

THE COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO CLASSIC MENSWEAR BRANDS



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INTRODUCTION

Before you proceed to the Guide, I would like to make some remarks concerning its content. Of course, I've tried very hard to present the most accurate information, but in this Guide you will find not only facts, but also my personal opinions and recommendations.

- Adjectives like **good, average, below average, excellent, poor, etc.** — it's only my personal opinion, and nothing more. Sometimes it's opinion of other people. Probably your opinion will differ.
- **If you are in between sizes...** — it's the case when coats, trousers, shoes or shirts of both sizes «A» and «A+1» or «A» and «A-1» can fit you well (it depends on brand: sometimes brand A shirt size 40 can fit you as well as brand B shirt size 41). In case of some brands it's better to go a size down or a size up.

- **Personal opinion (better to avoid, great price-quality ratio, etc.)** — it's only my personal opinion. Please note, I don't pretend to be the world's best connoisseur of the classic menswear.
- All prices are full retail (i.e. non-sale and non-outlet) and, of course, they can be changed by shops and/or manufacturers.

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ABBREVIATIONS

\$ = United States Dollar

EUR = Euro

GBP = British Pound

GW = Goodyear Welted

HW = Hand-Welted

MOP = Mother-of-pearl

MTO = Made-to-order

MTM = Made-to-measure

OTR = Off-the-rack

RTW = Ready-to-wear

VAT = Value Added Tax (if you live in the European Union, please add the tax to prices marked as 'VAT excluded'; if you live in the United States, Russian Federation and some other countries, you don't need to add the tax)

SUITS, SPORTCOATS

Introduction: how to tell a high-quality suit?

1. Inspect the construction.

Fully-canvassed suits and sportcoats are better than half-canvassed ones, and half-canvassed coats are better than fused ones. It's advisable to prefer hand-stitched canvas to machine-stitched one, but the latter is significantly cheaper.

Besides, there are also unstructured coats, and sometimes they are neither fused nor canvassed (i.e. completely unstructured!) — but often, however, unstructured coats are actually fused.

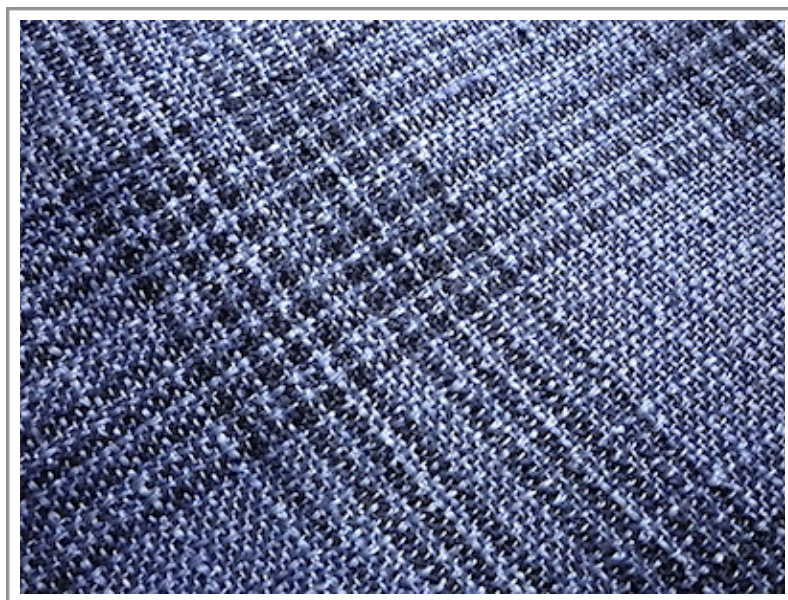
In this guide you will find detailed information about suits and sportcoats of many brands; I will tell you which companies produce fully-canvassed, half-canvassed, unstructured and fused suits. But anyway, it's useful to know how to tell a canvassed coat:

- Do the pinch test: gently pinch the fabric below bottom buttonhole and gently pull apart two layers of fabric. If you feel a third layer between two layers of fabric, then the coat is fully-canvassed.
- If you don't feel a third layer there, go up: do the pinch test below the second (counting from the bottom) buttonhole. If you don't feel a third layer there, then the coat is most likely fused. If you feel a third layer there, pinch the lapels. Gently pull two layers of fabric apart — and if you feel a third layer there too, then the coat is most likely half-canvassed.

Please [read more here](#) to learn all the differences between fully-canvassed, half-canvassed and fused coats.

2. Take a look at the fabric.

Only suits and sportcoats made of natural fibers deserve your attention. Please leave 50% wool 50% polyester suits to someone less attentive, and choose only 100% wool/cotton/linen, etc. suits and jackets. Of course, the blends of natural fibers are also acceptable.



Wool and linen blend

It's good if the fabric was woven by one of the best manufacturers in the world (these fabrics have such labels as H.Lesser, Carlo Barbera, Scabal, Holland&Sherry, Dormeuil, Vitale Barberis Canonico, Loro Piana, Ermenegildo Zegna, Drago, etc. —

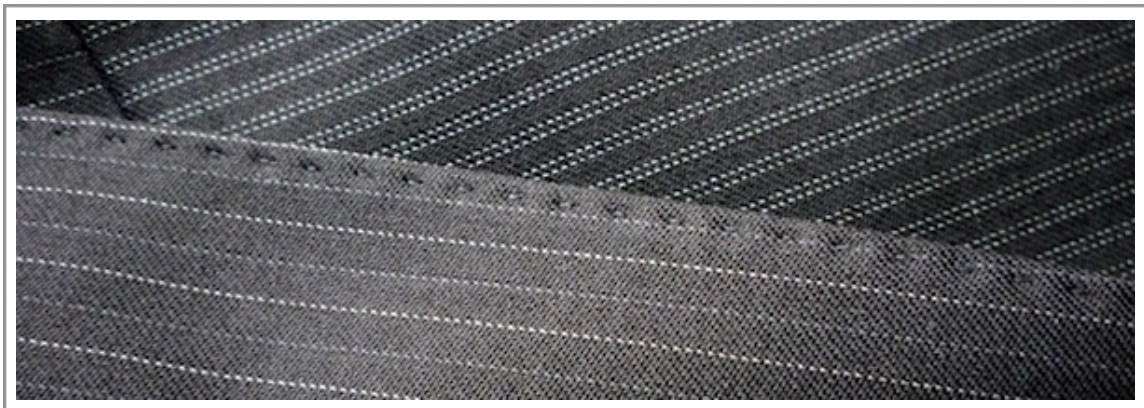
but please remember that their fabrics are not equal in the terms of quality; for instance, Carlo Barbera is *in average* better than Ermenegildo Zegna, and, for example, Vitale Barberis Canonico has several 'levels' of fabrics).

Super wool fabrics are nice, but they often wear out quickly (sometimes extremely quickly). I would not recommend to choose anything higher than super 180s, and it's probably better to choose super 100s - super 120s fabric or even a fabric without super label at all.

Please read a very interesting and detailed article about super wool fabrics [here](#).

3. Look for hand-stitching.

The best suits are partly hand-stitched, but the majority of suits in the world are now machine-made. Why should you opt for a hand-stitched suit? It's usually more comfortable and look nicer. Be careful: today lots of brands use 'foxy' machines to imitate hand-stitching (especially pick-stitching on lapels, collars and pockets, but not only).



This pick-stitching was made by a 'foxy' machine

Where can you find hand-stitching?

- Collar (it can be hand-attached, hand-finished or even hand-padded)
- Lapels (they can be pick stitched by hand and hand-padded)
- Buttonholes
- Buttons
- Lining (it can be hand-stitched in the armhole, at the bottom or sometimes completely hand-stitched)
- Pockets
- Armhole/sleeves



This lining in the armhole was stitched by hand



Hand-attached and hand-finished collar (sorry for poor quality of the photo)

Read [Tutto Fatto a Mano blog](#) to learn more about hand-stitching as far as suits and sportcoats are concerned.

4. Look at the buttons.

High-quality suits are equipped with buttons made of natural materials such as horn, corozo, MOP (mother-of-pearl), wood, bone or leather. Cheap (though sometimes not cheap at all!) suits have plastic buttons.



MOP button. You can easily identify MOP by touching it: MOP always feels cold, especially when you touch it by lips



Horn button: the very dark one



Corozo button: it looks like wood



Another horn button

Be careful: today many suits and sportcoats have plastic (acetate or polyester) buttons that — more or less successfully — imitate horn. If you see so-called ‘blonde horn’ button on a relatively inexpensive coat, then it’s most likely made of plastic.



Plastic tries to imitate horn

5. Look at the ‘Made in’ label.

Yes, quality is not a matter of geography, and in many countries of the world you will find very talented tailors, but, *in average*, the best *ready-to-wear* suits and sportcoats usually come from England, Italy and the USA. Please be careful: these countries also produce average quality clothing.



‘Made in Italy’ does not necessarily mean ‘Very high quality’: you can find this label on a fused sportcoat like this one from Tombolini

6. Inspect the lining.

Cupro (=bemberg) is the best fabric for coats linings; viscose is slightly worse, but still a very good option, especially if the coat is inexpensive; cotton is acceptable, but cupro and viscose are more comfortable as linings. Silk is often ‘hot’, expensive and usually wears out quickly. Polyester is the least desired option; acetate is better, but I would prefer viscose to acetate due to its higher ‘breathability’.



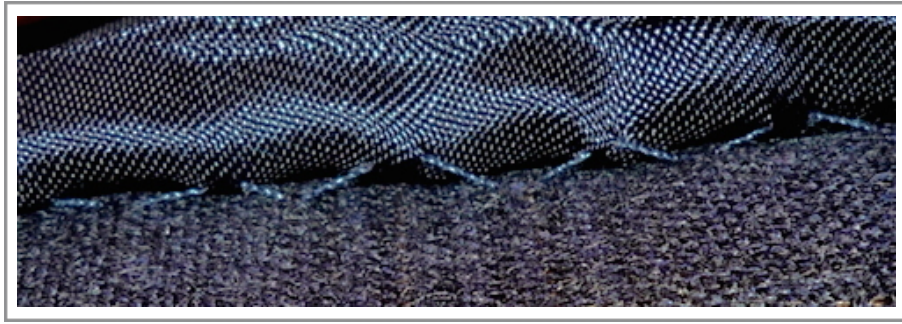
Cupro lining

In the best coats lining is hemmed by hand. Some manufacturers use ‘foxy’ machines (I call them so, yes), they imitate hand-stitching, and practically foxy-machine-stitching is as good as true hand-stitching in this case (but it looks differently). Almost all coats’ lining in the world, however, are hemmed by ordinary machines. In this case there can be lack of air circulation between the shell of the coat and the lining, and, besides, freedom of movement is slightly worse.



The dark grey lining above was hemmed by ordinary machine; the lining below was hemmed by ‘foxy’ machine: pay attention to double thread, the hallmark of foxy felling machine stitching.





This lining was hemmed by hand. Pay attention to single thread and uneven stitches. Sorry for poor quality of the photos, but I hope you've got the idea.

7. Working cuffs.

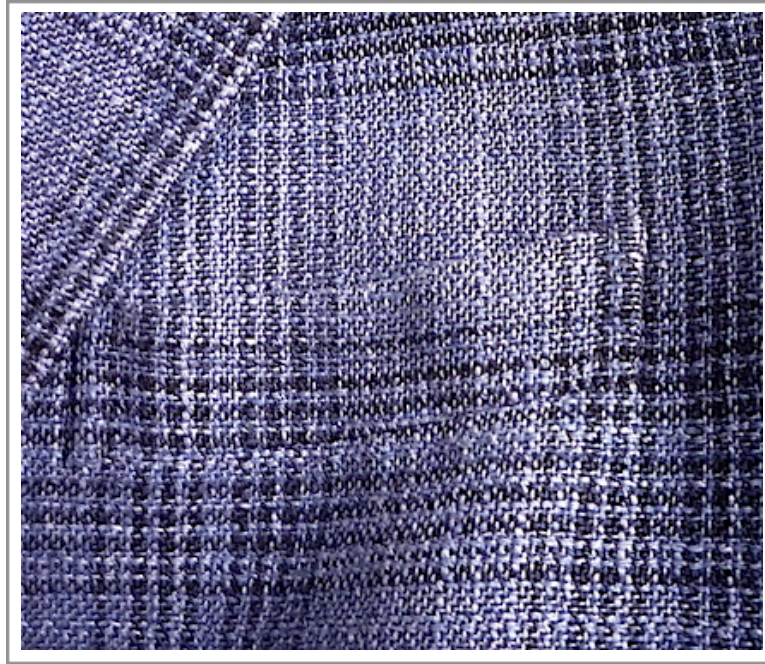
Working cuffs are usually regarded as the sign of a high quality coat, but this is no longer absolutely true. You can find working cuffs on an average inexpensive sportcoat made of average fabric. But if a suit's cuffs are unfinished, it's still a sign of high quality. Your tailor can make them functional, if you prefer — and he or she also can make hand-stitched buttonholes.



Working cuff

8. Pattern matching.

One of the ways to tell a high quality suit or sportcoat is to look how the pattern is matched at the seams (if we're talking about a checked or a striped suit). Of course, you cannot match the pattern everywhere (it's impossible!), but anyway, take a look at the coat, especially at its front... but not only.



Pattern matching in the breast pocket area

9. ... and remember, even the best suit/sportcoat in the world is a bad choice if it does not fit you.

Several useful links: interesting articles and resources

1. [Tutto Fatto a Mano](#) (blog about handmade suits)
2. [Parisian Gentleman's Suits Recommendations](#)
3. [A.Dirnelli — Review of suit makers](#)
4. [Styleforum: Suits Hierarchy](#) — but I must say it's not as accurate as one may wish... Anyway, it's interesting to read the discussion.
5. [The Gentleman's Gazette](#) — very informative website about classic menswear

Now let's move to the suits and sportcoats brands and see what they offer.

Please note:

- When I say ‘... **handwork (e.g., collar)**’, I mean that the collar is hand-attached to the coat, but **not** hand-padded (i.e. it can be machine-padded).
- When I don’t say whether the canvas is hand-stitched or machine-stitched, I simply do not know if it’s hand-stitched or machine-stitched.
- When I say ‘canvas is hand-stitched’, I mean lapels and collars are hand-padded too, but please note, I cannot bet that the canvas is hand-stitched in all that brand’s garments as well as that the canvas is completely hand-stitched.

A.Caraceni

- Milanese brand (atelier), **Bespoke only**
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed, the canvas is partly hand-stitched (**except** collar and lapels area)
- Lots of handwork (buttonholes, pick stitching, pockets, lining, armhole, etc.)
- Anatomy of A.Caraceni suit
- MOP and horn buttons
- Great selection of *hi-end* Vitale Barberis Canonico fabrics — and they also offer other fabrics (from English and Italian mills only)
- Official website
- Read much more about Caraceni here

Anderson & Sheppard

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke only**
- Made in England
- Bespoke: 8-12 weeks, 2-3 fittings
- Fully-canvassed (the canvas is hand-stitched)
- Lots of handwork (buttons, buttonholes, armhole, etc.)
- Horn buttons
- Signature soft shoulders and drape cut
- Prices start at 4000 GBP (VAT included)
- Official website

Andrea Campagna

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed
- Handwork (collar, buttons, part of the lining, etc.)

- Horn buttons
- Fabrics: very good quality, maybe sometimes excellent
- Lining 100% cupro or 100% silk
- The lining is hemmed by hand
- Working cuffs
- [Official website](#)

Barena

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Fused or unstructured
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average and above average, often with 20% polyamide or 5% elastane
- Often unlined; sleeve lining — acetate + polyester or cotton
- Non-working cuffs
- Prices start at 290 GBP (sportcoat, VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Beams

- Japanese brand
- Made in Japan (probably not always, but often)
- Usually fused
- No handwork (or sometimes a bit)
- Good fabrics (sometimes Harris Tweed)
- Lining: cotton and cupro
- If you are in between sizes, I would recommend to go **up** to the nearest size
- Prices start at 345 GBP (sportcoat, VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Belvest

- Italian brand with its own factory
- RTW and MTM
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed (machine-stitched canvas)
- Belvest Silver line is half-canvassed
- They also offer unstructured, unlined and very lightweight Jacket-in-the-Box sportcoats

- Handwork (buttons, collars, buttonholes, lining in the armhole/sleeves — at least sometimes; depends on line)
- Horn, MOP buttons
- Fabrics: very good, excellent quality (sometimes Loro Piana)
- Lining: 100% cupro, sometimes it's 100% rayon (viscose)
- Working cuffs
- Prices start at 2000 EUR (RTW fully-canvassed suit)
- [Official website](#)

Boggi

- Italian brand
- No own manufacturing facilities; Boggi suits and sportcoats are made by Lardini, Flannel Bay and some other manufacturers (A.Dirnelli mentions Isaia and Caruso among others)
- Made in Italy and Serbia
- Usually fused. I've heard about half-canvassed and even fully-canvassed Boggi coats, but never seen these ones. Well, probably, they exist, but they're not available in all Boggi stores...
- No handwork (maybe there're exceptions, but I've not seen them)
- Usually plastic buttons
- The lining is hemmed by 'foxy' machine or ordinary machine (depends on model)
- Fabrics: good, very good and sometimes even excellent quality (manufacturers: Loro Piana, Vitale Barberis Canonico, Guabello)
- Sometimes working cuffs
- Usually slim fit, but not extra slim
- Prices start at 829 EUR (suit), 590 EUR (sportcoat)
- [Official website](#)

Boglioli

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Best known for its light unstructured jackets
- Horn and MOP buttons
- Usually no handwork (well...sometimes (rarely) a bit)
- Lining: 100% cupro or cupro+cotton, but their sportcoats are often unlined or quarter-lined
- Fabrics: good quality, usually very lightweight, but not always
- Usually working cuffs
- Prices start at 605 EUR/suit (VAT excluded), 400 EUR/sportcoat (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Brioni

- Italian brand
- RTW and MTM
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed (the canvas is machine-stitched)
- Handwork (collar, bottom of the lining, buttons, buttonholes)
- Horn and MOP buttons
- Lining: 100% cupro
- The lining is hemmed by hand
- Fabrics: excellent quality (Loro Piana among others)
- Working cuffs (well, the sleeve buttonholes are made by hand, and they're not working, but your tailor can make the cuffs functional if you prefer)
- Prices start at 2200 EUR (RTW sportcoat, VAT included), 2800 EUR (RTW suit, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Brooks Brothers Red Fleece

- American brand
- Usually made in Portugal, but sometimes made in China and probably in some other countries
- Sometimes unstructured, sometimes fused (very rarely half-canvassed)
- Buttons — very good imitation of horn, sometimes MOP or brass buttons
- No handwork
- Lining: cotton, polyester or blend
- Fabrics: good quality, sometimes woven in Italy
- Usually working cuffs
- Prices start at \$400 (sportcoat)
- [Official website](#)

Brooks Brothers 1818

- American brand
- Usually made in Italy by Lardini, but sometimes Made in USA
- Half-canvassed, and the canvas is machine-stitched
- Horn and corozo buttons (though I wouldn't call them nice...)
- A bit of handwork (e.g., collar is hand-attached as well as lining in the armhole)
- The lining is hemmed by 'foxy' machine
- Lining: body — 100% cupro, sleeves — cupro+viscose, trousers — viscose or viscose+acetate

- Fabrics: usually good and very good quality, but not excellent (mainly by Reda and Vitale Barberis Canonico)
- Working (unfinished) cuffs
- Prices start at \$1000 (suit)
- [Official website](#)
- Good price-quality ratio

Brooks Brothers Golden Fleece

- American brand
- Made in USA and Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed (machine-stitched canvas)
- Horn and corozo buttons
- Handwork (e.g., collar is hand-attached as well as lining in the armhole)
- Lining: body — 100% cupro
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Working (unfinished) cuffs
- Prices start at \$2100 (suit)
- [Official website](#)

Camoshita

- Japanese brand
- Made in Japan
- Usually completely unstructured
- MOP or horn buttons
- Lining: 100% cupro (even in the sleeves)
- Working cuffs (not always)
- Prices start at \$685 (sportcoat)

Camps de Luca

- French brand, **bespoke**
- Made in France
- Fully-canvassed (the canvas is hand-stitched)
- A lot of handwork (buttons, buttonholes, sleeves, collar, etc.)
- The House style: the chest is pronounced, the jacket is fitted in the waist, the sleeve is fluid, the shoulder stands out while appearing natural
- Prices start at 6500 EUR (suit; VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Canali

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed, the canvas is machine-stitched
- A bit of handwork (e.g., collar, lining in the sleeves/armhole)
- Corozo, horn buttons
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality
- Lining: usually 100% cupro
- The lining is hemmed by 'foxy' machine
- Usually non-working cuffs
- Prices start at 1130 EUR (suit, VAT included), 800 EUR (sportcoat, VAT included)
- Official website
- Good price-quality ratio and nice clothing

