



Detachable starched collars became commonly worn on men's shirts around 1850. The idea was to present a clean appearance to the world without the expense of laundering the whole shirt. As the century progressed collars rose and fell in height according to the fashion of the time reaching their most extreme height in the Edwardian era at the very beginning of C20th.

Collars are either double or single meaning simply that they are either one layer worn upright or folded over and therefore double. Double collars are normally seen as less formal than the upright single.

Collars are all attached to the shirt by means of two collar studs. The shirts must have the appropriate stud holes on the neckband which match up with those on the collar. One short one at the back and a longer one at the front.

We supply the largest variety of separate collars in the world and have them made in two ways. The starched are the most traditional but must be laundered professionally by a company which still uses the original C19th pressing and finishing machines.

First, the basics. A stiff collar is white, made of cotton and starched to such a degree that it has the consistency of balsa wood or thick plastic. If it has been laundered properly, it will have a surface shine and be like polished furniture to the touch. It is, of course, a separate collar and must therefore be used with a collar-less (or tunic) shirt – to which it is attached by means of a short back stud and a long front stud. The size of the collar will be your usual shirt collar size (say, 16 inches), and the size of the neck-band of the shirt will be half an inch less (thus, 15½ inches).

To obtain your tunic shirts – which usually come with one or two separate, soft collars in the same fabric – you will need to visit [www.FogeyUnlimited.co.uk](http://www.FogeyUnlimited.co.uk)

<https://www.fogeyunlimited.co.uk/product/exclusive-to-fogey-unlimited-traditional-collarband-tunic-shirt-for-your-stiff-collar/>

So you have your shirts, your collar studs and your stiff collars. Now comes the difficult part. Putting on your collar and tie. But do not be put off. Although this operation has been known to make grown men weep and Field Marshals to reach for their service revolvers, if you follow my 7 stage plan, all should be well. (And do not give up. Practice helps enormously.)



1. Open up the 3 stud holes at the front and back of the collar. This is essential.
2. > Wearing your shirt with the studs in place and fastened at the neck by the front stud, fix the collar to the shirt by the back stud only.
3. Tie your tie so that it hangs loosely round the outside of the collar.
4. Push your tie under the collar, starting from the middle of the rear and working round to the front.
5. Fasten the right hand side of the collar to the front stud.
6. Tighten and adjust your tie – leaving about 1½ inches to go, so that when finally tightened the knot will be in the middle.
7. Fasten the left-hand side of the collar to the front stud and fully tighten the tie, making such adjustment as is necessary. This is the most difficult stage, particularly with a new or newly laundered collar, as the tie can be very resistant to movement within the fastened collar. (A helpful reader suggests putting a little talcum powder - of the sort used on a baby's posterior - inside the collar, to ease the movement of the tie. I have not tried this myself, being anxious about the possibility of soiling my neckwear. But it might well be a useful stratagem, if you are having great difficulty.)

A lot of trouble? Of course it is. But most worthwhile things in life are. And once you have mastered the art, you will never want to go back to the slovenly ways of the rest of the world. You will wear your stiff collar with pride, dismissing the stares of the scoffers and quietly proud of the glances of the admiring. And you will be warmed by the knowledge that you have made another step towards your goal of sartorial perfection.

The Stiff starched detachable collar.

The crafting technique requires patience and skill but results in a superior quality of collar that maintains rigidity and style. It begins with the collar shape being hand cut from the finest cotton, this silhouette is then steeped in Chinese rice starch for 24 hours to ensure the utmost strength in rigidity. It is subsequently moved to a gas lit steel roller to create its perfectly fitting shape before it is finally polished to achieve its stylish, shine finish.

[www.Fogeyunlimited.co.uk](http://www.Fogeyunlimited.co.uk)

Use your monocle to find us on:

