

SQUARING UP

Adding interest and flair to even the most formal and basic of blazers or sportcoats, pocket squares are an instant style-saver

POCKET SQUARES: A HISTORY

The origins of the pocket square lies in the humble handkerchief, which has been around for over 600 years. However its use as part of formal-wear didn't come into play until the beginning of the 20th century.

As two-piece suits came into fashion in the 19th century, many men started to place their clean pocket square into the breast pocket to protect it from the accumulating grime in their trouser pockets. Specific folding techniques then came into use and by the 1920s, the pocket square had become more of a fashion accessory than serving any real purpose.

Thanks to the advent of kleenex tissues in the 40s and 50s, linen handkerchiefs - which were increasingly seen as unhygienic - were used almost exclusively as decoration. Thus, the pocket square arrived. Post 1970s, having existed in a limbo world of weddings and formal-wear for many years, pocket squares have thankfully found their way into daywear - and the collections of many designers.

Pocket square, Dhs250,
GIEVES & HAWKES at
Harvey Nichols