

Return Of The Necktie

Until recently, the decline of formal dress codes signalled mothballs for the tie, but AW18's designer collections suggest there's life in the old accessory yet

01 Back in the Loop

Considering track pants and casual shirts have now become acceptable office attire, it's hardly surprising that the tie has come to be viewed as an anachronism. But, as we know, style is cyclical and fashion is a fickle beast, so it was only a matter of time before the tie would have its day again. Our guide will help you sort your four-in-hands from your Windsors and your silks from your yarns.

A/ Wool

Cotton's wintry cousin is a versatile option in the British climate. Whether knitted or woven, wool adds texture to any ensemble. Far more casual than their silk counterparts, these ties are better suited to the less stuffy end of professional or social occasions. **Wear it to:** The office, a meet-the-parents meal, or your next trip to Milan

B/ Silk

The most common tie fabric, silk works for just about any occasion. But that's not to say that anything goes. There's a crucial distinction between "premium" and "Premier League" – look for a label that indicates your tie has been "hand-finished" and you'll be on the right team. **Wear it to:** The office, weddings, race meetings and formal affairs

C/ Cotton and linen

The breezy choice for warm weather. If it's summery enough for you to wear sunglasses, these lighter fabrics are appropriate. They allow you to experiment with pastel shades and light-hued checks, both of which work well with deconstructed summer tailoring. **Wear it to:** Summer weddings and outdoor sporting events



A BLUE PLAID £75 BUDD SHIRTMAKERS
NAVY SPECKLED £105 GIEVES & HAWKES

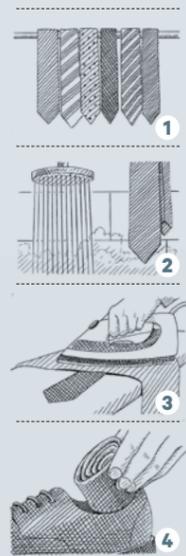
B PURPLE GEOMETRIC AND BLUE SPOTTED BOTH £65 BOTH CHESTER BARRIE

C LIGHT BLUE AND GREY STRIPED BOTH £59.50 BOTH J CREW

02 Shelf Care

Failing to hang after your tie can make the difference between finessing your outfit and ruining it. To start with, Holger Auffenberg, head of design at Chester Barrie, advises hanging your ties with the knots undone **1**. "This allows wrinkles to drop out and the fabric to breathe," he says. "It's also more space-efficient than rolling them up." If you do end up with some particularly stubborn creases, however, there is

a simple, time-saving solution. "Hang your tie in the bathroom **2** while you're running a hot shower – the steam will relax the fibres," says Michael Hill, creative director of classic English gentlemen's outfitter Drake's. "And only use an iron as a last resort, placing a tea towel over the tie to protect it **3**." When you're travelling, your best option is to roll up your ties. "Slip them inside your shoes **4**," says Simon Maloney, product and marketing director of New & Lingwood. "That way, they'll stay in good shape, no matter what the baggage handlers might do."



03 Tie Fighters

Ties are often associated with starchy institutions – a reputation that, more likely than not, stems from the noose-like grip of your enforced regimental school tie. However, for AW18, forward-thinking designers are showing us a softer side to the tie – one that proves it's more than just a finishing touch to stiff tailoring. Here are the houses that are bringing this badge of manhood back to the sartorial spotlight with a distinctly modern spin.



STERLING SILVER TIE CLIP £150 LINKS OF LONDON
SILVER AND ONYX TIE CLIP £210 TATEOSSIAN

04 Emergency Protocols

When you've been inelegant with the red wine or gravy, these quick fixes from James Cook of shirtmaker Turnbull & Asser will see you right



01/ If the stain is liquid, apply soda water – the bubbles will agitate the misadventure and lift it from the fabric.



02/ For oil-based stains, talcum powder helps to dry them out. Leave for a few minutes and then rub it off.



03/ Blot ink stains with a napkin, then soak in cold water. Hot will only set the ink in place.



A/ Slick Operator The Four-in-Hand Knot

Difficulty rating: ●●●●●

Giorgio Armani's sophisticated approach to Italian luxury has kept the designer ahead in the style game for more than 40 years, and his pairing of a simple four-in-hand knot with a well-cut but comfortable, double-breasted suit proves the tie remains a key part of a formal look. "If there's only one knot you'll ever need, it's the four-in-hand," says Hill. "It's a neat classic and sits nicely between the points of a button-down collar. Master it and you're set for life."



B/ Pattern Clash The Prince Albert Knot

Difficulty rating: ●●●●●

Shown here by Hermès, the secret to making bolder patterns work is ensuring that one common colour runs through all the juxtaposing patterns. It's best to steer clear of elaborate knots to prevent your outfit from looking too busy. A four-in-hand knot or the slightly harder Prince Albert are ideal. "The Albert is similar to the four-in-hand, but with an extra turn around the knot to provide some volume," says Auffenberg. "Much less painful than the intimate piercing of the same name."



C/ Nonconformist The Windsor Knot

Difficulty rating: ●●●●●

Alexander McQueen's layering of a Windsor knot with an oversized argyle knit and leather jacket shows that ties need not be confined to the realms of formality. "The Windsor is a fairly wide, symmetrical knot, so this is usually worn with a semi or severe cutaway collar," says Auffenberg. "It uses a lot of the tie length, so it needs practice to be fixed in the right position." For this look, McQueen has chosen to defy convention and style it with a button-down collar, because rules – especially style ones – are made to be broken.



D/ Casual Tuck The Pratt Knot

Difficulty rating: ●●●●●

Your tie doesn't have to be on full display to make an impression. Dunhill proves that tucking your tie between two layers of denim can bring a touch of quiet élan to a casual look. A Pratt – or Shelby – knot (in which you start with the back of your tie facing the front) is useful here, says Maloney: "It's broader but not as full as a Windsor, and works well with most collars. A major benefit is that its construction naturally introduces the desired 'dimple', rather than you needing to introduce it later, which is fiddly." Tie one on.

Photography by Lucky If Sharp
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