's moon, creativity, and beauty, as well as its obvious associations with romantic relationships.

The moon's metal is silver, making silver rings a natural choice for non-wedding-related rings worn on the fourth finger.

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## The Middle Finger

Apart from the obvious hand gesture, the middle finger is your largest, boldest finger.

Rings worn on the middle finger are surprisingly uncommon – in part, that's because it's adjacent to the index finger, and anything bulky can be quite a hindrance to fine manual tasks.

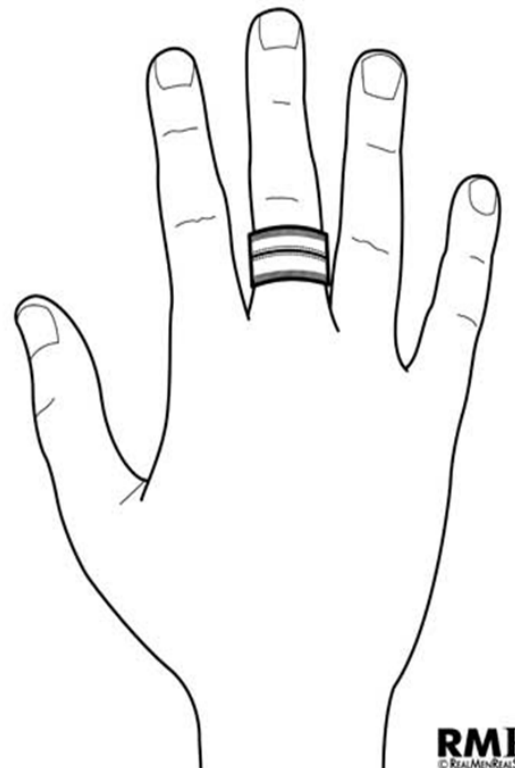
It's best to keep things small and simple if you're wearing them on your middle finger.

That said, a lot of first-time ring-wearers might feel more comfortable with the middle finger, purely because it feels so central, sturdy, and frankly, "manly."

If the idea of a pinky ring weirds you out, and you don't want any confusion with wedding/engagement symbolism, the middle finger's a safe default.

Because of its central location, the middle finger is held to symbolize balance and responsibility, and is associated with Saturn.

Since Saturn's metal is lead, simple gray metals like steel are common middle finger choices.



## The Index or Pointer Finger

There's a natural instinct to keep the pointer finger clear, since we use it more than any other digit (except the thumb), but it turns out that a [ring on the finger](#) doesn't interfere with it as much as one on the finger next to it.

If you go back hundreds of years the index finger was the most common location for a man's ring (generally a signet or a crest – in some parts of Europe, people below a certain rank were actually forbidden from wearing rings, because they denoted specific family status).

That makes the index finger a good place for things like class rings, fraternal rings, or family and membership crests, although many men (especially younger, unmarried men) opt for the ring finger out of habit instead.

Anything that you want to be used frequently and emphatically in your gestures can go on the index finger.

It's not as dramatically isolated as something on the outer digits (thumb and pinky), but its prominence in our basic manual dexterity makes it noticeable.

The astrological association for the pointer finger is Jupiter, which symbolizes power, leadership, and authority.

The metal association is tin, which you won't find many rings made out of, but bright silver tones are a normal choice for the index finger.



## The Thumb

Thumb rings have a slightly outlandish feel to people who come from conventional North American culture, but they're actually reasonably common world-wide.

In most societies a thumb ring on a man is a sign of wealth or influence, and they tend to be broad or bulky to reflect that (also to fit comfortably on the thumb, of course). A thumb ring is also often the natural choice for men who want to wear multiple rings on the same hand, since it's at least somewhat distanced from the others.

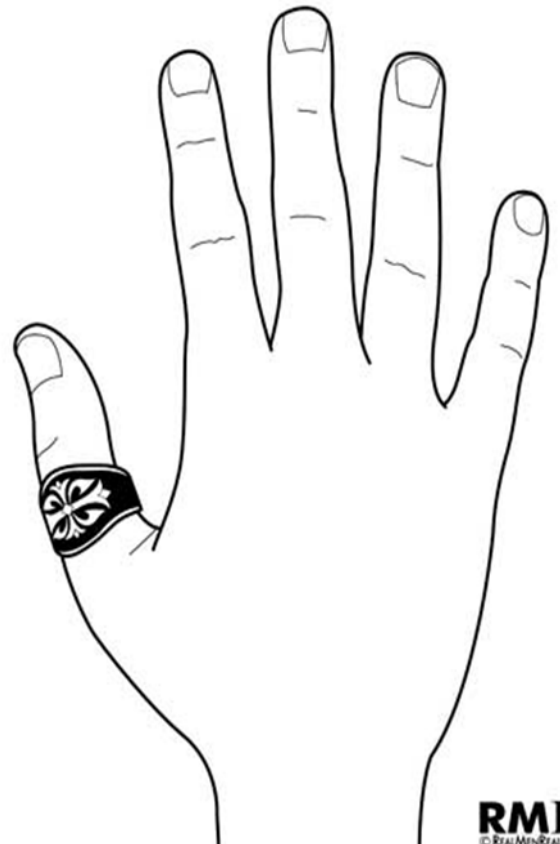
A wedding band plus a pinky or middle finger ring can get quite crowded, both visually and physically, whereas a thumb ring gives everything some space.

Thumb gestures are associated with interaction and friendship (think "thumbs up").

Wear a ring that you want people to like – big and chunky is fine, but nothing incredibly gaudy or expensive-looking.

It's already going to be bigger than most rings, so if the design is extravagant as well it just becomes this massive anchor dragging your hand down. Keep it bold but simple.

The thumb doesn't have an astrological association, but in classic mythology (and pre-scientific medicine) it was believed to be an indicator of character: strong, straight thumbs meant an authoritative personality, while crooked ones were seen as a sign of wickedness or dishonesty.



## How Many Rings Can a Man Wear On His Hand?

What's the maximum number of rings a guy should wear?

It'll depend on the rings. Generally, you won't wear more than one on any given finger, but then you'll run into things like clusters of four or five wire-thin bands that are meant to be worn together.

But assuming only one ring per finger, two or three spread out across both hands is usually a safe max.

Even that's going to be very striking – go too much beyond that and you're just a caricature.

Oftentimes, you're best off with a single bold "statement" ring on one hand and nothing else, or nothing more than a plain wedding/engagement band if it's relevant.

Quality matters more than quantity, at the end of the day – no matter what finger you're displaying your rings on.



[Click here](#) to watch my video on ring symbolism.



## 3. Five Rules To Wearing Rings

How do you know a person is married?

You look at their hand for a ring.

That's the power of that small circular object.

It signals to the world information about you.

A ring is not a simple accessory.

It is a message that reveals your commitments, achievements, and beliefs.

Wedding rings, class rings, fraternal rings, family rings, fashion rings.

Rings matter, and you better believe you need to understand the message yours send to the world.

But before going into the association of rings with personalities, let's begin with the 5 rules every man needs to know about wearing rings.

### Ring Rule #1 – Understand Messages

The rings you wear send subliminal or direct messages.

Whether you served in the navy or in the marine corps, a ring easily identifies your association.

Rings used to send signals of wealth and power. The size of a precious stone and the clarity of the gem would indicate superior quality and therefore, a person of substantial wealth.

Think about the placement of a ring. They occupy a prominent place on the hands. It's hard to miss.

Readers often ask me why I wear my wedding band on my right hand and not the left, as is the custom in North America.

People do notice your rings.

They may not say anything, but they pick up subtle cues based on the the rings you wear.

Be careful about what messages you are sending out through your choice of rings.

By the way, if you were still waiting for an explanation... the custom in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (where I got married), is to wear the wedding band on the right hand.

This is a common practice in most parts of Eastern Europe and Scandinavia.

## Ring Rule #2 – Be Confident

How confident are you wearing additional rings?

If you're not confident, don't try to fake it till you make it. A better approach would be to wear the ring around the house, until you get accustomed to the weight and feel of it on your fingers.

Next, start wearing your ring around people you trust and see if they notice. Get used to their comments before you start wearing it out in public.

Is there a story behind your ring?

As Simon Sinek says, "Understand the why." Be ready to answer questions about the ring.

Is it a family heirloom that has been passed through generations? Was it a ring that you bought from a Romanian gypsy on a European summer holiday? Your ring has the potential to be a great conversation starter.

## Ring Rule #3 – Maintain Proportion To Your Hands

If you have large hands, feel free to wear larger rings.

Men with smaller hands should balance the proportion by wearing smaller rings.

By the same token, if you have slim fingers – keep your rings compact.

Broad band rings are preferable on men with fuller digits.

There are some occasions when you are given a ring – a class ring at graduation, for instance.

Make sure you get the right size for your finger.