Cantarelli

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Several lines; Sartoria Cantarelli is the best line
- Fully-canvassed suits (Sartoria Cantarelli), but you can easily find half-canvassed and even fused sportcoats and suits (Jersey Planet, AC Cantarelli, Cantarelli Tailor lines)
- If there is a canvas, it's machine-stitched
- Horn, bone, corozo and MOP buttons. Well, maybe sometimes plastic buttons, especially if we are talking about AC line
- Usually no handwork, but sometimes a bit (anyway, less than in case of Canali)
- Fabrics: good and very good quality (Lanificio Drago, Lanificio di Pray, Piacenza (some suits and expensive sportcoats); sometimes Loro Piana and Carlo Barbera fabrics, but very rarely and only in the most expensive suits and coats
- Lining: 100% viscose
- Usually working cuffs
- Sportcoats: usually lightly-padded shoulders or shoulders with no padding at all
- Sportcoats: if you are in between sizes, I would recommend to go **up** to the nearest size
- Prices start at \$1145 (high-level Sartoria Cantarelli sportcoats), about \$500 (AC Cantarelli line sportcoats)
- Official website

Caruso

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- RTW and MTM
- Made in Italy
- Sartoria Parma is the best line
- Fully-canvassed (the canvas is machine-stitched)
- Handwork (e.g., collar, sometimes buttonhole) — depends on line
- Horn buttons
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality (sometimes Carlo Barbera fabrics)
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Lining is hemmed by hand (but not always, probably)
- Working (unfinished — probably, not always) cuffs
- Prices start at 1000 EUR (RTW suit), 800 EUR (RTW sportcoat)
- Official website
- Good price-quality ratio

Cesare Attolini

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand which has its own factory
- RTW and MTM ('Semi-Bespoke' in this case)
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed, and the canvas is hand-stitched (except lapels)
- Lots of handwork (including hand-stitched collar, hand pick stitching on lapels, collar, handsewn buttons, handmade buttonholes, hand-stitched lining, etc.)
- Corozo and horn buttons
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Working (often unfinished) cuffs
- Prices start at 4500 EUR (RTW suit, VAT included), 2900 EUR (RTW sportcoat)
- Official website

Charles Tyrwhitt

- English brand
- Made in Asian countries
- Sometimes fused, sometimes half-canvassed (more expensive coats)
- No handwork
- Corozo buttons, horn buttons (the most expensive suits)
- Fabrics: average, above average and sometimes good quality — usually 100% wool, often 100s, 120s
- Lining: polyester+viscose (cheap suits), 100% viscose (more expensive suits)

- Usually working cuffs
- Prices start at 179 GBP (suit; VAT included), 109 GBP (sportcoat, VAT included)
- Official website
- Good price-quality ratio

Cifonelli

- French brand, **bespoke and RTW**
- Made in Italy (RTW), Made in France (Bespoke)
- Bespoke: 3 fittings
- Fully-canvassed (RTW: canvas is most likely machine-stitched; Bespoke: canvas is hand-stitched)
- Handwork (e.g., buttonholes; hand pick stitching — bespoke garments)
- Horn buttons
- Shoulder: reverted and shifted toward the front to insure a sharp, masculine stature; signature ‘cigarette’ sleeve; high armholes; Milanese buttonholes
- Fabrics: Holland&Sherry and Harrisons among others
- Lining: 100% cupro or silk
- Working cuffs
- Prices start at 5500 EUR (Bespoke suit; VAT included), 2900 EUR (RTW suit, VAT included)
- Official website

Corneliani

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- RTW and MTM
- Several lines: Corneliani mainline is better than diffusion lines (Corneliani ID, CC Corneliani, Corneliani Trend)
- Fully-canvassed suits (mainline), but you can find half-canvassed (some Corneliani ID’s and CC’s, if I’m not mistaken), unstructured and even fused sportcoats and suits
- If there is a canvas, it’s machine-stitched
- Horn and MOP buttons
- Handwork (mainline), sometimes no handwork
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Lining: 100% cupro (probably not always)
- The lining is hemmed by ‘foxy’ machine
- Sometimes working cuffs, sometimes not
- Suits are usually equipped with heavily-padded shoulders, but sportcoats’ shoulders are lightly padded (at least sometimes — but anyway, they have a huge range...)

- If you are in between sizes, I would recommend to go **down** to the nearest size
- Prices start at 1200 EUR (RTW suit, VAT included), 865 EUR (RTW blazer, VAT included)
- Official website

d'Avenza

- Italian brand which has its own manufacturing facilities (now belongs to Brunello Cucinelli)
- Made in Italy
- By the way, some famous clients: Steve McQueen, Marlon Brando, Gianni Agnelli, Bill Clinton, Sean Connery (according to info at d'Avenza website)
- Fully-canvassed (probably the canvas is sometimes partly hand stitched (lapels and collar area), though I'm not sure about all their garments, especially today's ones)
- Lots of handwork (including hand-stitched collar, hand sewn buttons, handmade buttonholes, armhole, etc.)
- MOP and horn buttons
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality
- Soft shoulders, high armholes
- Working (unfinished) cuffs
- Prices start at
- Official website

Davies & Son

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke only**
- Made in England
- Fully-canvassed
- Handwork (buttons, buttonholes, etc.)
- Horn buttons
- Prices start at 3000 GBP (suit; VAT included)
- Official website

Dege & Skinner

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke**
- Made in England
- Fully-canvassed
- Handwork
- Horn buttons

- Prices start at 3500 GBP (suit, VAT included)
- Official website

Dolce & Gabbana

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually fused, sometimes unstructured
- Usually no handwork
- Sometimes MOP buttons
- Fabrics: above average and good quality, but definitely not excellent and sometimes not impressive at all
- Lining: sometimes silk, sometimes viscose+cupro blend and viscose+polyester blend
- Sometimes working cuffs, but not always
- Prices start at 1330 GBP (suit; VAT excluded), 950 GBP (sportcoat, VAT excluded)
- Official website
- Designer suits, better to avoid, in my opinion

Ede & Ravenscroft

- English brand, RTW, Bespoke and MTM
- Bespoke: Made in England, 2 or 3 fittings
- Half-canvassed (RTW), canvas is machine-stitched; Fully-canvassed (Bespoke)
- Horn buttons
- Good /very good fabrics
- Prices start at 595 GBP (RTW suit, VAT included), 395 GBP (RTW sportcoat, VAT included), appr. 2500 GBP (Bespoke suit, VAT included)
- Official website

Eidos

- Italian brand (belongs to the owner of Isaia)
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed, the canvas is machine-stitched
- Sportcoats are often unlined
- Handwork (e.g., collar)
- Corozo, horn, MOP buttons
- Fabrics: very good quality (manufacturers: Reda, Carlo Barbera, Lanificio di Pray, Vitale Barberis Canonico)
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Wide lapels, soft unpadded shoulders (Neapolitan style)

- Working (unfinished) cuffs
- Prices start at \$1495 (suits), \$935 (sportcoats)
- Official website

Ermenegildo Zegna

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- RTW and MTM
- Made in Spain, Italy, Switzerland and other countries
- Several lines: Ermenegildo Zegna Couture is the best one; mainline ('Ermenegildo Zegna') is good; I would recommend to avoid Z Zegna and Zegna Sport lines
- Fully-canvassed suits (mainline, Couture), canvas is machine-stitched
- Horn and corozo buttons (mainline, Couture)
- Handwork (mainline — a bit; more in Couture line — including buttonholes and collar)
- Fabrics: good, very good, excellent quality / may be average when talking about diffusion lines
- Lining: 100% cupro (mainline, Couture)
- Prices start at 1470 EUR (RTW suit mainline), 1200 EUR (RTW sportcoat mainline), \$3000 (MTM mainline)
- Official website
- Overpriced, but still very good if we are talking about mainline and above

Etro

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually fused. I've heard about half-canvassed Etro coats, but never seen these ones
- Horn and corozo buttons or very good imitation, I'm not sure
- No handwork
- Lining: cotton, viscose acetate or blend; sometimes 100% silk
- The lining is hemmed by ordinary machine
- Fabrics: good quality
- Non-working cuffs
- Prices start at 880 GBP (suit; VAT excluded), 630 GBP (sportcoat, VAT excluded)
- Official website
- Designer suits, better to avoid, in my opinion

Frank Shattuck

- American brand (atelier), **bespoke only**
- Made in USA
- Fully-canvassed (the canvas is completely hand-stitched)
- Lots of handwork
- Horn buttons

GANT

- American brand
- Made in Morocco, China, Portugal and probably other countries
- Fused or unstructured (but sometimes maybe half-canvassed)
- No handwork
- Plastic and metal buttons, sometimes (rarely) MOP
- Fabrics: average, above average or good, depends on model
- Often unlined; sleeve lining — 100% viscose
- Sometimes working cuffs, but not always
- Prices start at \$325 (sportcoat)
- Official website

Gieves & Hawkes

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke, RTW and MTM**
- Made in England (bespoke, sometimes MTM and RTW), Made in Mauritius and Italy (RTW, MTM)
- Fully-canvassed (bespoke), usually half-canvassed (RTW / machine-stitched)
- Handwork (bespoke) and no handwork (RTW)
- Royal collection RTW: fully-canvassed, handwork, Made in UK, working (unfinished) cuffs
- Bespoke (time): 12 weeks or more
- Horn and MOP buttons
- Lining: 100% cupro (RTW sleeves lining — often acetate+viscose)
- Working cuffs (RTW — sometimes)
- Prices start at 4500 GBP (bespoke suit, VAT included), 1500 GBP (MTM suit, VAT included), 895 GBP (RTW suit, VAT included), 595 GBP (RTW sportcoat, VAT included)
- Official website

H&M

- Swedish brand
- Made in China and other Asian countries
- Fused
- No handwork
- Plastic buttons (they usually look cheap)
- Fabrics: average, much more often — below average and poor quality (wool +polyester, sometimes 100% linen or 100% wool, but with 100% polyester lining!)
- Lining: usually 100% polyester
- The lining is hemmed by ordinary machine
- Non-working cuffs
- Prices start at \$50 (sportcoat)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: better to avoid

Hartwood

- French brand
- Made in Italy by Caruso
- Fully-canvassed (the canvas is machine-stitched)
- Handwork
- Horn buttons
- Fabrics: very good quality (by Loro Piana, Ermenegildo Zegna)
- Lining: usually 100% cupro
- Prices start at 1100 EUR (RTW)
- Official website

Henry Poole & Co.

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke**
- Made in England
- Fully-canvassed (the canvas is hand-stitched, though Jeffery Diduch in his review showed that lapels and collars were padded by machine — but this probably was an exception, as he points out in the final update to the review)
- Handwork (e.g., buttonholes)
- Horn buttons
- They offer Harrisons of Edinburg fabrics (among others) / more than 6000 fabrics to choose from
- Official website

Hickey Freeman

- American brand
- Made in USA
- RTW and MTM
- Fully-canvassed, the canvas is stitched by machine (mainline)
- Suits 'Hickey Freeman Ltd' and 'Hickey Freeman Collection' (made for outlets or other brands) can be half-canvassed
- A bit of handwork
- Fabrics mainly by Italian mills, sometimes by Loro Piana and Colombo (Tasmanian super 150s, super 170s; 100% cashmere)
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Working (unfinished) cuffs
- Prices start at \$1495 (RTW fully-canvassed suit), \$1095 (RTW fully-canvassed sportcoat)
- [Official website](#)

Hugo Boss

- German brand
- RTW and MTM
- Made in Turkey, Romania and probably in some other countries. Some very expensive suits are Made in Germany (mainly MTM)
- The best line is Tailored Collection (also Selection line, but now there's no Selection line stuff at their current website)
- Usually fused, sometimes half-canvassed (the most expensive suits). MTM suits are most probably fully-canvassed.
- No handwork (very rarely a bit of handwork — the most expensive suits)
- Usually plastic buttons, sometimes MOP (the most expensive suits)
- Lining: sometimes 100% cupro, but more often 100% viscose, acetate or a blend
- Fabrics: average, above average and good quality, sometimes very good (sometimes Lanificio Drago and Guabello, Ferla, but rarely)
- Usually non-working cuffs
- Prices start at 400 GBP (suit, VAT excluded), 350 GBP (sportcoat, VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: significantly overpriced

Huntsman

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke, RTW**
- Made in England (bespoke and some RTW suits), Made in other countries (some RTW suits)

- Fully-canvassed
- Handwork (bespoke; buttons, buttonholes, collar...)
- Horn buttons
- The house style: heavily-padded shoulders, tight chest and single-button closing
- Working cuffs
- Prices start at 4500 GBP (bespoke, VAT included), 2200 GBP (RTW suits, VAT included), 1900 GBP (RTW jackets, VAT included)
- Official website

Isaia

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- RTW and MTM
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed, the canvas is machine-stitched
- Handwork (e.g., collar, buttons, buttonholes, lining in the armhole)
- Corozo, horn, MOP buttons
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality (sometimes Loro Piana)
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Usually working cuffs
- Often bold check patterns; sometimes double-breasted coats; barchetta breast pocket; small and high armholes; tapered sleeves
- Prices start at 980 GBP (RTW sportcoat, VAT excluded), 2000 EUR (RTW suit, VAT included)
- Official website

J.Crew Ludlow

- American brand
- Half-canvassed, the canvas is machine-stitched
- A bit of handwork (hand-attached collar)
- Plastic buttons
- Fabrics by American, English and Italian mills (Abraham Moon, Vitale Barberis Canonico, American Woolen Company, Lanificio Fratelli Ormezzano, Carpini, Lanificio di Tollegno, Loro Piana, Larusmiani)
- Lining: 100% bemberg (cupro)
- Slim fit, narrow lapels
- Non-working cuffs
- Prices start at \$300 (suit jacket)
- Official website
- Good price-quality ratio

J.Lindeberg

- Swedish brand
- Made in Bulgaria and probably in other countries
- Fused
- No handwork
- Plastic buttons
- Fabrics: average and above average quality, usually 100% wool, often virgin wool
- The lining is hemmed by ordinary machine
- Non-working cuffs
- Slim fit, sometimes very slim
- Prices start at 290 GBP (sportcoat; VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

J.Press (Pressidential line)

- American brand
- Made in USA (some sportcoats are Made in Canada)
- Half-canvassed (but I'm not sure always or not), the canvas is machine-stitched
- Horn buttons (at least sometimes); sometimes leather buttons
- Good fabrics (always 100% wool, at least sometimes — 2-ply and Italian-made, sometimes super 100s and super 120s; Shetland wool — several sportcoats)
- Lining: 100% bemberg (cupro)
- 'Natural' shoulders with light padding
- Prices start at \$1295 (suits), \$895 (sportcoats)
- [Official website](#)

Kent, Haste & Lachter

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke and MTM only**
- Made in England
- 3 or 4 fittings
- Fully-canvassed
- Handwork
- Horn buttons
- Fabrics by Holland&Sherry, H.Lesser, Smith Woollens, George Harrisons.
- Prices start at 3000 GBP (suit, VAT included), 2300 GBP (sportcoat, VAT included), 1900 GBP (MTM suit, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Kilgour

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke and RTW**
- Made in England (bespoke), Made in Italy at least sometimes (RTW)
- Bespoke (time): 8 weeks or more
- Fully-canvassed (bespoke)
- Handwork (bespoke), no or almost no handwork (RTW)
- Lining: often 100% silk; sometimes acetate+viscose; sometimes 100% polyester sleeve lining (in unlined jackets)
- Horn buttons
- Modern English silhouette with a structured neat shoulder and an emphasis on shape through waist and chest
- Prices start at 3750 GBP (bespoke), 1040 GBP (RTW suit, VAT excluded), 660 GBP (VAT excluded)
- Official website

Kiton

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand which has its own manufacturing facilities
- RTW and MTM
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed, and sometimes (very, very rarely) the canvas can be hand-stitched, but usually machine-stitched
- Lots of handwork (including hand-attached collar, sleeves, hand sewn buttons, handmade buttonholes, pockets, label, etc.; depends on line/model)
- Corozo and horn buttons
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Fabrics: excellent quality, usually very fine, but often delicate; Kiton super 200s-250s suit can be very nice, but will wear out very quickly / Carlo Barbera fabrics among others
- Prices start at 4500 EUR (RTW suit), 2800 EUR (RTW sportcoat), \$7000 (MTM suit)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: nice, but (very) overpriced

Lanvin

- French brand
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed, the canvas is machine-stitched
- A bit of handwork, but not always
- Lining: 100% viscose or 100% cupro, it depends on suit/sportcoat

- The lining is usually hemmed by ‘foxy’ machine
- Horn buttons
- Fabrics: good, very good and sometimes excellent quality
- Sometimes working cuffs
- Prices start at 950 GBP (VAT excluded)
- Official website

Lardini

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Half-canvassed, the canvas is machine-stitched
- Sometimes fully-canvassed and unstructured (I’ve seen shirt-like Lardini sportcoats), probably sometimes fused, so be careful
- Handwork (e.g., collar), but not always
- Corozo, horn, MOP buttons
- Fabrics: good and very good quality (by Loro Piana, Guabello, Cerruti, Colombo, Ermenegildo Zegna)
- Lining: usually 100% cupro, sometimes cupro+viscose
- The lining is hemmed by ‘foxy’ machine
- Usually working cuffs
- Prices start at 700 EUR (suit, VAT included), 500 EUR (sportcoat, VAT included)
- Official website
- Usually good price-quality ratio

Liverano & Liverano

- Italian (Florentine) brand, RTW and Bespoke
- Made in Italy (RTW — by Isaia)
- Fully-canvassed (RTW: machine-stitched canvas; Bespoke: hand-stitched light canvas)
- Bespoke: 3 fittings
- Lots of handwork
- The house style: soft, sloped and generous shoulder; the sleeve head is clean and connects to a full and curved sleeve; the rich chest is balanced by a generous lapel with low breast pocket leading to a tapered waist and cut away coat bottom
- Signature single angled side dart
- 3-roll-2 buttons
- Prices start at 2500 EUR (RTW suit), 5000 EUR (Bespoke suit), 4300 EUR (Bespoke sportcoat)
- Official website

Loro Piana

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed (the canvas is machine-stitched)
- A bit of handwork
- Very good and excellent fabrics, sometimes baby cashmere and even vicuna
- Lining: 100% cupro (but they sometimes use 100% polyester as sleeve lining) / often unlined or 1/4-lined
- Usually working (sometimes unfinished) cuffs
- Usually wide lapels, but not always
- Prices start at 1200 GBP (sportcoat, VAT excluded), 2200 EUR (suit)
- [Official website](#)

Luciano Barbera

- Italian brand
- Entirely manufactured in Italy. Only Italian fabrics
- Two lines: mainline and Sartoriale (the best one)
- Fully-canvassed, and the canvas is *probably partly* hand-stitched in Sartoriale line / surely machine-stitched in mainline coats
- At least some Sartoriale line suits are made by d'Avenza (and **not** by Attolini, as some people say)
- Lots of handwork in Sartoriale line suits, less handwork in mainline suits
- Corozo and horn buttons
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Fabrics: excellent quality (by Carlo Barbera)
- Working (unfinished) cuffs
- Prices start at \$1795 (sportcoat)
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: very nice

Luigi Bianchi Mantova

- Italian brand with its own factory
- L.B.M. 1911 is a brand of Luigi Bianchi Mantova
- Made in Italy
- Usually half-canvassed (the canvas is machine-stitched)
- Fabrics: good and very good quality (sometimes by Colombo, Vitale Barberis Canonico)
- [Official website](#)

Marks & Spencer

- English brand
- Made in Asia
- RTW and MTM
- Several lines, the best lines are Best of British and Savile Row Inspired
- Fused (most suits and coats), half-canvassed and fully-canvassed (Savile Row Inspired line suits — but not all of them!)
- No handwork
- Usually plastic buttons
- Fabrics: poor, below average, average, above average and good quality (some sportcoats are made of Moon fabrics) — be careful, there are coats made of 65% polyester and 35% viscose!
- Lining: often 100% polyester, sometimes 100% viscose, sometimes 100% cupro, sometimes acetate+viscose and viscose+polyester blends
- Working cuffs (the most expensive suits — Savile Row Inspired)
- Prices start at 79 GBP (suit, VAT included); at 399 GBP if we are talking about half-canvassed suits with viscose+polyester lining; at 499 GBP if we are talking about fully-canvassed suits with cupro lining
- Official website

Massimo Dutti

- Spanish brand
- Made in Portugal and other countries
- Fused
- Usually plastic buttons with engraved logo
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average, above average quality, sometimes good
- Lining: viscose+acetate, viscose+cotton+acetate+polyester
- Working cuffs (at least sometimes)
- Prices start at \$180 (sportcoat)
- Official website

Norton & Sons

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke**
- Made in England
- Fully-canvassed, the canvas is hand-stitched
- Lots of handwork (buttons, buttonholes, lining, etc.)
- Horn buttons

- 8000 fabrics available ranging from 6,5 oz to 32 oz; super 100s and up to super 250s (though they have not only supers, of course) — lots of British fabrics
- Prices start at 4200 GBP (bespoke suit, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Orazio Luciano (La Vera Sartoria Napoletana)

