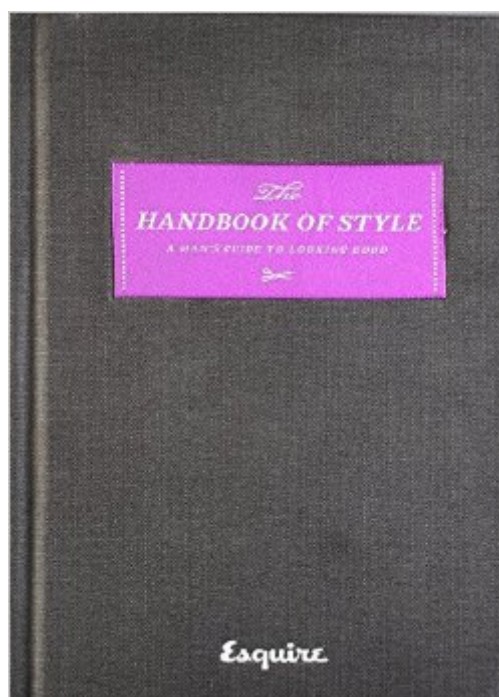


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# Esquire The Handbook Of Style: A Man's Guide To Looking Good



## Synopsis

Each year, the editors of Esquire produce a special issue of the magazine devoted to men's style called The Big Black Book, which has been wildly successful. Using the same pragmatic, highly illustrated approach, and laced with Esquire's trademark humor, Esquire The Handbook of Style brings readers vital information on every aspect of a man's wardrobe, from suits and shirts, to shoes and neckties, to watches and other accessories. The style-minded reader will find useful advice on suit fabrics and cuts, the right kind of trousers for his build, the essential outerwear to own, how to dress properly for an occasion, how to tie a tie, how to pack for a trip, grooming strategies, and much, much more. A compact and sophisticated accessory in its own right, Esquire The Handbook of Style will be the style bible for the well-dressed man for years to come.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a decent style guide that I might recommend to someone who has no clue about how to dress well, or what constitutes a good wardrobe. It's a starting point, with some helpful information on shirts, suits, pants, shoes, coats, accessories, personal grooming, and tips on wardrobe maintenance, packing a suitcase, and so on. For someone with a moderate budget who needs to build a wardrobe from the ground up, the checklist type approach in the Esquire handbook could work well. The book is a convenient size, and it wouldn't be a bad idea to bring it with you on your next shopping trip. That said, it's not a very good resource for someone who already has a working knowledge of menswear and who wants more detailed information, and there are some other issues

worth mentioning. There are no color photographs, which should be a priority when color is so important to many of the parts of a wardrobe. Illustrations and photos are used interchangeably, but a few of the illustrations would work better as photos. Some important things are glossed over or skipped entirely. In the shoe chapter, there is virtually no information on shoe construction. There are many different ways to make and identify a good shoe (and a bad one), but you wouldn't know it from this book. There is a two-sentence definition of goodyear welts, and that's about it. For garments, there is almost no information about fabrics, fabric weights, weaves or patterns. You'll know lots of cute little trivia about what kind of collars wall street bankers like to wear, but like the shoe chapter, you'll be left ignorant about what defines a well-made shirt. There are five pages dedicated to watches, but the book is very light on substantive information.

Are you a man who simply wants to dress better without being mistaken for a metrosexual? If you are, this book is definitely something you can use. Divided into different bite-sized chapters, each packed with useful information and photos, the Esquire Handbook of Style is intended as an introduction to a world of classic men's style that is both elegant and masculine. While much of the material in here is recycled from various articles from Esquire magazine that you may have already read, it's great having it organized and in one place. The focus is almost always on dressier clothing that white-collar professionals would wear to the office, as well as what to wear to the theater, restaurants, weekend, etc. We are repeatedly given the message that a modest amount of quality clothes chosen tastefully will serve us much better than a large number of cheap, trendy clothes. It's a message that many of us do need to hear over and over, because moderately-priced clothing stores often push cheaply manufactured knockoffs of current trends and leave us with the impression that unless we wear the very latest styles we look awful. The Esquire Handbook of Style takes a totally different approach, and shows not only how to determine quality in clothing before you buy, but also how versatile the basic building blocks of a man's wardrobe really are. This is intended as a long-term reference book. Almost all the photos are of Golden Age Hollywood celebs such as Fred Astaire and Cary Grant. The binding, quality of paper, and the cover itself suggest that this is a book that you can use throughout your life. Indeed, it's so well-bound that you might mistake it for a vintage book.

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