

well suited

The English call it a dinner suit, the Americans a tuxedo and Europeans a 'smoking', whatever the name, the tux is a traditional uniform with dress rules to follow.

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THE AIM

"Walking into a room with good posture, a bright smile and a confident stride will go a long way towards cultivating (this) respect. Wearing the right clothes, however, will drive the point home."

G IS FOR GENTLEMAN

BY SAM MARTIN

PUBLISHED BY APPLE PRESS 2007

THE MUST-KNOW

"Dinner jackets should not be seen before 6pm; though if you are a guest at a daytime wedding and the invitation says black tie, then you have no choice but to grin and bear it. If you are being married in the day, and really want to follow conventional etiquette, you must wear morning dress."

"Personally I'm not too big on waistcoats which clutter the snow white shirt front. Matching sets of patterned waistcoats and bow ties are to be avoided; they make you look like a small town pharmacist trying to be original...and the bow tie, needless to say, must be real, that is to say, self-tied and not horrifyingly "made-up."

MEN'S STYLE: THE THINKING

MAN'S GUIDE TO DRESS

BY RUSSELL SMITH. PUBLISHED

BY ST MARTIN'S PRESS 2007

THE REAL REASON

"The whole point of black tie, the whole reason all us men look like we do (identical) is in order to allow women to shine."

MR JONES' RULES FOR THE

MODERN MAN BY DYLAN JONES

PUBLISHED BY HODDER &

STOUGHTON LTD 2007

When buying the dinner suit, there are some important things to consider. HENRY BUCKS in Melbourne is one of the world's great menswear stores, MARGARET McDONNELL, the marketing manager says one of the most important things to consider is comfort. *"The suit needs to stand up to the rigours of the ceremony and dancing so the fabric is very important. The best suits are made of lightweight wool. The lighter the suit, the more comfortable; heavier suits are more rigid making the wearer feel more rigid,"* she says.

According to Margaret, the most popular style is the single breasted with a peak lapel. Black is most popular but HENRY BUCKS is seeing a slight move towards a white jacket. *"Think James Bond and Cary Grant, he always wore a white jacket, very smart,"* she says.

It's especially important to have expert fitting and tailoring. The length of trousers is very important, they should be not too long and not too short. And surprise, surprise, most men choose their own suit without their partner; then groomsmen choose their suits to match or complement the groom's.

The price increases with the quality of tailoring, quality of cloth and detail in construction. The average cost is \$1295.

The dinner suit should be matched with beautiful accessories; The shirt should be pure cotton because it breathes. A classic Marcella (pique) or pintucked are most popular with a standard collar. Wing collars are definitely out of favour. Studs can be an expression of personal taste but they should always match the watch. Cufflinks also should be teamed with the watch and the studs.

A black tie is the most appropriate to wear with a classic dinner suit, but it is an opportunity to express individuality. If wearing a buttonhole, never team it with a handkerchief. It's one or the other.

On the feet, black silk socks and black patent shoes are the formal look, preferably not lace-ups.

Belts are never worn with a dinner suit, the trousers should not have belt loops; suspenders are a quirky addition, but not very popular. A cummerbund is acceptable and traditional.