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand which has its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy (Naples)
- Fully-canvassed, and the canvas is hand-stitched
- Lots of handwork (including hand-stitched collar, pick stitching on lapels & collar, hand sewn buttons, handmade buttonholes, hand-stitched lining, label, armhole)
- Corozo and horn buttons
- Usually 3-roll-2 buttons, barchetta breast pocket
- Shoulders are lightly padded
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality
- Working (unfinished) cuffs
- Prices start at \$2900 (RTW sportcoat), \$3300 (RTW suit)
- [Official website](#)

Oxford Clothing

- American brand with its own manufacturing facility
- RTW and MTM
- Made in USA (Chicago)
- Fully-canvassed (the canvas is hand-stitched partly — collar and lapels areas)
- Lots of handwork (buttons, collar, buttonholes, armhole, lining, label etc.)
- Handmade buttonholes; they're reworked on the wrong side and therefore look perfect
- [Anatomy of an Oxford coat](#)
- [Oxford Clothing factory visit](#)
- Horn buttons
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality (usually Holland&Sherry)
- Working cuffs
- Prices start at \$4000 (MTM)
- [Official website](#)

Pal Zileri

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities (the brand belongs to Gruppo Forall)
- Several lines: the best one is Sartoriale; mainline is good; Concept is not impressive, as well as Lab by Pal Zileri (these are for younger audience).
- Made in Italy (mainline and Sartoriale); Made in Hungary, Bulgaria (Concept)
- Fully-canvassed suits/sportcoats (mainline, Sartoriale), but you can find fused jackets in other lines
- If there is a canvas, it's machine-stitched
- Horn and MOP buttons (mainline/Sartoriale)
- Handwork (Sartoriale line), but usually no handwork (even mainline suits)
- Fabrics: good, very good, sometimes excellent quality (some manufacturers: Cerruti, Loro Piana)
- Lining: 100% cupro (mainline, Sartoriale)
- The lining is hemmed by 'foxy' machine (mainline)
- Sometimes working cuffs, sometimes not
- If you are in between sizes, I would recommend to go **down** to the nearest size (suits — mainline and Sartoriale)
- Prices start at 900 GBP (mainline sportcoat/blazer, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Paoloni

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Unstructured or fused
- No handwork
- MOP, corozo, horn buttons (maybe sometimes plastic)
- Fabrics: average quality, sometimes above average / sometimes polyamide up to 20%
- Working cuffs (at least sometimes)
- [Official website](#)

Paul Smith (mainline)

- English brand
- Made in Italy / sometimes Made in Japan
- Used to be fully-canvassed, but now half-canvassed
- Horn buttons
- Colorful linings
- Working cuffs

- Prices start at 900 GBP (suit; VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Paul Smith London

- English brand
- Made in Italy
- Half-canvassed / the canvas is machine-stitched (but... the cheapest suits are probably fused)
- Usually no handwork
- Lining: 100% viscose, sometimes 100% cupro
- Fabrics are good but not excellent and not impressive, usually 100% wool (sometimes — very rarely — Loro Piana fabrics)
- Non-working cuffs
- Prices start at 560 GBP (suit; VAT excluded), 440 GBP (sportcoat, VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Pierre Cardin

- It was a French brand, but now it's (actually) a Turkish one
- Made in Eastern Europe
- Fused
- No handwork
- Plastic buttons
- Fabrics: average quality, sometimes below average — even 50% wool 50% polyester!
- Lining: 100% viscose (probably not always)
- The lining is hemmed by ordinary machine
- Prices start at 249 GBP (suit; VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Polo Ralph Lauren

- American brand
- Made in Italy by Corneliani, BUT today you can easily find PRL coats made in Asia and obviously not by Corneliani
- Some sportcoats are Made in USA
- Usually half-canvassed (but today some coats are fused) / the canvas is machine-stitched
- Lining: 100% cupro (coats), 100% viscose (pants)
- Fabrics: good quality, sometimes very good (e.g., English-woven 100% camel hair fabrics)

- Usually non-working cuffs
- Prices start at \$795 (sportcoat), \$995 (suit)
- Official website

PS by Paul Smith

- English brand
- Made in Portugal
- Fused
- Plastic buttons, and sometimes they look very cheap; very rarely — corozo buttons; always with engraved logo
- No handwork
- Lining: polyester, viscose or a blend, depends on model
- Fabrics: average or above average quality, not bad, but far from excellent
- Non-working cuffs
- Prices start at 500 GBP (suit; VAT included); 345 GBP (sportcoat; VAT included)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: certainly not horrible, but better to avoid; definitely overpriced

Purdey

- English brand
- Made in England
- Half-canvassed / the canvas is machine-stitched
- Horn buttons
- Fabrics: very good quality — British tweeds
- Non-working cuffs
- Prices start at 795 GBP (sportcoat; VAT included)
- Official website

Raphael Raffaelli

- American brand (atelier), **bespoke only**
- Made in USA
- Fully-canvassed
- Lots of handwork
- Horn buttons

Ralph Lauren Purple Label

- American brand
- Made in Italy by Caruso
- Fully-canvassed, the canvas is machine-stitched
- Lots of handwork
- Horn buttons
- Fabrics: excellent quality
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Working (unfinished) cuffs
- Prices start at \$3995 (suit), \$2995 (sportcoat)
- [Official website](#)

Ravazzolo

- Italian brand which has its own manufacturing facilities
- RTW and MTM
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed / the canvas is machine-stitched
- Handwork
- Corozo, MOP and horn buttons
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality
- Prices start at 1600 EUR (RTW), 2500 EUR (MTM)
- [Official website](#)

Richard Anderson

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke and RTW**
- RTW — Made in Italy, Bespoke — Made in England
- Fully-canvassed (Bespoke; not sure about RTW)
- Bespoke (time): 6-8 weeks
- Prices start at 3600 GBP (Bespoke suit, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Richard James

- English brand , RTW, MTM and Bespoke
- RTW — usually made in Mauritius, Bespoke — made in England, some MTM suits are made in Italy
- Bespoke suits: 8-12 weeks, 2 or 3 fittings
- MTM suits: 6-8 weeks

- Fully-canvassed Bespoke, RTW suits/sportcoats are usually half-canvassed
- Horn buttons
- Lining: 100% cupro, but sometimes 100% viscose (especially pants)
- Usually no handwork (RTW)
- Fabrics: good and very good quality (RTW); 15000 fabrics to choose from if you order a bespoke or MTM suit/sportcoat
- Working cuffs (not always)
- Prices start at 4425 GBP (Bespoke suits; VAT included; 10% discount if you pay in full at the time of the order), 1375 GBP (MTM suits, VAT included), 765 GBP (RTW suits, VAT included), 545 GBP (RTW sportcoats, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Rubinacci

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand (atelier) which has its own manufacturing facilities and three stores (Naples, Milan, London)
- Bespoke, RTW and MTM
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed
- Lots of handwork (including hand-stitched collar, hand sewn buttons, handmade buttonholes, etc.) — not sure about RTW
- Corozo, MOP and horn buttons
- Fabrics: excellent quality
- Lining: silk or cupro
- Prices start at appr. 1000 EUR (RTW sportcoat, VAT excluded), 4500 EUR (Bespoke suit, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Samuelsohn

- Canadian brand
- RTW and MTM
- Made in Canada
- Fully-canvassed, the canvas is stitched by machine
- No handwork (or a bit)
- Lining: 100% cupro
- The lining is hemmed by 'foxy' machine
- Working cuffs at least sometimes
- Prices start at \$895 (RTW sportcoat), \$995 (RTW suit)
- [Official website](#)
- Good price-quality ratio

Sand

- Danish brand
- Made in Portugal
- Fused
- No handwork
- Plastic buttons
- Fabrics: good quality
- Lining: 50% viscose 50% acetate
- Usually non-working cuffs
- Prices start at \$595 (sportcoat)
- [Official website](#)

Sartoria Formosa

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed
- Lots of handwork
- Horn buttons
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality (manufacturers: H.Lesser, Lanificio Drago, Holland&Sherry, Drapers)
- Natural soft shoulders, spalla camicia
- Working cuffs
- Prices start at \$2150 (suits), \$1695 (sportcoats)
- [Official website](#)

Sartoria Lattore

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually fused
- No handwork (maybe sometimes a bit, I don't remember exactly)
- Horn and corozo buttons or good imitation, I'm not sure
- Lining: 100% viscose or cupro+viscose
- The bottom of the lining is stitched by 'foxy' machine
- Fabrics: good/very good quality
- [Official website](#)

Sartoria Partenopea

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand which has its own manufacturing facilities
- RTW and MTM
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed, and the canvas is hand-stitched
- Lots of handwork (including hand-attached collar, pick stitching on lapels, hand sewn buttons, handmade buttonholes, hand-stitched lining, label, armhole)
- Corozo and horn buttons
- Usually 3-roll-2 buttons
- Shoulders are lightly padded
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Fabrics: very good quality, sometimes excellent, but sometimes not impressive (yet still very decent). They offer Ariston, Ermenegildo Zegna, Loro Piana, Piacenza, Scabal fabrics for MTM program.
- Working (unfinished) cuffs
- If you are in between sizes, I strongly recommend to go **down** to the nearest size
- Prices start at 1200 GBP (RTW sportcoat), 1600 GBP (RTW suit) / but usually higher
- [Official website](#)

Sartorio Napoli

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand which belongs to the owner of Kiton
- Made in Italy
- Fully-canvassed, and the canvas is machine-stitched
- Handwork (e.g., buttons)
- Corozo and horn buttons
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Working (unfinished) cuffs
- Prices start at 3500 EUR (suit, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: significantly overpriced

Smalto

- French brand (atelier)
- Bespoke, RTW and MTM
- Made in Italy by Caruso (RTW), Made in France (Bespoke)
- Fully-canvassed (RTW: the canvas is machine-stitched; Bespoke: the canvas is mostly hand-stitched)

- Handwork / Lots of handwork (Bespoke; buttons, buttonholes, armhole, lining, pockets, pick stitching, etc.)
- Horn, MOP buttons
- Signature fishmouth lapel; the shoulder is slightly raised and well-padded, the armhole are narrow; Milanese buttonhole on the lapel
- About 2000 fabrics to choose from (Bespoke)
- Working cuffs
- Prices start at 1850 EUR (RTW suit, VAT included), 6000 EUR (Bespoke suit; VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Southwick

- American brand with its own factory
- Made in USA
- RTW and MTM
- Half-canvassed, the canvas is stitched by machine / sometimes fully-canvassed
- Lining: 100% cupro
- Prices start at \$695 (RTW sportcoat), \$995 (RTW suit)
- [Official website](#)

Saint Andrews (Santandrea)

- Italian (Milanese) brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- RTW and Bespoke
- Fully-canvassed (RTW: the canvas is machine-stitched)
- Handwork (buttonholes, buttons, collar, pockets — not sure always or not)
- Horn and corozo buttons
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Working cuffs
- [Official website](#)

Strellson

- Swiss brand
- Made in Turkey, China, Bulgaria
- Fused
- No handwork
- Usually plastic buttons
- Lining: usually 100% viscose

- Fabrics: average, above average, good quality
- Prices start at 149 GBP (sportcoat, VAT included), 249 GBP (suit, VAT included)
- Official website

Suitsupply Blue and Purple lines

- Dutch brand
- Made in China
- Half-canvassed
- The canvas is machine-stitched
- No handwork
- Usually plastic buttons
- Fabrics: good quality, sometimes very good (by Vitale Barberis Canonico, Lanificio Drago)
- Lining: usually 100% cupro
- The lining is hemmed by ordinary machine
- Working cuffs
- Prices start at \$399 (suit)
- Official website
- Good price-quality ratio

Suitsupply Red line

- Dutch brand
- Made in China
- Fully-canvassed, the canvas is machine-stitched
- A bit of handwork (e.g., collar, lining in the armhole)
- Horn, corozo, MOP buttons
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality (by Carlo Barbera, Colombo)
- Lining: 100% cupro
- The lining is hemmed by ordinary machine
- Working cuffs
- ‘Spalla camicia’ Neapolitan-style models (among others)
- Prices start at \$639 (suit)
- Official website
- Good price-quality ratio

Thom Browne

- American brand
- Made in Japan

- Fully-canvassed (the canvas is machine-stitched)
- No handwork (well...sometimes a bit...)
- Good fabrics, but not excellent
- Lining: 100% cupro
- The lining is hemmed by 'foxy' machine
- Jackets are often too short; slim fit
- Prices start at 1570 GBP (suit, VAT excluded), 820 GBP (sportcoat, VAT excluded)
- Official website

T.M.Lewin

- English brand
- Made in Asia
- Fused / sometimes half-canvassed (the canvas is machine-stitched))
- Plastic buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: below average, average and above average quality (100% wool, sometimes Merino wool (super 100s, super 110s), BUT sometimes 50% wool 50% polyester)
- Lining: viscose blends
- Regular, slim and very slim fits
- Prices start at 149 GBP (VAT included)
- Official website
- Good price-quality ratio

Tombolini

- Italian brand (from Marche region) with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Usually fused. I've heard about canvassed Tombolini coats, but never seen these ones
- Horn buttons and sometimes probably very good imitation, I'm not sure
- A bit of handwork (e.g., lining in the armholes)
- Fabrics: average, above average, good, very good quality, it depends; for some coats/suits they use Ermenegildo Zegna fabrics
- Lining: 100% viscose or viscose+cupro
- Zero Gravity line: sportcoats and suits made of very lightweight fabrics
- Flying line: jersey sportcoats, lining only in sleeves, 'unstructured' but still fused, slim fit (close to very slim), quite short
- Usually non-working cuffs
- Official website

Tom Ford

- Italian brand, RTW and MTM
- Made in the Italy and Switzerland by Ermenegildo Zegna
- Fully-canvassed (The canvas is machine-stitched)
- Handwork (e.g., collar, buttons, buttonhole (not all of them))
- Horn buttons
- Lining: cupro+viscose or 100% viscose (sleeve lining) or silk+viscose or silk+cupro or 100% cupro — it depends
- Signature 5 buttons cuffs
- Prices start at 3200 GBP (RTW jackets; VAT excluded)
- Official website
- Definitely very overpriced, but... unique styling and high quality

William Fioravanti

- American brand (atelier), **bespoke only**
- Bespoke: 3 fittings
- Made in USA
- Fully-canvassed
- Lots of handwork
- Horn buttons
- Very expensive (more than \$10000)
- Official website

ZARA

- Spanish brand
- Made in China and other Asian countries
- Fused
- No handwork
- Plastic buttons
- Fabrics: average, but more often — below average, poor and even awful quality (sometimes 100% polyester!)
- Lining: often 100% polyester, sometimes polyester+viscose or a similar blend
- The lining is hemmed by ordinary machine
- Non-working cuffs
- Prices start at \$70 (sportcoat made of 100% polyester)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: better to avoid

PANTS (CHINOS, ETC.)

Introduction: how to tell high-quality pants?

1. Inspect the fabric.

Only pants made of natural fibers deserve your attention. Avoid polyester+wool blends. Pants made of 97-99% cotton 1-3% elastane aren't bad, but some people prefer 100% cotton. Well, there are great cotton+elastane pants on the market, and probably it's the matter of taste.



These pants are made of 98% cotton 2% elastane

It's good if the fabric was woven by one of the world's best mills (for example, Brisbane Moss, if we are talking about corduroy or moleskine pants; Carlo Barbera, H.Lesser, Harrisons, Holland&Sherry, Scabal, Dormeuil, Vitale Barberis Canonico, etc., if we are talking about more formal wool trousers — and yes, I know that some of the brands above are merchants, not weavers — but anyway, they offer good and excellent fabrics).

Garment-dyeing is a modern trend; it's not a quality hallmark.

2. Take a look at the closure.

High quality pants have a complex closure: it usually consists of zipper and 3 or even 4 additional buttons. Some manufacturers still use buttons instead of zippers: in this case, the closure can consist of 6 or even 7 buttons! Nowadays it's common to replace some buttons with hooks, but purists state that the best pants always have buttons, not hooks (in addition to zipper or vertical buttons closure, of course).



Zipper + 2 hooks + 2 buttons

Pants equipped with more simple closure — for example, zipper + 1 button + 1 hook — are usually (not always) worse in terms of quality. You would probably ask — why 3 or 4 buttons in addition to zipper? It helps to achieve the best fit, that's the answer.

By the way, the best zippers usually come from YKK, riri and Blitz.

3. Split waistband — does it matter?

Well, it's a difficult question. Of course, it's not a must-have feature of high quality pants; you can find this detail mainly on Italian pants; British manufacturers don't use this type of waistband (though it probably has British origins...). Some people say that split waistband makes pants more comfortable and aesthetically nice. Yes, I agree, but again, it's not an obligatory sign of high-end trousers.



Split waistband

4. Take a look at the buttons.

High-quality pants are equipped with buttons made of natural materials such as horn, corozo, MOP (mother-of-pearl) or bone. Cheap (though sometimes not cheap at all!) pants have plastic buttons. Very informal pants (so-called 5-pockets) often have metal buttons. Some trousers (especially British ones) have horn buttons outside and casein plastic buttons inside; that's OK, but not excellent.



5. Look at the ‘Made in’ tag.

Yes, quality is not a matter of geography, and in many countries of the world you will find very talented tailors, but, *in average*, the best *ready-to-wear* pants usually come from England and Italy. Please be careful: these countries also produce average quality clothing.



‘Made in Italy’ label

6. Belt hook holder (belt tab).

This feature (it prevents belt moving) are quite rare; you can find this belt hook holder only on some Italian pants. It’s not an obligatory sign of high-end trousers, but I’ve not seen bad pants with this feature. Learn how to use it [here](#).



Belt hook holder (belt tab)

7. Lining.

Nowadays lots of pants are unlined, and there are only a few fully-lined models on the market. If there's a lining, it should be made of cupro/bemberg (this is the best option), viscose, cotton or a blend of these materials. Avoid polyester linings. Acetate + viscose is OK.

Now let's move to pants (chinos and not only chinos) brands and see what they offer.

