

Special Issue

WE SHOW YOU HOW TO LOOK SHARP AT THE OFFICE, AFTER HOURS & THROUGH THE WEEKEND

Our Big Fall Style Play-Book

A Step-By-Step Guide To The Best Clothes, Tips & Gear Of The Season

STARRING
Javier Bardem
Chris Paul
AND THIS GUY,
Denzel Washington

MITT VS. BARACK: THE BLOOD MATCH

THE 18 MOST BONEHEADED DECISIONS IN SPORTS HISTORY

THE BEST BEER GARDENS, BREWERIES & BROUHAHAS IN AMERICA

DECEMBER 2012 \$4.99 US \$5.99 CAN

M Special Section 3 of 3 ←

Throwback Jackets

Blanket Plaid

Who wore it then: Mick Jagger, former Fort president Gianni Agnelli, various dukes

Who wears it now: Ryan Gosling

What you need to know: Blanket plaid is the catchall term for any large-frame wooden plaid. Said to have originated as far back as 400 B.C. (how's that for heritage?), it's breath as hell.

How to pull it off: Larger-scale plaids require larger-scale confidence. In the latest version of *Mad Men*, Don Draper hosted a cocktail party in a brassy plaid sport jacket, and you could tell who was the boss without asking. Sure, the risk is Jagger. Here, that's with a gun check or a glen plaid, but so is the reward: If you can pull it off, expect double takes, compliments, buckets of envy.

Get jacket: \$1,000, As Bond of Outsiders, shirt by Oveis & Sons, Tie by Ralph Lauren Black Label, Pocket square by The Hill Side

“The way to modernize these jackets is to add an unexpected element. For instance, try them with jeans.” —ANDREA CAMERATA, DESIGNER

Houndstooth

Who wore it then: Alabama coach Paul “Bear” Bryant

Who wears it now: Mark Ronson

What you need to know: It gets its name from

How to pull it off: The cool guys wearing it aren't fossils buried in dusty tailor shops; they're young bucks sporting it with tapered cuffed, beat-up denim, and

Windowpane

Who wore it then: Clark Gable

Who wears it now: LeBron James, Lupo Erba

What you need to know: Just a few years ago, windowpane was hopelessly out

of style—and that's exactly why it feels so damn fresh right now.

How to pull it off: Balance the exploded plaid with small-scale patterns in your shirt and tie.

Get jacket: \$1,400, In Miller's Cloth, shirt by Michael Bonomo, Tie by Bond of Outsiders, Pocket square by Col. Mustard, \$100

Special Section 1 of 3 →

We're Sensing a Pattern: GQ's Guide to This Fall's Gutsiest Look

By Sean Hotchkiss

Photographs by Spencer Higgins

The new move in suits and sport coats is the big, proud pattern, inspired by the natty armor of Italian magnates and British royalty. Here's how to tell your glen plaid from your gun check and put it all together like a boss—or an earl.

— You can be forgiven if you can't tell a checked plaid from a windowpane—nobody's really worn these fancy old patterns for years. But now, suddenly, that's changing. Yes, fall suits and jackets in all-around patterns have been reassessed. They're popping up in stores,

thanks to fresh waves like Bond of Outsiders and Thom Browne's, which are on the backs of every cool guy who's in the Mall, and they're even on celebrities' wrists and chests, including Ryan Reynolds and Mark Ronson.

So what's the difference between a jacket you might see on Prince Charles and one you'll see on Andre 3000? For starters, with one it's a faded version of your dad's suit. Get the lead outta your closet, but these new designs aren't old-fashioned and "shorter," with higher armholes, minimal lining, and crisp shoulders. That means they make you look

slender—but with an armstrong's ease.

The other key to making these trad jackets fresh is to dress them up, not down. Instead of going with a white shirt and a solid tie, attach a patterned scarf with more patterns. Here, we'll show you exactly how it's done—and how sure you never wonder what the hell you're wearing again.

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Miller's Cloth \$1,400 (jacket) | Bond of Outsiders \$1,000 (jacket) | Michael Bonomo \$1,400 (shirt) | Col. Mustard \$100 (pocket square) | Ermenegildo Zegna \$2,000 (jacket)