

PUT YOUR NECK ON THE LINE

Think of a scarf as a necktie for your outerwear. Invest in a few good scarves and learn to knot up proudly.

TAKE IT FROM THE TOP

A good suit should hug your shoulders, not slouch off them. Most guys think they're a size larger than they are—say, a 42 regular instead of a 40. When buying a suit, go ahead and try sizing down. When you pull on the jacket, there should be a firmness to it. You should snap to attention and stand taller. If it doesn't fit right in the shoulders, don't buy it.

THE ESSENTIAL CAN'T GO WRONG

Slim down. If you want a modern look, go for a tie that's about two and a half inches wide. The tip of your tie should reach exactly to your beltline.

TAPER, TAPER, TAPER

Your jacket should contour to your body. Have a tailor nip it at the sides. This will accentuate your shoulders whether you've got strong ones or not.

START WITH THE LAPELS

Nothing does more to dictate a suit's character than the lapel. We like a slim one, about two inches at its widest point. It's modern without being rock-star skinny.

LOSE THE FLAP

Think about the width or the sleeves. This is an obsession of ours at GQ. For pretty much every photo shoot, we have a tailor slim down the sleeves, trimming them of excess fabric. It cuts a mean figure.

GO FOR TWO

We swear by a two-button suit. Sure, a three-button that's cut well can do the job, but a two-button is much more consistently reliable, no matter your shape or size. We typically opt for ones with low-button stances, because they create a long, slimming torso. They're foolproof.

CAUSE A FLAP

We like a traditional flap pocket. There's something a bit too '90s about those slit pockets. Ticket pocket? Sure. If you're into more of a British-dandy vibe, go for it.

SHOW SOME CUFF

Your suit sleeves should end just above the hinges of your wrists, so a quarter to half inch of shirt cuff shows. It's like the frame on a painting, the elegant finishing touch.