Berg&Berg

- Norwegian brand which belongs to Berg&Berg online store
- Made in Italy
- Split waistband
- Plastic buttons
- Fabrics: good quality
- Often garment-dyed
- Closure: zipper + 3 buttons
- Slim fit, but not very slim
- Prices start at \$118
- Official website

Boglioli

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Split waistband
- Often Garment-dyed
- Corozo buttons with engraved logo
- Fabrics: good quality, but never excellent, in my opinion
- Closure: zipper + 3 buttons
- Slim fit
- Prices start at 133 GBP (VAT excluded)
- Official website

Brooks Brothers chinos (mainline)

- American brand
- Made in Malaysia (maybe sometimes in China)
- Plastic buttons (horn imitation — quite good, but it's imitation)

- Fabrics: average / above average quality, definitely not bad, but far from excellent; usually 100% cotton (often 'wrinkle-free')
- Sometimes Garment-dyed
- Closure: zipper + 2 buttons
- YKK zippers
- Various fits: Milano is the trimmest, but not very slim (plain front); the fullest fits are Elliot (pleated front) and Hudson (plain front)
- Prices start at \$80
- Official website

Canali

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Horn, metal and corozo buttons
- Fabrics: good and very good
- Closure: zipper + 1 button or zipper + 3 buttons (depends on model)
- YKK zipper
- Prices start at 120 GBP (VAT excluded)
- Official website

Caruso

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- RTW and MTM
- Made in Italy
- Split waistband
- Corozo, bone and horn buttons
- Fabrics: good, very good, excellent quality
- Garment-dyed — at least some chinos
- Closure: zipper + 3 buttons
- YKK zippers
- Regular, slim fits, sometimes very slim fit
- Official website

Cordings

- English brand
- Sometimes Made in Britain, but not always
- Horn buttons outside, casein plastic buttons inside
- Fabrics: good, very good, excellent quality

- Corduroy, needlecord, tweed (including very heavy — 21 oz.), gabardine, cavalry twill, moleskine, etc. — i.e., all classic English fabrics
- Lining: 100% cotton; some models are half-lined, some fully-lined
- Button fly + 2 hooks + 1 button (sometimes 1 hook + 2 buttons)
- Prices start at 89 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Corneliani

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Split waistband (not always)
- Sometimes decorative pick-stitching (made by machine, of course)
- MOP and horn buttons, but... maybe sometimes plastic (on pants) / sometimes with engraved logo
- Fabrics: good, very good quality
- Closure: zipper + 3 buttons
- Belt hook holder (not always)
- Prices start at 180 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

GANT

- American brand
- Made in China and probably in some other countries (Morocco, Tunisia)
- Sometimes split waistband (very rarely)
- Corozo, metal and sometimes plastic buttons
- Fabrics: average, above average, sometimes good, but nothing special
- Closure: zipper + 1 button or zipper + 2 buttons + 1 hook
- YKK zippers
- Regular and slim fits
- Prices start at \$115
- [Official website](#)

Gazzarini

- Italian brand
- Made in EU (probably, Eastern Europe)
- Split waistband
- Plastic buttons with engraved logo
- Fabrics: average and above average quality; sometimes 15-30% polyamide

- Closure: zipper + 1 button + 1 hook or zipper + 1 button
- YKK zippers
- Slim fit, sometimes very slim
- Prices start at \$120
- [Official website](#)

Herring

- English brand (belongs to Herring shoes store)
- Made in Britain
- Metal buttons
- Moleskine, five-pockets style
- Fabrics: good quality
- Closure: zipper + 1 button
- Prices start at 75 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

H&M

- Swedish brand
- Made in China and other Asian countries
- Metal and plastic buttons
- Average fabrics (or — more often — below average and even poor); often 100% cotton or 95-98% cotton + 2-5% elastane
- Closure: zipper + 1 button or 3+1 buttons or zipper + 1 button + 1 hook
- Regular, slim and skinny fits
- Prices start at \$30
- [Official website](#)

Hugo Boss

- German brand
- Made in Turkey, Romania and probably in some other countries
- Metal or plastic buttons
- Closure: zipper + 1 button or zipper + 2 buttons + 1 hook
- YKK zippers
- Fabrics: average, above average, good quality, but never excellent, in my opinion
- Prices start at 100 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Incotex

- Italian brand
- Pants are made in Italy, Romania, Portugal
- Horn buttons (Venezia 1951 line), metal buttons (RED line)
- Split waistband
- Sometimes decorative pick-stitching (made by machine, of course)
- Garment-dyed (often)
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Closure (Venezia 1951): zipper + 3 buttons
- Closure (Archivio): zipper + button + hook
- Closure (Incotex RED): zipper + 2 buttons
- YKK zippers
- Belt hook holder (Venezia 1951 line)
- Slim, very slim and regular fits
- Prices start at 190 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Isaia

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Split waistband
- Horn, corozo, MOP, metal buttons
- Fabrics: very good, excellent quality
- Closure: usually zipper + 4 buttons
- Belt hook holder (probably not always)
- Prices start at \$425
- [Official website](#)

Kiton

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Split waistband (not always)
- Horn, corozo, MOP, metal buttons (sometimes with engraved logo)
- Fabrics: very good, excellent quality
- Belt hook holder
- Closure: sometimes button fly + 3 buttons; sometimes zipper + 3 buttons
- Prices start at 500 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Lardini

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Split waistband (not always)
- Corozo, metal and horn buttons
- Fabrics: above average, good, very good quality
- Closure: zipper + 1 button or zipper + 3 buttons (sometimes with hooks), depends on model
- Prices start at 145 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Luciano Barbera

- Italian brand
- Entirely manufactured in Italy
- Horn buttons
- Split waistband (not always)
- Fabrics: excellent quality, sometimes very impressive
- Closure: zipper + 3 buttons
- Prices start at \$495
- [Official website](#)

New & Lingwood

- English brand
- Some trousers are made in Italy
- Corduroy, tweed, flannel, 'sueded' cotton
- Fabrics: good, very good, excellent quality (corduroy trousers are made of Brisbane Moss fabric)
- Closure: zipper + 3 buttons
- Prices start at 145 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Pakeman

- English brand
- Made in England (probably not always)
- Corduroy, needlecord, flannel, moleskine, cavalry twill, etc. — in other words, all English classics

- Fabrics: good, very good (sometimes fabrics are Made in England) / however, sometimes they can be disappointing
- Button fly
- Traditional cut, high rise
- Prices start at 85 GBP (VAT included)
- Official website

Polo Ralph Lauren

- American brand
- Made in China and probably in some other countries
- Sometimes split waistband
- Sometimes Garment-dyed
- Usually plastic buttons / sometimes metal
- Fabrics: average, above average, good quality, but never excellent
- Closure: zipper + 1 button or zipper + 3 buttons
- YKK zippers
- Prices start at 38 GBP (VAT excluded)
- Official website

PT01 and PT05 (Pantaloni Torino)

- Italian brand
- PT05 = five-pockets, PT01 = classic chinos as well as wool trousers
- Usually made in Romania, sometimes made in Italy
- Split waistband
- Often decorative pick-stitching (made by machine, of course)
- Horn buttons or very good imitation, I'm not sure / sometimes MOP and probably sometimes plastic
- Fabrics: good quality, but not very impressive
- Closure: button-fly + 3 buttons or zipper + 3 buttons
- Belt hook holder (often)
- Usually slim fit, sometimes very slim
- Prices start at 170 EUR (VAT included)
- Official website

Richard James

- English brand
- RTW — usually made in Mauritius, sometimes made in England; Bespoke — made in England

- Horn buttons outside, casein plastic buttons inside (as far as RTW pants are concerned)
- Lining 100% viscose (RTW) / unlined or half-lined
- Fabrics: good and very good quality
- Closure: zipper + 2 buttons + 2 hooks or zipper + 2 buttons
- YKK zippers
- Slim fit
- If you are in between sizes, I would recommend to go **up** to the nearest size
- Prices start at 225 GBP (RTW, VAT included)
- Official website

Rota

- Italian brand with its own small factory
- Made in Italy
- Sometimes Garment-dyed
- Corozo buttons
- Fabrics: very good, excellent quality
- Closure: button-fly + 3 buttons
- Prices start at \$335
- Official website

Tombolini

- Italian brand (from Marche region) with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Sometimes split waistband
- Sometimes decorative pickstitching (made by machine, of course)
- Plastic buttons, sometimes horn/bone/corozo
- Fabrics: above average, good, sometimes very good quality
- Lining: 100% viscose
- Closure: zipper + 3 buttons
- YKK zippers
- Slim fit
- Official website

SHIRTS

Introduction. How to tell a high-quality shirt?

1. Inspect the fabric.

Good shirt fabrics are made only of natural fibers (cotton, linen and sometimes silk and wool). Cotton is usually the best choice; linen is good for informal summer outfits. Remember, high quality fabrics are always 2-ply (2-fold, double-twisted) or even 3-ply. They're more durable. Always prefer genuine 2-ply (2x2) to cheap 2-ply (2x1 or 1x2).



2-ply 100% cotton fabric

It's good if the fabric was woven by one the world's best mills (Alumo, Riva, Grandi e Rubinelli, David and John Anderson, Thomas Mason, Albini, Monti, Acorn, Simonnot-Godard, etc./ but quality of Acorn fabrics, for example, now varies).

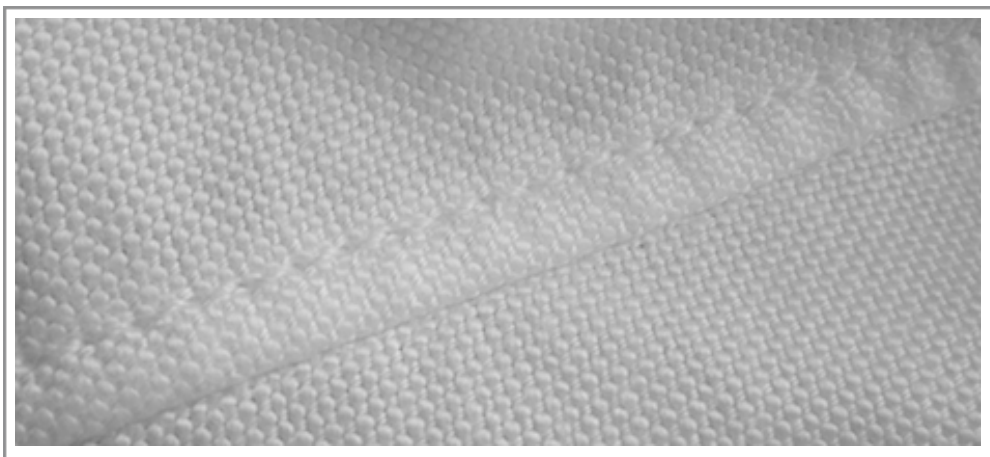
Besides, the best fabrics are made of Egyptian cotton (mako cotton, Giza 45 (the best option), Giza 70, Giza 87, etc.) and *genuine* Sea Island cotton. Supima/Pima cotton is also a good option, but still, high quality shirts are usually made of Egyptian cotton or Sea Island. Anyway, the best cotton has extra-long staples or at least long staples.

Avoid non-iron fabrics, because they usually undergo a chemical treatment and look cheap; however, there are shirts made of good (non-chemically treated) non-iron fabrics (but, in my opinion, there are still never excellent).

2. Side seams stitching.

The side seams of the best shirts are single-needle stitched. You will see only one row of stitching outside and two rows inside. Sometimes it's vice versa: one row inside, two rows outside. If the seam was stitched by a twin-needle machine, you will see two rows

of stitching inside and two rows outside. Single-needle seams look more neat and usually last longer.



Single-needle stitching



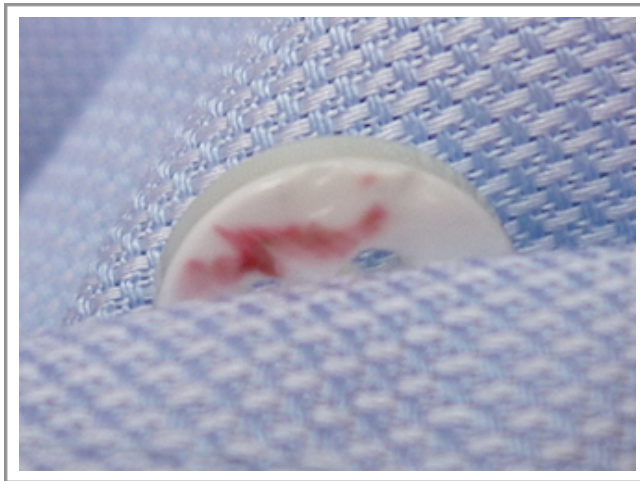
Single-needle stitching: inside and outside looks

By the way, stitch density also matters. 9 or more stitches per 1 cm. is great, 7-8 — very good, 6 — good, 5 — OK/mediocre. The stitch density is usually higher on collar and cuffs.

3. Look at the buttons.

High-quality shirts are equipped with buttons made of natural materials — usually MOP (mother-of-pearl), but sometimes horn. Cheaply made shirts have plastic buttons. On some shirts you will find troca buttons; troca is a budget alternative to MOP, but it's less durable and looks not as nice.

The thickness of buttons is important: if it's less than 2 mm., the chances are high that the buttons will be damaged or even destroyed during cleaning or washing. Maybe, 3 mm. is the best option, but some shirtmakers use 4 mm. or even 5 mm. buttons. Anyway, thin genuine MOP is better than thin troca.



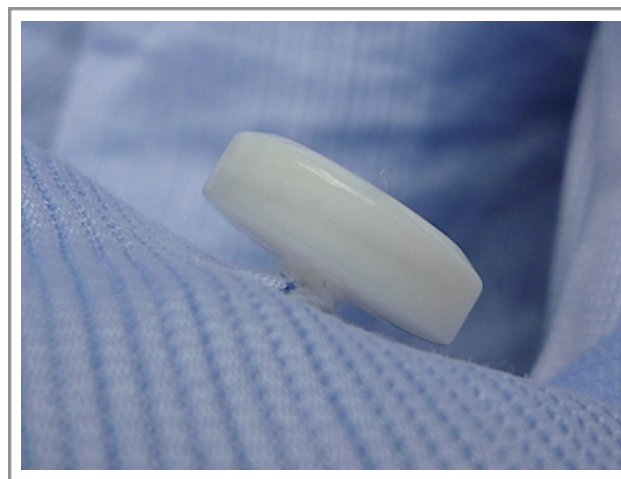
Troca button (reverse side)



MOP button. How to identify MOP?

- 1) It has so-called rainbow effect
- 2) it feels cold when you touch it by your lips

Besides, buttons of a high quality shirt should be shanked.



3 mm. MOP button with a shank

Finally, if the collar button is slightly smaller than other buttons, then we are (most likely) talking about the high-quality shirt.



Smaller button on collar

4. Gussets.

These triangular or rectangular pieces of fabric serve for reinforcement of the side seams. The presence of gussets does not mean that the shirt is very good, but this detail is usually regarded as *one* of the signs of a high quality shirt. Certainly, not the most important one.



Hand sewn gusset

5. Split yoke.

Split yoke is another indicator of high quality, especially if we are talking about bespoke shirts. However, split yoke is almost useless in RTW shirts, though some people say it adds flexibility — and, certainly, it's harder to make. Anyway, if a shirt has split yoke, it doesn't automatically mean it's an excellent shirt. You can easily find average quality shirts with split yokes.

Please read more about split yoke [here](#).

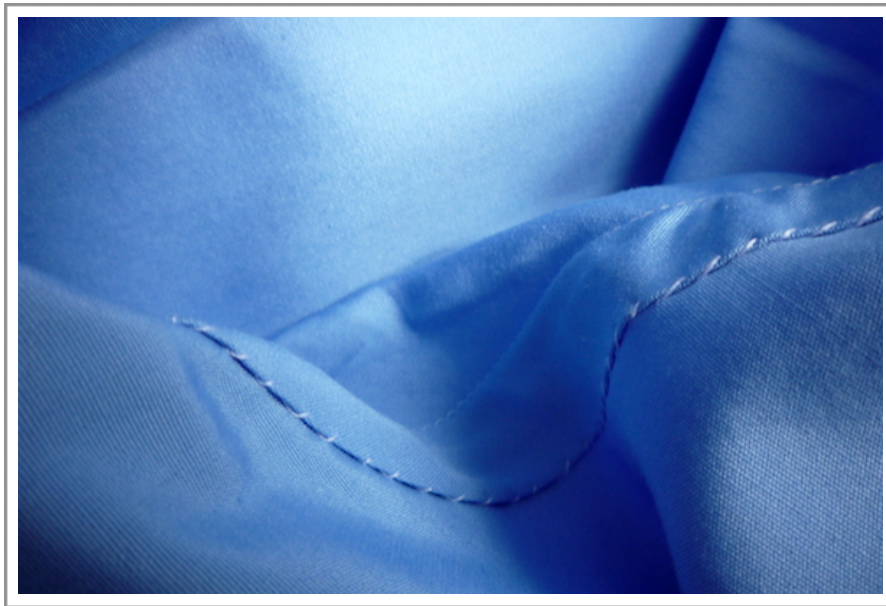


Split yoke

6. Hand-stitching.

High-quality shirts can be completely stitched by machines; hand-stitching is not an obligatory sign of quality as far as shirts are concerned. However, some people think handmade shirts are more comfortable to wear. And yes, hand-stitching can look nice (especially handmade buttonholes and crow-foot stitched buttons), but remember: poor, inaccurate, loose hand-stitching is a very bad thing. It's much better to prefer well made machine-stitched shirt to a poorly handmade one.

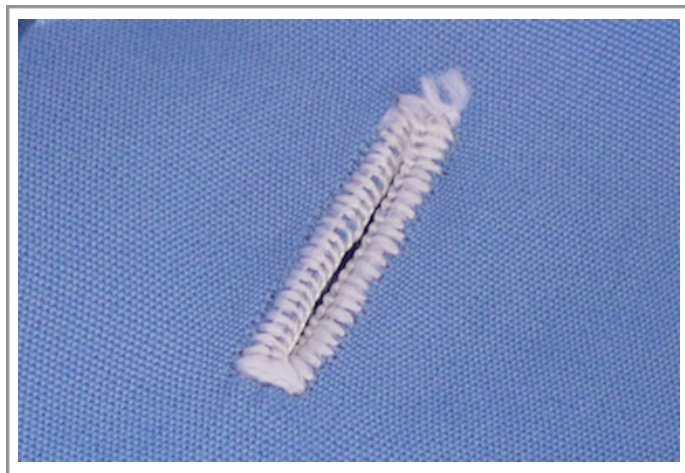
Be careful: some manufacturers use 'foxy' machines to imitate hand-stitching. Genuine hand-stitching is less prominent and more subtle and irregular than machine-made imitation.



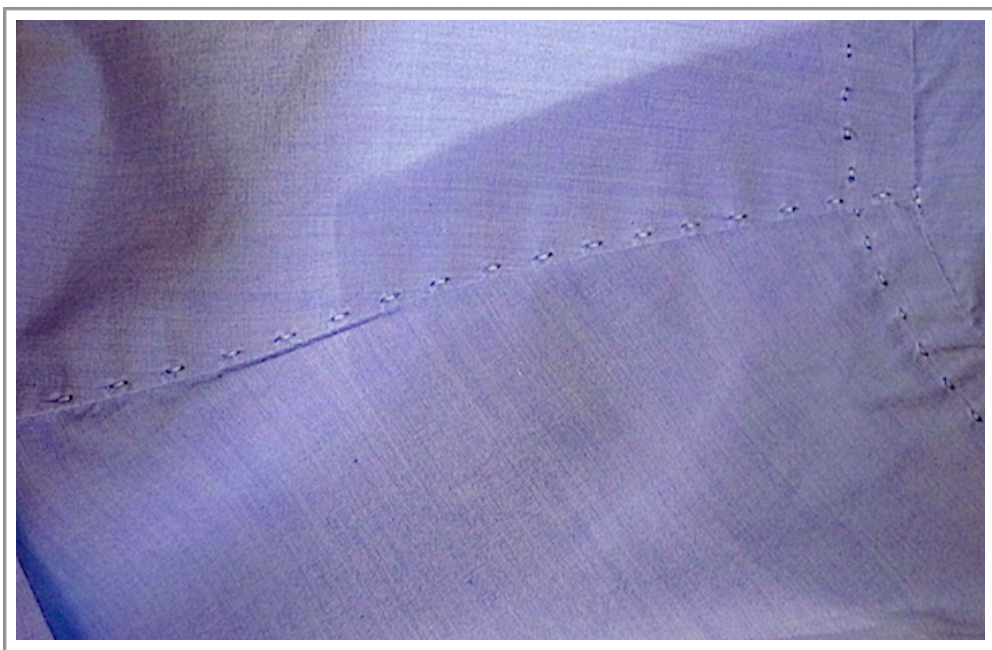
Hand sewn sleeve



Hand sewn shoulder



Handmade buttonhole



Imitation of hand-stitching (made by 'foxy' machine)

7. 'Made in' label.

Yes, quality is not a matter of geography, and in many countries of the world you will find very talented tailors, but, *in average*, the best *RTW* shirts usually come from Britain, Italy, France and the USA.

8. Removable collar stays.

Any high quality shirt has removable collar stays (or 'collar bones'). Further (in the brands section of this Guide) I'll indicate their presence only if a brand produces shirts with twin-needle stitching. Any shirt with single-needle stitching has removable collar stays, so I won't even mention it.

9. Sleeves sewn on in the end.

It's a very interesting issue. If you look at a shirt of the highest quality you will **not** see side seams matching with sleeve seams at the armpit areas. That's because the sleeves were set in and sewn on in the very end of the process of sewing a shirt. Such shirts are usually more comfortable to wear.



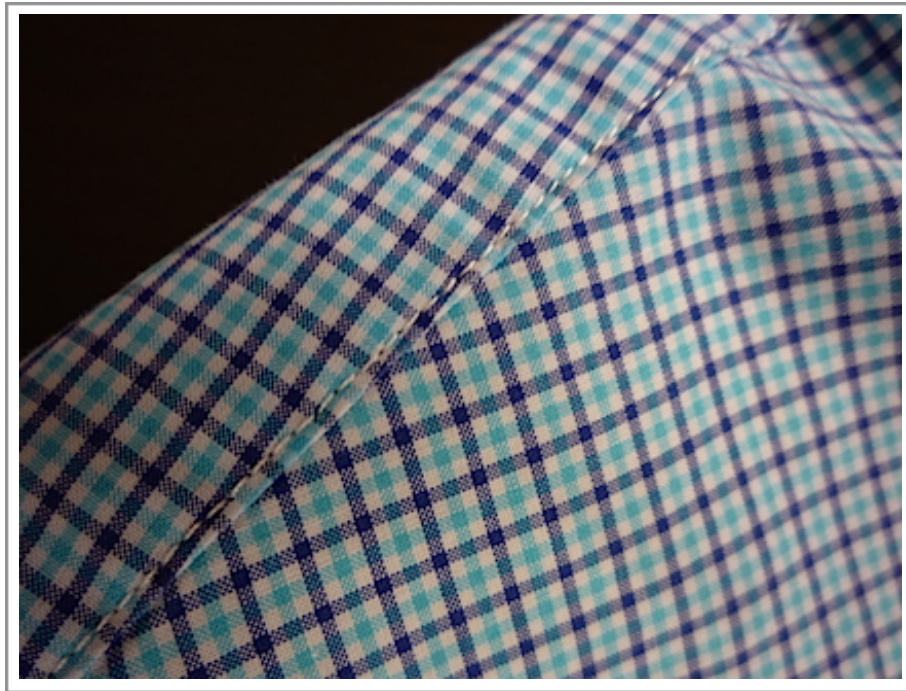
This sleeve was sewn on in the end

10. Pattern matching.

One of the ways to tell a high quality shirt is to look how the pattern is matched at the seams (if we're talking about a checked or a striped shirt). Of course, you cannot match the pattern everywhere (it's impossible!), but anyway, take a look at the shirt, especially at the yoke-sleeve line.



