

NECKCLOTHITANIA



Oriental



Mathematical



Osbaldeston



Napoleon



American



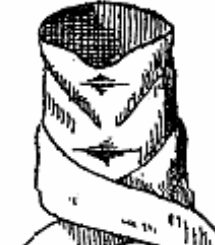
Mail Coach



Trone & Amour



Irish



Ball Room



Horse Collar



Hunting



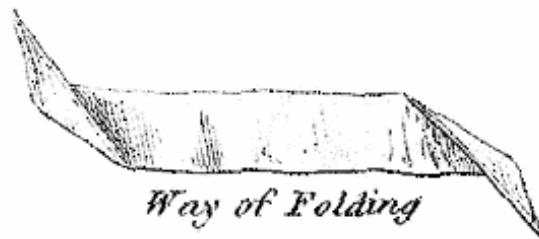
Maharatta



Gordian Knot



Barrel Knot



Way of Folding

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Pub^d by I. I. Stockdale. 41 Pall Mall. 1st Sept^r 1878.

Period Directions on how to tie a cravat

The Oriental

The Oriental made with a very stiff and rigid cloth, so that there cannot be the least danger of its yielding or bending to the exertions and sudden twists of the head and neck. -Care should be taken that not a single indenture or crease should be visible in this tie; it must present a round, smooth, and even surface - the least deviation from this rule, will prevent its being so named.

This neck-cloth ought not to be attempted, unless full confidence and reliance can be placed in its stiffness.-it must not be made with coloured neck-cloths, but of the most brilliant white. It is this particular tie which is alluded to in the following lines.

'There, had ye marked their neck-cloth's slivery glow,
Transcend the Cygnet's towering crest of snow.'

The Mathematical

The Mathematical Tie (or Triangular Tie), is far less severe than the former. There are three creases in it. One coming down from under each ear, till it meets the kist or bow of the neckcloth, and a third in an horizontal direction, stretching from one of the side indentures to the other. The height, that is how far, or near the chin is left to the wearers pleasure. This tie does not occasion many accidents. The colour best suited to it, is called couleur de la cuisse d'une nymphe emue.'

Osbaldeston Tie

The Osbaldeston Tie differs greatly from most others. This neck-cloth is first laid on the back of the neck; the ends are then brought forward and tied in a large knot, the breadth of which must be at least four inches and two inches deep. This tie is well adapted for summer; because instead of going round the neck twice, it confines itself to once. The best colours are ethereal azure.

Napoleon Tie

Why this particular Tie was called Napoleon, I have not yet been able to learn, nor can I even guess, never having heard that the French Emperor was famous for making a tie - I have, indeed, heard it said, that he wore one of this sort on his return from Elba and on board the Northumberland, but how far this information is correct, I do not know. It is first laid as in the former, on the back of the neck, the ends being fastened to the braces, or carried under the arms and tied on the back. It has a very pretty appearance, giving the wearer a languishingly amorous look. The violet colour, and la couleur des levres d'amour are the best suited for it.

American Tie

The American Tie differs little from the Mathematical except that the collateral indentures do not extend so near to the ear, and that there is no horizontal or middle crease in it. The best colour is ocean green.

Mail Coach Tie

The Mail Coach or Waterfall, is made by tying it with a single knot, and then bringing one of the ends over, so as completely to hide the knot, and spreading it out, and turning it down in the waistcoat. The neck-cloth ought to be very large to make this Tie properly - It is worn by all stage-coachmen, guards, the swells of the fancy, and ruffians. To be quite the thing, there should be no starch, or at least very little in it - A Kushmeer shawl is the best, I may even say, the only thing with which it can be made. The Mailcoach was best made out of a cashmere shawl and had one end brought over the knot, spread out and tucked into the waist. This style was particularly popular with members of the 'Four-in-Hand Club'.

The Trone d'Amour

The The trone d'Amour is the most austere after the Oriental Tie - It must be extremely well stiffened with starch. It is formed by one single horizontal dent in the middle. Colour, Yeux de fille en extase.

Irish Tie

This one resembles in some degree the Mathematical, with, however, this difference, that the horizontal indenture is placed below the point of junction formed by the collateral creases, instead of being above. The colour is Cerulean Blue

The Ballroom Tie

The Ballroom Tie when well put on is quite delicious - It unites the qualities of the Mathematical and Irish, having two collateral dents and two horizontal ones, the one above as in the former, the other below as in the latter. It has no knot but is fastened as the Napoleon. This should never of course be made with colours but with the purest and most brilliant blanc d'innocence virginale .

Horse Collar Tie

The Horse Collar has become, from some unaccountable reason, very universal. I can only attribute it to the inability of its wearers to make any other. It is certainly the worst and most vulgar, and I should not have given it a place in these pages were it not for the purpose of cautioning my readers, from ever wearing it - It has the appearance of a great half-moon, or horse collar - I sincerely hope it will soon be dropped entirely - nam super omnes vitandum est.

Hunting Tie

The Hunting or Diana Tie, (not that I suppose Diana ever did wear a Tie) is formed by two collateral dents on each side, and meeting in the middle, without any horizontal ones - it is generally accompanied by a crossing of the ends, as in the Ball Room and Napoleon. Its colour Isabella - This cloth is worn sometimes with a Gordian Knot.

Maharatta Tie

The Maharatta or Nabog Tie, is very cool, as it is always made with fine muslin neck-cloths. It is placed on the back of the neck, the ends are then brought forward, and joined as a chain link, the remainder is then turned back, and fastened behind. Its colour, Eau d'Ispahan.

How to make your own tie:

- 1) Get a yard and a half to two yards of white linen. It works best if the selvage edge is smooth, rather than one that has the yarn ends sticking out.
- 2) Fold in half lengthwise.
- 3) On the fold, measure out 10 inches, and cut. This will give you an isosceles triangle, approximately 55" x 10".
- 4) Then narrow hem the slanted edges--the selvage edge is already finished. Hand hemming is best and easiest, as those edges are bias, but you can get by with machine stitched.
- 5) If it isn't stiff enough, use spray starch. Starch it and iron it and your collar. They do tend to wilt after a while.
- 6) Ready made neckcloths are usually just rectangles of fabric--the triangle gives a better result.
- 7) To be period correct use silk or linen. For modern convenience use a crisp material like taffeta.

Alternate version:

Make a long rectangle with hemmed edges. The width can be anywhere between 4" to 8". The length should be at least 72", more if you have a large neck or wise to do an elaborate tie. Cut the ends on a slant.

Further Suggestions:

- 1) Wear it wrapped twice around the neck and then tied in a knot, of which there were many variations.
- 2) If you have never done it before practice a lot!



The American



The Mathematical



The Obaldeston



The Mail Coach