



George K. Arthur and Louise Lorraine in *Circus Rookies*, MGM 1928.

The Perfect Bow By Peggy Gill

I overheard two Model A gentlemen who will remain nameless discussing their prowess at a recent event. “It went so slick,” said one, “I got it the first time!” “Lucky you,” replied the other. “I had to start from scratch three times, and it still doesn’t feel right.” Intrigued, I paused to listen closely. I turned my head just in time to see the first man grabbing his friend around the neck. “Maybe if you...” said the first man, as his hands twisted and tugged his friend’s shirt collar and then at the loops on his bow tie to smooth the folds around his neck. Ahhh, so *that* is what they were discussing....the art of tying a bow tie!

For the Model A gentleman, one did not go out and about in public without a tie around his neck. A bow tie is a necessary accessory for formal wear, and can be a fun addition for casual fashions. However, tying the perfect bow takes practice to get it perfect. Some friends in the Model A hobby happened upon an expert who gave them the following step-by-step process in an effort to help their men “get it right.” I thought I would share these steps for the rest of the men out there!



From a Spur Tie advertisement in *The Saturday Evening Post* 1928

The following information comes from Carrot and Gibbs, a maker of fine bow ties, made in the USA. Carrot and Gibbs was founded in Boulder Colorado in 1987. For more information about them and their products, please visit their website at www.carrotandgibbs.com.

So...take the time to read through the directions on the following page. Practice *does* make perfect! And gentlemen...please, *please* be gentle when helping a friend straighten or smooth his tie. Egos are at play here.

"A Tying Guide for Tying Times"

Source: Carrot and Gibb

IF YOU LIKE, HANG THIS GUIDE NEXT TO YOUR MIRROR...Then match your movements to those seen below. The illustrations appear as you would see yourself in the mirror. So when we say "left," we mean the "left" you see in the mirror.



1. Slide the unformed tie under your collar. Extend the end of the right 1" further than the end on the left.



2. Cross the long end over the short end. Then pass it back and up through the loop at your neck, making a loose, overhand knot. Gently tighten the knot so it fits snugly around your neck.



3. Fold the lower hanging end up and to the left, as shown. Make sure the unfolded end is hanging down over the front of the bow.



4. Pull the bow ends forward and gently squeeze them together, forming an opening behind them. Now, turn to the right and notice the opening you've created.



5. With your left thumb or forefinger push the wide, middle part of the tie and your finger up through the opening from left to right, taking care not to let the end of the tie pass all the way through the opening. Use your right hand to help pull the back loop through.



6. Your bow tie will be uneven at this point. Although a few bow tie enthusiasts purport a preference for this look, we suggest that some tightening is in order. This is where you fashion your own unique style: with a large knot or a small one; with dimpled bows or smooth...

7. Gently maneuvering, pull the loops and watch the knot grow smaller. Then, pull both flat ends and loops, lightly tugging up and down to straighten. This tightens the knot...and will smooth out the bow...and viola! Your bow is tied!



With a bit of practice, you'll give your bow tie the dash, the flair, the "je ne sais quoi" that is yours and yours alone. And always remember,

If at first you don't succeed, tie, tie, again!