Pattern matching: sleeve — yoke



Another example of pattern matching

11. Collar construction.

There're traditional non-fused collars, unstructured collars and fused collars. A high quality shirt **can** have a fused collar, but purists will say that non-fused collar is the only way to go. Well, it's a matter of taste, probably.

Several useful links: interesting articles and resources

1. [Alexander Kabbaz — blog about shirts and accessories](#)
2. [Gentleman's Gazette — Hallmarks of a Quality Shirt](#)
3. [Gentleman's Gazette — Shirt Basics Guide: Material & Fabric](#)
4. [A.Dirnelli — Review of shirtmakers](#)

Now let's move to shirts brands and see what they offer.

Alessandro Gherardi

- Italian (Milanese) brand
- Made in Italy
- Handsewn gussets
- Thin MOP buttons (handsewn and shanked)

- Handwork (at least sometimes: buttons, gussets, buttonholes, armhole, collar, joists/travetti)
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Prices start at 130 GBP
- [Official website](#)

Alexander Kabbaz

- American brand (atelier), **bespoke only**
- Made in USA
- Single-needle stitching with very high density
- Moderately thick mother-of-pearl buttons (and they're shanked)
- Split yoke
- Perfect pattern-matching
- Prices start at \$1000 per shirt, and there's a minimum order (6 shirts)
- [Official website](#)

Andrea Campagna

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Thin MOP buttons (machine-sewn and not shanked)
- No handwork
- Fabrics: very good/excellent quality
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- [Official website](#)

Anna Matuozzo

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand (atelier), **bespoke and MTM**
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets, and they're hand sewn
- Moderately thick MOP buttons, and they're hand-sewn with a shank
- Lots of handwork (buttons, buttonholes, joists/travetti, armhole...)
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- [Official website](#)

Armani Jeans

- Italian brand, diffusion line of Armani
- Made in Asia and Eastern Europe
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average quality
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices start at 115 EUR (VAT included)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: overpriced, better to avoid

Bagutta

- Italian brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching (but not very good one)
- Gussets (not always)
- Troca buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No hand-stitching
- Fabrics: above average quality but almost never excellent; sometimes non-iron (they say these have passed non-chemical treatment) (sometimes David&John Anderson fabrics, but very rarely)
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Sometimes split yoke
- Usually slim and very slim, sometimes regular
- If you are in between sizes, I would recommend to go **up** to the nearest size
- Prices start at 105 EUR (VAT included)
- Official website

Barba

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Handsewn gussets
- Thick MOP buttons (hand-sewn and shanked)
- A bit of handwork in «White label» and «Black label» lines (buttons, sleeves, joists ('travetti'), gussets)
- Lots of handwork in «Gold label» line (+shoulders, collar, buttonholes)

- Fabrics: very good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- Slim fit (White, Gold label lines), extra slim fit (Black label line)
- Prices start at 170 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: good price-quality ratio

Battistoni

- Italian brand (atelier), **bespoke**
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- MOP buttons with a shank
- Prices start at \$500 (Bespoke)
- [Official website](#)

Benetton

- Italian brand
- Made in Bangladesh and other Asian countries
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average quality, sometimes above average (they use Monti fabrics for some models, but rarely)
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices start at \$39
- [Official website](#)

Berg&Berg

- Norwegian brand which belongs to Berg&Berg online store
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets
- Buttons: *probably* thin MOP or troca / crow-foot stitching
- No hand-stitching
- Fabrics: good quality
- Split yoke
- Prices start at \$126
- [Official website](#)

Boggi

- Italian brand
- Made NOT in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn
- No hand-stitching
- Fabrics: good quality, sometimes very good, but not excellent / sometimes Albini fabrics
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices start at 82 EUR
- [Official website](#)

Brioni

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons
- No hand-stitching
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Prices start at 265 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Brooks Brothers Red Fleece

- American brand
- Made in China
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average quality
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices start at \$65
- [Official website](#)

Brooks Brothers (mainline)

- American brand
- Made in USA, Malaysia and China
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork
- Signature 6 small pleats above cuffs
- Fabrics: sometimes average quality and sometimes above average and good (when we are speaking NOT about non-iron shirts)
- Supima cotton and sometimes Egyptian cotton
- Avoid non-iron shirts
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Various fits: Milano is the trimmest, but still not very slim; others are quite baggy (so-called slim Regent; regular Madison; relaxed Traditional)
- Prices start at \$92
- [Official website](#)

Brooks Brothers Black Fleece and Golden Fleece

- American brand
- Made in USA
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes (Black Fleece)
- Thin MOP buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good, very good and sometimes excellent quality (some Golden Fleece shirts are made from genuine Sea Island cotton)
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke
- Prices start at \$175
- [Official website](#)

Budd

- English brand, **RTW, MTM and Bespoke**
- Made in Great Britain
- Bespoke: 8-10 weeks, minimum order — 4 shirts
- MTM: minimum order — 3 shirts
- Traditional non-fused collars
- Single-needle stitching

- Gussets: yes
- Mother-of-pearl buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality, always 2-ply (they offer Alumo, Thomas Mason and Acorn fabrics, among others; though... Acorn quality varies greatly these days) / Sea Island cotton available (RTW: 215 GBP)
- Split yoke
- RTW: classic and tailored fits
- Prices start at 245 GBP (Bespoke, VAT included), 185 GBP (MTM, VAT included), 135 GBP (RTW, VAT included)
- Official website

Caliban

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy and sometimes in other countries
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average and above average quality, sometimes good, but never excellent / sometimes non-iron fabrics
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Usually slim fit
- Prices start at 75 GBP (VAT included)
- Official website

Canali

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching in Exclusive line and twin-needle stitching in Milano line
- Gussets (only Exclusive line)
- Thin MOP buttons (Milano line), thick MOP buttons (Exclusive line)
- No hand-stitching
- Fabrics: good and very good quality, sometimes very nice (especially as far as Exclusive line is concerned)
- Prices start at 145 EUR (VAT included)
- Official website

Caruso

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- MOP buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- Slim fit
- [Official website](#)

Cesare Attolini

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Handsewn gussets
- Quite thick MOP buttons (3 mm., hand-sewn and shanked)
- Lots of handwork (buttons, buttonholes, plackets, sleeves, shoulders, collar, gussets, joists (travetti), sometimes cuffs and hem)
- Fabrics: excellent quality
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- Not darted; regular cut
- If you are in between sizes, I recommend to go **down** to the nearest size
- Prices start at 270 EUR (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Charles Tyrwhitt

- English brand
- Made in Asia
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: usually yes
- Usually plastic buttons; sometimes thin MOP buttons (so-called Luxury line)
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average, sometimes above average and good quality
- Avoid non-iron fabrics
- Luxury line: 2-ply fabrics, sometimes Egyptian cotton (so-called ‘Sea Island Quality’)
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual

- Split yoke (not always)
- Classic, Slim and Extra slim fits
- Prices start at 20 GBP (VAT included), the best shirts cost 50 GBP
- [Official website](#)

Charvet

- French brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Offers RTW, MTM and bespoke
- Everything is made in France
- Traditional non-fused collars
- Single-needle stitching
- Mother-of-pearl buttons (shanked)
- No hand-stitching
- Fabrics: excellent quality, and they have a huge selection of fabrics — more than 6000 options
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- RTW: regular fit, not slim
- Prices start at 217 GBP for RTW (VAT excluded), 420 EUR for MTM, 500 EUR for Bespoke
- info@charvet.tm.fr

Cordings

- English brand
- Made NOT in England
- Traditional non-fused collars
- Plastic buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: above average /good quality
- Wide range of tattersall shirts
- Traditional cut (they call it generous)
- If you are in between sizes, I would recommend to go **down** to the nearest size
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Removable collar stays
- Prices start at 65 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Corneliani

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons with brand engraving
- No handwork
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- If you are in between sizes, I would recommend to go **down** to the nearest size
- Prices start at 170 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Crombie

- English brand
- Sometimes Made in England, but more often — in other countries
- Traditional non-fused collars
- Single-needle stitching
- Thin MOP buttons (sometimes with engraved logo)
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good and very good quality (usually extra-long staple cotton / 2-ply fabrics)
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke
- Prices start at 80 GBP (VAT included), usually 150 GBP
- [Official website](#)

Dege & Skinner

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke and RTW**
- Made in England (Bespoke; Head cutter: Robert Whittaker)
- Bespoke (minimum order): 4 shirts
- Single-needle stitching
- Thin shanked MOP buttons
- Large selection of British, Italian and Swiss fabric (2-ply; from 100s to 300s) / RTW: 2-ply 100s
- Prices start at 125 GBP (RTW, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Drake's

- English brand which has recently purchased Cleeve of London shirt factory
- Shirts are made in England at that factory
- Traditional non-fused collars
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke
- Prices start at 146 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Ede & Ravenscroft

- English brand, **RTW and Bespoke**
- Sometimes Made in England, but more often — in other countries
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes (but I'm not sure always or not)
- Usually troca or MOP buttons
- No hand-stitching
- Fabrics: good and very good quality (sometimes Thomas Mason) (usually 2-ply)
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual (RTW, I don't know about Bespoke)
- Split yoke
- Prices start at 85 GBP (RTW, VAT included), 295 GBP (Bespoke, VAT included — there is no minimum order)
- [Official website](#)

Emma Willis

- English brand, **RTW and Bespoke**
- Made in England
- Traditional non-fused collars
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Thin MOP buttons
- Fabrics: they offer Irish linen (among other fabrics) / usually 2-ply fabrics, 100s — 170s
- No hand-stitching (but: cutting by hand)
- Split yoke

- Prices start at 200 GBP (RTW, VAT included), 310 GBP (Bespoke, VAT included)
- Official website

Emporio Armani

- Italian brand, diffusion line of Armani
- Made in Asia and Eastern Europe
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices start at 130 EUR (VAT included)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: overpriced, better to avoid

Ermenegildo Zegna

- Italian brand
- Shirts are usually Made in Asian countries
- Single-needle stitching
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good and sometimes excellent quality (sometimes 3-ply; fabrics manufacturers: Albini among others)
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices start at 200 EUR (VAT included)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: overpriced

Eton

- Swedish brand
- Made in Romania, Estonia (only DnA line shirts are made in Sweden)
- Black Ribbon line: formal shirt
- Red Ribbon line: business shirts
- Green Ribbon line: casual shirts
- Single-needle stitching
- No gussets

- Mother-of-pearl buttons (but pulverized, so they don't look very nice), machine-sewn with a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: above average and good quality, but usually not impressive / often non-iron with non-chemical treatment
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Usually very long sleeves, some models with extremely long sleeves
- Prices start at 149 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Eton (DnA line)

- Made in Sweden
- Single-needle stitching (high density: up to 9 stitches per 1 cm.)
- Mother-of-pearl buttons: real shell, thick, with a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: very good, excellent quality
- Split yoke
- Prices start at 295 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Etro

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Twin-needle stitching
- No gussets
- Plastic buttons (machine-sewn without a shank)
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Removable collar stays
- Prices start at 129 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: very overpriced

Finamore

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Non-fused collars (sometimes)

- Single-needle stitching
- Handsewn gussets
- Thin MOP buttons (hand-sewn and shanked)
- A bit of handwork in «White label» line (buttons, sleeves, joists, gussets)
- Lots of handwork in «Black label» line (+shoulders, collar, buttonholes)
- Be careful: some Finamore shirts with black labels are actually made for stores and have only a bit of handwork (buttons, sleeves, gussets)
- Fabrics: very good, excellent quality
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual or in the end, depends on model
- Slim fit, sometimes very slim
- If you are in between sizes, I would recommend to go **up** to the nearest size
- Prices start at 170 EUR (VAT **ex**cluded)
- Official website

Fray

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching, very high density (up to 9 stitches per cm.)
- Gussets: yes
- MOP buttons
- No hand-stitching
- Fabrics: excellent quality (at least sometimes by Riva, sometimes Sea Island cotton)
- Prices start at \$600
- Official website

G.Inglese

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Handsewn gussets
- MOP buttons (hand-sewn and shanked)
- Lots of handwork (all shirts: buttons, sleeves, gussets, joists (travetti); more expensive shirts: +buttonholes, plackets, shoulders, collar, hand-rolled hem)
- Fabrics: excellent quality (by Alumo, Grandi e Rubinelli, Albini, Canclini, Thomas Mason)
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- Prices start at \$225 (\$295 — shirts with lots of handwork)
- Official website

Giorgio Armani

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Thin MOP buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good and very good quality
- Prices start at 220 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Glanshirt (by Slowear)

- Italian brand which now belongs to Slowear brands family together with Incotex, Montedoro, Zanone
- Made in Italy (own manufacturing facilities)
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Thin troca buttons, and they're shanked
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Slim fit; usually darted
- Prices start at 135 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Guglielminotti

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Non-fused collars (at least sometimes)
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons, but they are not shanked and not of the best quality / crow-foot stitching probably done by machine
- Sometimes handwork (armhole, collar, shoulders, gussets, joists/travetti, buttons), sometimes not, sometimes imitation of handwork
- Fabrics: good, sometimes very good quality (Albini, David&John Anderson, Thomas Mason)
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- Usually slim fit
- Prices start at 125 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

H&M

- Swedish brand
- Made in China and probably other Asian countries
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: below average quality (often — poor and sometimes even awful, with 65% polyester)
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices start at \$10
- [Official website](#)

Harvie & Hudson

- English brand, **Bespoke, RTW and MTM**
- Made in Asia (RTW), Made in England (MTM, Bespoke)
- Bespoke minimum order: 4 shirts
- Traditional non-fused collars
- Twin-needle stitching (RTW), Single-needle stitching (MTM, Bespoke)
- Gussets: no (RTW)
- Troca buttons (RTW), MOP buttons (Bespoke)
- No handwork
- Fabrics: above average and good quality (RTW), 2-ply
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke
- Removable collar stays
- Regular/traditional cut, not slim at all (even so-called ‘Slim fit’ are not actually as slim as you can expect)
- Prices: 75 GBP (RTW; VAT included / but they often offer discounts), 195 GBP (MTM, VAT included), 245 GBP (Bespoke, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Hawes & Curtis

- English brand
- Made in Asia
- Twin-needle stitching
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn and not shanked
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average and above average quality, often 2-ply

- 1913 collection (59 GBP/shirt) — better fabrics, 2-ply 140s
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke
- Extra slim, slim, tailored and classic fits
- Prices start at 35 GBP (VAT included / they often offer discounts)
- [Official website](#)

Hilditch & Key

- English brand
- Made in Great Britain (Scotland)
- Traditional non-fused collars
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: very good quality (always 2-ply)
- Sea Island Quality shirts — probably, made of extra long-staple Egyptian cotton
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke
- Good pattern-matching (usually)
- Regular cut, not very slim (they've recently upgraded their cuts, because they were too generous)
- Prices start at 155 GBP (RTW, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Hugo Boss

- German brand
- Made in Asia (China, Turkey...)
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average, above average, good quality; sometimes very good, but very rarely (sometimes Monti fabrics; several models are made of Albini fabrics); unfortunately, they also widely use Easy Iron fabrics
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Removable collar stays
- Prices start at \$95
- [Official website](#)

Isaia

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Handsewn gussets
- Moderately thick MOP buttons (hand-sewn and shanked) — often with engraved logo
- A bit of handwork (buttons, sleeves, joists, gussets, sometimes buttonholes)
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality (sometimes by Riva)
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- Prices start at 260 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Kent, Haste & Lachter

- English brand (atelier) / shirtmaker Stephen Lachter
- **Bespoke only**
- Made in England
- Single-needle stitching
- Mother-of-pearl buttons, shanked
- No hand-stitching
- Split yoke
- Fabrics by Alumo, Thomas Mason, David&John Anderson
- Prices start at 195 GBP (Bespoke), there is a minimum order — 4 shirts
- [Official website](#)

Kingsman

- English brand with no own manufacturing facilities
- Shirts are made in England by Turnbull&Asser
- Traditional non-fused collars
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons (shanked)
- No hand-stitching
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke
- Prices start at 163 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Kiton

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Handsewn gussets
- MOP buttons (hand-sewn and shanked)
- Lots of handwork (buttons, buttonholes, plackets, sleeves, shoulders, collar, gussets, joists (travetti), etc.) — depends on shirt
- Fabrics: excellent quality (usually by Riva)
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- Prices start at 310 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: overpriced, but usually very nice

Lacoste

- French brand
- Made in China and Turkey
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: usually yes
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: above average and good quality, but not impressive
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices start at 70 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: overpriced

Lanvin

- French brand
- Made in Italy (RTW)
- Usually fused collars
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good and very good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Usually poor pattern matching on RTW shirts
- Prices start at 220 EUR (RTW, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Lino Sentiero

- Small Italian (Neapolitan) brand (atelier), **RTW, Bespoke, MTM**
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets, and they're hand sewn
- Thick MOP buttons, and they're hand-sewn with a shank
- Lots of handwork (hand-stitched collar, sleeves, shoulders, buttons, gussets, joists (travetti), placket, buttonholes)
- Fabrics: good, very good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- Prices start at 140 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: good price-quality ratio

Luciano Barbera

- Italian brand
- Entirely manufactured in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons (sometimes horn buttons)
- No handwork
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality (they also offer shirts made of cashmere and merino wool — for winter)
- Prices start at \$395
- [Official website](#)

Luciano Lombardi

- Small Italian (Neapolitan) brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets, and they're hand sewn
- Thick MOP buttons, and they're hand-sewn with a shank
- Lots of handwork (hand-stitched collar, armhole, shoulders, buttons, gussets...)
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- [Official website](#)

Luigi Borrelli

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets, and they're hand sewn
- MOP buttons (sometimes thick, sometimes thin), and they're hand-sewn with a shank
- Lots of handwork in Royal Collection line (hand-stitched collar, sleeves, shoulders, buttons, gussets, joists (travetti), placket, buttonholes)
- Luxury Vintage: informal shirts with a bit of/no handwork
- Fabrics: good and very good quality, sometimes very nice, but sometimes they're not impressive (manufacturers: Albini, Thomas Mason among others)
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end (not sure about all their range though)
- If you are in between sizes, I would recommend to go **down** to the nearest size
- Prices start at 200 EUR for RTW (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Maria Santangelo

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Handsewn gussets
- MOP buttons (hand-sewn and shanked)
- Lots of handwork (buttons, sleeves, buttonholes, gussets, joists (travetti), sometimes: plackets, shoulders, collar, hem, label, cuffs and even side seams) / sometimes only a bit of handwork
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- [Official website](#)

Marks & Spencer

- English brand, RTW and MTM
- Made in Asia (Indonesia, etc.) (only 'Best of British line shirts are made in UK)
- Twin-needle stitching (except Sartorial and Luxury lines - there's single-needle stitching)
- Gussets: yes, but only Autograph, Sartorial, Luxury lines
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn and without shank
- No handwork

- Fabrics: below average, average and good quality (depends on line), sometimes Egyptian cotton — but be careful, there are shirts made of 55% polyester 45% cotton
- 2-ply 100% cotton fabrics (only Sartorial and Luxury line)
- M&S non-iron fabrics look and feel cheap, but wear well (Easy Iron, Non Iron line)
- Autograph line shirts are made of 100% cotton, but not impressive. Sometimes it's Supima cotton
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke (only Savile Row Inspired, Sartorial and Luxury lines)
- Removable collar stays (not always; only Savile Row Inspired, Sartorial and Luxury lines)
- Prices start at 17,5 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Massimo Dutti

- Spanish brand
- Made in China and Turkey
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: sometimes yes, sometimes no
- Usually plastic buttons (very rarely troca), machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average quality, sometimes (rarely) above average
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices start at \$70
- [Official website](#)

Mattabisch Napoli

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Handsewn gussets
- Thick MOP buttons (handsewn and shanked)
- Handwork (at least sometimes: buttons, gussets, buttonholes, armhole, joists/travetti)
- Fabrics: very good quality
- [Official website](#)

New & Lingwood

- English brand, RTW, MTM and Bespoke
- Made NOT in England (RTW), Made in England (Bespoke, MTM)

- Traditional non-fused collars
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Troca buttons (RTW), MOP buttons (Bespoke, MTM)
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good and very good quality, sometimes excellent (always 2-ply/2-fold)
- They also offer shirts made of Sea Island cotton (RTW: 250 GBP, VAT included)
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke
- Tailored (slightly slim) and Traditional/Classic (loose) fits
- Prices start at 95 GBP (RTW, VAT included), 225 GBP (MTM, VAT included), 275 GBP (Bespoke; first minimum order — 4 shirts)
- Official website

Norton & Sons

- English brand (atelier), **bespoke**
- Made in England
- Traditional non-fused collars
- MOP buttons
- Wide range of very good fabrics — about 2000, always 2-ply; Sea Island cotton fabrics (among others)
- Prices start at 250 GBP (bespoke, VAT included), there's a minimum order — 3 shirts
- Official website

