

STEPHEN BISHOP

A Groomswear Catwalk for 2014



The London, Milan, Paris and Rome catwalks do not tend to focus on formalwear at all, so a trend is difficult to see or even establish. The question I guess is, what sort of thing would I like to see on a groomswear catwalk in 2014?

I would start with the models. Bouncy, gorgeous male models are not you or I, we are normal, as in a typical group of guys. I would try and create a typical groom and groomsmen bunch to include an athletic groom, cheeky chappy best man, distinguished fathers, and that man mountain of an usher that cannot normally buy anything 'off the shelf'. To dress an individual is one thing, co-ordinating a group to suit both their physique and to blend in with the wedding colour scheme is another tricky thing to achieve.

For the traditional tails look I would go for formal yet modern Black Tails made from lightweight fabrics, almost Italian fit from the tailcoat right through to the waistcoat, and slim fit trouser. Dress this with some bright modern neckwear such as turquoise or Cadbury's purple, and that catwalk is aight. Imagine five or six guys strolling down the catwalk, some wearing topers, some brandishing a cane; wow.

Ok, so that would be the traditional tails shown off. What about formal Lounge Suits? Again, being in the 'formal wear box' can limit suit choices, but there is no reason why, for instance, a standard black suit cannot be styled using the most delicate fabric to really push that formal wear boundary. With matching waistcoat or without, funky lining flashing away whilst the model's jacket is flinging in and out; this detailing is modern and fun yet still exudes formal.

Of course, why not throw out some White Tie outfits to create a Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers catwalk theme. To add fun to the proceedings, why not dress the models in full blown

kilt outfits? Fun, but relevant too, as the Gatsby trend has really made White Tie hot, and
Kilts are always on the radar.