## Ring Rule #4 – Balance With Other Jewelry

How do you wear multiple rings or balance other jewelry while wearing rings?

Balance it on the other hand – don't crowd the rings together. If you are wearing a wedding band and a watch on your left hand, balance it out with a bracelet on the right wrist.

Don't crowd a bunch of rings on one hand while leaving the other completely ring-free.

## Ring Rule #5 – Consider Matching Metals

Most men are content to choose between silver or gold. The choice should be determined by whether your skin has a cool or warm tone.

- Wear silver if you have a cool tone. Your skin has a cool tone if your veins are visible.
- Wear gold if you have warmer color skin, in this case, your veins wouldn't be visible.

Match your accessories – the metal on your belt buckle, watch strap and rings should be in a similar tone. Although you don't have to match the metals, my personal preference is to maintain uniformity.

## Symbolism Of Rings On Different Fingers

Wherever you sit on the spectrum of analyzing the intricacies of people's hands – studying people in general is a fascinating art.

An easy clue to the personality and subtle preferences are displayed through the choice and placement of rings.

Are you a right or left hand ring-wearer? Which finger(s) do you choose?



Is there any psychological significance, cultural relevance, family affiliations, symbol of authority or an allegiance?

People use rings on certain fingers to work a certain type of energy. Most ancient texts and cultures advocate the wearing of rings on particular fingers to induce a mood.

For example - wear a ring on your thumb if you need to express your individuality.

The positioning of the rings reflected the personality of the wearer.

## Right Or Left Hand?

Your dominant hand usually has more significance in displaying parts of your personality than your non-dominant hand. If you are right-handed, then the right hand is your active or giving hand while the left is your receiving or passive hand.

The reverse is true if you are left-handed. Rings on your dominant hand relate to a conscious thought process. Rings on non-dominant hands could related to a person's personality - things he may not even realize about himself.

## Should You Limit The Number Of Rings On Your Fingers?

Are you a prolific ring-wearer?

How many rings can a man safely wear without looking like a sleazy car salesman?

Men who wear a ring on every finger at once may be exhibiting a personality trait that has difficulty in being decisive or in getting organized.

Apart from being eccentric, such men usually enjoy being in the spotlight.



## What's the maximum number of rings a guy should wear?

It depends on the types of rings.

Assuming only one ring per finger – two or three spread out across both hands is generally a safe maximum.

Go beyond a few rings and you are in danger of looking like a caricature. It's best to wear one bold, 'statement' ring on one hand and nothing else.

A plain wedding band is generally all a man needs to wear. Wedding bands are always acceptable. But wear other rings with caution.

Class rings. Fraternal rings. Championship rings. Decorative rings. Signet rings...

Whichever ring you choose to wear – bear in mind that quality matters more than quantity.



[Click here](#) to watch this whole chapter in a video.

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## 4. A Man's Guide To Wearing Rings

The majority of men will probably only wear one ring in their adult life: the wedding band.

Another, smaller set of men will wear a devoted ring of personal significance for much of their life: a class ring, a family seal, or a Masonic emblem, perhaps.

Other than that, they, too, will stick to the wedding band.

Only a small percentage of men will ever wear decorative rings as adults.

But as it turns out, that minority might just be onto something.

### Men's Rings: Yes or No?

Insofar as there's any argument here, you can rest assured – yes, men can wear rings if they want to.

A lot of modern jewelry styles may not be to most men's tastes, but there's nothing inherently problematic about the object itself.

Rings have been both masculine and feminine (and gender-neutral, for that matter) for pretty much all of human history.

The two major arguments people present when they criticize men's rings are generally

- a) that it's too feminine, or
- b) that it's too flashy.

Both of those, in any case where they're true, are problems with the design of the ring in question, not with the presence of a ring at all.



There's only one really significant objection to rings on men as a broad concept, and that's an old and class-based one: very traditional men of wealth, especially British and European aristocrats and royalty, have a quiet tradition that men simply don't wear decorative jewelry.

This even extends to watches (they have people to tell them the time, on the rare occasion that they need to know) and wedding bands (which are only worn by the woman in most high society marriages).

So if you're planning on hobnobbing with dukes and duchesses, maybe skip the rings.

Otherwise, it's a viable option, so read on to learn more about the specifics of the style!

## Functions of Rings

Some rings have more symbolism than others. We can generally break rings up into ones that serve a purely decorative function, ones that send a specific cultural message, and the inbetweeners that do both at once:

## Cultural and Religious Rings

There aren't any major world religions that explicitly require the wearing of rings, but many do encourage it for specific roles or relationships.

The Western wedding band is the most familiar example for most of us: it's not explicitly required by Christian tradition, but over time it's evolved into a cultural expectation with a lot of symbolism behind it – enough that choosing to go without is something people will notice and consider unusual, at least in America.

In most cases, these tend to either be plain bands or to involve a specific emblem or crest. Insofar as there are personal style choices, those choices are restricted to the size and material.

That said, you can work these into your personal style – married men with gold bands, for example, often tend to accessorize with other gold elements (belt buckles, etc.) so that there's a natural match across all their metal items.

If you're making a bold, aggressive statement with a religious or cultural ring like a wedding band, it's a little tacky. Keep these simple (but high-quality), and look to other jewelry for your personal statements.

## Affiliation Rings

Rings have been used to denote membership in groups and families for thousands of years.

These days, the most common examples are fraternal rings, class rings, and the occasional family crest, along with other things of that nature.

Some veterans may also wear a ring denoting their branch of service, or even a specific program within their branch (Naval Academy, West Point, Air Force Academy, Merchant Marine Academy).

These are cultural, in that they display a specific belief or membership, but they also tend to be decorative.

As a result, the bands and designs are larger, and the detailing more eye-catching, than on a wedding band.

There are several common designs here: the single large, colored stone in the center, surrounded by text or smaller stones, is popular among class rings, while a shield or similar crest in raised or etched metal is often seen on fraternal and family rings.

Most guys wear these with the desire that they be noticed and remarked upon. It's actually a functional door-opener for men in some industries – more than one corporate sale started between two guys with the same school ring.

So if you want to do one of these in the traditional style, be thinking big, bold, and chunky: usually one color of metal only, maybe with one color of stone or one colored stone and smaller neutral ones like diamonds set around it.



They're not necessarily meant to impress with their artistry or craftsmanship – just grab the eye and make a statement.

## Family Rings

We touched briefly on family crests above, under "affiliation rings," but most men who wear a family ring attach a little more importance to it than that.

Family rings do not necessarily have to be a single shield, coat of arms, or similar emblem on a solid ring, though many are.

Rather, the purpose of a family ring is simply to remind the wearer of something special and unique to his family and its history.

It might be a ring of any style that a beloved ancestor wore (rings acquired overseas by soldiers often come down through the family this way), or it might be made from a certain metal or in a certain shape that has personal significance.

It's not really important if the reasoning behind the family ring is obvious to outsiders, although it can help.

Outside the remaining royalty and nobility of Europe, no one's likely to recognize another family's coat of arms at a glance.

The only thing a family ring needs to do is give you a connection with your family. If you feel it does that to your satisfaction, go ahead and wear it – and be prepared to explain it, if necessary, especially in the case of unusual rings.

There's nothing wrong with wearing a cheap trinket your grandfather picked up while he was stationed overseas during WWII, even if it doesn't look like a man's ring usually would. But you are probably going to have to justify it from time to time, especially when you're dressed up nicely.

If you're ever really worried about the appropriateness of a family ring, but don't want to go without it, invest in a long, slim chain and wear it around your neck, under your shirt.



## Art and Design Rings

These are the least common type of rings seen on men, and often the most effective choice for a man who wants a unique accessory.

It takes a certain degree of boldness to wear a ring without an "excuse."

And because the selection is vastly more limited for men than it is for women, it can take a while to find something that suits your personal style, falls within your price range, and is well-made and from a reputable source.

If you can get past all that, however, you've got much more freedom of choice with a purely style-oriented ring than you do with something that has to send a specific cultural message.

An art/design ring can look like anything and say anything you want.

That lets you pick and choose items that work perfectly with your wardrobe, or even with a single specific outfit that you have in mind.



Guys who are just starting to toy with the idea of wearing a ring would probably do well to start with something that's relatively simple – a thick metal band with circular etching or inlay, for example, without specific jewels or ornamentations or exotic shapes.

That's not to say that you can't jump straight to the screaming eagle clutching a skull traced in diamonds, of course. But a decorative ring on a man's hand is a bold statement on its own. You don't have to overdo it.

## How A Man Should Buy a Ring

If you've never purchased metal jewelry for yourself before, the options can get a little intimidating.

Try to break it all down by category: think about the kind of ring you want, then about the size, then the materials, and finally the price.

Odds are good it's going to take you a couple tries to find something that suits your taste on all of those categories.

