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# *International Domestic Placement Group*

[www.DomesticPlacementGroup.com](http://www.DomesticPlacementGroup.com)

Prior to an event/ party, you can advise your employer as to what she wore last year at the same function and the most recent events as well. 'Oh really, Ma'am, this one? Right, ma'am.' Is there something wrong with this one, Weedon?' 'Well, if you think of xx, xx, xx, but, do as you think is fit.'

'Most unusual, ma'am.' 'Does it suit me, Weedon?' Are you asking my opinion, ma'am?' Yes. You don't like it, do you?' Well ma'am, it may suit others, but it does not suit you, ma'am.' 'I'm sorry, ma'am.' Always be truthful, but only when asked.

Advise - YES, but never EDUCATE your employer.

## **Handmade Dress Shirts**

The entire process takes 6 weeks to 3 months.

Generally you can only order as few as 6 shirts at once. One will be made to measure, you will wear and wash it several times, then go back to be re-measured for the final product.

'South Island' cotton is currently the best.

Do not starch - it kills the cotton.

The patterns vary and change yearly, if you find a pattern you like, buy several so you don't run out when the patterns change.

If handmade dress shirts come with spare collars and cuffs, you must wash them every time the shirt is laundered, if not the fabrics will not match when the spares are needed. One could be bright and crisp, the other faded and limp.

If ever in London, walk down Jermyn Street (near Piccadilly) and visit the handmade shirt/ shoe/ suit and cigar shops... ask questions.

## **Shirts & Suits in the Closet**

Hang Mr. Lee's shirts & suits in the same direction (all facing left??). When you find something in need of repair/ button/ cleaning hang it the wrong way. This helps you come back to it when you can deal with it. Cut off loose buttons when you see them and place in the pocket for safekeeping.

## **Ties**

Tie on, then turn down collar, button the top button, last - tighten the tie. This takes the strain off the collar & the top button, helps them last longer.

## **Shoes**

Use plastic shoetrees for travel, cedar for storage. Shoes are placed in individual soft cloth bags for travel and may be bagged or stored open on a shelf.

When people arrive with wet shoes, stuff with newspaper and allow to dry naturally. Do NOT place near an extreme heat source - the leather will dry and crack, white patches will appear.

## **Polishing**

Cover the surface/ floor with newspapers, roll up your sleeves, wear gloves & an apron.

Use Kiwi Parade Gloss for polish, a duster, 2 brushes (puter oner, taker offer), t-shirt for laces, wooden matches, old toothbrush, damp cloth for dry dirt. Keep hotel shoe kit supplies - use for interviews.

Black polish, brushes & cloths for black shoes, brown polish, brushes & cloths for brown shoes.  
Remove laces, set aside.

Wipe off fresh dirt & grime with a damp cloth. For dried on stuff, use a toothbrush (never a knife!) or wet the area and gently rub until removed.

Hand inside shoe, dip the puter oner in the wax pot, cover entire shoe with paste.

To polish the tongue, hold with a gloved hand, polish and buff off at the same time. Don't polish the entire tongue, only to the lace holes - or it will stain your socks.

Allow the wax to penetrate the leather for several hours or a full day. The polish soaks in - it feeds the leather.

Later, use the taker offer to gently brush/ buff the shoe, not firm - gently.

Clean eyelet holes with a wooden match, break off the head, wriggle around in the eyelet then pull through. This breaks off any dried wax build-up.

Laces - run through the duster a few times with a touch of wax, then run through a clean cloth a few times.

When replacing in shoes, make them lay flat.

Always have spare pairs of laces on hand. As soon as you see a fray, replace both the laces. Don't wear the same shoes each day... rotate between a few pairs, letting the others air out.

### **Suede**

Brush against the nap with a soft brush to lift the dirt, then with the nap to finish.