



The Modern Suit Guide

A Practical Guide on Fit, Fabric, Style, and
Wearing a Suit Well



HENRICKS CUSTOM SUITS

Introduction: Why the Suit Still Matters

The suit has survived centuries of cultural change for one reason: it works. When done correctly, a suit communicates confidence, respect, and intention without saying a word. Yet most men spend their adult lives wearing suits that never quite fit, never feel right, and never earn their place in the closet.

This guide exists to fix that.

Whether you are buying your first serious suit or refining a wardrobe built over time, understanding how suits work will change how you shop, how you wear them, and how you carry yourself. At **Henricks Custom Suits**, we believe a well made suit should serve your life, not complicate it. This book explains how to get there.

What a Suit Actually Is

At its core, a suit is a matched set of garments cut from the same fabric. Traditionally, this means a jacket and trousers, sometimes with a matching waistcoat. What separates a suit from a jacket-and-pants combination is uniformity of cloth, construction, and intent.

A suit is designed as a system. The jacket balances the shoulders and chest. The trousers anchor the silhouette and determine how the body reads from the waist down. When either element is wrong, the entire suit suffers.

This is why fit matters more than brand, trend, or price. A modest suit that fits correctly will always outperform an expensive one that does not.

The Foundation of Fit

Fit is not subjective. Preferences vary, but fundamentals do not.

A properly fitting jacket sits cleanly on the shoulders without overhang. The collar rests against the neck without gapping. The Waist closes comfortably without pulling. Sleeves allow movement while revealing a touch of shirt cuff.

Trousers should sit where your body naturally wants to carry weight. The rise affects comfort more than any other measurement. The leg line should fall cleanly without twisting. Break, or how the trouser meets the shoe, is a matter of style, but the fabric should never bunch excessively.

Fit is permanent. Style can change later. This is why tailoring is not optional. Whether a suit is off-the-rack or custom, the final fit determines whether it succeeds.

Off the Rack, Made to Measure, and Custom

Understanding how suits are made helps you choose the right approach.

Off-the-rack suits are produced in standard sizes and altered to approximate fit. They are fast and accessible, but limited by fixed proportions.

Made-to-measure suits start from a base pattern that is adjusted to your measurements. This offers more personalization and better balance, though it still works within predefined parameters.

True custom suits are drafted from scratch based on your body. Posture, shoulder slope, and asymmetry are accounted for from the beginning. This is the most precise approach and the most forgiving over time.

The right choice depends on your body, expectations, and how often you wear suits. The goal is not perfection, but consistency and comfort.

Fabric and Why It Matters More Than You Think

Fabric determines how a suit feels, breathes, drapes, and ages. It also determines when and where you can wear it.

Wool remains the gold standard. It regulates temperature, resists wrinkles, and recovers shape naturally. Lighter weaves are ideal for warm climates and travel. Heavier cloth offers structure and durability.

Super numbers, which refer to fiber fineness, are often misunderstood. Finer is not always better. Extremely fine fabrics feel luxurious but wear faster. A balanced wool will outperform a delicate one in daily use.

Blends introduce stretch or texture, but should be chosen carefully. The best fabric is the one that matches your lifestyle, not the one that sounds impressive.

Structure and Construction

Inside every jacket is an unseen architecture. This is where quality reveals itself.

Fused jackets rely on adhesive layers. They are lightweight and affordable, but may lose shape over time. Half-canvas construction introduces a floating layer through the chest, improving drape and longevity. Full canvas extends this structure throughout the jacket, offering maximum performance and lifespan.

Construction affects how a suit moves with you. A well-structured jacket feels alive. It responds rather than resists.

This is one of the reasons two suits that look similar on a hanger can feel completely different on the body.

Style Choices That Last

Style should support you, not announce itself.

Lapel width should be in proportion to your body. Extremely slim or oversized lapels date quickly. A moderate width ages gracefully.

Jacket length matters. Too short disrupts balance. Too long looks borrowed. A good length allows the body to read naturally.

Trousers should complement the jacket. Flat-front styles are clean and modern. Pleats add comfort and movement when executed correctly.

Details like pockets, vents, and buttons should be chosen for function first. Subtlety is a form of confidence.

Color and Versatility

A strong wardrobe is built, not collected.

Start with neutral foundations. Navy and charcoal handle most professional and formal needs. Gray offers flexibility. Brown and blue variations expand range without risk.

Pattern should be introduced gradually. Subtle textures and restrained checks add interest without limiting wearability.

The best suits earn repeat use. If a suit only works for one event, it is a costume. A good suit adapts.

Care, Longevity, and Rotation

Suits improve with rest. Rotating suits allows fabric to recover and extend lifespan.

Hang jackets on proper hangers. Brush after wear. Steam lightly instead of over-cleaning. Dry clean only when necessary.

A well-cared-for suit can last years. Neglect shortens that life dramatically.

Ownership is part of craftsmanship.

The Right Suit Is a Relationship

A great suit becomes part of how you show up in the world. It carries memories. Important meetings. Celebrations. Milestones.

The goal is not to own many suits. It is to own the right ones.

When a suit fits correctly, matches your life, and is worn with confidence, it stops being clothing and starts being a tool. One that works quietly, consistently, and well.

That is the standard worth aiming for.