

be more daring

Go to town with your shirt design and really make an impact at those special occasions, says tailor **Tom Wharton...**



Dear Tom, I'm getting married and would love to make my wedding shirt really special – what can I do?

The most important thing to remember is that this is going to be one of the most important and memorable days of your life. It will also probably be the day when you are photographed more than any other day of your life and the last thing you want to do is look back down the years and see yourself wearing a poorly fitting shirt. Also, your wife will have spent most of her life waiting for this moment and will have spent hundreds of hours trudging around countless numbers of shops to find the perfect dress. Therefore it really is imperative for you to make sure that you look the best that you can and that your shirt fits as beautifully as possible.

To make your wedding shirt that little bit more special why not start with the finest possible fabric that you can find? A beautifully crafted plain white shirt, from the finest Egyptian cotton, hand crafted in the finest mills in Italy will be something that you will not only have for many, many years it will also look and feel completely different to any other shirt that you have ever worn.

Now for the fun little personal extras! Why not have a different fabric underneath your collar and cuffs? This can be any fabric that you want. Maybe a bright vibrant colour or a gentle sober colour or even better, why not get the colour that goes underneath your collar and cuffs to match your colour scheme of your wedding? Another amazing little extra is to have your wedding date embroidered on your shirt. This can be done in a matching colour or in a variety of different colours. This is a hugely popular extra and not only looks incredible it also allows you to have a long lasting memento of your wedding day just like your wife's wedding dress. To keep in line with the embroidery side of things, why not also have yours and your wife's initials embroidered on your shirt? Be as flamboyant or as reserved as you like, but whatever you do make sure that you are romantic. Congratulations to you both.

Dear Tom, I'm going to the races at Cheltenham – how can I make my shirt more daring for the occasion?

Well, this is a brilliant question as it really allows me to go to town with some of the more flamboyant and daring aspects of having a bespoke shirt made! I know I have said it before but it really is true, the only thing stopping you when you are designing your bespoke shirt is your imagination. With this in mind let's have a little look at how to be that little bit more daring. The obvious area to look at first is the fabric. This is where you can have something that is very gregarious and loud but will still look stylish as the shirt will be perfectly fitted for you. Have a think about bright coloured stripes, or fancy coloured flowery fabrics, they will make you stand out but being 100 per cent cotton you won't look cheap or be set on fire by passing too near to someone with a cigarette! With the brighter coloured fabrics high, sharp collars go really well. Go for the high collars with two or three buttons, make sure they are nice and rigid and they will look amazing with a jacket and no tie. If you want to be daring with the fabric and the collar, why not try something a little bit different with the cuffs? You can go for a double cuff with a cut away 'V' which can show off your flashy cuff links really well. Or go for a double cuff with a fabric link that attaches with the cufflinks giving you another personal little touch. If you don't want to wear cuff links then you can have two or three buttons on your cuff, you can have them bevelled or rounded or simply go for a contracting cuff (and collar if you fancy) in white. If you have a particularly bright coloured shirt, why not have contrasting button colours? There are so many button colours to choose from that you really can go to town with your design if you are brave enough. Your bespoke shirt will say a lot about you so remember to make the shirt match your personality. **CS**

To ask Tom a question please email The Editor at editor@stylemagazines.co.uk.



WITH TOM WHARTON

Tom Wharton started his tailoring career in London with Bond Street tailors Hurst & Banks. Spotting a gap in the market Tom set up his own tailoring company, Barrington Ayre, last year. Tom Wharton can be contacted at Barrington Ayre on 0845 3009014 or 07511 794702; info@barringtonayre.co.uk; www.barringtonayre.co.uk