

Men's Jewelry

From cavemen to man caves, form follows function

Men wearing jewelry is nothing new to human history. Some sources claim that men started wearing jewelry long before women did - for protection, for status, even for good luck.

Historians believe the Neanderthals were the first ones to string together teeth and shells some 130,000 years ago. Claws or fangs from specific animals could denote a particular clan or a sign of a warrior's strength. Egyptians did it too, adorning themselves with silver and gold, believing it would attract the gods of wealth. Not to mention using talismans or amulets to ward off evil spirits. And the single-earring look is not a new style either....European men have been rocking the drop-style dangler since the 1600s! It was only later in the 19th and 20th centuries that it was considered too effeminate. The style has now been adopted for members of both sexes as a display of personal taste. Most people have heard the stories of how pirates would wear a gold earring as one of the earliest forms of life insurance, to be used as payment for a proper burial in case their body washed up from the sea.

History itself has had an impact on the jewelry men choose to wear. Modern wartime meant dogtags for many men, which in turn inspired the wearing of ID bracelets as a fashion statement. Mens' signet rings were first rooted in useability,

Black jade ring in 14kt yellow gold
\$1100

18kt yellow gold and braided sterling silver cuff with silkstone
\$1850

Sterling silver and black druzy belt buckle
\$800

14kt white gold and blue pietersite signet ring
\$1600

18/22kt yellow gold and blackened sterling silver bolo, with 1.9 ct. green sapphire and custom cut ocean jasper
\$2200

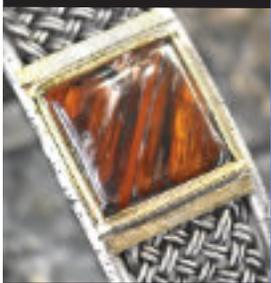
since the ring was used as a seal for both personal messages and official documents. Times and ways of life may change, but modern jewelry is very much the evolution of early weapons and coverings.... That spiked metal bracelet your punk Uncle Bob wore? Its ancestor was a legit medieval weapon. Archers wore wide metal rings to protect their fingers from the snap of their

bowstring. Thus men's jewelry was born out of the very human nature to create pleasing patterns on, and otherwise decorate, our everyday wearable objects.

In the more recent past, men's choice in personal decoration is still heavily rooted in function, and form and expression follow from that place. Although it would seem there are even more rules for how to wear men's jewelry than there are for women's! Even though nearly everyone carries a phone in their pocket, many men still choose to wear a watch, and since watches have made the wrist an acceptable jewelry locale for men, cuffs and bracelets became acceptable as well.

Victor Emanuel Cedarstaff claims to have invented the bolo tie in the late 1940s. According to his personal memoirs, Cedarstaff was riding his horse one day when his hat blew off. Wary of losing the silver-trimmed hatband, he slipped it around his neck. His companion joked, "That's a nice-looking tie you're wearing, Vic." As is common in human history, it would seem that several individuals had the exact same brilliant idea at the same time, and several patents were filed for "silver neckwear" or "scarf slides" within a few years of each other. The bolo tie became the official neckwear of Arizona in 1971 and is still a popular form of southwestern expression.

Belts have always been a common element of mens' wardrobe choices, and pre-date even the invention of pants...again, those weapons weren't going to hold up themselves! Even though most men don't wear a longsword in public anymore, and neither do most men wear suspenders....much to their fashion detriment....it would seem belts are here to stay and cowboys everywhere are grateful for that. Thankfully men have many options for wearing some bling, no matter what their personal taste.



Spring Bead Sale!

March 13th - 16th

All strands of beads and pearls

50% OFF

the single strand price regardless of quantity!

Buy 5 strands at once anytime before
the sale and get 40% OFF!



Bead Classes!

Come for the bead sale, stay for a class!

Here's everything we're teaching the week of the bead sale:

Tuesday, March 12: Beginning Wirework - 5:30-8:30pm

Wednesday, March 13: Crocheted Bead Bracelet - 5:30-8:30pm

Thursday, March 14: Pearl Knotting - 5:30-8:30pm

Friday, March 15: Beginning Beadstringing - 5:30-8:30pm

Call 952-595-8338 to register, or go to vgems.net/classes for more info and links to register online.

Featured Jewelry

Square wire wrapped pendants in yellow gold-filled and sterling silver wire. Each piece is meticulously created using advanced wire-wrapping techniques that can be adapted to a wide variety of shapes, sizes and dimensions!



Mook Jasper
pendant in
gold-filled wire
\$125



Polychrome
Jasper pendant
in gold-filled and
sterling wire
\$125



Carved
amethyst in
gold-filled
wire
\$125