That's okay – take your time. You're going to be putting a decent chunk of cash; you don't want to do that until it's buying something that you absolutely and unreservedly want on your finger.

## Step 1: Pick the Kind of Ring You Want

Before you start looking at options, know the general stylistic role you want a ring to fill.

Are you looking for something big, chunky, and rich-looking? Something tough and macho and dramatic? Subtly understated?

There's a role in your wardrobe for all of those, but you need to be realistic about your expectations – you're not going to buy a single ring that goes with all of your outfits, unless you have an incredibly unvaried personal style.

Be thinking about what will be flexible enough to go with the maximum possible number of your general, day-to-day outfits. A really sweet ring that looks amazing with your best suit is only a good investment if you're wearing your suit regularly. Otherwise, it's just an expensive paperweight for most of the year.



Choose the role you most want to fill and start with that ring. You can add others to the collection over the years.

## Step 2: Pick the Size of Ring You Want

The size of your ring means two different things: the band size, which is going to affect which of your fingers it fits on, and the cross-sectional width of the ring, which affects how “chunky” it looks on your hand.

The band size is easy – any jeweler’s store will be happy to measure your fingers for you, so all you have to know is which finger you want to decorate with a ring. (All of them are in play – pinky and middle are the most common choices for decorative rings, but you can even go with a thumb ring if you’re smart about your style choices).

If you’re shopping online, you can find print-off measuring tapes, or guides on how to measure your finger with a string.

Just make sure you follow the guidelines clearly on exactly which part of your finger to measure, and have a friend or family member take their own measurement (without looking at your numbers) as a blind cross-check.

You don’t want to have to deal with getting bands adjusted. It’s possible, but it’s expensive.

As far as the thickness of the ring goes, it’s mostly an artistic choice (there might also be some practical issues for men with very short, small-jointed fingers, but generally you’re not going to be buying something so broad that it prevents a joint from flexing).

Wider rings with a long cross-section are generally perceived as being more “manly,” but taken to an extreme they look like you’re trying to show off.

In general, you want at least a millimeter or two between the top edge of the ring and the knuckle above it. Once you’re within that window, it’s just a question of whether you want a big, beefy ring or a slender, subtle one.

## Step 3: Pick Your Materials – An Overview of Ring Metals

This can get complicated.

In the most basic rings (like, say, a wedding band) you're picking one metal, which comprises the whole ring. And that's still a lot of options!

### Gold

The great-granddaddy of all jewelry – the maker of empires – gold is the first and last word in many people's minds.

These days it's just one of many good options, but there's no denying its cultural power.

Jewelers generally sell gold in three shades: gold, white gold, and rose gold. Pure gold is yellowish, white gold is alloyed with a white metal like nickel or manganese to give it a silver tone, and rose gold is alloyed with copper for a reddish tinge.



Gold jewelry will be sold with a karat value (sometimes misspelled as carat, which is technically the measuring standard for gemstone mass). The karat purity (k) is measured as 24 times the mass of pure gold in the metal divided by the total mass of the metal.

Basically, if you read the number in front of the k symbol and divide it by 24, it will give you the percentage of the metal that is pure, unadulterated gold.

24k-gold, therefore, is pure, 100% gold (or, more technically, about 99.9% gold or higher, since even the strictest standards allow for a tiny bit of adulteration).

18k gold, on the other hand, is only about 75% gold, mixed with 25% other metals, since  $18/24 = 0.75$ .

The reasons for the awkward math are historical, lengthy, and largely irrelevant to most men. What you need to know is: 24k is the purest gold, and from there on down it gets increasingly less pure.

The advantages of pure gold are, in no particular order, that you know it costs more, that it weighs more, and that it is that much less likely to contain an allergenic metal like nickel.

Aesthetically, it's easy to make even a 50/50 alloy (12k gold) look like the real stuff on the surface level.

## Silver

Widely known as a cheaper alternative to gold, silver jewelry may actually cost more depending on the quality of the silver and gold in question.

Silver is bright, shiny, and, obviously, silver-tone.

Sterling silver, commonly used in jewelry, is silver of at least 925 fineness, meaning that it is 92.5% silver by weight.

Copper is the most common ingredient for alloying, which adds strength to the silver without reducing its shine. On its own, pure silver would scratch and dent very easily, making it impractical for most purposes.

That said, it is possible to find "pure" silver (meaning, in jewelry terms, 99.9% or more silver). This will be slightly heavier, and easier to tarnish or scratch.

Silver is widely used, reasonably affordable, and pleasantly simple.

If you want a white-tone ring and don't want to think too hard about your options, sterling silver will do just fine.

## Platinum

Platinum is one of the most precious metals used to make jewelry (it is more valuable by weight than gold).

Like gold, platinum is measured in karats, and the measuring works the exact same way. 24k platinum is at least 99.9% pure, while 18k platinum is 75% pure, and so on.



Platinum looks like silver at a distance, but has a mellower color up close. It can be polished to a high sheen, or left in its natural sense for a smooth, dull finish.

The appeal of platinum is largely its price tag. It is a very high-status metal to own – once, it would have only been available to great kings.

Now you can have at least a simple platinum ring for a few hundred bucks, but the appeal is still there.

## **Stainless Steel**

One of the most popular choices for affordable, silver-tone male jewelry, stainless steel is an alloy of steel (for strength) and chromium (for tarnish-resistance). Some stainless steels may include other metals as well, such as manganese and nickel.

You can technically stain stainless steel, if you work at it, but it's harder to do than it would be with regular steel, and the metal has a shinier surface, which lends itself well to jewelry.

Stainless steel is graded based on the composition and the metals alloyed with the steel.

The best grade for jewelry is 316, sometimes called marine or surgical stainless steel, which has a very high resistance to corrosion.

Jewelry salesmen will broadly define stainless steel as hypoallergenic, but be aware that some alloys (including the jeweler-preferred 316L) do contain nickel (a common metal allergy).

The chromium in the alloy coats the surface, which creates a barrier between the skin and the nickel, but a scratched or damaged stainless steel ring could still cause irritation.

## Titanium

Aside from having a cool name that everyone associates with physical strength, titanium also boasts a very light weight, making it less clunky than other metal jewelry.

Titanium usually appears as a silver-tone, but it can easily be colored, and is often sold in black, gold, and copper tones.

Titanium can also be treated to have a rainbow patina, giving it a color-shifting appearance.

The main advantages of titanium are its durability (titanium jewelry is difficult to scratch or dent) and its hypoallergenic nature.

It is also extremely resistant to water- and salt-based corrosion.

Titanium occasionally appears in gold jewelry, since a small amount of titanium has so little effect on the weight that it can be alloyed into 24k-gold without reducing the quality, while adding significant resistance to denting and scratching.



## Tungsten Carbide

Often shortened in advertisements to just “tungsten,” tungsten carbide is a hard, stiff metal with a bright silver-tone color. It is much denser than steel or titanium, making it a good choice for men who like a satisfying bulk and weight in their rings.

Tungsten jewelry can be almost any color desired, as tungsten carbide's natural form is a powder – it must be “cemented” with other metals to make a band.

Because of that need, tungsten can potentially be a problem for men with nickel, cobalt, or other metal allergies. Ask for the entire chemical content of the metal before buying a tungsten band if you have allergies. Most rings will be hypoallergenic, but a few will not be.



## Cobalt Chrome

A fairly recent development in jewelry, cobalt chrome is popular because it looks on its surface very much like platinum, but has a much harder and more scratch-resistant surface (it is also substantially cheaper).

Cobalt chrome is a mid-weight metal made from alloys of cobalt and chrome (obviously), sometimes with small percentages of other metals. It is generally safe for men with nickel allergies, but not men with cobalt allergies (again, obviously).

That said, nickel-chrome-cobalt alloys are commonly used in dental and orthopedic implants, and the metal is available on the market. Double-check to make sure anything you buy labeled as "cobalt chrome" is only an alloy of those two materials if allergies are a concern.

## Palladium

Functionally, palladium is two things in the world of jewelry: an ingredient alloyed with gold to make white gold, and a pure metal used to make jewelry that looks like platinum, but may at times be cheaper.

The "at times" is important there – as stockpiles have fluctuated in the last few decades, platinum and palladium have changed place repeatedly in terms of value. Right now, thanks largely to a massive influx of Chinese palladium jewelry, palladium is the cheaper of the two, and often used as an affordable alternative to platinum.

In properties, the two are quite similar, but palladium is lighter and less durable. It is used as an alternative to nickel for making white gold that is less allergenic.

## Ceramic

Ceramic jewelry is barely recognizable as clay, although that's essentially what it is. Metallic-looking rings that are labeled as "ceramic" are generally made by firing hard, powdered compounds like silicon carbide and tungsten carbide.

