

# IN HIS CLOSET

BY LISA J. GOTTO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALISON CONK

A **Wardrobe Expert**  
Shares What You  
Should Have in Yours

Rodolphe  
Tankpinou of  
Breinigsville



## SHIRTS

At least one shirt in each of the following colors: white, blue, pink and lavender

A PERFECTLY organized closet is a beauty to behold and when it is stocked with just the right wardrobe essentials, dressing for your everyday life seems so much easier. To help make this happen in your life, we consulted with the proprietor of Atlas of Style, Rodolphe Tankpinou of Breinigsville, to get a list of necessary objects for the man's closet. To display these items as they are meant to be stored, we consulted with none other than The Closet Lady, Elyn Elstein of Creative Closets in Allentown. Her showroom provided the perfect accessory for the well-stored wardrobe, and her storage tips will help you keep your wardrobe investments looking showroom new.

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## DON'T STRESS

It's really quite easy to build a basic wardrobe when you break the task into three manageable categories: **Business Executive**, **Business Casual** and **Weekend Wear**. Then, Tankpinou says you should gradually aim at acquiring the following:

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## FOR THE BUSINESS EXECUTIVE

### SUITS

A solid dark suit (brown or black)  
A solid grey suit  
A patterned suit

### SHOES

At least three pairs of shoes in the following colors: black, brown and tan. (Having a tan pair comes in handy for those business casual looks, and they also look great with dark blue jeans.)  
A set of shoe polish accessories

### TIES

At least three regular ties in the following colors: black or navy blue, red, and any other fall color such as green, pink or purple.  
One bow tie that you can rock

### BELTS

Black, brown and tan

### SOCKS

A combination of dark (black, brown, navy blue) and light colors. Tankpinou stresses that you should always avoid wearing athletic socks in this category.

### POCKET SQUARES

While Tankpinou says they are a matter of personal preference, you would make a better impression on important office occasions by adding one. Solid colors are a safe option to start with.

### WATCH

It is best to start with something classy yet flat enough to easily go under your shirtsleeves at the wrist.

### CUFF LINKS

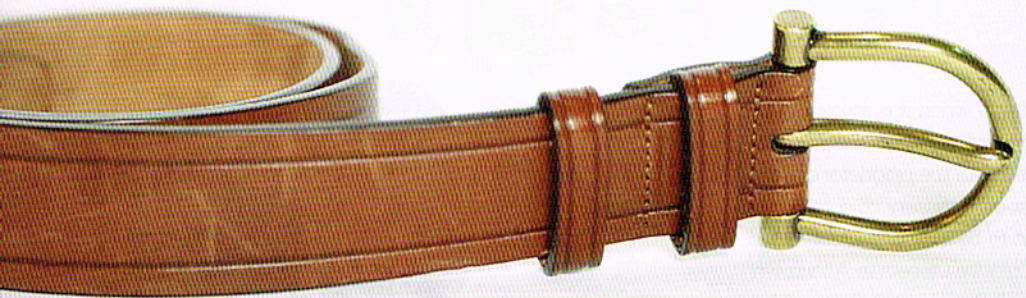
These are also a matter of preference, but Tankpinou recommends you have one pair that can be worn on certain occasions such as a high profile or board meeting. Keep in mind that they should be low profile when it comes to bling-factor and should match the metal of your watch.

### COATS

One trench coat for fall. One winter coat. One winter jacket.







## FOR BUSINESS CASUAL LOOKS

### BLAZERS ■ ■ ■

A navy blue blazer  
A grey blazer, which is very useful and works well with a dark pair of jeans

### SWEATER

At least one cardigan sweater that can be worn over a dress shirt for the colder months

### SHIRTS ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

The same dress shirts (white, blue, pink and lavender) from your executive selection

A couple of patterned shirts for a great blazer and no-tie look!

### PANTS ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

A couple of solid-colored chino pants  
One or two regular solid-colored pants (the same suit pants from the suits of your business executive selection)  
A couple of pairs of jeans—at least one dark blue wash is an absolute must! (Make a great statement by wearing tan shoes with this look.)

### BELTS ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Belts appropriate for jeans in black, brown and tan



### TIP:

A watch face should never be so big that it sticks out from your dress shirt sleeve. Only when you raise your arm and turn your wrist to see what time it is, should your watch be visible when sporting a business executive look.

### BRIEFCASE OR ATTACHÉ CASE

This really is an important part of a business executive look, as it indicates that you mean "business." Acceptable options here include fine leather, hard shell or even aluminum if you want to make a strong statement.







## 8 Great Storage Suggestions

When it comes to storing your wardrobe, no one knows better than The Closet Lady, Ellyn Elstein. Here are her Top 8 storage tips:

1. Create a man cave drawer for yourself that you can empty your pockets into at the end of the day. This also works as a quick catch-all for watches, cuff links, etc. This can be a locking drawer, if desired.
2. Ties can be rolled and stored in a divided drawer. This makes them look better, longer and extends the life of the tie. The more traditional way is to hang them on telescoping tie racks.
3. Belts can be rolled or hung and stored, as well. They should have their own special and easy-to-access space with great visibility.
4. Pants can be hung on the lower part of your closet's double hanging area if folded in half over a hanger. You will require more space between the rod and the floor, however, if you are a stickler for hanging them long from the cuff.
5. Shirts, suits and sport jackets should be hung on the upper rod and organized by color.
6. Drawer storage is for underwear, socks, swimwear, workout clothes and pajamas. Shoes and sweaters should be shelved and everything else should be hung.
7. Drawer storage can also be used for baseball caps and a variety of other casual hats and caps when you add storage bins.
8. Telescoping valets make practical accessories for the active businessman who wants to have his attire close at hand and ready for the next day or for travel. This is also a great place to hang dry cleaning when it first comes back from the cleaners, waiting for transfer to nicer hangers and its true place in the closet.



# FOR THE WEEKEND

## SWEATERS

A few sweaters and/or cardigans of different styles

## SHIRTS

A few polos and t-shirts, preferably slim-fitted

## PANTS

A couple of pairs of jeans to include all colors that you are comfortable wearing and at least one pair of chino pants

## SHOES

A pair of loafers, a pair of boots and one versatile pair of sneakers

## COATS

A coat or jacket suitable for cold weather

## BELTS

Belts appropriate for jeans in black, brown and tan



## WATCH

An athletic watch. This is also a great time to wear a trendy large-face watch.

## HATS

A couple of hats 