

Popular Threads on Solosez

Cufflinks and Ties

I'm looking for a good source of inexpensive cuff links and ties. any suggestions?

Estate jewelery is fun for cufflinks, but not so for less durable ties. Get a set of gold and another of silver to match your watch(es) and belt buckles. I have a versatile pair that is both. Ties are a bit more stylistically temporal. I don't like the jumbo double Windsor knot. Tends to make the tie too short too. If you have a Nordstrom Rack nearby, the same names are available there including Talbot. Just bought a nice Jhanes Barnes there. For the first time, I saw suits there from Versace, Armani, Zegna, in addition to the usual Boss, Canali, Hickey Freeman, Hart Shafner, Aboud. Thrift stores probably have a fair selection of thin ties because they have not been in general demand for some time.

Craig McLaughlin, California

You guys obviously don't go to court much do you? If I wore cuff links to Court around here I'd be going crazy as they make me take them off all the time.

David Kaufman, Virginia

Never had a problem. A security pass helps. :)


Thomas Ost

Paul Frederick

David Rubin, Missouri

Our nice local jewelry store, King's Jewelry, has a case of estate pieces and there's are always several nice sets of cufflinks. It is another option for getting the best you can afford, without breaking the bank.

Deborah G. Matthews, Virginia

In order for my tie to enter the room first, I'd have to be dragged into the room by my tie. What that would say about my character, I would rather not know. 

I've gotten some great ties at Filene's Basement on clearance there, and at similar places in NYC. I've bought many times at Marshalls in my day, but not in the last decade or so. In my area they don't carry the nicer stuff any more.

I have to confess that I have expensive tastes: From a mishmash of hanging ties of varying prices, with no brand names or hang tags visible, I always end up saying "That one!" and finding out it's the most expensive on in the lot. I don't buy them (ties don't last long around 3, 5, and 7 year olds who like to hug their parents) but I certainly agree that some ties just look nice than others.

Charles Tyrwhitt (ctshirts.com) sells a nice line of ties and shirts, and carries a wide variety of cufflinks. They often have sales--in fact, I just checked and they're having one right now which includes their cufflinks. So does Brooks, of course, though I am sure that you have already looked there.

Erik Hammarlund, Massachusetts

Whatever you do, go with your own style. Nothing worse than seeing a man or woman in clothes that just aren't their personality. Find a cut that suits your body type, color combos that look good on you and make sure your whole look says "you" and not someone else. If you do that, whether it's white bucks and seersucker or pinstripes and cuff links, you'll add to your confidence.

Stephen L. Hoffman, Illinois

There is an old saying that a man's tie enters a room before the man does. A tie shows a man's character, his social standing, his breeding. My advice is to purchase a few well made plain solids in navy, burgundy and gray. You can wear them frequently and no one will notice because they are discreet. When I see a man in a cheap tie, I know I am dealing with someone of no significance. Good luck.

John J Genova, New York

I wear ties for court and meetings but generally try to avoid wearing a tie. That said, I like thin ties not the real wide ties that are in many stores.

Does anyone a recommendation for resource for thin ties?

Bill Lowrance, Virginia

I've never had an issue in fed ct (st ct provides passes).

Meyer Silber, New York

If you are going to wear cuff links, get one nice pair and just wear that one pair. I have two French cuff shirts that I will occasionally wear to court. In week long trials, I will wear one on Monday and one on Friday. No one remembers. Cheap cuff links look bad. Go to a good jewelry store and buy the best pair you can afford.

As for ties, when Saks, Nordstrom, Lord & Taylors have their semi-annual sales. Get some high quality ties. A great looking silk tie is hard to replace. Robert Talbott ties are quite nice.

Robert W. "Robby" Hughes, Jr., Georgia

I have some ties that are 20 years old. They look brand new if they are dry cleaned about once a year.

Robert W. "Robby" Hughes, Jr.

