

ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT STATE, TYPES, AND STYLES OF MEN'S SHIRTS

J.S. Sidikjanov

Assistant Lecturer, PhD

Department of Design, Namangan State Technical University

Abstract: This article provides a concise analysis of the current state, types, and styles of men's shirts, as well as an overview of the most popular cuts and design elements.

Keywords: men's shirt, cotton, fastening, classic, casual.

The earliest known men's shirt dates back to approximately 3000 BCE and was discovered in Egypt. It consisted of a front panel, back panel, yoke, and sleeves (Figure 1) [1]. Since then, men's shirts have evolved significantly in terms of style, cut, and fabric composition.

Today, men's shirts are manufactured from a variety of materials, including cotton, linen, silk, wool, synthetic, and blended fibers. Depending on the fiber content, weave structure, and patterns, the fabrics used vary in texture and color — commonly solid-dyed, printed, striped, or checkered.



Figure 1. The oldest known men's shirt discovered in Egypt

In his book, David Coffin [2] defines the men's shirt as a single-layered garment with a neck opening, shoulder and side seams, generally rectangular in form. In tailoring practice, shirt patterns may vary. Shirts typically do not contain linings, filler layers, or interfacing materials, except in details such as collars and cuffs. The sleeves of men's shirts usually extend at an angle from the shoulder, rather than falling straight down from it [3].

Men's shirts can differ based on the type of fabric, style of fastening, and sleeve design.

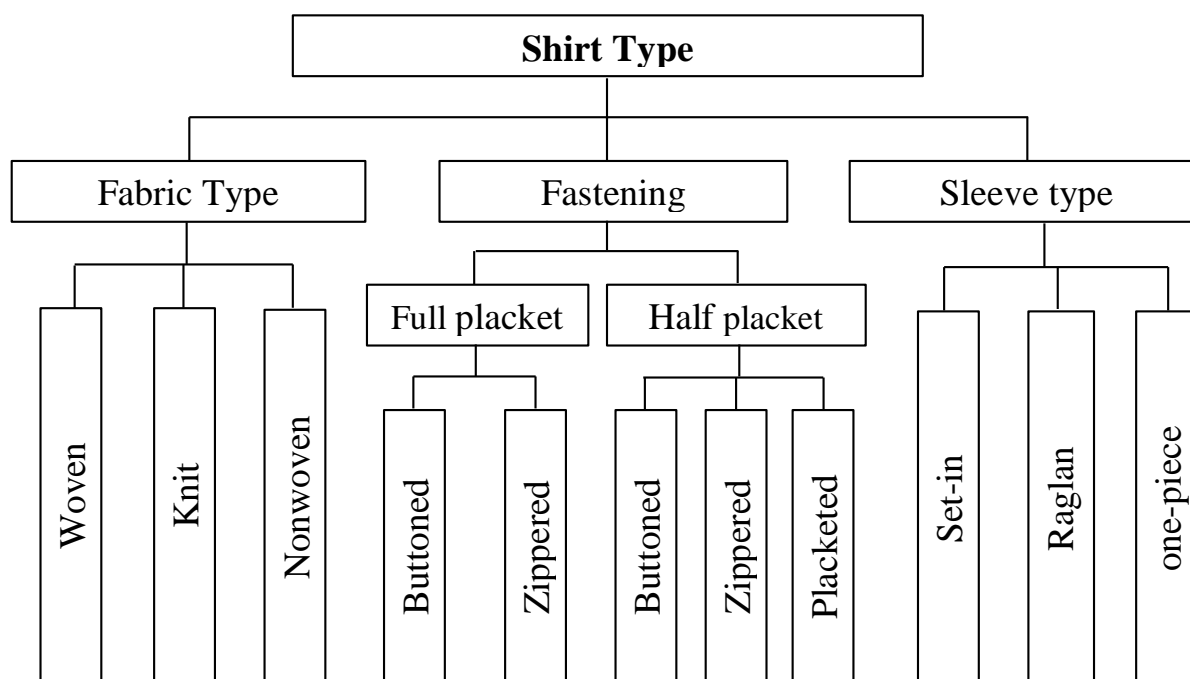


Figure 2. Classification of men's shirts based on key features

The collar is another distinguishing feature of the shirt. For example, classic and everyday shirts often have turn-down collars, while polo-style shirts made from knitted fabrics typically feature integrated knit collars without stands. Depending on the model, these shirts may also include stand-up or upright collars.

