

Tie One On

This column is a tribute to that overlooked yet indispensable accessory for men (and some women who like the ever popular “Annie Hall” look) the humble necktie. When shopping at Goodwill Store & Donation Centers I always scout the tie rack for pleasing colors and high-end designer names! (I recently found light grey wool Christian Dior) The easiest and most cost conscious way for a gentleman to update his look is to tie one on! And for around \$1.49 I would venture to say this is a wise investment. Ties have been a staple in fashion for decades if not centuries! They run the gamut from the traditional business tie, to cravats and ascots and even the bolo string tie! These simple accessories can make even the blandest suit and shirt seem chic. They come in every fabric and color and can really help express your individuality. So, how does one tie a tie?



How To Tie a Tie

The traditional way to tie a tie is the ***four in hand***. This knot is less complex and only wraps around a couple of times. There is also what is called a ***Windsor knot***, named after the Duke of Windsor who was known for his masculine fashion sense. This is larger knot that works well for silk and other types of lightweight fabrics. The proper tie length should reach the center of the waistline, and just touch the belt. The Windsor knot with its doubling of the fabric works well for shorter guys, while the Four In Hand is better for taller gents.



Types of Ties

Cravat

Other neck enhancements are more formal like the cravat, which is a fuller almost scarf like tie. It is worn with evening clothes like tuxedos and dinner jackets, in the same manner as a regular tie or bow tie, on the outside of the shirt.



Ascot

The ascot, on the other hand has been popping up frequently on the red carpet on people like David Beckham and Jeremy Piven to name a few. Here the tie is tied directly around the neck and tucked into the shirt. This is very fashion forward and looks very European!



Bolo

The Bolo tie is almost more of a piece of jewelry. It is comprised of a brooch like center and is attached to braided leather "string". Usually this is a Western themed look, but rock stars and country musicians alike continue to sport this accessory with its movable "buckle". They can be fancy or plain; the choice is up to you!



Pre-tied

Pre-tied ties that close in the back of the neck are a good choice for those who just can't quite get the hang of tying or have a physical limitation that prevents them from doing so. They come in bow tie and traditional styles.

Always check out the jewelry case at your local Goodwill for cufflinks, tie clips, and tiepins. You never know what treasure you may find to compliment your new necktie.



Clip-on

For children ONLY comes the clip-on tie. This type just attaches to the top of a buttoned dress shirt. A grown man should NOT wear this under any circumstances! As well, please stay away from any tie that requires batteries!



Now that you know more about ties, it is time to get out there to the Goodwill Store and Donation Center nearest you, so you can tie one on too!