Pal Zileri (mainline)

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy and Albania
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good quality, but not excellent
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Removable collar stays
- Usually regular cut, not slim
- If you are in between sizes, I would recommend to go **down** to the nearest size
- Prices start at 130 GBP (mainline, made in Italy, VAT included)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: very overpriced

Paul Smith London

- English brand
- Made in Italy
- Twin-needle stitching
- No gussets
- Usually plastic buttons (machine-sewn without a shank) — with engraved logo
- Sometimes thin MOP buttons without engraved logo (but rarely)
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good and very good quality (Leggiuno and Monti fabrics among others)
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Removable collar stays
- Classic, tailored and slim fits
- Prices start at 100 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Pino Borriello

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes, sometimes
- MOP buttons (usually thin, sometimes thick), and they're usually (but now always!) hand-sewn with a shank
- Sometimes handwork (buttons, joists/travetti and armhole; sometimes buttonholes, gussets, collar, shoulders)
- Fabrics: very good quality, usually Egyptian cotton
- Prices start approximately at
- [Official website](#)

Polo Ralph Lauren

- American brand
- Shirts are usually made in China and probably in some other countries. The most expensive shirts are Made in USA
- Single-needle stitching (probably not always)
- Gussets: usually yes
- Sometimes plastic buttons, sometimes MOP
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good quality, but definitely not excellent
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke

- Slim and standard fits
- Prices start at \$85
- Official website

Ralph Lauren Purple Label

- American brand
- Made in Italy
- Twin-needle stitching at least sometimes
- Gussets: sometimes yes, but not always
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: excellent quality, sometimes very nice
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Usually split yoke
- Prices start at \$425
- Official website

Richard James

- English brand
- Made NOT in England (unfortunately, I don't remember exactly where)
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good quality, but sometimes not impressive at all, so only slightly above average
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Removable collar stays
- Prices start at 100 GBP (VAT excluded)
- Official website

Sand

- Danish brand
- Made in Portugal
- Fused collars
- Twin-needle stitching
- No gussets
- Plastic buttons (machine-sewn without a shank)

- No handwork
- Fabrics: above average and good quality, sometimes average
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices — about \$195
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: very overpriced

Sartoria Partenopea

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Handsewn gussets
- Thick MOP buttons, they're hand sewn and shanked
- A bit of handwork (buttons, sleeves, gussets, joists)
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- Prices start at 150 GBP
- [Official website](#)

Suitsupply Blue and Purple lines

- Dutch brand
- Made in Macedonia and probably other countries
- Twin-needle stitching
- No handwork
- No gussets
- Plastic buttons (shanked)
- Fabrics: good (Blue line) and very good (Purple line — by Monti, Thomas Mason, Albini, Testa, etc.) / always 2-ply, usually Egyptian cotton
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices start at \$79
- [Official website](#)

Suitsupply Red line

- Dutch brand
- Made in Poland and probably other countries
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes

- Sometimes imitation of handwork (they use ‘foxy’ machines), sometimes hand-stitched buttonholes
- MOP buttons (shanked, crow foot stitching)
- Fabrics: very good quality (by Thomas Mason, Albini, etc.) / always 2-ply, Egyptian cotton
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- Prices start at \$149
- [Official website](#)

Thomas Pink

- English brand
- Made in Asia or Northern Africa (except Imperial line), Made in Great Britain (Imperial line)
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes (only Imperial, Classic and Prestige lines)
- Plastic buttons (troca buttons on some most expensive Imperial line shirts)
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average, above average, good, and very good quality (depends on line)
- Imperial line: 2-ply 100% cotton 170s’ and 200s’
- Traveller line: 2-ply 100% cotton, but non-iron
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke (only Imperial, Classic and Prestige lines)
- Prices start at 69 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: overpriced

T.M.Lewin

- English brand
- Made in Asia
- Non-fused collars, but... not the best ones, of course
- Twin-needle stitching
- Plastic buttons without a shank
- No handwork
- Fabrics: average quality, sometimes above average and maybe even good (some shirts are made of Egyptian cotton) / often easy-iron finish
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke
- Regular, slim, very slim and extra slim fits
- Prices start at 30 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Truzzi

- Italian (Milanese) brand
- Usually made in Romania
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets: yes
- Handwork (depends on model)
- Thick mother-of-pearl buttons, usually hand sewn and shanked
- Fabrics: good and very good quality
- Prices start at 170 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Turnbull&Asser

- English brand which has its own manufacturing facilities
- Offers RTW, MTM, Bespoke
- Made in England
- Traditional non-fused collars
- Single-needle stitching (but it's unusual: you will see two row of stitching outside and only one row inside)
- Gussets: yes
- Thin mother-of-pearl buttons (shanked)
- No handwork
- Fabrics: very good and excellent quality (they usually use Thomas Mason fabrics), always 2-ply (2-fold)
- Sea Island Quality shirts are made of extra-long staple Egyptian cotton
- Bespoke: 1000+ fabrics and 25 collars to choose from
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Split yoke
- Signature 3 buttons cuffs (certainly, not always)
- Poor pattern-matching on RTW shirts
- Prices start at 175 GBP (RTW, VAT included); 205 GBP (MTM; VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Uniqlo

- Japanese brand
- Made in China
- Single-needle stitching (yes, it's strange, but...)
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork

- Fabrics: average and sometimes above average quality
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- Prices start at \$30
- Official website
- Personal opinion: not impressive at all, but good price-quality ratio

Van Laack

- German brand
- Now usually made in Vietnam
- Gussets: yes, at least sometimes
- MOP buttons (at least sometimes)
- No handwork
- Fabrics: good and very good quality
- Prices start at 119 EUR (VAT included)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: overpriced

Vincenzo di Ruggiero

- Small Neapolitan brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Italy
- Single-needle stitching
- Gussets, and they're hand sewn
- Thick MOP buttons, and they're hand-sewn with a shank
- Lots of handwork (hand-stitched collar, sleeves, shoulders, buttons, gussets, buttonholes, joists/travetti... — depends on model)
- Fabrics: good and very good quality
- Sleeves are sewn on in the end
- Usually slim fit; often darted
- Prices start approximately at
- Official website

ZARA

- Spanish brand
- Made in Vietnam, Turkey, Portugal and probably other countries
- Twin-needle stitching
- Gussets: no
- Plastic buttons, machine-sewn without a shank
- No handwork

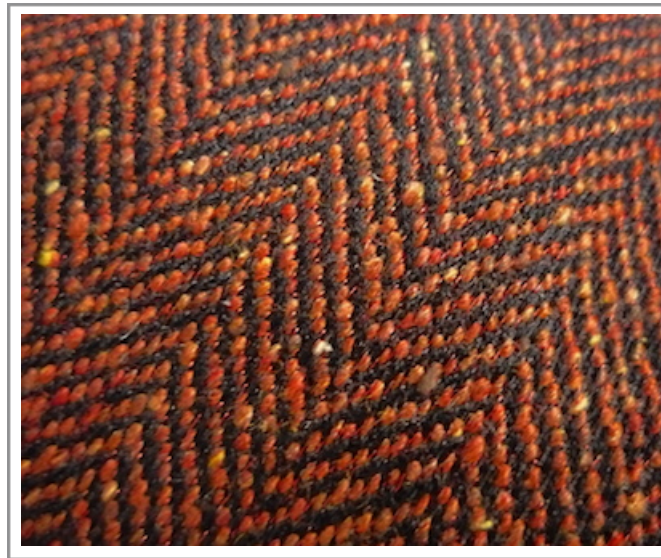
- Fabrics: average quality, sometimes below average and even poor, but sometimes good (they use Monti fabrics for some models)
- Sleeves are sewn on as usual
- At least sometimes good pattern matching (yoke-sleeves)
- Removable collar stays
- Prices start at \$30
- [Official website](#)

TIES

Introduction: how to tell a high-quality tie?

1. Inspect the fabric.

High-quality ties are made of natural fibers: silk, linen, wool and cashmere. Silk fabrics made in England, France and Italy are usually better than silk fabrics made in China.



Some ties are made of wool fabrics

2. Take a look at the back seam and bar tacks.

High-quality ties are handmade (at least partly). The back seam should be stitched by hand and closed with handmade bar tacks (contrasty or not). Handmade ties are more flexible and more comfortable to wear; they last longer and allow you to tie nicer knots.

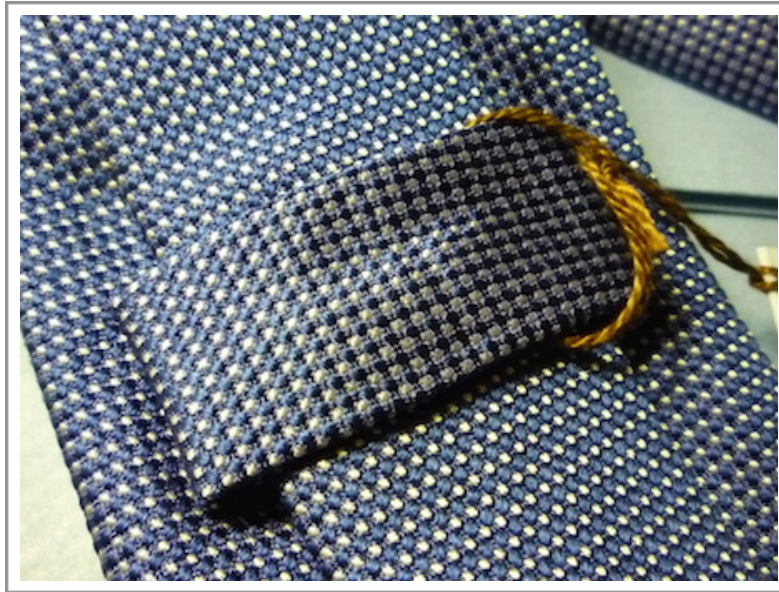
Be careful: today most ties are stitched by so-called Liba machines. These ties often have bar tacks and look like handmade ones, but their back seams are stiff and not so flexible and soft. Opt for irregular, soft stitching.



Contrasty bar tack

3. Is there a loop?

The presence of a loop is not a sign of high quality tie. Some manufacturers (especially French ones) don't equip their ties with loops. Anyway, I prefer ties with loops — and I think they're more practical. If there's a loop, it should be made of the same material that's used for tie shell; besides, it should be hand sewn into the back seam of the tie.



A loop

4. Self-tipped, untipped, hand rolled... Does it matter?

Yes, it does matter, because high quality ties are often untipped and hand rolled or self-tipped. Of course, this is not an obligatory sign of excellent ties, but I prefer self-tipped and untipped ties to ordinary ones.

What is a self-tipped tie? It's a tie lined with the same fabric which was used for its shell.

What is an untipped tie? It's a tie not lined at all and usually hand rolled.



This is a self-tipped tie



This tie is untipped and hand-rolled

5. Do you need to count the number of folds?

The number of folds has a little to do with overall quality of ties. It's a matter of taste, I suppose. There're lots of excellent 3-fold ties on the market, so it's not necessary to look for 6-folds, 7-folds and even 11-folds. By the way, so-called 7-fold ties are often actually 6-folds. True 7-fold tie is untipped and hand-rolled.



6-fold tie

6. What about 'Made in' tag?

High quality ties *usually* come from England, France, and Italy (more rarely — USA), but they can be made by skillful artisans in any part of the world. Besides, you can find lots of Made in Italy ties actually sewn by machine — and of average fabrics.



6. Lining and interlining.

If a tie is self-tipped, its lining is most likely made of silk or any other natural fabric. If a tie is not self-tipped, its lining can be made of silk or (more commonly) of polyester or viscose — it depends on manufacturer. Of course, silk linings look and feel nicer.

Interlining materials also do matter. Some interlinings cause ugly knots, while others provide much nicer knots. Good interlining are usually made of wool; they're not thick, and they're very elastic.

Now let's move to ties brands and see what they offer. **Please note:** when I say 'handmade', I don't mean 'entirely handmade'. I write 'Almost entirely handmade', if I know there are many steps made by hand during manufacturing process (not only back seam, label, bar tacks and loop stitching, but also, for example, hand cutting, hand ironing, hand rolling edges).

AD56

- Italian (Milanese) brand
- Made in Italy
- Fabrics: good and very good quality; silk, wool
- Handmade
- Usually self-tipped
- Loop: yes
- Width: 8-9 cm.
- [Official website](#)

Barba

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Very good fabrics, usually Italian silk
- Handmade
- 3-folds, 6-folds
- Self-tipped
- Loop: yes
- Width: 9-9,5 cm.
- Official website

Berg&Berg

- Norwegian brand (belongs to Berg&Berg store)
- Made in Italy
- Silk, linen, cashmere, wool and blends / good and very good fabrics, but usually not excellent
- Large selection of knitted and grenadine ties
- Some ties are untipped and hand-rolled, many are self-tipped
- Handmade / probably sometimes almost entirely handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: usually 8 cm.
- Prices start at \$53 (knits), \$67 (other ties)
- Official website

Boggi

- Italian (Milanese) brand
- Made in Italy
- Fabrics: good quality, but not excellent (in my opinion)
- Linen, silk, wool, cotton and blends
- I think at least some Boggi ties are stitched by Liba machine
- Loop: yes
- Width: 7-8 cm.
- Prices start at 58 EUR
- Official website

Brioni

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk fabrics: very good quality
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: usually 8 cm.
- Prices start at 125 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Brooks Brothers

- American brand
- Made in USA (maybe not always, but very often)
- Good and very good fabrics (sometimes woven in England, often woven in Italy) / sometimes ancient madder silk
- Handmade
- Several 7-folds
- Loop: yes
- Width: 6,5-8,5 cm.
- Prices start at \$50
- [Official website](#)

Calabrese

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Very good and excellent fabrics / they also offer knitted ties
- Almost entirely handmade
- 3-folds, 6-folds
- Self-tipped, sometimes untipped and hand rolled
- Loop: yes
- Width: 8-8,5 cm.
- Prices start at 70 EUR (knits, VAT included), 80 EUR (other ties, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Canali

- Italian (Milanese) brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk fabrics: very good quality

- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: usually 8 cm.
- Prices start at 75 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Cantarelli

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk fabrics: good quality, but not very impressive
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: usually 8 cm.
- Prices start at 69 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Cappelli

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand, **RTW and Bespoke**
- Made in Italy
- Very good and excellent fabrics, sometimes ancient madder silk, linen, wool; they also offer several knit ties
- Handmade
- 3-folds, 5-folds, 6-folds, 7-folds
- Self-tipped
- Loop: yes
- Width: usually 9 cm, but you can order 6 cm. or, for example, 12 cm. tie; length options: 130 cm. — 185 cm.
- Prices start at 70 EUR (RTW; VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Cesare Attolini

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Very good fabrics, Italian silk
- Handmade
- Self-tipped (but not always)
- Loop: yes
- Width: 8-9 cm.

- Price start at 125 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Charvet

- French brand
- Made in France
- Knitted ties are made in Italy
- Silk fabrics: excellent quality, but sometimes arguable patterns (in my opinion)
- Handmade
- No loop
- Width: 5 cm. (knits), 9 cm. (other ties)
- Prices start at 100 GBP (knits; VAT excluded), 117 GBP (bow-tie; VAT excluded), 125 GBP (other ties; VAT excluded)

Corneliani

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk, linen, cashmere fabrics: good and very good quality, but not excellent, not very impressive (in my opinion)
- They also offer a selection of cashmere, wool and silk knitted ties
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 6 cm. (knits), 8 cm. (other ties)
- Prices start at 95 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Dolcepunta

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Excellent fabrics, but colors and patterns are often very flashy
- Handmade
- 3-folds, 6-folds, 7-folds, even 11-folds
- They also have a line of 'softpoint' ties
- Self-tipped, sometimes untipped
- Loop: yes
- Width: 8-10 cm.
- Prices: 150 EUR (6-fold, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Drake's

- English brand, **bespoke and RTW**
- Made in England; knitted ties are made in Germany
- Very good and excellent fabrics
- A vast variety of elegant patterns
- Almost entirely handmade
- Sometimes self-tipped or untipped (and hand-rolled)
- Loop: yes
- Width: usually 8 cm.
- Prices start at 63 GBP (knitted ties; VAT **excluded**), 83 GBP (other ties, VAT **excluded**)
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: very expensive, but very nice

Ede & Ravenscroft

- English brand
- Made in England
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 8-8,5 cm.
- Prices start at 35 GBP (bow ties, VAT included), 80 GBP (other ties, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Emma Willis

- English brand
- Made in England
- Very good fabrics
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Self-tipped at least sometimes
- Width: 8-9 cm.
- Prices start at 79 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Ermenegildo Zegna

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Fabrics: good and very good quality

- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 8-9 cm.
- Prices start at 135 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: significantly overpriced

Etro

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Fabrics: good quality, but not very impressive, not excellent
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 7-8 cm
- Prices start at 92 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Eton

- Swedish brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk fabrics: good quality, but not excellent (in my opinion)
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 7-8 cm.
- Prices start at 79 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Finamore

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Very good fabrics, Italian silk, sometimes wool
- Handmade
- 3-folds, 6-folds, 7-folds
- Self-tipped or untipped (7-folds)
- Loop: yes
- Width: usually about 9 cm., but sometimes — 6 cm. or even less
- Prices start at 90 EUR (VAT **ex**cluded)
- [Official website](#)

Fort Belvedere

- American brand
- Made in Germany (knitted ties), Made in Asia (other ties)
- Fabrics: excellent quality; silk, wool, linen
- Great selection of knit ties
- Almost entirely / entirely handmade
- Self-tipped or untipped and hand rolled
- Loop: yes
- Width: 5-7 cm. (knits), 7-9 cm. (others)
- Several length options
- Prices start at \$85 (knit ties), \$105 (other ties)
- [Official website](#)

Fumagalli

- Italian (Milanese) brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk and linen fabrics: good/sometimes very good quality
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 7-8 cm.
- Prices start at 49 EUR / usually higher
- [Official website](#)

Gieves & Hawkes

- English brand
- Made in the UK
- Knitted ties are made in Italy
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 7,5-8,5 cm.
- Prices start at 79 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

H&M

- Swedish brand
- Made in China
- Silk fabrics: usually below average and sometimes poor quality

- I think they're sewn with the use of Liba machine
- Loop: yes
- Width: 5,5-7 cm.
- Prices start at \$13
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: better to avoid

Hermes

- French brand
- Made in France
- Silk fabrics (printed and woven): very good quality
- Handmade
- No loop
- Width: usually 8 cm.
- Price: \$180
- [Official website](#)

Hugo Boss

- German brand
- Made in Italy
- Average fabrics, usually not impressive
- I think these ties are stitched by Liba machine, but I'm not sure
- Loop: yes
- Width: 6-8 cm.
- Prices start at \$55
- [Official website](#)

Isaia

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Very nice fabrics, usually Italian silk
- Handmade
- Often 6-folds
- Self-tipped
- Loop: yes
- Width: usually 8 cm.
- Prices start at 108 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Kent Wang

- American brand
- Made in Italy
- Wool, cashmere, silk, silk-grenadine, linen, wool+cashmere
- 3-folds, 6-folds, knits
- Width: 7 cm. (knits), 7,5-8,5 cm. (other ties)
- Prices start at \$45 (bow ties), \$65 (knits), \$75 (other ties)
- [Official website](#)

Kiton

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Very nice fabrics, but sometimes very arguable patterns
- Handmade
- Often 6-folds
- Self-tipped
- Loop: yes
- Width: 9,5-10 cm.
- Prices start at 165 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Lanvin

- French brand
- Made in France
- Silk fabrics: good quality, but not excellent (in my opinion)
- Handmade
- No loop
- Width: 5 cm. (knits), 5-8 cm, (other ties)
- Prices start at 63 GBP (VAT excluded; bow-ties), 83 GBP (VAT excluded; knitted ties), 104 GBP (VAT excluded; other ties)
- [Official website](#)

Loro Piana

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk fabrics: very good quality, sometimes cashmere, cashmere+silk, baby cashmere
- Handmade
- Loop: yes

- Width: 8-9,5 cm.
- Prices start at appr. 250 EUR (cashmere ties, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Luciano Barbera

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk, wool, linen fabrics: excellent quality
- Nice silk lining
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: usually 8 cm.
- Prices start at \$175
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: very nice fabrics and knots

Luigi Borrelli

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Good and very good fabrics / silk, linen, wool
- Handmade
- 3-folds, 6-folds
- Self-tipped (not always)
- Loop: yes
- Width: 7-9 cm.
- Prices start at 115 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Marinella

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand, **bespoke and RTW**
- Made in Italy
- Excellent fabrics, English silk (often ancient madder)
- A vast variety of elegant patterns
- Almost entirely handmade
- 3-folds, 6-folds, 7-folds
- Self-tipped, untipped (hand-rolled)
- Loop: yes
- Width: 6-7 cm. (knits), 9-10 cm. (other ties)

- Prices start at \$150 (RTW, knits), \$185 (RTW, other ties)
- [Official website](#)