The result can be just about anything desired, but the most common ceramic rings are smooth, silver-tone ones with a light weight and a hard, brittle surface. You probably can't scratch a ceramic ring, but you can shatter it, with enough force.

Ceramic rings are popular because they are non-metallic (avoiding certain allergies), scratch-resistant, and cheap, and can be made to look like many popular metals if the right finish is used. They cannot be re-sized or altered in any way.

## Gemstones

The sheer number and variety of gemstones out there makes them too complicated to discuss in this article.

However, in the simplest terms, you want to look at the color of the gem first (if it's not the color you want, there's no reason to buy it), and then at issues of cut and quality.

Diamonds are famously evaluated by "the four Cs" (cut, color, clarity, and carat weight), and you can apply similar metrics to most precious gems.

For those on a budget, rhinestones, colored glass, and cheap minerals like citrine can make good alternatives to precious stones.

In general, though, a man should keep the presence of stones in his rings to a minimum. One or two very small accent stones, or a single large central one, is fine, but much more than that starts to get gaudy very quickly.

## Ethical Concerns

When you start looking into the quality of the materials you'll also want to think about their sourcing, both in the case of metals and gemstones. Don't be afraid to ask (write the company if you need to) where they're sourcing their gems and metals from.



You don't really want to be spending money to fund wars in Africa, and you ideally want your metals coming from responsible mining operations too.

## Step 4: Settle on a Price

We put this last because it's honestly the least important.

If there's a single piece of jewelry you've identified that really works for your style and your tastes – you can make the money work.

It might take time, or some compromises on other spending, but price isn't an obstacle unless it's truly astronomical. (So yeah, you might never get to wear a ring made out of minerals mined from Saturn's rings and set with frozen unicorn tears or whatever they're offering in SkyMall this year, but in general, you can make prices work.)

That said, only be willing to lay down serious money for a ring that really is perfect for you. If it's nice but not quite your style, or not quite the quality you want, and the price is too high – walk away. There'll be other purchases.

If something's perfect for you, make it happen. If it's just good for you, maybe make it happen anyway, but only when the price is right.

Once you've made those choices – the style, the size, the materials, and the price – congratulations. You just picked out a ring.

Wear it well.

[Click here](#) to watch a video guide on wearing rings.





## 5. How To Properly Wear Male Jewelry

Do you, a man, wonder how best to round out your ensemble with jewelry?

Is all that just for women?

Read on, and find out how to express yourself through manly adornment.

### A Man and Jewelry

A man's jewelry is a very important part of his ensemble. If he wears too much, he looks pretentious and artificial.

If he wears it correctly, the ornamentation can significantly increase the quality of his look.

The following men's jewelry items will hereafter be examined: cufflinks, rings, timepieces, and tie bars.

These four are the most basic and therefore most easily incorrectly worn. Bear also in mind the umbrella rule for matching: metal goes with the same metal.

This means that any metal on you should all be the same material, whether gold, silver, platinum, or another. In addition, a traditional social guideline is to wear gold during the day and silver at night.

### A Gentleman's Cufflinks

A must-wear for French-cuffed shirts, cufflinks are both functional and expressive.

Whatever the style cufflink (hinged back, push through, snap on, double face, or chain), simplicity is always appropriate.

Because cufflinks can be purchased in such a variety of looks, discretion must be exercised when choosing a cufflink for a particular occasion.

Simple black, gold, silver, or onyx ovals are always tasteful; gold dice with diamonds in the spots are not, though would be interesting and appropriate under certain circumstances.

Remember that this small accessory should not be the highlight of your outfit, and that those around you will take notice of your cufflinks and will suppose things about you based on them - so choose carefully.

## Cufflink Styles

### Hinged back

One of the most common styles of cufflink, one side is the decoration, and the other side has a hinged bar that lines up with the cufflink to install it to the shirt, and once through, hinges ninety degrees to keep the cufflink in place.



### Push through

These cufflinks, like the hinged back, have one decorative side. The other is a rigid ball, "T," or other cap to prevent the cufflink from slipping back through the holes in the cuff.

## Chain

Chain cufflinks have a small chain, rather than a stiff bar, that connects the two sides, and can have one or two decorative sides. If you prefer chain cufflinks, be sure to mention this when ordering custom shirts, as these cufflinks don't hold the cuff as tightly together as the others.

## Snap on

These are either two separate pieces per cufflink or one piece that wraps around the cuff near the holes.

Double-sided. A push through, chain, or snap cufflink that has decoration on both sides.

## A Man and Rings

There is little to be said about rings that has not been said already: simplicity and discretion. As for wedding rings, a simple band will always be proper, though a flashier ring will not be frowned upon.

Other rings, however, need not be so simple, but one must not try to distinguish oneself through them.

A class or fraternal ring could nicely round out one's look, or even another ring which holds some personal meaning that does not portray one as vain or swanky.

## Timepieces – The Two Types

le shopping around to find a watch that's within our budget, is simple and elegant, and expresses our own individuality and style well.

Analog watches are more formal than digital and whether by a wristwatch or pocket watch, keeping time is gentlemanly (unless at a black- or white tie event, when typically no timepiece is worn) and, for the businessman, necessary.

A wristwatch should have a quality leather band or a band of a nice metal.



Buy the nicest watch that you are willing to afford – maybe that's not platinum, but we can all afford to do a little accurate; additionally, a digital watch may not be suitable in business settings.

A nice digital watch made by a recognized quality watchmaker, however, worn with a tweed jacket, khakis and loafers could fit better than a gold banded analog watch.

Do not wear that watch in the boardroom – wear the nice analog watch.

Pocket watches are an interesting item on the gentleman because they are rarely seen today. If wearing a vest, the watch goes into the pocket on one side, the chain loops through the buttonhole of the same height, and the fob end rests in the other pocket.

If there is no fob, only a hook, use a small piece of cardboard inside the pocket onto which the hook hangs. This will give it the necessary substance to keep the hook from falling off.

If your trousers have a fob pocket, the watch can rest in the side pocket and the fob in the fob pocket. The same rules regarding style apply to pocket watches as wrist watches.

## Tie Bars and Tie Chains

The tie bar is the preferred accessory for holding down a necktie.

A simple line of gold or silver is adequate to the purpose and in its class lies in its simplicity.

Tie tacks involve poking a hole through the center of the tie and are therefore not recommended; however, one can use a tie tack through the rear lapel of the tie for function, thus not putting a hole in the visible part of the tie while gaining the same objective.

Tie tacks involve poking a hole through the center of the tie and are therefore not recommended; however, one can use a tie tack through the rear lapel of the tie for function, thus not putting a hole in the visible part of the tie while gaining the same objective.

Tie chains are also an alternative, but are often considered more formal. If using one, make it a simple silver or gold chain to be useful and not pronounced.

## Shiny and Satisfying

A well-dressed gentleman will set himself apart in the best way by following these jewelry guidelines.

While clothes, like a custom suit, make the man, jewelry can distinguish him as smart, manly, and confident.

In remembering these rules the next time he gets ready for a formal affair, a man will go far in presenting himself as this kind of man.



## 6. The Function Of Men's Jewelry And Accessories

For men, jewelry and accessories can provide subtle touches that tie an outfit together in a great way.

There are many different forms of jewelry, but that doesn't mean you have to use ALL of them.

Knowing how and when to wear jewelry can be the difference between a confident look and a loud look, the latter being the one in which most men should try to avoid.

Developing a sense of how to wear jewelry and accessories is essential, but first, we'll look at the different types of accessories and jewelry, and describe their functions.

### Men's Watches

The watch's most basic function is to tell time, but when dressing formally, it can do much more than that. A watch can subtly compliment an outfit and add class to a man's appearance.

The best watches for formal attires are the simpler watches. Not watches with a million designs or hands or numbers. 12 numbers, 3 hands, and a nice plain face will nicely compliment an already nice outfit.



### Men's Rings

Rings are interesting pieces because they usually represent something significant. Men usually don't go out to a store and buy a ring for themselves, but instead they'll receive a ring as a special gift or from a special event.

Class rings, wedding rings, and championship rings from sports teams are all significant pieces that should be worn with pride in a situation where formal clothes are called for. Other than that, usually only the wedding ring is worn.

## Men's Cufflinks

When wearing French Cuffs on a dress shirt, cufflinks aren't just an accessory, but a necessity as well. A French-cuffed shirt is usually called for during formal times, so being able to wear cuffs for such occasions is a bonus.

There are plenty of designs and colors available when it comes to cuffs, and most will work as long as they don't call attention to themselves.

## Tie Clips

The main function of a tie clip is to keep a man's tie from being blown over his shoulder by the wind when he's outside.

Aside from their ability to keep a man's look together when he's on-the-go, tie clips add a classy look to a well put together outfit, and also tend to add a very business like look to the working man at the office.



The most acceptable colors for a tie clip are usually gold or silver (and silver goes perfectly with a classic black suit, white shirt and black tie) but other colors are acceptable as long as they compliment the rest of the outfit.

