


# Neal caffrey style guide

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After making serious nose dives throughout the 90s, the last 20 years have been something of a renaissance for the male style, and nowhere is it more obvious than the edgy and stylish movies and TV characters that have graced our (flattering, thinner and incredibly more hi-def) screens. Characters such as Danny Ocean George Clooney, Jon Hamm Don Draper, Harvey Specter Gabriel Maht and Ryan Gosling ... uhhhh, whatever his name-was-in-Crazy-Stupid-Love (Jacob, I think?) gave us a whole new generation of style icons. But even amid this pantheon of sharp-dressed men, gentleman thief Matthew Bomer of the U.S. white collar stands alone. From 2009 to 2014, Neil Caffrey's wardrobe perfectly embodied a modern-classic look, with a seemingly endless supply of perfectly cut suits, sharp narrow ties, timeless everyday clothing and, a piece of de-resistance, that patented Neil Caffrey's hat. Of course, as a fictional character in a B-level network where style is often more important than the essence of the plot (I look at you, costumes), he also had more than his fair share of luck. The white collar literally asked us to believe that Neil had just found this suit in the closet I mean, not every former con in America had the experience of a charmingly rich elderly woman immediately after her release from prison, only to find that she was just so going to have a closet full of incredibly stylish old husband clothes, all of which fit him like a fucking glove!?! But I got distracted. No matter how far-fetched the storyline around Caffrey's wardrobe was, the clothes themselves were, of course, sharp as hell. And fortunately for those of us who don't have wealthy benefactors or master thief skills, it can be recreated about 100 million times less than the value of a caffrey perfectly designated luxury condo, where it remains rent-free. (I mean, come on!?!?! In this post I will highlight the basic elements of Neil Caffrey's wardrobe, explain how you can recreate his style in real life, and show you where to get the key parts you need to mimic his modern-classic look. Neil Caffrey's closet Let's figure out how to dress like Neil Caffrey, making a deep dive into THE TV's most dashing TV closet the main elements of Neil Caffrey Style three-piece suit number one with a bullet. Neil didn't always wear three pieces, but he chose the vest so often that the style undoubtedly became his signature look. Neil usually chose dark, classically masculine colors such as gray and navy, but also dabbled in bright shades of blue and even green. (Again I say - based on the story's explanation, we have to believe that he found these costumes in the closet. If Thinking about following Neil's lead and picking up three pieces for yourself, I highly recommend choosing either navy or medium gray. Both are extremely versatile, can be worn in almost any situation, and will never go out of fashion. Of course, color is only one consideration. Check out my post on how to buy your first costume for a complete break down of others. Below are a few sharp, subtle slinky options that definitely evoke Neil's dapper look. Skinny tie While they existed in various television universes, Neil owes a debt of gratitude to Don Draper when it comes to the neck. The white collar debuted two years after Mad Men propelled a (still ongoing) skinny tie craze in popular conscience that explains why Neil Caffrey's tie looks just like a Don Draper tie. Neil almost exclusively wore thin ties that would have looked just as good in the 1960s as they did in the mid-2000s, which says everything you need to know about how timeless this look is. One tip: remember that the width of the tie should be proportional to the width of the lapel of the jacket. If your jacket was wide lapels, the skinny tie would look weak as it was being over-powered outside. And if the jacket lapels are relatively thin, the wide tie will look like it's trying to get out of your shirt. Neil's slim fit suits have gone great with his skinny ties, so be sure to follow his example and keep your ties no wider than 2.5 inches. Below are a few classic options that would make him proud. Dress shoes (and sometimes, dress boots) I would say that shoes are a secret weapon of masculine style, a truism that Neil Caffrey knew all too well. While Neil's shoes were undoubtedly prohibitively expensive, yours shouldn't be. The number one thing that distinguishes decent shoes from Neil Caffrey shoes is foot shape. I've written about nose shape elsewhere, so I won't go into too many details here, but suffice it to say that you want something spicy but not pointy, and rounded, but not rounded. (I know they probably seem like subtle differences, but the beautiful devil is in the details.) How important is the shape of the noko to make your shoes look sharp? It is so important that this applies even when you are not wearing shoes at all. Neil often favours dress boots as a pair of below, which share many of the same characteristics as dress shoes but go up to the ankles. (Some British superspy is known to do the same.) If you apply the same criteria to your boots that you do for your shoes and opt for a sharp and sleek sock shape, you'll be able to wear them with everything from three-piece polo costume (more on those below). Neil Caffrey Hat According to Male Knowledge (yes, there is such a thing as male knowledge), hats like Fedora fell out of fashion on January 20, 1961, when John F. Kennedy was president and refused to doff his hat despite the cold DC temperatures. But fashion is nothing if not cyclical, and if it's true that the real-life JFK icon killed Fedora back in the 60s, then it's just as true that a pair of fictional style icons named Don Draper and Neil Caffrey breathed new life into it around 2011. While Draper's Fedora was a staple of working man's uniforms back in its day, for 21st century gentleman Neil Caffrey, this may have been the most ostentatious piece of menswear in his wardrobe, and the way he shook it with confidence and scope is a big part of the reason why Fedoras have been appearing on store shelves since Collar White debuted. Neil opted for a short black fedora, which was in line with his preference for skinny ties and thin lapels. Like Sinatra before him, he most often wore his tilted at an angle, lending otherwise an old-school look a little roguish, debonair charm. Enter your email address below to find out the nine details you need to stuff. I will never send you spam. Unsubscribe at any time. Tie Bar is also called a tie pin or tie clip, a tie bar is another classic accessory that has returned to prominence after the success of Mad Men, and one Neil has never left home without. Because he was wearing skinny ties that look