

Real or Fake? An Illustrated Guide On How To Authenticate Hermes Ties

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The most highly prized among men's ties are the handfolded silk twill ties made by Hermes. The look is timeless, elegant, and will set you back about \$200 per tie.

Sadly, Hermes ties are some of the most counterfeited ties on the market you have to be very careful when shopping online. If you're shopping for an affordable, gently used and secondhand Hermes ties, there are some ways you can authenticate your potential purchase to ensure that you are purchasing an authentic Hermes tie.

The resale value of Hermes ties is still very high for ties that are in good condition. A secondhand Hermes tie in good condition can easily sell for about \$80 to \$120 on average, however this isn't always the case. Older Hermes ties generally retail for less and scarf pattern ties and limited edition ties can command a higher price, sometimes up to \$400.

As you start to shop for gently used Hermes ties, here are some ways you can authenticate a potential purchase.

1. Check the quality of the silk

Hermes ties are made from the finest available silks, so if you find a tie that doesn't feel or look like silk then it's not an Hermes tie. The fabric should appear matte, not shiny. The silk from a Hermes tie should be soft to the touch, but sturdy your fingers should easily slide across the fabric.



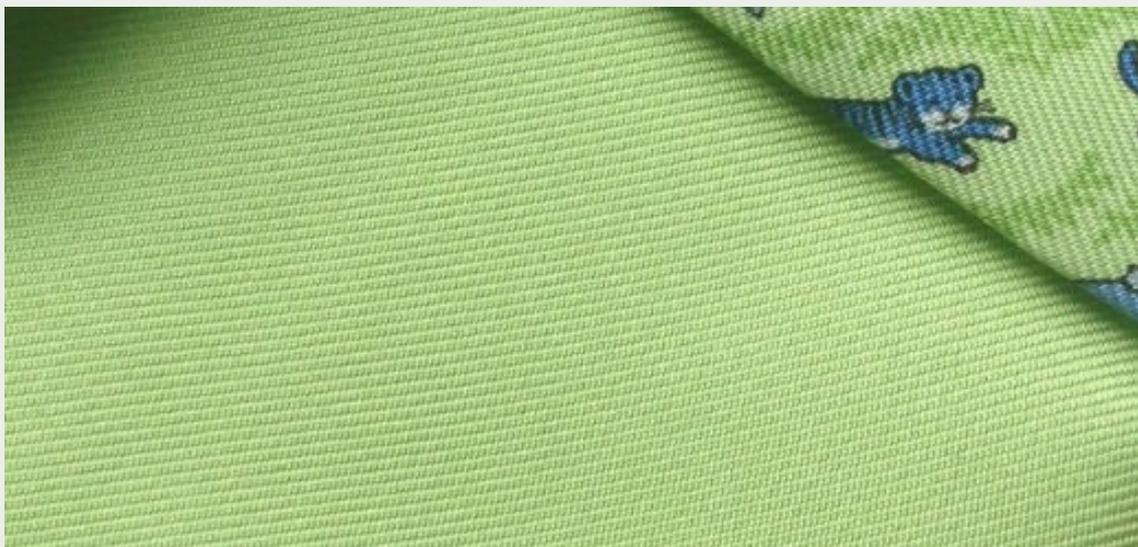
2. Check the bias of the twill

The direction of the twill on each Hermes ties always points in the same direction. This is usually the easiest way to spot a fake, and usually where counterfeiters get it wrong.

The twill on the front of a real Hermes tie will be in a diagonal direction of 11 and 5 o'clock, as shown below.

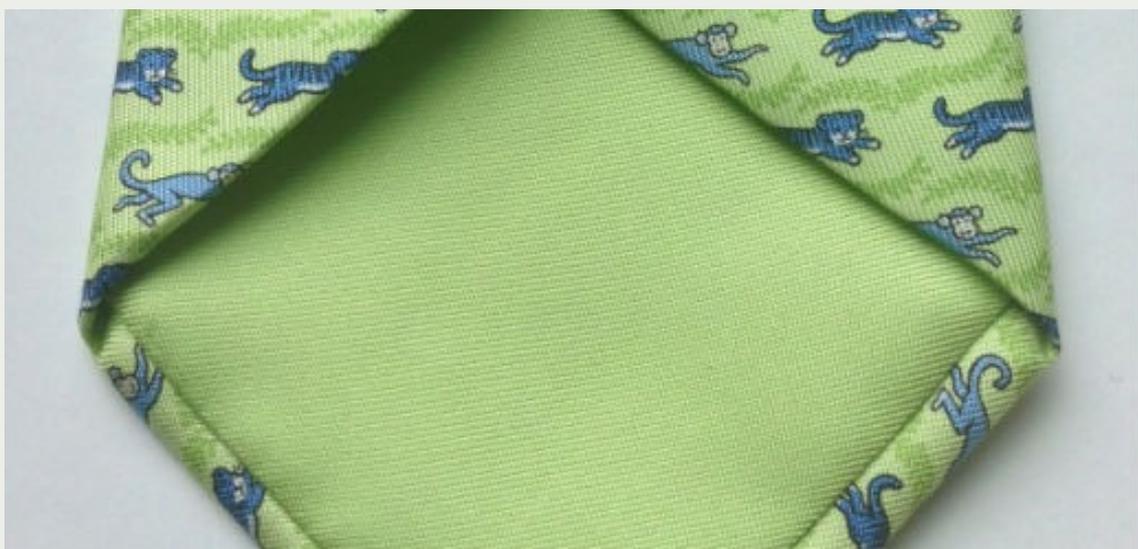


The back of the tie will be the direction of the 2 and 8 o'clock, as shown below.