## Tie Chains

Tie chains provide the same function as a tie clip, but you're getting a droop as opposed to a straight bar. The chain will also add something to the tie, and it is best to go with either gold or silver.

## Tie Tacks

Tie tacks can provide as a nice touch to a certain color or pattern of a tie, but they will damage your tie because you'll have to poke a hole through the tie itself.

Knowing this, one should be wary about tie tacks as they're not necessarily recommended unless one uses them sparingly or intends to buy a lot of new ties.

## Men's Hats

When a hat is worn today, it almost seems as if it's a salute to the style of past generations where men would always wear hats if they left the house.



Click the image above to view a larger infographic.

Although the hat may have lost its appeal over time, it hasn't necessarily lost its style. A good hat can add flavor to an outfit, and it can also have many practical uses, such as keeping the sun out of your eyes, keeping your hair neat on a windy day, and keeping your head dry on a rainy day.

When worn for stylish purposes, a hat can make a face seem rounder and fuller, just as a certain suit can make a man look taller or thinner.

Hats can be very stylish and they can complete a head-to-toe look, but the wrong hat on a man can look foolish.



There are a great [variety](#) of hats to choose from, and finding the right one can tie together a complete look.

## Knowing When It's Too Much

The single most important part of any accessories or pieces of jewelry is to make sure that they compliment an outfit, not distract from it or override it. The most important part of a formal outfit is the suit, and everything else – the tie, the belt, the shoes, the pocket square – everything, is designed to complement the suit.

If you find yourself wearing something that calls attention to itself or distracts from the overall image you're pursuing, then it's too much.

Moderation and subtlety are the keys to completing a classic, formal, well-put-together look, so too much of something is a bad thing. Rather than wearing 3 rings, a watch and a bracelet, try cutting back so it's more subtle.

The best part of a good suit is often the suit itself, but proper accessories, worn correctly, can turn a good suit into a great suit.



## 7. Five Reasons To Wear A Bracelet

It's easy to say bracelets are not manly.

However if you know your history, you might remember that warriors & kings from various cultures wore armbands on their wrists.

The fact is men have worn bracelets for centuries.

Prehistoric man adorned his wrists with bones and shells to ward off evil spirits.

Wealthy men wore bracelets to display their power and status.

Bracelets evolved over time from good luck charm to status symbol to the modern style accessory for men.

Depending on which part of the globe you call home, the idea of men wearing a bracelet is either normal or plain unheard of.

Bracelets, like watches, can be worn daily. Some are dressier and suit more formal occasions. The variety of materials to choose from includes stainless steel, gold, platinum, silver, leather, copper, brass and hemp.

A bracelet is a versatile accessory that reflects your personality and brings out the color in your outfits.

The five points listed below are the reasons why a man might consider strapping a shiny piece of metal, nylon or leather on his wrist.

### #1 Reason To Wear A Bracelet – Conversation Starter

Accessories are visual cues to your personality. Interesting accessories always draw attention.

You might find strangers start approaching you more often when you wear a bracelet that looks like it has a cool story associated with its purchase.

Wearing a bracelet can be a great conversation starter.

It could be the excuse the pretty woman in a cafe needs to strike up a conversation.

It could break the lull in a slow conversation.

That's a cool bracelet, where did you get it from?



In a world where everyone looks uniform, wearing an eye-catching accessory sets you apart and makes you appear more interesting.

It attracts attention in a good way. Perhaps you're on a beach and the only accessory you can wear is a bracelet.

You're able to share your appreciation for art history and beautiful hand made artifacts.

You could connect with a business acquaintance just by relating how you picked up your elephant hair bracelet from a journey through sub-saharan Africa.

This usually opens up the conversation and makes you more appealing and attractive.

## #2 Reason To Wear A Bracelet - It's Practical

A significant number of Americans have a medical condition which paramedics should be aware of, in the event of an emergency.

Medical identification bracelets alert first responders to vital medical information along with emergency contact information.

In case of an emergency, the right care can be administered based on the information provided through a medical ID bracelet.

While a medical bracelet cannot be considered jewelry – it is a necessity for anyone who has a medical condition that would not be obvious to doctors or medics.

A few years ago, firefighters, soldiers and outdoor adventurers started wearing a woven bracelet made from super strong paracord.

The bracelets are inexpensive and easy to coordinate with a suit.

The trend caught on with fashion-conscious urbanites, but the paracord remains a utilitarian bracelet that can be deployed in case of an emergency.

### **#3 Reason To Wear A Bracelet – Instant Association**

Cultures have often associated bracelets with wealth and status. An instant association that identifies your your status in society.

In many countries in the Eastern part of the world, wearing a bracelet can signify that you are affluent.

Although we no longer have class divisions in the West, in other parts of the world – bracelets are an automatic qualifier in society.

The modern youth often sport colorful silicone bracelets or dangling charms to support social causes and show allegiance to a group. A bracelet becomes part of their identity.

A bracelet could also be worn as a reminder. An anchor to an experience that was important to you.

It could be a beaded bracelet you picked up in a flea market during a summer vacation in Italy.



Or a woven bracelet from your summer on Cape Cod. A paracord to remind you of a fantastic camping trip with your best friend or a fishing trip with your dad.

## **#4 Reason To Wear A Bracelet – Cultural Significance**

Bracelets can have special meaning based on cultural traditions. In some countries, a bracelet is a requirement of faith.

Latin American Azabache bracelets are believed to offer protection to the wearer. The Sikh men of India wear a copper bracelet from childhood to show their allegiance to their faith.

In Bulgaria, a red and white string is tied around the wrist to invite the onset of spring.

If you try to count to the number of stylish men in suits wearing bracelets in Italy, you are likely to send your head into a tailspin. In most of these places, bracelets are part of the culture and are often part of the normal dress code.

## **#5 Reason To Wear A Bracelet – You Enjoy Wearing Bracelets**

You might be among the fashionable men who reckon that bracelets look good on men and are fun to wear.

You enjoy wearing bracelets.

Bracelets are a great way to add color to your outfit. They can be dressed up or down.

A woven bracelet that matches a color from your shirt pattern, tie or pocket square is appropriate even in corporate environments.

Slip the same bracelet around your wrist for a lazy Sunday afternoon barbecue in your backyard or at the beach.

## **A Few Guidelines For Wristwear**

### **Choosing a wrist to wear the bracelet**

While there is no hard and fast rule about which wrist to wear a bracelet, they are traditionally worn on your dominant hand's wrist. It's best to wear it on the wrist opposite your watch to avoid scratching your watch.

## Aim for balance if wearing multiple bracelets

Counterbalance dark colored suits or outfits with lighter colored bracelets. Wearing multiple bracelets? Mix a lighter, brighter bracelet with a metal cuff. Wear a combination of beaded bracelets with leather or metal cuffs.

## Your bracelet does not have to match your watch

However, make sure it doesn't overpower it. A chunkier weekend watch looks good paired with bigger bracelets. A more refined dial on a dress watch looks better with a subtler accessory on the opposite wrist.

## Ensure your bracelet suits the occasion

If you're heading to an art gallery, five bracelets with a sports jacket and a pair of jeans are fine. If you're heading to a business meeting, you might want to tone it down with just one subtle piece of wrist wear.



Should men wear bracelets? [Watch this video to find out.](#)

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**Attractive?** More **Successful**  
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you can use to immediately transform your style.



## 8. A Man's Guide To Cufflinks

Cufflinks Rock!

Think about it – when else can a man wear a piece of jewelry that's both functional and ornamental?

Never tried them?

You're missing out – try them and you'll get compliments from people who notice the details.

But FIRST – you have to know how to wear them and understand the various cufflink types/materials/styles so you don't buy junk but instead invest in future heirlooms you can pass onto your kids!

Cufflinks might be traditionally associated with men's semi formal evening wear (the tuxedo ensemble), but the versatile little fasteners can fill a surprising range of wardrobe roles.

So long as you've got a long-sleeved shirt with the requisite holes in the cuff, you can work cufflinks into just about any outfit.

### What Are Cufflinks?

Cufflinks are tools for fastening shirt cuffs closed.

They're an alternative to the buttons that are commonly sewn onto shirt cuffs. The defining feature is that cufflinks are separate objects: sew it onto the shirt and it's a button, but if it's fully removable it's a cufflink.

Just like buttons, cufflinks come in many shapes, sizes, styles, and materials. They usually offer a little more contrast than a button, and are considered a more ornamental option, but they're not inherently more or less formal.

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## The Basic Cufflink: How It Works

A cufflink fastens a shirt by sliding through holes on either side of the cuff opening, then swinging into a locked or fixed position to hold the sides together.

The most common cufflink consists of a large head or "insert member" with a decorative front face, a post that extends from the back of the head, and a hinged toggle that swings out from the post to fasten the link.