no more than two inches wide, Neil's tie bars usually cover the entire width of his tie. But another stylish option, often seen in the pages of the NHS, is to go with a one-inch tie bar that covers only half the width of a tie. When rocking a tie bar, remember that the best practice is to ensure all your metal pieces are in the same family. So if you're wearing a silver color watch, you'll also want your belt buckle, tie bar and (depending on how far you want to take it) sunglasses to be silver as well. But keep in mind that the rules are made to (sometimes) be broken, and the tie bar is able to inject a little irreverence into your look. Neil could often be seen rocking tie bars with a unique shape or color combo that added a dash of fun to his look, and helped further distinguish him from the crowd. Here are a few safe options, and a few fun for those who don't mind taking the chance: Pocket Square Never ignore the minutiae, Neil Caffrey almost never let his breasts go unadorned. In yet another Mad Men-esque turn, Neil most often wore the same square-off white pocket square that Don Draper and Roger Sterling wore decades ago. For my money, this is one of (and perhaps the only) piece of Neil's wardrobe that isn't hiding as well now that the show has been off the air for five years. Don't get me wrong. The square white pocket square is as classic as they come, and utterly flawless. But today you often see guys sporting more colorful options in shapes that aren't as tough, which feels like Evolution. So the choice is yours: if you want your pocket square carefully to call Neal out of the show, then stick to his classic white. But if you want to dress up a little more like Neil (probably) if the shows were revived today, then consider grabbing a colorful option that complements the colors in a tie. A few options for both are below. Additional elements of Turtleneck Neil do not wear a turtleneck very often, but when he did, he shook it off. (Another thing he has to do with a certain super spy... which is obviously James Bond. Why am I playing this one so shy?) As you can see here, Neil kept it simple and classic with his turtleneck, choosing gray and pairing it with other pieces (his coat and hat) in similar shades. Neil prefers a higher neck than 007, which chose a mock neck in Spectre, but you should follow the example of both style icons and go for one in a dark color that matches the rest of your stand up. Options: Leather Moto jacket As much as I love Neil's costumes, I have to admit: this may be my favorite part he's ever worn. A moto jacket is as classic as it gets: it looks masculine and cool literally in any era, and almost never goes out of fashion. What I particularly like about the Nile is that it is simple and complex. A lot of leather jackets (especially cheaper ones) have a ton of zippers and pockets, making them look loud and busy. Neil keeps it simple, and looks all sharper for him. While its undeniably from some vintage Parisian designer and just so happened to be pulled out of the closet the day he was released from prison, I managed to find some well-considered options on Amazon that look very similar. Sunglasses Like most things in his life, Neil Caffrey kept his sunglasses classic. Neil chose Ray Ban aviators, which happened to be one of my picks for the most classic styles of sunglasses for men (if by chance you don't mean at all a coincidence). Neil preferred one of the most classic chest gold frames with black lenses, but Ray Ban also offers aviators in a variety of colors and styles, so the choice is yours. And, as mentioned above, keep in mind belt buckles, watch belts and tie bars when buying sunglasses; The best practice is to keep your metals in the same family of color. Neil's coat most noticeably wore two different coat styles. One was a classic one-breasted top coat that paired perfectly with his slim fit suits, while the other was a double-breasted pea that was long enough to cover his suit jacket. Both are as rakish as you would expect from Caffrey, so the one you choose for is really up to you. Although I've never From acknowledging that I love good peas, I must admit that I personally have a soft spot for a one-breasted top coat, especially over the suit. Watch I think white collar collar round up any watch companies as advertisers, because while they did some strange close-ups on Peter's Ford Taurus, they did relatively little on Neil's watch. Fortunately, the wrist sleuths over on the clock in the movies were on the case, and provided a big break to Neil's preferred wrist piece. Unsurprisingly, Neil chooses the classic, vintage Bulova Accutron, marked among watch lovers as the first electronic watch, because it was equipped with a single-computer electronic oscillator chain. While the actual vintage Accutron like the original Nile may be hard to find, Bulova is still very much in business and makes a model called Caravelle that looks very similar to Neil. Polo Shirt During his off-the-clock time Neil wore a number of different polo shirts, usually in the same family color as his suit-shirt tie combo: blues, greens and burgundy. While colors and brands may be diverse, the most important element has always remained the same: fit. Neal's polo always hugged his body perfectly both on the torso and on his hands. As I've written before, fit is the most important factor when it comes to polo, and one that many guys are wrong about. Below I rounded out a few thin installation options that would cause The Nile swagger (provided of course you order the right size). Wrapping up the last word on creating a Neil Caffrey closet If you've read it all, you're either having a very slow day at work, or you agree with what I've said right from the top: that Neil Caffrey is one of the sharpest characters to grace our screen in the last two decades. (Or perhaps both.) If you wear a suit once a day, once a month, or once a year, you are not allowed to follow his example and incorporate elements of Neil's modern-classic wardrobe into your own. Of course, buying the right clothes is just one part of the style equation. If you really want to learn how to look great and outdress other guys, you need to know how to nail the details. Enter your email address below and I'll send you a checklist outlining the nine details you need to nail if you want to step up your style. Enter your email address below to find out the nine details you need to stuff. I will never send you spam. Unsubscribe at any time. Further reading: Irreverent Gent founder Dave Bowden is a specialist in men's style, Amazon bestselling author, unreflected introvert, (patient if long-suffering) Toronto sports fan and husband of a wonderful (and thankfully much more patient) wife. Wife.

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