3. Check the tipping

The tipping is the liner fabric under the shell on the backside of the tie. The tipping on a Hermes tie in should match the background color of the tie. The tipping should be in most cases a single, solid color. However, on some of the scarf ties, the tipping may have an "H" mark pattern.



4. Check for a handsewn slip stitch

Each and every single Hermes tie is made from a single piece of thread and delicately sewn together. Often, fakes will be sewn with multiple threads.

The easiest way to check the stitching is to gently pull the on the folds of the back of the tie to see that a single piece of thread is sewn into the fold. The thread color should complement the color of the tie.



5. Check for a hanging tension thread

On the back of a Hermes tie, lift up the bottom fold and there will be (usually) a hanging thread. This is also another telltell sign that the tie is authentic.

However, I have purchased Hermes ties directly from the Hermes store where the hanging thread can no longer be seen, so something to consider when you're buying secondhand; I think as the time gets adjusted, the thread may be pulled back into the tie.



6. Check the bar tack

The bar tack is a small thread that appears on the top and bottom of the tie. On a Hermes tie, the bar tack should be a thicker thread that matches the background color of the tie.



7. Check for a dovetail fold

Each end of an Hermes tie is folded in a "dovetail" style." When looking at the back of an Hermes tie the back should be folded left over right. Every Hermes tie follows this style. If your tie isn't folded or sewn on, then you have a fake.

Also check the other minor folds on the tie. The very bottom tip on the wide end of the tie should be folded right over left and the narrow end should be folded right over left.



8. Check signature Horse & Carriage logo

The Hermes stamp on the tie should be square with the horse carriage at the top, the word "HERMES" in the middle and "PARIS (C)" at the bottom. The Hermes stamps is printed directly into the fabric; if you see a Hermes tie where this is sewn into the tie, then it's fake.

Also check the number of spokes in the wheels. Unlike the tie stay ("selfloop), the wheel on the stamp has five spokes instead of six, like on the tie stay.



9. Check the pattern mark on the back

Each Hermès tie has printed into the fabric a pattern mark indicating the pattern of the tie and the artist who sewed it together.

The pattern mark is small rectangle on the back of the tie with "MADE IN FRANCE" at the top, the pattern number in the middle (e.g. 5382 OA), and "100% SOIE" on the bottom.

The top text should be all caps, sansserif, and the artist initials should be in a serif font, and the bottom text should be all caps, sansserif.



10. Check the selfloop

The tie stay on the back of the tie should be sewn with white thread. The regular silk twill ties will have text vertically positioned on each side of the the stay with the horse carriage in the middle. The left side of the tie will read "DRY CLEAN ONLY" and the right side will read "100% SILK."

Also count the number of spokes on the wheels on the carriagethere should be six.



However, there is an exception. Some of the heavy silk twill and scarf ties use a different tie stay.

Stays on these ties have white text with vertical text on the left, right, and bottom of the horse carriage in the center. The text on the left reads "DRY CLEAN ONLY" and on the right reads "MADE IN FRANCE" and on the bottom "HERMES-PARIS."



11. Check the measurements

Hermes ties have been different sizes over the years, but the newer ties all fit the same measurement profile. However, when shopping for gently used ties, there's a possibility that the tie may have been washed or dry cleaned, so those measurements could be off by a small number.

For the new ties, they are generally 3.75" inches wide at the widest point at the bottom and about 60" inches long.



12. Check the weight of the tie

A regular silk twill tie will weigh about 1.6 ounces (44 grams). Fake hermes ties will generally be much heavier.



How To Clean A Hermes Tie

If you're on the market to purchase a secondhand Hermes tie, you may stumble across a tie that you want, but it needs cleaning. Don't let a tie stain steer you away from not purchasing the tie you want a professional tie cleaner can remove just about anything.

You should never take your tie to just any dry cleaner. There are cleaners who specialize in cleaning ties you want to use these services instead. If you take a Hermes tie to a regular dry cleaner it will be returned shrunken and wilted.

There are two professional tie cleaners in the US that specialize in Hermes ties:

[RAVE FabriCARE](#) (based in Arizona) pricing starts at \$22.50 per tie

Tie Crafters (based in New York) pricing starts at \$16 per tie

I've sent [RAVE FabriCARE](#) some interesting tie stains, and they can work miracles on ties; my ties were returned looking brand new and in the perfect shape.