

Basic black is still high style

By Priscilla Lister
Copley News Service

Grooms are following suit fashionwise with brides this year. Simple and elegant tuxedos that are traditional and conservative are in. Black and white are *de rigueur*.

"Most grooms are going fairly traditional, wearing the same number of years," says Dan McDermid, vice president of sales and marketing for Gary's Tux Shops on the West Coast. "The faddish, 'hippie' look is no longer in; what grooms are really going with today are conservative, traditional styles that best complement bridal dresses."

"A lot of people these days are going for classic, single-breasted tuxedos with a black vest or black tie; a lot of people are saying they want a look that's classy but elegant," says Andrea Fazio, an assistant manager at a Gingiss Formalwear outlet.

"Colors are out these days," Fazio adds.

The basic black tuxedo is still the proper attire for a formal evening wedding, with black trousers, coordinated vest or cummerbund and bow tie, according to *Modern Bride* magazine. A dinner jacket could work for that formal evening wedding as well as for a semiformal evening wedding. The cutaway or morning coat is the traditional look for a formal daytime wedding.

For an informal daytime or evening wedding, grooms can get away with a black, dark-gray or navy business suit, switching to a white or natural jacket in summer. The new look for that basic tuxedo is a three-button notched style matched with a six-button vest.

"The three-button is a new look that replaces the single-breasted or double-breasted two-button," says Fazio.

Perry Ellis' formal wear this year "continues to be inspired by the designer's vision of simplicity

and purity, always comfortable, functional and well-made," says the company. Ellis' single-breasted two-button tuxedo features satin-notched lapels as does the double-breasted six-button model. Satin shawl collars offer slightly jazzier possibilities.

"With the new emphasis on elegant styling, the Oscar de la Renta collection highlights smart, formal dressing with small, understated details," says the company. Subtle features from that designer include brush-stroke detailing on lapels and vests and double lapel shawl collars.

The most popular total look today is the single-breasted tuxedo with a vest. You wouldn't wear a vest with a double-breasted style, but might choose a cummerbund. Formal experts agree that vests are preferred among accessories.

"Where grooms are really adding fashion to the look is in vests," says McDermid. "And when they take their jacket off at the reception, they still have a nice formal vest look."

"Regardless of whether the tuxedo is classic in style or a reflection of advanced fashion, it can be a frame or a foil for an interesting shirt, an intriguing vest or cummerbund, a tie with a special flair or any number of other accouterments such as button covers or collar bands and well-designed studs and cuff links," says Harvey Weinstein, chairman of Lord West, a leading manufacturer of tuxedos and formal accessories.

"Even so, the look is still black." "Emerald green and paisley are popular colors in accessories, which are still basically black," says Fazio.

Lord West's current collection features vests in multicolor silk prints, Oriental print velvets, abstract patterns with a Southwestern heritage and even striated silks.

For the more conservative, the company shows richly patterned black on black brocades and vests with satin lapels to coordinate with



Many grooms are choosing simple black tuxedos with satin shawl collars to complement their bride's elegant gowns.

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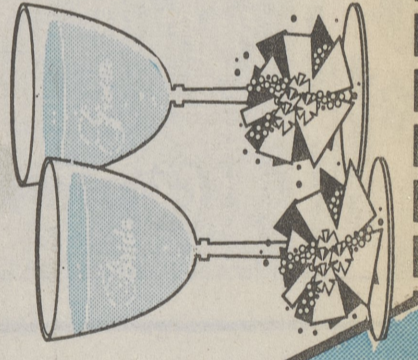
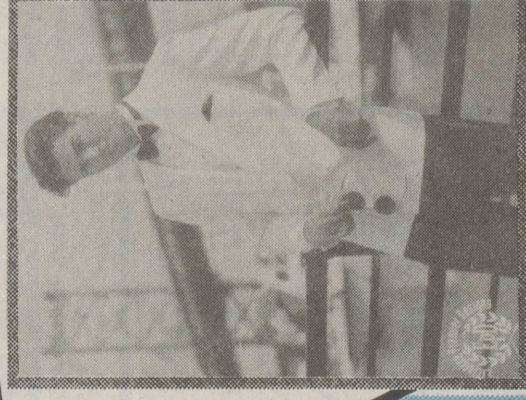
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BRIDEFACTS

The groom's checklist

The groom has a lot of responsibilities before the wedding day.

- ☑ Buy an engagement ring
- ☑ Draw up guest list
- ☑ Invite best man and ushers
- ☑ Select wedding ring
- ☑ Plan the honeymoon
- ☑ Purchase bride's bouquet
- ☑ Apply for marriage license



Source: Modern Bride

Richard Ashton / Copley News Service