These are fastened by setting the toggle in its closed position, so that there is a straight post descending from the underside of the head.

The post slides through the holes on both sides of the cuffs, and then the toggle is swung outward to prevent the post from sliding back out.

That holds the cufflink in place, with the front face of the insert member placed decoratively atop the buttonholes.

## Types of Cufflinks

There are dozens of variations on the basic theme of the hinged cufflink, and several other mechanical alternatives as well. Here are some of the most common types of cufflinks:

Whale Back Cufflinks have a flat head, a straight post, and a "whale tail" that flips completely flat against the post. They are very simple, and their large post and closing mechanism make them easy to use. This is probably the most common type of cufflink on the market.

Bullet Back Cufflinks are quite similar to whale tail cufflinks, but the post is a hollow frame, and the closing mechanism is a narrow cylinder of metal that nests inside the frame. To lock the links in place, the cylinder is flipped outward, leaving the frame in place as the post.

Stud or Button Style Cufflinks have no hinge mechanism. Instead, they have a large head, a straight post, and a smaller, interior head or backing. The smaller head is tilted, worked through the buttonhole, and then straightened out to lock it in place. Once in place, they are quite secure, and the lack of moving parts makes them very durable.

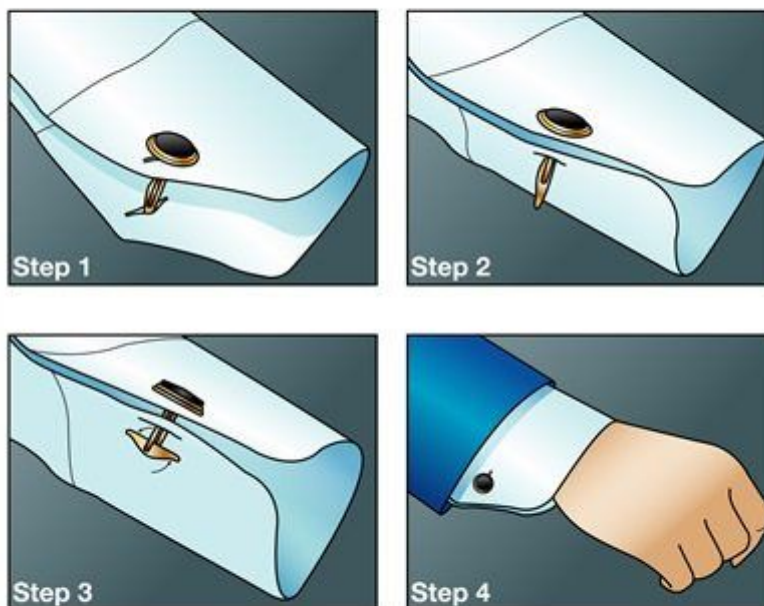


Chain Link Cufflinks have two heads (usually identical) connected by a short length of fine chain. This creates a slightly looser fastening than other styles, with visible decoration on both sides of the closed buttonholes.

Ball Return Cufflinks have a curved post with a small, heavy ball opposite the decorative head. They provide a slightly looser fastening than hinged cufflinks, but a slightly tighter one than chain. They can be expensive when made in precious metals, as the size and weight of the ball adds considerably to the material cost of the item.

## How To Wear Cufflinks

*Presented By: Real Men Real Style*



Locking Dual-Action Cufflinks use a hinge mechanism similar to the closure of a metal watch band.

The entire post is the hinge: the cufflink swings open, the smaller end is slipped through the opening, and then the cufflink is swung shut once more, clipping the sides of the cuff together underneath the head. This is a contemporary style, and after a short learning curve is one of the easiest to use and most secure styles available.

Knot Cufflinks are similar to chain link, with two heads connected by a short, flexible length, but they are made of soft cord (usually silk) rather than metal, and the heads are decorative knots. The irregular surface of the knotwork makes this a more casual style, particularly when multiple colors are involved.

Fabric Cufflinks can be almost any fastener style, but have a fabric "button" on top as the ornamental face. They are a deliberately casual style.

[Click here](#) to read my detailed article about cufflink types, materials, and how to properly wear cufflinks.

## How to Fasten a Cuff with Cufflinks

Cufflinks can be worn with either single cuffs, which look just like a regular buttoning dress shirt cuff but with holes on both sides of the opening, or with doubled-back "French" cuffs.

French cuffs will have two holes on either side of the opening, which should line up one atop the other when you fold the cuff back.

To fasten the cuff, the holes on both side of the cuff opening are lined up, the cufflink is inserted through so that the post runs all the way through all the holes, and the link is then set into its closed position.

The sides of the cuff are most commonly matched up "kissing," with the interior faces touching one another.

This turns the hemmed edges of the cuff opening outward from the wrist, one atop the other.

It is not "wrong," however, to fasten the cuff sides overlapping rather than kissing. In that arrangement, the underside of one edge of the cuff lays atop the outer face of the other edge, so that only one hemmed edge points outward.

The overlapping or "barrel" style looks more slim and business-like than the more ornamental "kissing" look. Neither are wrong, but the kissing approach has traditionally been considered better suited to the ornamental nature of cufflinks.

## Cufflink Materials

Cufflinks can be made of almost anything, and ornamented with everything from precious stones to repurposed novelty junk. Gold, silver, and platinum are obvious favorites, especially for cufflinks that have no other decorative materials, and that rely on the quality of their metal alone for aesthetic value.

Other popular materials include:

Carbon fiber – a strong, contemporary material with a sleek, silvery surface that can easily be colored during the manufacturing process. Very popular and very common for all-metal cufflinks, especially in modern designs.

Crystal – a versatile and common choice for sparkling cufflinks, available in almost any color, shape, and size imaginable.

Enamel – a popular material for adding colored or black gloss atop a metal surface, made from fused, powdered glass. It creates a smooth, shiny surface, and is quite durable, although it can chip if struck against a hard surface.

Glass – versatile and affordable, with many coloring options. Colored glass is often casual, but it varies considerably depending on the design.

Gunmetal – an alloy of copper, zinc, and tin that produces a dark, glossy metal. Masculine and contemporary.

Mother-of-pearl – a pale, glossy material sourced from seashells. This is the same material used to make high-quality shirt buttons, so cufflinks made from it can closely resemble shirt buttons. Commonly seen on the cufflinks for formal and semi formal outfits.

Onyx – a crystalline form of quartz available in many shades, including white, purple, blue, and black. Often used as the black material in formal wear cufflinks.

Precious stones – anything from diamonds, rubies, and emeralds to citrine and opal. Obviously a high-end option, with styles ranging from austere and simple to downright gaudy.

Rose gold – an alloy of gold and copper that produces a reddish-tinted metal.

Silk – the most common option for cord and knot cufflinks. Less formal than metal and stone.



Stainless steel – a simple, practical, and durable option, suitable for business and casual wear.

Sterling silver – bright and reflective, with more shine than stainless steel or carbon fiber.

Titanium – a very strong, durable option with a low-gloss gray color. More reserved than stainless steel or sterling silver. Because of its durability, it is popular for cufflinks with fine engraved and etched detailing that would wear down quickly in a softer metal.

## When to Wear Cufflinks

The most recognizable role for cufflinks is as the formal and semiformal alternative to buttons. If you're wearing a suit with a white tie or black tie outfit properly, it will have links at the cuffs (and often studs instead of buttons on the shirtfront as well).

That's hardly the extent of their wardrobe functionality, however. Shirts ranging from plain white business dress to colorful and casual options come with French cuffs, or with single cuffs with holes on each side rather than a button and a buttonhole.

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**A Man's Guide To Wearing Jewelry**

Furthermore, tailors can easily convert any shirt with a basic button-and-buttonhole arrangement into one that takes cufflinks, simply by removing the button and inserting a small buttonhole in its place.

That means you can – if you want to – wear cufflinks with everything from your best business shirt to a ratty flannel work shirt. And yes, some people are doing the latter – never underestimate the contemporary hipster's love for mixing high fashion with low.

Practically speaking, most men will wear cufflinks in business and relatively formal social settings, as an accent to a suit-and-tie ensemble. That said, more relaxed links are perfectly acceptable with a sports jacket, and can add an air of playfulness that simple buttons don't provide.

In conclusion – there are no hard and fast rules. Wear cufflinks when you want to wear cufflinks. The only limits are your collection of suitable shirts – and, of course, your budget.



## 9. A Man's Guide To Wearing Necklaces

There's a bit of a barrier for men to get over regarding any sort of jewelry, and necklaces are considered one of the hardest items to wear.

But take your cue from the professionals – men can and do look great wearing necklaces.

It just takes a little know-how.

### Necklaces and Men's Style

A necklace for a guy is a little bit different than one for a woman.