Marks & Spencer

- English brand
- Made in China and other Asian countries
- Fabrics: below average, average, above average, good (i.e. — varies greatly)
- The cheapest ties are sewn by ordinary machine; more expensive ties — most likely by Liba machine
- The cheapest ties are made of 100% polyester
- Loop: yes
- Width: 5,5-8,5 cm.
- Prices start at 7,5 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Massimo Dutti

- Spanish brand
- Made in Italy
- Good, sometimes nice fabrics (wool, silk, sometimes silk+coton)
- Cupro lining
- I suspect these ties are at least sometimes stitched by Liba machine, but I'm not sure
- Loop: yes
- Width: 8-8,5 cm.
- Price: \$70
- [Official website](#)

Pal Zileri

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk fabrics: good quality, but not excellent (in my opinion)
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 8-8,5 cm.
- Prices start at appr. 90 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Paul Smith

- English brand
- Made in Italy, sometimes Made in Japan
- Silk fabrics: good quality, but nothing special, not very impressive
- Loop: yes
- Width: 6-8 cm.
- Prices start at 55 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Petronius

- Italian (Milanese) brand
- Made in Italy
- Good, very good and excellent fabrics / silk, cashmere
- Almost entirely handmade
- 3-folds, 6-folds
- Self-tipped
- Loop: yes
- Width: usually 8 cm. or slightly wider
- Prices: \$175 - \$185
- [Official website](#)

Polo Ralph Lauren

- American brand
- Made in Italy
- Fabrics: good/very good quality
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 5,5 cm. (knitted ties), 8 cm. (other ties)
- Prices start at \$85 (knits), \$125 (other ties)
- [Official website](#)

Richard James

- English brand
- Made in Italy
- Fabrics: good quality, but not excellent (in my opinion)
- Handmade
- Loop: yes

- Width: 7-8 cm.
- Prices start at 75 GBP (VAT included)
- Official website

Robert Talbott

- American brand
- Made in USA (but not always)
- Good / very good fabrics, but patterns are very arguable sometimes
- Handmade 7-folds (not sure about all their range)
- 3-folds, 7-folds
- Width: usually 8 cm.
- Prices start at \$65 (bow ties), \$95 (3-folds), \$285 (7-folds)
- Official website

Roda

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk fabrics: good quality, but not excellent (in my opinion) / sometimes cashmere, wool and wool+silk
- Handmade
- Some knitted ties, including cashmere ones
- Loop: yes
- Width: 6 cm. (knits), 6,5-7,5 cm. (other ties)
- Prices start at appr. 90 EUR (VAT included)
- Official website

Rosi&Ghezzi

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk, linen, wool fabrics: good quality, but not excellent (in my opinion)
- Knitted ties (wool)
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 8 cm.
- Prices start at appr. 50 GBP (VAT included)
- Official website

Rubinacci

- Neapolitan brand
- Made in Italy
- Excellent fabrics
- Almost entirely handmade
- 3-folds, 7-folds
- Self-tipped, untipped, hand-rolled
- Huge selection of very interesting knitted ties (usually made of silk, sometimes of wool)
- Loop: yes
- Width: 6,5-7 cm. (knits), 8,5 cm. (other ties)
- Prices: 135 EUR (7-folds, VAT excluded), 180 EUR (7-folds, VAT excluded); 90 EUR (knitted ties, VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Salvatore Ferragamo

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Printed silk fabrics: good/very good quality
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: about 8 cm.
- Prices: \$190
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: significantly overpriced

Sam Hober

- Thai brand, **Bespoke / Custom-made**
- Made in Thailand
- Huge selection of good and excellent quality fabrics (including silk grenadines, ancient madder silk, etc.)
- Almost entirely / entirely handmade
- Loop: yes
- 3-folds, 6-folds, 7-folds
- Width: you can choose it
- Prices start at \$75
- [Official website](#)

Stockmann 1862

- Finnish brand
- Made in China
- Fabrics: below average, average
- The cheapest ties are sewn by ordinary machine; more expensive ties — probably by Liba machine
- The cheapest ties are made of polyester
- Loop: yes
- Prices: 25 EUR (silk ties; VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Tie Your Tie

- Italian (Florentine) brand
- Made in Italy
- Fabrics: very good quality
- Partly handmade
- Sometimes self-tipped
- Loop: yes
- Width: 8-9 cm.
- Prices start at \$165
- [Official website](#)

Tino Cosma

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Fabrics: usually silk, good quality, but not excellent (in my opinion)
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 6-9 cm.
- Prices start at 60 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Tom Ford

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk fabrics: very good /excellent quality
- Handmade
- Loop: yes

- Width: 8 cm.
- Prices start at 217 GBP VAT excluded
- Official website

Turnbull&Asser

- English brand
- Made in England
- Very good and excellent fabrics
- Handmade
- Loop: yes
- Width: 8 cm.
- Prices start at 42 GBP (bow ties; VAT excluded), 75 GBP (neckties, VAT excluded)
- Official website

ZARA

- Spanish brand
- Made in Italy and made in China
- Silk fabrics: average and sometimes below average, poor quality; sometimes silk +polyester blend / lining: always polyester
- I suspect ZARA ties are sewn with the use of Liba machine
- Loop: yes
- Width: 6-8 cm.
- Prices start at 18 USD
- Official website

POCKET SQUARES

How to tell a high-quality pocket square?

1. Inspect the fabric.

High-quality pocket squares are made of silk or linen; sometimes — of wool or cotton or a blend of these fibers. It's very good if the silk is hand-printed (in England or France). Irish or French linen is a great option too. Italian fabrics are sometimes very nice, but not always.



This pocket square is made of hand-printed silk



Italian wool

2. Check the size.

30*30 cm. is insufficient in lots of cases; look for 40*40 cm. or even larger squares, if you want to buy silk ones. If we are talking about linen and wool pocket squares, 33*33 cm. is *usually* enough, but 37*37 cm. is probably better. Very large linen pocket squares (more than 40*40 cm.) are too bulky. 45*45 cm. silk square is great.

Why should you buy large pocket squares? They have no chances to hide in the depth of your coat's breast pocket — and, of course, they retain the desired position better (when folded).

3. Look at the edges.

High-quality pocket squares are usually hand-rolled. However, lots of manufacturers use 'foxy' machines which imitate hand-stitching. Machine-rolled pocket squares are quite common today. In my opinion, the way of rolling the edges is not as important as size, but still, hand-rolling is a sign of craftsmanship. Besides, it looks nicer.



Hand-rolled pocket square (left) and machine-rolled pocket square (right)



Another machine-rolled pocket square: you can see lots of stitches at the edges. It's obvious in this case, but sometimes it's hard to tell the difference.

4. Look at the 'Made in' tag.

Well, no, no, no! Excellent pocket squares can be made in any corner of the world, so country of origin doesn't matter at all in this case. You can find large handmade pocket squares made in Asia and small machine-rolled pocket squares made in Italy.

Now let's move to pocket square brands and see what they offer.

Berg&Berg

- Norwegian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk, linen, cotton and blends; usually good quality
- Machine-rolled
- Some pocket squares are small, but recently they've added several large pocket squares to their range
- Prices start at \$23
- [Official website](#)

Boglioli

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk, wool, cotton — good quality, but not very impressive
- Machine-rolled (moreover, I've seen Boglioli squares stitched by ordinary machine)
- Size: large (43*43 cm.)
- Prices start at 54 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Brunello Cucinelli

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Linen, cotton, wool
- Hand-rolled
- Size: unfortunately, small
- Prices start at 92 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Calabrese

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Wool and silk, very nice, often interesting patterns (but sometimes flashy)
- Hand-rolled
- Size: unfortunately, small (30*30 cm. or slightly larger)
- Prices: 40 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Canali

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Wool, linen and silk; very nice fabrics, in my opinion
- Hand-rolled
- Size: unfortunately, small (30*30 — 32*32 cm.)
- Prices start at 40 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Charvet

- French brand
- Made in France
- High-quality silk
- Hand-rolled
- Size: middle (about 37*37 cm.)
- Prices start at 42 GBP (VAT excluded)

Drake's

- English brand
- Sometimes made in England, sometimes made in Italy
- Sometimes hand-printed in England
- Silk, cotton and blends
- Sometimes hand-rolled (these are made in England), sometimes machine-rolled (these are made in Italy)
- Size: large (about 42*42 cm.)
- Prices start at 42 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Duchamp

- English brand
- Their best pocket squares are made in the UK, hand-rolled and generously sized (about 40*40 cm.), but you can find small Duchamp pocket squares too (about 30*30 cm.); some pieces are made in Italy and machine-rolled
- At least some silk squares are printed in England
- Prices start at 45 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Dunhill

- English brand
- Made in Italy
- Machine-rolled
- Size: large (44*44 cm.)
- Prices start at 50 GBP (VAT excluded)
- Official website

Ermenegildo Zegna

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Good / very good fabrics (silk, wool, cotton)
- Hand-rolled
- Size: small (about 30*30 or slightly larger)
- Price: \$100
- Official website

Eton

- Swedish brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually printed silk, quite nice, good quality
- Machine-rolled
- Size: small
- Prices start at 39 EUR (VAT included)
- Official website

Etro

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually printed silk, good quality
- Machine-rolled
- Size: large (40*40 or more)
- Price: \$110-\$135 / or from 63 GBP (VAT excluded)
- Official website

Finamore

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk, cotton, linen
- Sometimes hand-rolled, sometimes machine-rolled
- Size: unfortunately, small
- Price: 40 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Fort Belvedere

- American brand
- Hand-printed in England (silk)
- Linen, wool and silk
- Hand-rolled
- Size: large (38*38 — linen, 41*41 — silk)
- Prices start at \$45
- [Official website](#)

Gieves & Hawkes

- English brand
- Made in the UK (but not always)
- Nice fabrics
- Hand-rolled (not sure always or not)
- Usually small (30*30, 32*32)
- Prices start at 46 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Isaia

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk, linen, cotton, wool
- Hand-rolled
- Size: unfortunately, small (about 30*30)
- Price: \$125
- [Official website](#)

Kent Wang

- American brand
- Made in USA, France and other countries
- Silk, linen
- Hand-rolled
- Size: usually small (about 30*30), sometimes large (about 40*40)
- Prices start at \$20 (small), \$35 (large)
- [Official website](#)

Kiton

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk, linen, cotton, wool, very good / excellent fabrics
- Hand-rolled
- Size: large (appr. 40*40)
- Prices start at 115 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Lanvin

- French brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually silk, good quality, but not excellent, in my opinion
- Hand-rolled (maybe sometimes machine-rolled)
- Sometimes small, sometimes large (30*30, 32*32, 42*42)
- Prices start at 42 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Luciano Barbera

- Italian brand
- Entirely manufactured in Italy
- Linen and silk, usually very nice, high quality
- Machine-rolled
- Size: small (appr. 33*33 cm.)
- Price: \$125
- [Official website](#)

Luigi Borrelli

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually silk
- Machine-rolled
- Size: small (30*30 cm. or slightly larger)
- [Official website](#)

Paul Smith

- English brand
- Made in Italy
- Cotton and silk
- Sometimes machine-rolled, sometimes machine-stitched (like a napkin)
- Size: small
- Prices start at 35 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Polo Ralph Lauren

- American brand
- Pocket squares are made in Italy
- Usually silk, sometimes linen
- Hand-rolled
- Size: medium and large (36*36 and up to 45*45 cm.)
- Prices: \$95
- [Official website](#)

Ralph Lauren Purple Label

- American brand
- Pocket squares are made in Italy
- Usually silk, sometimes linen
- Hand-rolled
- Size: medium and large (38*38 — 45*45 cm.)
- Prices start at \$125
- [Official website](#)

Richard James

- English brand
- Made in Italy
- Printed silk, good quality, but not the best, in my opinion
- Machine-rolled
- Size: large
- Prices start at \$95 (Barneys), 50 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Roda

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Silk, linen
- Machine-rolled
- Size: sometimes small (about 31*31), sometimes medium/large
- Prices start at \$58
- [Official website](#)

Rubinacci

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Printed silk, high quality and very interesting patterns
- Machine-rolled
- Size: large (42*42 cm.)
- Prices: 90 EUR
- [Official website](#)

Simonnot-Godard

- French brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Everything is made in France, including fabrics
- Awesome linen and cotton fabrics, geometric patterns (checks, stripes) and solids
- Hand-rolled
- Size: sometimes quite small (about 32*32 cm.), sometimes large (sometimes even larger than 45*45 cm.)
- Note: some SG pocket squares are not actually squares (for example, you can find 30*32 cm. models)
- Prices start at \$65
- [Official website](#)

Suitsupply

- Dutch brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually silk, sometimes wool
- Machine-rolled
- Size: small (about 33*33 cm.)
- Prices start at \$45
- [Official website](#)

Tie Your Tie

- Italian (Florentine) brand
- Made in Italy
- Excellent fabrics
- Machine-rolled
- Size: unfortunately, small (30*30 cm.)
- Prices: \$85
- [Official website](#)

Tino Cosma

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually silk, good quality, but not excellent
- Machine-rolled
- Size: small
- Price: 37 EUR
- [Official website](#)

Tom Ford

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- High quality silk
- Hand-rolled
- Size: medium/large (about 39*39 cm.)
- Prices start at 175 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Turnbull&Asser

- English brand
- Made in England
- Hand-printed in England
- Usually silk, interesting patterns, but sometimes flashy
- Hand-rolled
- Size: large (about 44*44 cm.)
- Prices start at 42 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

SHOES

Introduction: how to tell high-quality shoes?

1. Inspect the construction.

The best shoes are usually hand-welted, Goodyear welted, Norwegian welted or Storm welted (=Veldtschoen). Hand-welted shoes are usually better than Goodyear welted ones; Norwegian welted and Storm welted shoes and boots are a great choice for rainy weather, because these constructions are more waterproof.



Goodyear welted stamp

Blake Rapid construction is less preferable than Goodyear welted one, and Blake construction is less reliable than Blake Rapid. However, there are some great Blake-stitched shoes on the market, so it would be unfair to say that any Blake shoes are poor. It's not true. Cemented construction is usually regarded as a bad choice. There are no very high quality cemented shoes.

Please read more about shoe constructions [here](#) and about hand-welted shoes — [here](#).

2. Look at the leather.

High-quality shoes are made of full-grain calf leather (sometimes of cordovan or exotic leathers). Avoid corrected-grain leather; it's often called 'polished'. You can see the texture of full-grain leather, while corrected-grain leather often looks too glossy, too smooth and — sometimes — even like plastic. It's not comfortable and not nice at all. Cheap luxury, I would say.

It's good if the leather was supplied by one of the world's best tanneries (Du Puy, Annonay, Ilcea, Charles F. Stead, Haas, Weinheimer Leder, Horween, etc.)



Full-grain leather: you can see its texture

3. Look inside the shoes. Lining.

The lining should be made of leather. High quality shoes usually have full leather lining, cheaper shoes — 1/2 leather lining. Summer shoes may have linen lining or sometimes they may come unlined. Low quality shoes often have faux leather or polyester lining, its breathability is poor, so they're uncomfortable to wear.



Leather lining

4. Look for ‘Made in’ tag.

High-quality RTW shoes are usually made in Spain, Italy, France, England and USA — but be careful, you can find average shoes made in these countries too. Besides, decent shoes are also produced in other countries — Portugal, China, India, etc... yes, Romania and Hungary, of course.

5. Sole does matter.

Rubber soles are good if we are talking about informal, country style shoes and boots; high quality rubber soles are produced by Dainite, Vibram, Commando, Sestriere and probably some other manufacturers. Classic leather soles are the best option for dress / business shoes; double leather soles are good for country footwear.



Dainite rubber sole

It's great if the soles are made of oar bark tanned leather. By the way, one of the best manufacturers of leather soles is J. Rendenbach.

6. Waist. Closed channel stitching.

High-quality shoes often feature closed channel stitching and bevelled or fiddle waist. Please read more [here](#) about closed channel stitching, and [here](#) — about shoe waists.

Several useful links: interesting articles and resources

1. [The Shoe Snob Blog](#)
2. [Parisian Gentleman's Men's Shoe Review](#)
3. [A.Dirnelli - review of bookmakers](#)

Now let's move to shoes brands and see what they offer.

Alden

- American brand
- Made in USA
- Goodyear Welted
- Leather: excellent quality (cordovan by Horween, suede by Charles F. Stead)
- Full leather lining (made of vegetable tanned leather)
- Classic leather soles (oak bark tanned) / sometimes rubber
- Prices start at \$520
- [Official website](#)

Aldo Brue

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually Blake, Bologna or Cemented construction
- Leather: average / above average quality, sometimes good, but nothing special
- Full leather lining, sometimes wool lining
- Often rubber soles
- Prices start at \$260
- [Official website](#)
- Personal opinion: better to avoid

Alfred Sargent

- English brand with its own factory, RTW and MTO
- Made in England
- Handgrade line: MTO only, the best leather, lots of handwork
- Country line: Dainite or double-leather soles, often Veldtschoen construction, informal/country styles
- Exclusive line: classic leather soles, Goodyear Welted construction, business styles
- Goodyear Welted or Veldtschoen
- Leather: very good quality (suede by Charles F. Stead), excellent for Handgrade
- Full leather lining
- Bevelled waist and closed channel stitching (Exclusive line)
- Prices start at 250 GBP (RTW, VAT excluded), 795 GBP (MTO)
- [Official website](#)

Allen Edmonds

- American brand with its own factories
- Made in USA and Dominican Republic (please note that Allen Edmonds shoes labelled Made in USA are usually partly made in Dominican Republic)
- Goodyear Welted (not always, but very often / usually 360 degree type)
- Leather: good, very good and sometimes excellent quality (for some models they use Horween cordovan)
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles (J.Rendenbach soles — cordovan models only), sometimes rubber
- Prices start at \$175 (loafers), \$295 (shoes); classic styles — \$385 (cordovan — \$650-\$725)
- [Official website](#)

A. Testoni

- Italian brand with its own factory
- Made in Italy (mainline, Black Label and Amedeo Testoni)
- Made in Romania and probably other countries (Basic line)
- Avoid Basic line
- Usually Blake/Bologna, sometimes Norvegese (usually Amedeo line) and so-called 'Goodyear Bolognese'
- Leather: sometimes average, sometimes excellent quality (i.e. varies greatly and depends on line)
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching (Black Label and Amedeo Testoni lines)
- Bevelled waist (Black Label and Amedeo Testoni lines)
- Prices start at \$520 (mainline shoes), \$800 (Black label line), \$1045 (Amedeo Testoni line)
- [Official website](#)

Aubercy

- French brand, **RTW, MTO and Bespoke**
- Made in France (Bespoke), Made in Italy (RTW, MTO / probably by Enzo Bonafe)
- Hand-welted (Bespoke and several RTW models), Blake (most RTW models)
- Lots of handwork
- Leather: excellent quality
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching
- Prices start at 950 EUR (RTW), 1400 EUR (MTO)
- [Official website](#)

Baldinini

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy and sometimes probably in China
- Blake and Cemented
- Leather: average quality, sometimes above average, but anyway, price-quality ratio is inadequate, in my opinion
- Design is often arguable; logo is often placed on visible parts of shoes
- Full leather lining
- Often rubber soles (not by Dainite, of course), sometimes leather soles
- Prices start at 320 EUR (shoes; VAT excluded)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: better to avoid

Bally

- Swiss brand
- Made in Italy, Switzerland and sometimes China
- Goodyear Welted and (very often today) Cemented
- Leather: good quality, sometimes very good, but sometimes not impressive at all
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, sometimes rubber
- Prices start at 320 GBP (Made in Italy or Switzerland dress shoes; VAT included)
- Official website

Barker

- English brand with its own factory
- Made in England, Made in India (please note that Barker shoes marked Made in England are usually partly made in India)
- Leather: average, above average, good quality, but never excellent. Avoid corrected-grain ('polished')
- They source suede from Charles F. Stead, but it's obviously not the best Stead's offering
- Full leather lining and sometimes 1/2 leather lining
- The best lines are Anniversary and Handcrafted International. I would recumbent to avoid Barker Flex and Barker Professional.
- **Anniversary and Handcrafted International lines:** Goodyear Welted, full leather lining, good/very good leather, classic leather soles
- **Country line:** Goodyear Welted and sometimes Stormwelted; full leather lining, good leather (sometimes pebblegrain), Dainite rubber soles

- **Professional and Creative lines:** average leather (sometimes corrected grain!), sometimes Goodyear Welted, sometimes Cemented construction, usually full leather lining
- **Barker Flex line:** Cemented, average leather (sometimes corrected grain!)
- Prices start at 125 GBP (VAT excluded); Handcrafted and Anniversary lines — at 230 GBP (VAT excluded)
- Official website

Berluti

- French brand, RTW and Bespoke
- Made in France (Bespoke), Made in Italy (RTW)
- Iconic Andy Warhol's loafers
- Hand-welted (Bespoke), Blake, Goodyear Welted (RTW)
- Leather: excellent quality
- Great patina
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, sometimes rubber
- Often closed-channel stitching, bevelled waist
- Prices start at 660 GBP (RTW, VAT excluded), 5000 EUR (Bespoke)
- Official website

