



The following are remarks provided by Lee Allison at the Scharf Banks Marmor LLC June 9, 2016 event.

## **“PICKING THE PERFECT TIE”**

### **SIZE MATTERS**

The most important thing in selecting a tie for a shirt and suit is actually not color, but the scale of the patterns. Don't get me wrong, color is crucial, but you know that already, plus we'll get to that later. So have a look at the size of the plaids or stripes in your shirt and suit jacket or sport coat and the size of whatever the design is on your tie.

### **MISMATCH SCALE**

We want to pair small patterns with large patterns, so think SMALL + BIG, or BIG + SMALL. The point of this is to avoid pattern sizes that are too close to each other, because often this juxtaposition looks jarring to the eye. I do admit, medium-scale patterns can be tricky. Here's an example: say you're wearing a gingham check shirt (a classic plaid, with the boxes about ¼ inch in size). So grab a tie with wide stripes, or one with widely spaced dots or motifs (what we call an “open field ground.”) Of course, solid ties always work. And if your shirt and suit are solid, you're pretty much in the clear.

### **MATCH COLOR (OR NOT)**

Years ago I was careful about always trying to make sure there was a color in my tie that was also present to some degree in my shirt or coat. This approach will not fail you, but you don't have to be a slave to it. I've witnessed many a great dresser put colors together that the “old me” would not have thought of, such as gray with brown, red with purple, pink with red, black with brown, navy with tan. And you know what? These guys look great! So I encourage you to push it a little bit. You can get away with more in the area of color than you can with scale.

### **RULES ARE MADE TO BE BROKEN**

The above guidelines will serve you well – I promise – but they are just that: guidelines. So trust yourself, trust your eyes and always feel comfortable. Now look sharp and show 'em how it's done.

### **QUESTIONS?**

For further information, please contact Lee Allison, Founder of The Lee Allison Company  
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