For one thing, men are never going to wear anything that could be considered "costume jewelry" – the big, chunky stuff with rows of jewels that you'll see accompanying evening gowns. That's strictly a woman's fashion.

There's also much less of an idea among designers that the jewelry should be the centerpiece of an outfit.

Men's jewelry is meant to complement, not to overwhelm.

That means necklaces that are a little more rugged and rough around the edges.

Good jewelry for men should look natural – like you've been wearing it for years, after it was given to you by your grandfather, who wore it for years before you.

You'll see some brighter, shinier stuff, of course, and even the massive "bling" of urban caricature.

And there'll be some very light and fragile designs here and there too, but at either extreme you're talking about exceptions to the rule. They catch people's attention precisely because they're so outlandish.

Most men who wear necklaces well won't be noticeable for their jewelry. You'll just see them as "stylish," and then notice the accents over time.

## 5 Styles of Necklace for Men

There are broad families of necklace styles worth knowing about.

These have been traditionally masculine styles for years (although some are worn by women as well), and they're natural pairs for a classic men's style.

### 1. Dog Tags

Military-style dog tags are functionally just a specialized pendant, but they bear mention on their own, if only because more and more jewelers seem to be making upscale versions.

Your basic dog tags, obviously, are a pair of tabs on a ball chain with text on them.

Actual military tags usually list the wearer's name and medical information, and sometimes rank and religious preference.

Decorative takes on the style often keep the blank ovaloid shape but replace the text with an image or raised design.

The ball chain may also be replaced with something finer and flashier.

Different people are going to have different takes on this style. Some people love the nod to military style; other people find it disrespectful of actual servicemen and servicewomen, as it trivializes a fairly serious piece of identification.

Wear them if it's really your style, but be aware that not everyone's going to love it – and don't wear a flashy set into a VFW post if you didn't serve.



## 2. Chains

Plain, unornamented chains of metal are a classic male adornment.

They can create any number of looks, depending on the metal used, the length of the chain, and the style of links and the method of fastening them.

The most classic style of chain necklace has relatively flat loops, spaced close together so that the chain appears as almost a solid ribbon of metal, and is long enough to fall a bit below the collarbone.

These have been seen on men (including men with no other stylish accents in their outfit) for the better part of a century.

They're a statement on their own, whether they're worn with a white T-shirt or a tailored suit.

The key to wearing a chain well is modesty. Keep the style understated, and keep the chain underneath your shirt.

The small amount that's visible is enough to make your statement for you.

Because the metal basically defines how the entire chain looks, it's worth spending more to get a higher-quality product here. Avoid cheap alternatives and go for a quality gold, silver, or platinum.

## 3. Religious Emblems

Worth a quick mention are the various necklaces that denote religious affiliation or are tied to faith.

Some of these are required/encouraged by specific faiths or sects, while others are merely personal displays of belief.

Most will be of the pendant style. Christian crosses, Stars of David, scapulars, and other symbols can all be made into dangling ornaments easily enough.





In most cases, these are worn under the shirt, against the body on a chain long enough that the ornament falls below the neckline.

My opinion is that these pieces should be understated & simple – fine to share with people in situations where you're taking your shirt off, but you don't want it to be the first thing someone notices about you in a crowded bar.

That doesn't mean there aren't large, metallic or jeweled cross pendants and things like that out there, of course.

They're just not going to be the sort of quiet, stylish accent piece that a man's jewelry ideally should be.

## 4. Pendants

It's an incredibly broad term, but a pendant-style necklace basically just means a single small ornament on a relatively long chain or cord, such that the ornament rests below your neck.

These are common, popular, and versatile.

The ornament can be anything from a shaped jewel to a clay tablet with a character etched on it to a tiny vial or scroll case, or just about anything else.

As long as it's small enough to rest comfortably against your breastbone, it'll work.

Pendants can be worn outside casual shirts like T-shirts, but are usually tucked underneath anything with a turndown collar.

A deep V-neck may, of course, bare enough of the chest that the pendant can be seen against the bare skin.

## 5. Chokers

A choker is basically the opposite of a pendant: it's a solid band around the neck that doesn't hang down, often broken with ornaments or designs at regular intervals.

Dog collars are a style of choker; so are the woven hemp necklaces popular in surfer and hippie culture.

Fashionable men have taken advantage of toned-down variations on both, so don't be afraid to sport some leather or rope around your neck.

Just make sure it's not too over the top, and give yourself enough room in the fit that it's comfortable.

Metal chokers are relatively uncommon. So are chokers with an ornament hanging from the front – that looks a bit too much like a pet with its tags hanging from its collar for most people's taste, and not in a hardcore, military-style dog tag kind of way.

## Chains and Cords

If your necklace has an ornament on it, that can be anything.

No, seriously – anything. People wear jewels, they wear carved wood; they wear laminated Scrabble tiles. It would be impossible to try and categorize the options for necklace ornaments in any meaningful way.

The chain or cord on which the ornament (if any) hangs, on the other hand, can only take so many forms. Between the material used and the length, the chain is giving your necklace a lot of its character, so take the time to understand what it's saying – no matter what ornaments you're hanging on it.

## Chain Materials

Unless you're wearing deep V-necks, the part of your necklace that people see the most of is probably going to be the chain/cord.

Here's how some of the most common items will affect your outfits:

Precious metals are meant to be seen and noticed. Keep them slim, especially if they're supporting an ornament as well, and be aware that they're drawing a lot of attention. The rest of your outfit doesn't have to be fancy – if it gets too visually busy, you start to look overwhelming. Simple is best with metal chains.

Steel ball chains are a slim, utilitarian style frequently used for long pendants. They're relatively minimalist, and won't distract from the rest of your outfit. Wear them when you don't want your necklace to stand out (especially if the ornament is hidden under a shirt).

Leather cords are a little bigger than ball chains, but not as eye-catching as bright metal. They give a relaxed, natural look that goes well with casual clothing and modern styles. They're less ideal with collared shirts and [business wear](#).

Hemp and rope cord are most common in chokers, where they're woven into larger arrangements. These have a casual, outdoorsy look that most people will associate with hippies, surfers, and guys who camp a lot. On their own, as a single cord, they look a little flimsy and scruffy.

Ribbons or colored cords made from a cloth like velvet are generally reserved for medals, not for decorative jewelry. It's a bit too feminine for most men's style, no matter what the ornament is.

Remember that chains can easily be swapped – just because you bought a pendant on a stainless silver chain doesn't mean you can't wear it on a leather thong.

The ability to swap cords in and out is part of what makes necklaces such a versatile part of the wardrobe. Once you own three or four pendants that you like, you can buy a couple extra chains/cords and suddenly find yourself with over a dozen different necklace options.

## Chain Length

Where the ornament hangs on your chest (or the nadir of the chain, if you have no pendant) affects both the overall style of a necklace and the types of shirts it goes well with.



Short, choker-style necklaces can be worn with just about anything, short of a suit and tie. They look unusual underneath a dress shirt or other turndown collar, but it's not necessarily a bad thing. On their own above a low collar, of course, they stand out on their own, and viewers can see the whole necklace.

Mid-length chains that end right around the base of the neck or the top of the breastbone are typical for unornamented metal chains. This leaves most of the links visible with an open shirt collar, or with a non-turndown collar like a T-shirt's. On the other hand, it's the most awkward length for a pendant, since the ornament will fall under the collar on some shirts, above it on others, and awkwardly halfway-covered on a few.

Long chains or cords are good for pendants, but often hide them underneath your shirt. The ornaments attached to them will generally only be worn outside very casual outfits, meaning you'll need a V-neck or a few open buttons if you want the pendant to be visible.

As with the materials, remember that you can always swap chains and cords in and out – and, in the case of metal chains, you can even have a jeweler shorten them, though if you can avoid the expense by buying the right length in the first place it's obviously preferable.

## Men's Necklaces – Conclusion

A good necklace is an accent piece for a well-dressed man, just like a ring or a necktie or a good set of cufflinks.

It's not going to be something he wears every day, or with every outfit (except in the case of religious necklaces, or something else kept under the shirt as a personal token).

You don't want to be known for a specific piece of jewelry. Mix it up and enjoy expanding your collection from time to time. A few good pendants and a wide selection of cords and chains gives you a large number of possibilities, once you start mixing and matching.

And don't be shy. If you look good, you look good, no matter what accents you're wearing.

[Click here](#) to watch my quick guide on cufflinks.



## 10. How Much Jewelry Is Too Much

For men, wearing jewelry and accommodating an outfit with accessories happens much less frequently than it does with women.

With that fact in mind, the ability for men to understand how to utilize these features is essential.

This article will thoroughly examine the different types of accessories men can use, and more importantly, how to use them properly.

### The Function of Men's Jewelry and Accessories

The use of jewelry and accessories when dressing formally can provide subtle touches that tie an outfit together in a great way. There are many different forms of jewelry, but that doesn't mean you have to use ALL of them.

