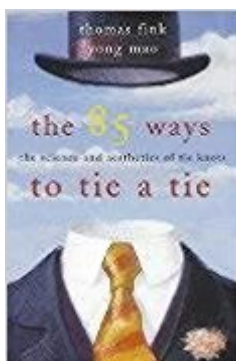


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The 85 Ways To Tie A Tie: The Science And Aesthetics Of Tie Knots



Synopsis

Two physicists prove that there are not just four ways to tie a tie, but a further 81. Tie Knots unravels the history of ties, the story of the discovery of the new knots and some very elegant mathematics in action. If Einstein had been left alone in Tie Rack for long enough perhaps he would have worked it out : why do people tie their ties in only 4 ways? And how many other possibilities are there? Two Cambridge University physicists, research fellows working from the Cavendish laboratories, have discovered via a recherche branch of mathematics - knot theory - that although only four knots are traditionally used in tying neck ties another 81 exist. This is the story of their discovery, of the history of neck ties and of the equations that express whether a tie is handsome or not. Of the 81 new knots, 6 are practical and elegant. We now have somewhere else to go after the Pratt, the Four-in-Hand, the Full and Half Windsor. Sartorial stylishness is wrapped effortlessly around popular mathematics. A concept developed to describe the movement of gas molecules - the notion of persistent walks around a triangular lattice - also describes the options for tie tying. Pure maths becomes pure fashion in a delightfully designed little package from Fourth Estate.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

New ways of tying a necktie appear rarely. Some 50 years passed between the introduction of the Windsor knot and the arrival of the Pratt knot in 1989. "Rather than wait another half-century for the next knot," Fink and Mao write, "we considered a more formal approach." And so they present 85 tie-tying techniques, each one shown in a drawing with instructions on how to achieve the desired

result. They also offer a brief history of neckwear and photographs of famous figures wearing ties, among them Fred Astaire in a four-in-hand, Frank Sinatra in a Windsor knot and the Duke of Windsor not wearing a Windsor. But, being research physicists at the University of Cambridge, the authors are interested in more than sartorial versatility. They deal also with knot theory and topology. For the reader who wishes to probe tie-tying that deeply, they represent "knot sequences as random walks on a triangular lattice." EDITORS OF SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"In an elegant world, an irreproachable tie knot is an essential part of one's toilette; it does not matter whether the knot is simple or complicated, because the art is what counts. There are some knots which seem casual in appearance, but which have taken considerable labour before the mirror, and many a stamped foot, many an exclamation of impatience."-- Doctor A. Debray Hygiene Vestimentaire, 1857 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My boyfriend loved it. He loves gadgets and this kind of made his everyday tie into a gadget. The book was listed as "like new" and that's exactly what it was. I couldn't find anything wrong with it. I never would have bought this book at its list price of \$60.00+. So, if you can find it used and you have someone in your life who enjoys wearing a suit and tie, go for it.

totally fun read..love giving as gifts to young men

Exactly what I wanted.

While out of stock and grossly overpriced in the used section here, it's in stock and ships quickly from uk. International shipping is cheap, and it's way, way cheaper buying a new copy and shipping it from the UK than paying some of the used prices here!My copy, with shipping, came to \$12 and it arrived a week after placing the order.

I bought a copy for my nephew and its a great book! I was finally able to buy one for myself from Abebooks in excellent condition for \$18 including shipping. I wish someone would reprint it!

The book is a bit old school but it does have about 13 main types with a bunch of variations of those.

This is a pretty good book for several different ways to learn. But, the only problem I have is that some of the ways are the same thing, except for like one twist is different. I guess technically that is a different way but it still looks the same. Other than that it is a good book to have around and look at every now and then. I do like it.

Fun read. Maybe not all that useful once you get past the small number of aesthetically pleasing knots, but fun, nevertheless.

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