

Esquire

The
**BIG
 BLACK
 BOOK**
2007

THE STYLE MANUAL FOR SUCCESSFUL MEN

CLOTHES

- Overcoats every man should own
- The science and instinct of bespoke tailoring
- Kerouac's favorite jacket
- The surprising return of the pocket square

ETIQUETTE

- Buying your way back into her good graces
- Cardinal rules of the men's room
- Small talk for beginners
- The only cocktail recipes you'll ever need to know

PERSONAL CARE

- Next-generation grooming
- The best travel stuff in the world
- Easy solutions to bloodstains
- Tips on not looking like Martin Scorsese

LIFESTYLE

- The sci-fi future of air travel
- Homer Simpson versus Jacques Derrida
- The best cars you can't buy in the United States
- America's best hunting lodges. You do hunt, right?

*YES, WE KNOW IT'S RED



The Bespoke Life

THE SUIT, PART II



Left: Cutter Campbell Carey of Kilgour at first fitting. **Above left:** He adjusts the lower hem of the jacket. **Above right:** Checking the closure.

THE SCIENCE AND INSTINCT OF *Good Tailoring*

ONCE DECISIONS have been made, the real work of the tailor begins. First he'll draft a pattern on paper and cut the cloth. He will then baste (or sew) the pieces loosely together using white thread, and the customer will return for his first fitting. This is the critical moment when the suit's balance—that elusive harmony between body and suit—is struck, with every square inch of the embryonic suit evaluated and adjusted. The tailor will identify various flaws in the posture (e.g., one shoulder higher than the other, pigeon-chestedness, an apelike hunch) and conceal them with tailoring. "Some of it is science and some of it is instinct," says Carlo Brandelli, creative director of Savile Row-based tailor Kilgour. The suit will go through two or three further cycles over several months until the finished product is ready. Patrick Grant of Norton & Sons describes a typical first-timer's reaction to the final fit: "They'll slip it on and a smile will come across their face. They realize what they're wearing makes everything else they own look completely daft." The best way to find a great tailor is to ask a man you trust; if a suit maker has the respect of your peers, he probably deserves it. Or, you can pay a visit to any of the fine craftsmen listed below.

{ THE RESOURCES } *The Suit Makers*

Kilgour, London*
kilgour.eu

Norton & Sons, London*
nortonandsons.co.uk

Brioni, multiple locations
brioni.it

Vincent Nicolosi, New York
vincentnicolosi.com

Frank Shattuck, New York, Cazenovia
315-882-4724

Despos Tailors, Chicago, Dallas
312-944-8833

Jack Taylor, Los Angeles
310-274-7276

Gian DeCaro, Seattle
206-448-2812

Edgar Pomeroy, Atlanta
404-365-0405



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*Makes frequent visits to the U.S.