With respect to ties:

Check out the 'discount' chains; I don't mean Walmart, I mean Ross, Marshalls, TJ Maxx and that sort of ilk. They've typically got nice, name brand ties for somewhere around \$7.50 to \$12 or so; nothing particularly

fancy, but good silk ties that you could very easily pay \$40 or so in a mens store. Selection may be somewhat limited, but exactly how much difference is there in blue and white striped ties?

With respect to cufflinks (and other 'minor' jewelry; such as tie tacks, tie clips, money clips, stuff other than wedding rings and high end watches): as someone noted, many independently owned jewelry stores carry estate and used jewelry. So do Pawn Shops, if you live in a state that has pawn shops. I won't say I buy ALL of my jewelry used, but I do buy a lot of it. Right now I'm wearing a 18 Kt. Law School class ring which I bought new, a Rolex number 15200 which I bought new, a smaller (than my class ring) 14Kt gold ring with what was described as a "red stone" (which my aunt swears is a ruby; I suspect it's a garnet, but who cares, I only paid \$65 for the dang thing, and it looks good) which I bought at a pawn shop; a 14 Kt. mens Figaro bracelet to which I had a medic alert medallion attached, I bought the bracelet used for \$325 and it is 36 grams; the Medic Alert people want better than a kilobuck for the equivalent bracelet. I'm also wearing a diamond tie tac, which I had made up from an engagement ring that I picked up at a pawn shop for \$125: it's a fairly 'junky' diamond as diamonds go, probably grade about I2, but when I had it stripped out of the ring my jeweler weighed it and it came in at .87 carat, which is decent size. And the ring itself was good 14Kt, and my jeweler could use it, so he called it even with him making the tie tack out of an earring. I also carry a 14Kt money clip with an 1881 \$5 US gold piece; I've had it for years and paid \$200 at a pawn shop for it (gold prices were less years ago); nonetheless, I'd seen equivalent gold money clips, without the gold piece, going for \$800 down at the local high end Jeweler (Gauss and Son in Ocala).

The point I'm getting at is, look for independent jewelers who carry used/estate jewelry, or even better, pawn shops who typically buy this stuff for it's 'melt' value; they're usually willing to move it to you for not much more than it's melt value; they're better off making a bit more money off of you than wholesaling it to a gold melter. Plus, frankly, you are more likely to get something nicer than new production: I've got several tie tacs and all of them were bought used, all 14kt gold, and it is almost impossible to find a 14kt gold tie tack new nowadays; it's all either 'gold colored' costume jewelry or , at best , sterling silver.

And nobody is going to know that you bought the stuff used, unless you tell them.


Ronald Jones, Florida

As a devout outlet shopper, I second the Ross, Marshalls, TJ Maxx suggestion... also consider Burlington Coat Factory and outlets like Saks Off Fifth if you'd rather spend \$30-60 on \$120 ties.

Ryan Alexander

I generally agree, the same is said for watch and shoes. And as a tax practitioner I understand where you're coming from. But for other practice areas, PI and crim def for example, jury consultants always say dress nicely but not fancy to the point of alienating the 'normal' folks. Those clients also tend to have less money than tax clients. So I tend to stick with the familiar Ross/Marshalls wear, although I've been 'in' to clothes and would go crazy with fancy Italian styles if I could.

Of course, with watches you can always get the brands that are more niche that regular people don't know. You're probably safer from jurist and client scrutiny wearing a \$6k Blancpain, \$15k Patek Phillippe or \$45,000 AP Royal Oak Offshore Alinghi than a \$3k Rolex Stainless, just because Americans know Rolex and think so highly of them.

I'm not sure about "breeding" though, as that can be faked - I'm from rust belt union steelworker stock but when I wear a plush Zegna tie it doesn't reveal my actual pedigree. 

Ryan Alexander

Check out Macys. Also if you have a Mens' Warehouse near you, they are pretty cheap also.

Stefanie N. Devery, New York

Check out e-bay for some nice vintage ones or some inexpensive new ones. Also, I think Of Counsel.com at least at one point had some inexpensive legal theme cufflinks and tie tack sets.

Thomas Eric Ost, Illinois