Today, the shirt — especially the "dress shirt" style — is one of the most essential elements in a man's wardrobe [4]. Traditionally worn under jackets, coats, or blazers as part of a formal outfit, shirts are also worn independently during spring and summer as part of a more relaxed wardrobe. Shirts can be classified based on function (uniform, casual, formal), cut, silhouette, and season (spring-autumn, summer, winter).

Spring-autumn shirts usually have long sleeves with cuffs and are made from cotton or cotton-blend fabrics with synthetic fibers. Summer shirts are often made from 100% cotton, ensuring high breathability and hygiene. Winter shirts are crafted from heavier or brushed materials such as flannel, drape, or velvet.

An analysis of shirts designed by global fashion designers and leading apparel companies reveals four dominant silhouettes: fitted, semi-fitted, straight, and loose (Figure 3). Fitted shirts are made from highly elastic materials to maintain close contact with the body.

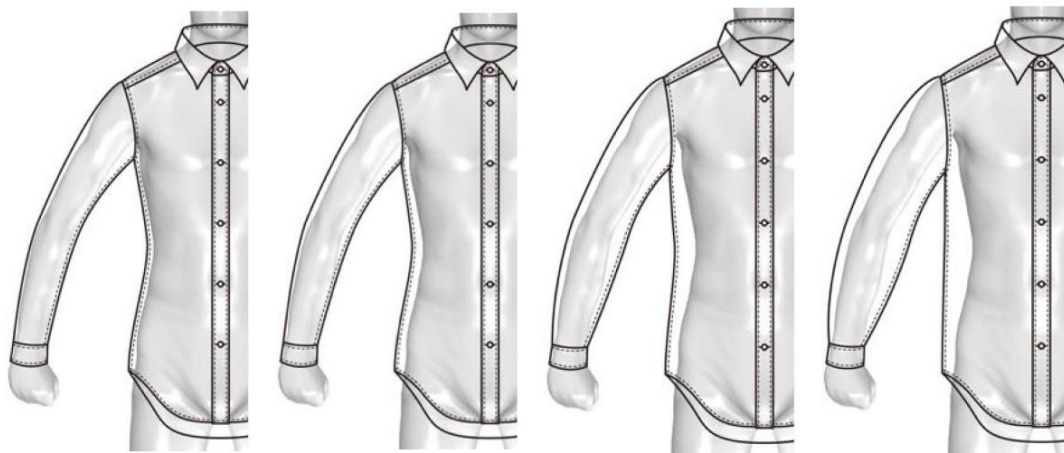


Figure 3. Modern silhouettes of men's shirts

Semi-fitted and straight cuts are the most commonly used silhouettes and are suitable for both classic and sporty shirt styles. Loose-fitting shirts — often called “overshirts” — have gained popularity in modern fashion and are typically worn over T-shirts or sweaters.

Shirts also vary in stylistic execution: classic, sporty, and romantic.

Classic shirts (Figure 4a) feature clean designs suitable for daily wear, formal occasions, and work environments. Their silhouettes may be straight, semi-fitted, or fitted. These shirts are usually sewn from soft cotton, silk, cotton-polyester blends, or synthetic fibers. They are typically solid or subtly patterned, and while their external design evolves slightly, they remain timeless staples.

Sport-style shirts are characterized by their loose fit and abundance of small elements. Sleeves are either set-in or raglan and often integrated with the yoke. Typical features include patch pockets, various pocket flaps, shoulder tabs, and decorative pleats. These components may be enhanced with decorative stitching and metal or leather accessories. Sport shirts may also feature partial or full-length fastenings and reinforced plackets.



Figure 4. Main stylistic types of modern men's shirts: a) classic, b) casual

Fabrics for sport and casual shirts are typically lightweight and patterned (e.g., checks or stripes). Common materials include cotton, linen, wool, silk, and synthetic blends.

The most favored style in contemporary men's fashion is the "casual" shirt (Figure 4b). These shirts, designed for everyday wear, feature semi-fitted silhouettes and pair well with jeans and sportswear. When styled with classic trousers, straight-cut casual shirts can also serve as formal wear. Common fabrics for this style include striped, checkered, and solid-dyed denim.

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