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# 10 Tips for Wearing a Tuxedo



Robert Caplin for The New York Times

It should fit. Really fit. [More Photos »](#)

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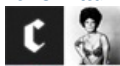
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Shoulder fit is crucial, said Tom Kalerderian, the guru of men's wear at Barneys New York. It's worth sacrificing a little mobility for a snug, high armhole. No one is making free throws in a tuxedo.

2

A four-in-hand tie, a favorite style default in Hollywood, is a solecism and "just wrong," Tom Ford said. Put on a bow tie and by all means learn to knot your own. There are plenty of tutorials on [YouTube](#).

3

Take an honest measure of your neck. Nobody looks good in a horse harness or a noose.

4

In a standard two-button suit, the closure defines an anatomical equator, said the men's wear expert Alan Flusser. The closure should be at bellybutton latitude.

5

Shirts fit better with a taper, according to the designer John Varvatos. "It's about elegance," he said, adding that there is nothing elegant about yards of cotton bunched up under



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The half-inch rule for the cuff reveal has always been inflexible, said Michael Hainey, deputy editor of GQ. Unless you're Bruno Mars.

7

Thom Browne fans may favor Pee-wee Herman lengths, but most men are best served by a modest break atop the shoe.

8

No cuffs on tuxedo trousers.

9

While pumps are preferred, Mr. Ford said, "most men think they're too femme." A calf lace-up is an acceptable option; avoid perforations or extraneous details.

10

A simple steel (or white metal or, if you are bucks-up, platinum) watch with a black leather strap is preferred by those who hold with the tradition that gents don't wear gold after 5 p.m.

A version of this list appeared in print on February 23, 2012, on page E9 of the New York edition with the headline: 10 Ways to Get it Right.

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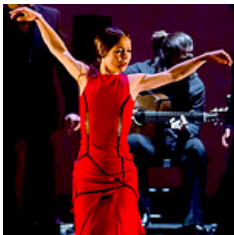
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