

The Well-Dressed Man

By Patti Jones

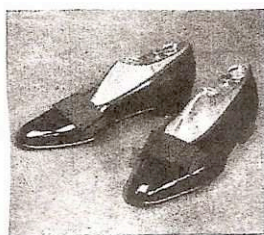
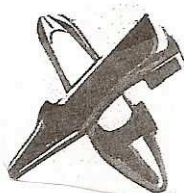
From the golf course to the board room to the opera, the well dressed Model A man needed a diversified wardrobe to suit any occasion. To help a man decide what was appropriate for each occasion, the A. Mainus Custom Tailor had a handy chart (dated 1930) for the dapper Model A man to select the correct accessory.

LATEST DRESS AND FASHION CHART						
DAY DRESS					EVENING DRESS	
OCCASION	INFORMAL Business Morning Wear	INFORMAL Field Sports Automobiling Country Wear Vehicular Driving, Golfing	SEMI-FORMAL Church Promenade Afternoon Call	FORMAL Day Wedding Matinee Reception	SEMI-FORMAL Informal or At Home Dinners Club or Lodge Stag or Informal Affairs	FORMAL Wedding Formal Dinner Theatre Reception or Ball
COAT	Lounge, Reeler or Novelty Sack Business Cutaway	Norfolk Coat or Novelty Sack or Reeler Sack	Single Breasted Cutaway or Frock	Cutaway Frock in One or Two Button Style Oxford or Black	Tuxedo Jacket with Peaked Lapel or Shawl Roll Oxford or Black	Swallow Tail Evening Coat
VEST	Same Material as Coat or Fancy Silk Mixture	Same Material as Coat or Fancy Silk Mixture	Same Material as Coat or White Marseilles	Same Material as Coat or White Marseilles	Same Material as Coat or White or Black Silk in Single or Double Breasted	White Silks Single or Double- Breasted with U-Shaped Opening
TROUSERS	Same Fabric as Coat	Knickerbockers Same Material as Coat for Field Sports	Striped Gray Worsted or Same Material as Coat	Striped Gray Worsted or Same Material as Coat	Same Material as Jacket with Braid or Narrow Braid or Silk Dress Cord	Same Material as Coat with Single Braid or Several Narrow Braids of Silk Serpentine Tubular Style
OVERCOAT	Chester Chesterfield or Raglan	Novelty Top Coat Chester or Raglan	Chesterfield or Double Breasted	Chesterfield or Double Breasted	Chesterfield Overcoat Oxford or Black	Chesterfield Overcoat or Inverness
SHIRT	Negligee White or Novelty Pattern	Negligee Plain in Silk or Madras in Novelty Pattern or Solid Colors	White Stiff Linen or Pique	White Stiff Linen or Pique	White Stiff Pique or Linen	White Stiff Linen or Pique
COLLAR	Soft Fold or Stiff Turned Down	Soft Collar to Match Shirt or White	Bold Wing or Stiff Turned Down	Bold Wing or Poke	Fold or Bold Wing	Plain Band to Lap Poke or Wing
NECKWEAR	Four-in-hand or Bow Tie	Four-in-hand Bow Tie or Stock Tie	Four-in-hand Ascot Once Over or Bow Tie	Black and White Ascot, Throw Over or Four-in-hand, White Pique Bow Tie	Black Silk or Satin Tie with Forked or Pointed Ends	Straight Tie with Butterfly or Rounded Ends Plain White or Figured Pique or Linen
HAT	Soft Felt Cloth or Derby	Soft Felt, Cap, Cloth Hat to Match Suit	High Silk with Two-inch Felt or Silk Band or Black Soft Felt	High Silk with Two-inch Felt or Silk Band	Black Derby or Soft Felt	High Silk or Silk Opera Hat with Felt or Silk Band
SHOES	Oxford Ties or Laced High Shoes in Black or Russet	Canvas or Black Calf or Russet Ties or High Shoes	Patent Leather or Calf with Kid Tops Laced or Buttoned	Patent Leather or Calf with Kid Tops Laced or Buttoned	Patent Leather Pumps or Patent Leather with Kid Tops Buttoned	Patent Leather Pumps or Patent Leather and Kid Tops Buttoned
GLOVES	Tan Cape Gray Suede or Tan Buckskin	Dogskin or Tan Cape in Golfing, Driving or Motoring Style	White Glacé Gray Suede or Tan	White Glacé or Gray Suede	Chamois, Gray Suede Tan Cape or Gray Buck	White Glacé Kid or White Cape

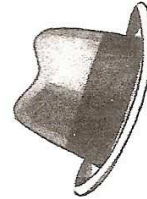
Evening wear for men changed little from year to year. A tailcoat for formal occasions (left), a tuxedo jacket (center) for semi-formal affairs was suggested. Accessory changes like plaited (pleated) shirt vs. a plain one; a white waist coat (vest) vs. a white one were some of the options men had for formal occasions. The double breasted suit (third from left) was suggested, in the May 1930 Women's Home Companion, that a groom could wear it instead of the conventional cutaway coat with striped trousers. Notice that the groom is wearing a winged collar shirt and small patterned black and white bow tie. The article also went on to say that the groom could wear gray striped pants with the jacket or white flannel pants for a warm summer wedding. Men wore Chesterfields (overcoats) over their tails or tuxes when the weather turned cold. This example (far right) could be purchased either in dark blue or oxford grey and was fully lined in silk. The lapels were either silk or velvet, and it had a fly-front to hide the buttons. (Vanity Fair, January and April 1931)



Dress pumps, like the ones on the left (below) would be worn with the tailcoat for evening wear. They were usually made of patent leather and adorned with a large gross-grain bow. For the tux or formal suit, a dress oxford made of dull calf with a plain toe was suggested for these two outfits. (Vanity Fair, January and April 1931)



Dress hats for tails were called "top hats" and made of either silk or beaver skin. If they were of silk, they could also collapse for easy storage or hat check-in at a favorite restaurant. A felt derby/bowler can be worn with a tux or dinner jacket, and were usually found in black. A grey or brown derby was worn with a nice business suit. Another option a man could have for a dressy hat was a fedora or homburg. These were either a dark blue or black felt with a gross-grain headband. These hats had a curled, molded brim, with the brim measuring 2 3/8". (Vanity Fair, January and April 1931)



The jewelry below was described as being versatile for formal and informal evening attire. Mother of Pearl was the most popular for evening wear for shirt studs and matching cufflinks. In the picture below, you see two styles of matching studs and cufflinks. The top left one was recommended for tails and the right one for tuxes. Shown in the middle were gold cufflinks for business suits. Studs were not worn with the type of shirt that was seen with business suits; very similar to today's white collared shirts. To complete his accessories, the well dressed Model A man carried a pocket watch and chain and a silver cigarette case as shown in the picture below. (Vanity Fair, April 1931)