Knowing how and when to wear jewelry can be the difference between a confident look and a loud look, the latter being the one in which most men should try to avoid.

Developing a sense of how to wear jewelry and accessories is essential, but first, we'll look at the different types of accessories and jewelry, and describe their functions.

### Men's Watches

The watch's most basic function is to tell time, but when dressing formally, it does much more than that. A watch can subtly compliment an outfit and add class to an appearance.

The best watches for formal attires are the simpler watches.

Not watches with a million designs or hands or numbers. 12 numbers, 3 hands, and a nice plain face will nicely compliment an already nice outfit.

## Men's Rings

Rings are interesting pieces because they usually represent something significant. Men usually don't go out to a store and buy a ring for themselves, but instead they'll receive a ring as a special gift or from a special event.

Class rings, [wedding rings](#), and championship rings from sports teams are all significant pieces that should be worn with pride in a situation where formal clothes are called for. Other than that, usually only the wedding ring is worn.

## Men's Cufflinks

When wearing French Cuffs on a dress shirt, [cufflinks](#) aren't just an accessory, but they're a necessity as well.

A French-cuffed shirt is usually called for during formal times, so being able to wear cuffs for such occasions is a bonus.

There are plenty of designs and colors available when it comes to cuffs, and most will work as long as they don't call attention to themselves.

## Tie Clips

The main function of a [tie clip](#) is to keep a man's tie from being blown over his shoulder by the wind when he's outside.

Aside from their ability to keep a man's look together when he's on-the-go, tie clips add a classy look to a well put together outfit, and also tend to add a very businesslike look to the working man at the office

The most acceptable colors for a tie clip are usually gold or silver (and silver goes perfectly with a classic black suit, white shirt and black tie) but other colors are acceptable as long as they complement the rest of the outfit.

## Tie Chains

Tie chains provide the same function as a tie clip, but you're getting a droop as opposed to a straight bar. The chain will also add something to the tie, and it is best to go with either gold or silver.

## Tie Tacks

Tie tacks can provide as a nice touch to a certain color or pattern of a tie, but they will damage your tie because you'll have to poke a hole through the tie itself.

Knowing this, one should be wary about tie tacks as they're not necessarily recommended unless one uses them sparingly or intends to buy a lot of new ties.

Knowing this, one should be wary about tie tacks as they're not necessarily recommended unless one uses them sparingly or intends to buy a lot of new ties.

## Men's Hats

When a hat is worn today, it almost seems as if it's a salute to the style of past generations where men would always wear hats if they left the house.

Although the hat may have lost its appeal over time, it hasn't necessarily lost its style.

A good hat can add flavor to an outfit, and it can also have many practical uses, such as keeping the sun out of your eyes, keeping your hair neat on a windy day, and keeping your head dry on a rainy day.

When worn for stylish purposes, a hat can make a face seem rounder and fuller, just as a certain suit can make a man look taller or thinner.

Hats can be very stylish and they can complete a head-to-toe look, but the wrong hat on a man can look foolish. There is a great [variety of hats to choose from](#), and finding the right one can tie together a complete look.

## Knowing When It's Too Much

The single most important part of any accessories or pieces of jewelry is to make sure that they complement an outfit, not distract from it or override it.

The most important part of a formal outfit is the suit, and everything else – the tie, the belt, the shoes, the pocket square – everything, is designed to complement the suit.

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If you find yourself wearing something that calls attention to it or distracts from the overall image you're pursuing, it's too much.

Moderation and subtlety are the keys to getting a classic, formal, well-put-together look, so too much of something is a bad thing.

Rather than wearing 3 rings, a watch and a bracelet, try cutting back so it's more subtle.

The best part of a good suit is often the suit itself, but proper accessories, worn correctly, can turn a good suit into a great suit.



Avoid jewelry mistakes. [Click here to watch the video.](#)





## 11. Tie Clips

I acquired my first tie clip not knowing what it was.

I was a newly commissioned 2nd Lt. and had just purchased the new officer package at the Marine Shop in Quantico.

It came with about a hundred other uniform items I purchased as a set, and I can count the number of times I used that clip on one hand – yea, it didn't get much use as I wore a flight suit and cammies the vast majority of the time.

Fifteen years later though I have grown to love that old EGA clip – there is something about this forgotten but useful men's accessory that endears it to me.

What – you know nothing about tie clips?

Well let's fix that!

### Tie Clip History

The [tie clip](#) (also called the tie bar & tie slide) is a piece of men's jewelry that dates back to around the turn of the 20th century.

Prior to then, men's ties were folded constructions, varying in complexity from the fairly straightforward to the downright architectural.

Some styles needed to be held in place with straight pins, which jewelers decorated the ends of, creating the first piece of men's necktie jewelry – the "tie pin."

When fashion straightened men's ties out into the straight up-and-down shape we're familiar with today, the long, vertical tie pins became less useful.

Around the same time trends started leaning toward very finely-woven silks and similar materials, the fragile weaves of which would start to unravel if you stuck them with a pin too many times.

The [tie bar or tie clip](#) was a straightforward design solution. Instead of a pin that slid in and back out of the fabric, a flat piece of metal was bent into a tight "U" shape and slid directly around the tie on both sides.

This could be done to just hold the two tails of the tie together, but men immediately started using it to clip the tie to their shirtfront as well, preventing it from swinging away from the body.

That's still how we use tie clips today. They're a simple, practical piece for anyone who doesn't want his [necktie](#) swaying too far away from his chest.

That could be a safety precaution — say, for a traveling sales rep who occasionally finds himself on factory floors or other heavy machinery areas — or simply a safety precaution for the diner who's dipped his tie in his sauce one time too many.

## Styles and Fashions of Tie Clips

The origins of the tie clip coincide with a decadent and elaborate period in dressing. Pre-war Europe had intensely hierarchical rules of fashion, and a lot of the early tie bars from that period are made from precious metal and elaborately inlaid with jewels.

Post-WWI or "Roaring Twenties" clips tend to be more artistic and less gaudy. Many denoted membership in a particular group or club, especially military regiments from the war and gentleman's clubs (in the original sense, not the kind with pole dancers) in urban England.

That's also when the idea of "novelty" accessories really started to take hold in the popular culture.

These days you can pay upwards of a thousand dollars for a genuine Hollywood tie clip (often depicting some exotic motif, like camels standing nose-to-tail) from the twenties, but at the time they were shamelessly commercial promotions, not at all unlike logo-bearing bumper stickers or ballpoint pens today.

You can find tie clips in just about any style you please.

The most business-appropriate will be small, restrained pieces in one color of metal, usually either a gold or silver tone.

For more casual wear, everything from the vintage Hollywood tchotchkes mentioned above to abstract modern art styles can be made to work.

Tie clips are one of those things that's never really "out of fashion" – they're always useful, and will always have their fans – but right now they're definitely coming into fashion, particularly with younger men.

Handmade, crafted, vintage, and DIY styles are showing up alongside all the other mismatched menswear of the hipster subculture – and the mainstream that borrows from it more restrainedly.

## How to Wear Your Tie Clip

If you've got a tie clip, the use should be fairly self-explanatory: slide the two sides of the clip around both tails of your necktie and the edge of your shirt placket, sandwiching it all inside the clip. Push until the U-bend of the clip is snug against the side of your tie. Bam, you're done.

To get a little more particular about it: you should usually go from your right side to your left.

If you go the other way you'll be able to clip your tie, but not the placket of a regular men's dress shirt (where the side with the holes, the left side as you wear it, lies on top of the side with the buttons, or the right side as you wear it).

Where you clip the tie is up to you, but keep it at least a couple inches away from either the top or the bottom.

A good default is above the center button on your shirtfront (or between the two center buttons if you have an even number).

Plain, non-mechanical clips do tend to settle a bit over time, usually stopping on a button, so it's often easiest to place it right on top of a button to begin with.

All the buttons are hidden by your [tie](#) anyway, so it doesn't look cluttered, and it helps keep the bar from tilting at an angle over time.

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If you're having trouble with a tie clip popping off, the bend is probably a little too small for the fabric you're trying to fit inside it. You can very gently bend the clip a little wider, or just wear it with thinner ties.

Hinged tie clips have a little more "bite" to them, which is great for keeping everything firmly in place but can dent the tie's surface a little if the spring or hinge is too tight. Use a little caution, but don't worry about it too much – it's still easier on the tie than a pin.

True aficionados will no doubt experiment with other, related items like the tie chain or tack, but any man can enjoy a simple, stylish tie bar. FYI – if you want to see a young man pulling off the tie clip make sure to go check out Sabir [at Men's Style Pro](#).



How do you wear a tie clip? [Watch this video](#) to find out.

- The End -

...or is it just the **beginning of your style journey?**

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See you on the other side!