Berwick

- Spanish brand
- Made in Spain
- Goodyear Welted
- Leather: good, very good quality (by Annonay and Du Puy (among other tanneries); sometimes cordovan)
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles (often J.Rendenbach), sometimes rubber
- Prices start at 199 EUR (VAT included)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: excellent price-quality ratio

Brooks Brothers

- American brand
- Some shoes are made in England by Alfred Sargent and Crockett&Jones, these are marked 'Peal&Co.'
- Some shoes are Made in USA by Alden

- Some shoes are Made in USA/Dominican Republic by Allen Edmonds
- Some shoes are Made in England by Edward Green
- Some shoes are made by ‘unknown’ manufacturers in Asia; avoid them
- Goodyear Welted — of course, not all BB shoes are GW, but they offer a vast selection of GW shoes
- Leather: sometimes average, sometimes excellent quality — i.e. varies greatly and depend on line/price
- Full leather lining (if we are talking about AE, AS, C&J, EG, Alden-made shoes)
- Prices start at \$428 (by Allen Edmonds), \$648 (by Peal&Co), \$650 (cordovan shoes and boots by Alden), \$1225 (by Edward Green)
- Official website

Bruno Magli

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Blake or Cemented
- Leather: average, above average and good quality, usually not impressive
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching (often)
- Prices start at \$415 (dress shoes)
- Official website

Campanile, Canali

- Italian brands
- Canali shoes are probably made by Campanile
- Made in Italy
- Goodyear Welted (probably, not always)
- Leather: good, very good quality / sometimes nice patina
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, sometimes rubber
- Prices start at 249 EUR (VAT included / Campanile dress shoes), 390 EUR (VAT included / Canali shoes and boots)
- Official website

Carlos Santos

- Portugese brand
- Made in Portugal
- Goodyear welted (at least sometimes)

- Full leather lining
- Sometimes bevelled waist
- Prices start at appr. \$350
- Official website

Carmina

- Spanish brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Spain
- Goodyear Welted
- Leather: very good and excellent quality (cordovan — Horween)
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles (J.Rendenbach at least sometimes/sometimes double leather soles), sometimes rubber
- Closed-channel stitching (often), bevelled waist (sometimes)
- Prices start at appr. 315 EUR (VAT excluded)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: excellent price-quality ratio

Cheaney

- English brand with its own factory
- Made in England
- Several lines; the best line is Imperial, the most modest one is City
- Goodyear Welted or Veldtschoen
- Leather: above average, good and very good quality, sometimes excellent (by Annonay, Charles F. Stead, Du Puy, Weinheimer Leder)
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, sometimes oak bark tanned (Imperial line), sometimes rubber (Dainite)
- Fiddle waist and closed-channel stitching (Imperial line only)
- Prices start at 235 GBP (VAT excluded)
- Official website

Church's

- English brand with its own factory (but not it belongs to Prada)
- Made in England
- Goodyear Welted (but not always)
- Leather: average, above average, good and very good quality, but not excellent. Avoid corrected-grain ('polished')

- Full leather lining (not always)
- The best line is Custom Grade. Avoid City line
- **Custom Grade line:** good/very good leather, full leather lining
- **Office line:** above average, but not impressive leather, full leather lining
- **Rubber line:** rubber soles, not always Goodyear Welted; full leather lining
- **City line:** corrected-grain leather, 1/2 leather lining
- Prices start at 250 GBP (VAT excluded) for City line; 320 GBP (VAT excluded) for Custom Grade line
- [Official website](#)

Corthay

- French brand, **bespoke and RTW**
- Made in France
- Goodyear Welted (RTW), Hand-welted (Bespoke)
- Leather: excellent quality (sometimes by Du Puy) / often nice patina
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching, bevelled waist
- Prices start at 3000 EUR (Bespoke), \$1400 (RTW)
- [Official website](#)

Crockett & Jones

- English brand with its own factory, **RTW, Bespoke and MTO**
- Made in England (RTW, MTO), Made in France (Bespoke)
- Hand-Welted (Bespoke), Goodyear Welted and Veldtschoen (RTW)
- Leather: very good quality (RTW Bench grade/mainline), excellent quality (RTW Hand grade, Bespoke) / sometimes Horween cordovan, sometimes calf by Weinheimer Leder
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching (Hand grade line)
- Prices start at 3000 EUR (Bespoke), 270 GBP (VAT excluded; RTW Bench grade), 400 GBP (VAT excluded, RTW Hand Grade)
- [Official website](#)

di Mella

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually Blake
- Leather: good / very good quality

- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching
- Classic leather soles and sometimes rubber soles by Vibram
- Prices start at 255 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Doucal's

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Blake, Vulcanized
- Leather: average, above average, good quality
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles; rubber soles
- Prices start at 239 EUR (VAT included) / but it's easy to find cheaper offers (sales, outlets)
- [Official website](#)

Edward Green

- English brand with its own factory, **RTW and MTO**
- Made in England
- Goodyear Welted and Storm welted
- Leather: excellent quality
- Leather soles (oak bark tanned), sometimes Dainite
- Often closed channel stitching and bevelled waist
- Prices start at 765 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Enzo Bonafe

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Hand-welted
- Leather: excellent quality, sometimes museum calf
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching, bevelled waist
- Prices start at \$510
- [Official website](#)

Fabi

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Blake and Cemented
- Leather: average quality and above average, not impressive
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, sometimes rubber
- Prices start at 315 EUR (dress shoes/loafers, VAT included)
- Official website
- Personal opinion: better to avoid

Florsheim

- American brand
- Made in Italy and (often) in other countries
- Cemented, Blake; sometimes (rarely) Goodyear Welted
- Leather: average quality, sometimes above average and below average
- Full leather lining (probably not always)
- Rubber and leather soles
- Prices start at \$80
- Official website

Foster&Son

- English brand (atelier and no own factory), **RTW and Bespoke**
- Made in England: bespoke — own manufacturing; RTW — by Cheaney and Crockett&Jones
- Goodyear Welted (Bespoke — Hand-Welted)
- Leather: excellent quality (Bespoke — the best quality, RTW — lesser quality, but still very good)
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles; sometimes rubber soles (Dainite)
- Prices start at 3000 GBP (Bespoke, VAT included), 365 GBP (RTW, VAT included)
- Official website

Franceschetti

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Blake Rapid and Blake
- Leather: good, very good quality

- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles (sometimes double leather soles), rubber soles
- Closed channel stitching (sometimes)
- Prices start at 350 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Fratelli Rossetti

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually Blake
- Leather: good, very good quality
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, rubber soles
- Closed channel stitching (often)
- Prices start at 240 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Gaziano & Girling

- English brand, **Bespoke, RTW and MTO**
- Made in England
- Goodyear Welted (RTW, MTO) / Hand-welted (bespoke)
- Leather: excellent quality (usually by J.&F.J. Baker & Co.)
- Full leather lining
- Fiddle waist and closed channel stitching
- Prices start at 2500 GBP (Bespoke, VAT excluded), \$1030 (RTW)
- [Official website](#)

George Cleverley

- English brand, **Bespoke, MTO and RTW**
- Made in England
- Goodyear Welted, sometimes Veldtschoen (RTW), Hand-welted (Bespoke)
- Leather: excellent quality (RTW — by Freudenberg)
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching, bevelled or fiddle waist
- Leather soles (oak bark tanned), sometimes Dainite
- Prices start at 360 GBP (RTW; VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

G.H.Bass & Co.

- American brand
- Made in USA (only a few styles, Made-in-Maine line), made in other countries (almost all their range)
- Mocassin; Cemented/Vulcanized
- Leather: average, above average, good, very good quality (sometimes Horween — for Made-in-Maine line). Sometimes corrected-grain (avoid them)
- Unlined / partly lined with leather
- Classic leather soles. sometimes rubber
- Prices starts at \$110; \$375 (Made in USA)
- [Official website](#)

Gravati

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually Blake, Mocassin or Bologna, sometimes Goodyear Welted
- Leather: good, very good, excellent quality / sometimes peccary leather uppers
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, leather+rubber soles, rubber soles
- Closed channel stitching (often)
- Prices start at \$595
- [Official website](#)

Grenson

- English brand
- Made in England (expensive shoes and boots — G Zero and G One lines) and Made in India (less expensive footwear, G Two line)
- Usually Goodyear Welted
- Leather: average, good, very good quality (suede by Charles F. Stead); sometimes corrected-grain and with white tractor soles (better to avoid it)
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, rubber soles, sometimes ugly tractor sole, sometimes contrast soles (white ones, for instance)
- Prices start at 160 GBP (VAT excluded, G Two line), 270 GBP (VAT excluded, Made in England shoes)
- [Official website](#)

Gucci

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually Blake
- Iconic horsebit loafers
- Leather: good, very good quality
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching
- Leather and rubber soles
- Prices start at 340 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Herring

- English brand without own factory (belongs to Herring Shoes store)
- Made in England, Portugal and other countries
- The most expensive (and the best) shoes are made in England by Alfred Sargent
- Some shoes are made by Tricker's, Cheaney, Loake
- Goodyear Welted, but not always; sometimes Blake, sometimes Storm Welted
- Leather: average, above average, good quality, sometimes very good. Avoid corrected-grain ('polished')
- Full leather lining; sometimes 1/2 leather lining
- Closed channel stitching and bevelled waist (very rarely; the most expensive shoes)
- Leather and rubber soles (Dainite, Commando)
- Prices start at 100 GBP (shoes; VAT included), 295 GBP (shoes made by Alfred Sargent, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Hiro Yanagimachi

- Japanese brand (atelier), **Bespoke, MTO, MTM**
- Made in Japan
- Hand-Welted
- Leather: excellent quality (by Annonay, Charles F. Stead)
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, sometimes rubber
- Fiddle and bevelled waists; closed channel stitching (often)
- Prices start at \$1200 (MTO), \$2000 (MTM), \$2900 (Bespoke)
- [Official website](#)

Jeffery-West

- English brand
- Made in England, Spain
- Goodyear Welted; Cemented
- Often very arguable styles
- Leather: average, above average, good quality / sometimes corrected-grain
- Full leather lining; sometimes 1/2 leather lining
- Crepe soles, leather soles, rubber soles (Commando)
- Prices start at 170 GBP (cemented shoes made of corrected-grain leather; VAT included), 250 GBP (Goodyear welted shoes, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

J.Fitzpatrick Footwear

- English brand, **MTO and RTW**
- Made in Spain
- Goodyear Welted (except mocassins/driving loafers)
- Leather by Annonay, Charles F. Stead, Du Puy, Weinheimer Leder
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching (often)
- Prices start at 100 GBP (driving loafers; VAT included); 325 GBP (shoes; VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

J.M.Weston

- French brand
- Made in France
- Goodyear Welted, sometimes Blake
- Leather: excellent quality (usually by Du Puy)
- Full leather lining
- Sometimes closed channel stitching
- Prices start at 350 GBP (Blake-stitched loafers, VAT excluded), 430 GBP (Goodyear Welted shoes, VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

John Lobb Paris

- French brand, **RTW and Bespoke**
- Made in England (RTW), Made in France (Bespoke)
- Hand-Welted (Bespoke), Goodyear Welted (RTW)

- Leather: excellent quality (sometimes by Haas)
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching and bevelled waist (often)
- Classic leather soles and sometimes rubber soles
- Prices start at 6000 EUR (Bespoke), \$1225 (RTW)
- Official website

John Lobb Ltd.

- English brand (atelier), **Bespoke only**
- Made in England
- Hand-Welted
- Leather: excellent quality
- Full leather lining
- Prices start at 3500 GBP (VAT excluded)
- Official website

Laszlo Vass

- Hungarian brand with its own factory (atelier), **Bespoke, MTM, RTW**
- Made in Hungary
- Hand-Welted
- Leather: very good and excellent quality (by Bonaudo, Haas)
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles (J.Rendenbach), sometimes double-leather soles
- Bevelled waist, closed channel stitching
- Prices start at \$570 (RTW)
- Official website

Lloyd

- German brand
- Made in Germany, Romania and probably other countries
- Usually Cemented, sometimes Blake, sometimes Goodyear Welted and even Norwegian (very rarely)
- Leather: average, sometimes above average and good quality
- Full leather lining (probably not always)
- Usually rubber soles (sometimes imitation of leather), but they also offer shoes with genuine leather soles
- Closed channel stitching (rarely / 200 EUR and more)
- Prices start at 79 EUR (VAT included), 250-350 EUR (Goodyear welted)

- [Official website](#)

Loake

- English brand with its own factory
- Made in England, Made in India (please note that Loake shoes marked Made in England are usually partly made in India)
- Casual shoes made in Portugal and other countries
- Goodyear Welted — often, but not always
- Leather: average, above average and good quality, but never excellent. Avoid corrected-grain ('polished')
- They source suede from Charles F. Stead, but it's obviously not the best Stead's offering
- Full leather lining, sometimes 1/2 leather lining
- The best line is 1880. Avoid L1 and Design lines.
- 1880 line: Goodyear welted, Made in England, full leather lining, good leather
- Shoemaker line: Goodyear Welted, Made in England, sometimes 1/2 leather lining/ sometimes full; above average leather
- Design and Lifestyle lines: Made outside of England, average leather, often corrected-grain; sometimes Cemented construction; often full leather lining, but sometimes 1/2
- L1 line: Made in India, always corrected-grain leather; usually Goodyear Welted; 1/2 leather lining
- Prices start at 83 GBP (VAT excluded; Lifestyle/Design/L1 lines), 130 GBP (VAT excluded; Shoemaker line), 175 GBP (VAT excluded; 1880 line)
- [Official website](#)

Luciano Barbera

- Italian brand
- Entirely manufactured in Italy
- Blake and 'fake welted' (i.e. they look like GW shoes, but in fact the welt is fake).
- Leather: very good, excellent quality
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, sometimes Sestriere rubber soles
- [Official website](#)

Meermin

- Spanish brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Spain (please note that Meermin shoes marked Made in Spain are usually partly made in China)

- Goodyear Welted (mainline)
- Norwegian Welted, Hand-Welted (Maestro line only)
- Leather: good and very good quality (for some models they use Annonay, Ilcea, Weinheimer Leder, Du Puy leathers and Charles F. Stead suede)
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, sometimes rubber
- Prices start at \$175 (Mainline), \$290 (Linea Maestro)
- [Official website](#)

Moreschi

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually Blake, sometimes Goodyear Welted
- Leather: good, very good quality, sometimes hand-dyed
- Full leather lining
- Leather, leather+rubber and rubber soles
- Prices start at \$530 (shoes)
- [Official website](#)

Nero Giardini

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Blake, Cemented (sometimes ‘fake welted’)
- Leather: average quality
- Leather lining (probably not always)
- Prices start at 119 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Pakerson

- Italian brand with its own factory
- Made in Italy
- Blake, Cemented
- Leather: average, above average, good quality
- Sometimes unlined, sometimes leather lining
- Usually rubber or leather+rubber soles
- Prices start at 330 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Paolo Scafora

- Italian (Neapolitan) brand
- Made in Italy
- Hand-Welted, Norwegian
- Leather: excellent quality
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles or rubber (Vibram)
- Sometimes closed channel stitching and fiddle waist
- Prices start at appr. 1000 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Paraboot

- French brand
- Made in France and Spain
- Blake (Made in Spain), Goodyear Welted and Norwegian Welted (Made in France)
- Leather: good, very good quality
- Full leather lining, sometimes fur lining
- Classic leather soles, sometimes rubber
- If you're in between sizes, I would recumbent to go **up** to the nearest size
- Prices start at 245 GBP (shoes and boots; VAT included), 145 GBP (loafers/mocs, VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Ramon Cuberta

- Spanish brand, **bespoke and RTW**
- Made in Spain
- Goodyear Welted (RTW), Hand-welted (Bespoke)
- Leather: very good quality
- Full leather lining
- Bevelled waist and closed-channel stitching
- Classic leather soles
- Prices start at \$1700 (Bespoke), \$300 (RTW)
- [Official website](#)

Raparo

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Blake, Cemented
- Leather: average, above average, good quality

- Usually full leather lining
- Leather, rubber soles
- Prices start at appr. 300 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Saint Crispin's

- Austrian brand, **RTW, Bespoke, MTO and MTM**
- Made in Romania
- Hand-Welted and almost completely handmade
- Leather: excellent quality
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching, bevelled waist (often), classic leather soles
- Prices start at \$1130 (RTW), 2500 EUR (MTM)
- [Official website](#)

Salvatore Ferragamo

- Italian (Florentine) brand
- Made in Italy
- Usually Blake, sometimes Goodyear Welted ('Tramezza')
- Leather: good, very good quality
- Full leather lining
- Closed channel stitching (sometimes)
- Prices start at \$560
- [Official website](#)

Santoni

- Italian brand with its own factory
- Made in Italy
- Goodyear Welted and Blake (GW shoes are marked with 'Goodyear' stamp)
- Leather: very good and excellent quality
- Full leather lining (though some shoes are unlined or partly-lined)
- Classic leather soles, sometimes rubber or rubber+leather
- Sometimes bevelled waist and closed channel stitching
- Prices start at \$580 (Blake), \$875 (Goodyear welted)
- [Official website](#)

Sebago

- American brand
- Made not in USA
- Cemented (very often), Mocassin construction (often), Goodyear Welted (rarely)
- Leather: average, above average, good quality (sometimes by Horween, but these are not the best Horween offerings)
- Full leather lining (rarely), unlined, partly lined, leather+textile lining
- Classic leather soles, rubber (TPR) soles
- Prices start at \$115 (loafers), \$260 (Goodyear welted shoes, full leather lining)
- [Official website](#)

Septieme Largeur

- French brand
- Made in Spain
- Goodyear Welted
- Leather: very good quality (by Annonay, Charles F. Stead, Du Puy)
- Full leather lining
- Bevelled waist (at least sometimes)
- Classic leather soles, sometimes rubber
- Patina shoe service
- Prices start at 190 EUR (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Shoe Passion

- German brand
- Made in Spain
- Usually Goodyear Welted
- Leather: good, very good quality
- Full leather lining
- Prices start at 189 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Stefano Bemer

- Italian (Florentine) brand (atelier), **Bespoke, MTM, RTW**
- Made in Italy
- Hand-Welted
- Leather: excellent quality

- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, sometimes rubber
- Closed channel stitching; fiddle waist (Bespoke)
- Prices start at 3000 EUR (Bespoke), 1100 EUR (RTW) (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Stivaleria Savoia

- Italian (Milanese) brand (atelier), **bespoke and RTW**
- Made in Italy
- Goodyear welted (RTW), Hand-welted (Bespoke)
- Full leather lining
- Prices start at \$2250 (Bespoke), \$400 (RTW)
- [Official website](#)

Sutor Mantellassi

- Italian brand / now belongs to Korean group E-Land
- Made in Italy
- Usually Blake, Blake Rapid, sometimes Norvegese
- Leather: very good quality, sometimes excellent and very nice patina
- Full leather lining
- Often closed-channel stitching; classic leather soles
- [Official website](#)

Tod's

- Italian brand
- Made in Italy
- Blake, Cemented
- Leather: average, above average, good quality / avoid corrected-grain
- Usually full leather lining
- Leather and rubber soles
- Prices start at 300 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Tricker's

- English brand with its own factory
- Made in England
- Goodyear Welted, Veldtschoen

- Leather: good, very good quality
- Full leather lining (always)
- Classic leather sole, sometimes double leather sole, sometimes rubber sole (Dainite)
- **Country line:** Dainite and Commando soles, often Veldtschoen construction
- **1829 and Jermyn Street lines:** usually Goodyear Welted and classic leather soles
- Prices start at 285 GBP (VAT excluded)
- [Official website](#)

Velasca

- Italian (Milanese) brand
- Made in Italy
- Blake Rapid, Cemented
- Full leather lining (vegetable tanned leather)
- Leather soles, rubber soles (Vibram)
- Prices start at \$169
- [Official website](#)

W.Gibbs

- Italian brand (belongs to Franceschetti)
- Made in Italy
- Blake Rapid
- Leather: good, very good quality
- Full leather lining
- Prices start at 360 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

WildSmith

- English brand
- Made in England by Alfred Sargent
- Goodyear Welted
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles
- Prices start at 365 GBP (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Yanko

- Spanish brand with its own manufacturing facilities
- Made in Spain
- Goodyear Welted
- Leather: very good quality (by Annonay, Du Puy)
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, sometimes rubber
- Prices start at 325 EUR (VAT included)
- [Official website](#)

Zonkey Boot

- Austrian brand
- Made in Italy
- Blake, Norvegeese; besides, they offer Hand-Welted line of boots
- Leather: very good quality
- Full leather lining
- Classic leather soles, closed channel stitching
- Prices start at 460 EUR (Blake), 670 EUR (hand-welted line)
- [Official website](#)

This is the end of the guide.

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