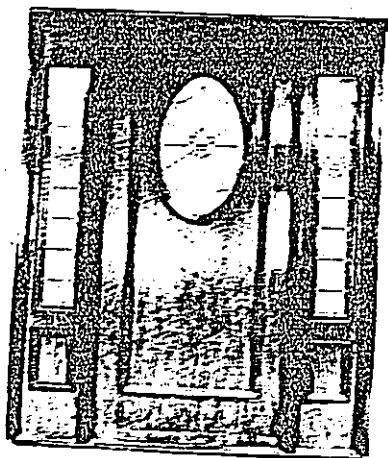




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Here's how to tie 1 on for the holidays

Is there any holiday gift that has a worse reputation than a man's tie?

Not your gift doesn't have to be the butt of jokes and a garment that is bound to the back of a closet.

The famous experts at Alfred Dunhill of London offer the following tips to guarantee you'll select a gift he'll love to wear.

• Take note of the fabric colors and clothing styles in his wardrobe. Keep this information in mind while you shop.

• Since tie lengths and widths vary, take along a tie that fits him well to use as a gauge.

• Silk ties work best with the formal look of a suit, dressy sport coat or blazer. There are four basic patterns you should know: Stripes, polka dots, club and solids.

• Stripes look well with tweed and plaid suits and blazers. When worn with a white shirt and business suit, a striped tie will command attention.

• Polka dots work best with plaid suits or blazers and dress shirts.

• Club ties complement a sporty combination of a tweed jacket and an oxford cloth shirt. The term "club" refers to the repeating design of animals, houndstooth, etc., that the English used years ago to indicate the school or club to which a man belonged.

• Foulies is the name for any small printed geometric patterns found in neck wear and usually creates a conservative understated look for business suits, dressy sport jackets and blazers.

• Knot ties require the casual look of a sport coat. They'll also add an air of informality to a business suit.

• Wool ties are for the rugged, outdoorsy look of tweed, corduroys and corded cloth shirts.

• Try to select colors that will complement his suits as well as highlight his eyes, complexion or hair. There are so many color blends available today that with a little experimentation, you're sure to find the winning combination. The guide below, which has been prepared by Alfred Dunhill of London, lists which tie and suit colors work best together.

Blue jacket: Red, dark blue, yellow or green tie.

Brown jacket: Dark brown, blue, tan or burgundy tie.

Gray jacket: Black, burgundy or blue tie.

Green jacket: Orange, green, beige, rust or burgundy tie.

Trust your intuition. Once you understand the basics, you'll probably discover how well you really know his tastes.



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