

Two styles dominate formal wear



THE LOOK OF LOVE combines a touch of nostalgia with the elegance of the '80s, and is beautifully expressed by Lord West in the "Savoy," designed for your evening wedding. The gently curved lapel is inset with satin to match this season's important look in formal accessories... a button-detailed weskit, pleated dickey and narrowed bow tie.

Formalwear fashions for the spring-summer seasons of 1982 offer wide selections of gala attire to wear for weddings, proms and those special evenings on the town or at country clubs according to the American Formalwear Association.

The new styles include both traditional and contemporary versions of those festive clothes appealing to men who insist on holding to a classic line and to those who are more venturesome in their dress.

Presently there are two distinct schools of thought pertaining to the styling of formalwear.

Formalwear options

Some believe that the trend is to conservatism featuring white, silver and black as the colors that will be most worn for weddings and proms.

Others hold that, in addition to those colors, grooms and prom celebrants will also opt for champagne, ivory, yellow, rust and toast as the colors in which they do their thing.

For the most part, tuxedo models will closely follow those of business suits. However, an innovative model will be offered this season in which the coat is slightly longer in the back than it is in the front, and it will carry a pleat on either side of its center vent.

The back of that tuxedo is contoured by curving seams and it has double-piped flapless pockets.

There is an old song entitled, "It's the Little Things that Count," and that was never truer than when it comes to formalwear.

Among the scores of models that can be rented or bought for wear on those special occasions, there are any number of smart detailings that distinguish the lapel, collar and pocket treatments.

Those little touches may not be immediately discernible to the inexperienced eye but they have an important effect on the character of the garments.

For instance, some tuxedos may have satin collars to match their lapels or, instead of satin facings, they may carry edgings of Spanish braid.

The pockets may be plainly flapped or they may be flapless with "besoms" (edgings) of satin or faille to match the lapels.

Some models may even have velvet collars. For the most part, those touches along with colors other than white, black or midnight blue are considered "contemporary."

The truly traditional tux-

edos carry peaked or notched lapels or shawl collars faced in either satin or faille with no added decoration.

Traditionals are also tailored with natural shoulders while the contemporaries have slightly built-up shoulders. Of course, the traditional white tuxedo jackets carry shawl collars faced in the same fabric as the jacket is made of.

For a truly formal wedding the groom (and in the case of a traditional wedding, the ushers) will wear a tailcoat for an evening affair. At contemporary weddings the groom may also wear a tailcoat for a daytime ceremony.

Afternoon attire

There is also a strong current trend to wearing of daytime formalwear for ceremonies that take place before 6 P.M. For those weddings, the very formal gray cutaway and striped trousers worn with either a matching or light gray vest, a wing-collar shirt and an ascot tie is the ne plus ultra.

A semi-formal version of that daytime outfit is worn with a stroller, a dark gray coat cut similar to a business suit.

The accessories can be the same worn with the cutaway, or the shirt can have a regular

fold collar, and the tie may be a four-in-hand in a gray striped or a gray finely checked fabric.

Some traditionalists will wear a white linen vest with the cutaway outfit.

While the traditional cutaway and stroller is usually in a deep gray, the contemporary version is sometimes in a lighter shade of gray.

In addition to all of these styles there are also formalwear styles bearing the logos of famous "name" designers.

As a rule, they are quite sophisticated in styling, some having a European flavor to their silhouettes, others using the softer shoulder treatment that is essentially American.

As far as formalwear furnishings are concerned, the pleated shirts are more popular than those with ruffled bosoms although the latter are still widely worn.

It is also true that the fold collar formal shirt is still number one, even though the wing-collar is extremely popular. For occasions other than weddings, the bright red bow tie and matching cummerbund are very much in with white and black dinner jackets (tuxedos).

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