

# Smart Casual or Casual Smart?

For some, 'smart casual' has brought with it a mild panic - particularly with men. Gone are the simple days of just a suit and tie, unless 'city smart' is required, as now a personality is also going to be on show. But, developing a relaxed, smart vibe can be confusing, so working with Kirstie, an expert stylist, will save time and add confidence to try something new.



Sales Director at VantagePoint magazine, Marcus Atkins forty(ish!), was keen to try a personal styling appointment. Being just over 6ft, and a standard large in most shirts and knitwear, he generally asks his wife, Sarah, to buy his clothes. Apart from his 'loud' shirts, which the whole family dislike, he admitted to rarely going clothes shopping besides a brief, 30 seconds decision shop - although he had recently bought twelve shirts in a multi online deal (mostly stripes!).

We discussed his requirements for a working wardrobe. Smart casual definitely fits Marcus's brief as he needs to be comfortable in the Godalming based office, but smart enough to visit clients throughout the day.

My selection for Marcus needed to fulfil his love of bold statements which are usually stripe shirts and also offer options for trousers apart from casual loose jeans. So I chose smaller



**Add colour**  
**Left:** Teal sweater, Diesel, £80; worn over floral shirt, £100, Diesel  
**Right:** Coral sweater, £110; tan belt, £45, both Ralph Lauren; stripy T-shirt, £18, Jack & Jones.



**Above:** Before  
**Right:** After - Slim fitting jeans and jacket; Classic brogues, £185, Barker  
**Top right:** Kirstie and Marcus chat in the Tea Terrace.



“...it was finding those dark blue Paul Smith jeans that opened my eyes to what style of clothing I need to go for in the future, so thanks for that!”

print shirts, mini checks and soft colours, with stronger highlights for fine knitwear. I selected the waistcoat and jacket from Ted Baker to offer the smart but trendier option of layered suiting to wear with dark jeans or chinos, and printed t-shirts for a more casual look.

Marcus looked sharp but relaxed in slim jeans and tailored jacket combo, and fresh with the bright knitted accent colours. He loved the waistcoat but I suggested he wore it with smaller prints and soft pastel shirts instead of bright stripes. I advised that he should invest in a timeless classic brogue and a quality leather belt as male dressing is all about the small details, not over the top design details, and to choose classic colours highlighted with brights in knits and accessories.

So, what does Marcus think?

*“I really enjoyed the experience, despite being a bit apprehensive at the beginning simply because I was so much out of my comfort zone. But it didn't take long after trying clothes on, to get into the swing of the whole experience.”*

*I would definitely do this again, and I'd recommend Kirstie to my friends; if they can get past the slightly prissy image of going for the service, then everyone really would benefit, that I am sure.”*



**Top left:** Waistcoat £120, Ted Baker; Pink shirt, £110, Paul Smith. **Top right:** Jacket £250, Ted Baker; T-shirt, £15 Jack & Jones; Slim dark jeans, £100 Paul Smith. **Bottom left:** Claret chinos, £36, Raging Bull; Mini check red/white shirt, £85 Ted Baker. **Bottom right:** Tobacco chinos, £79, Ted Baker. **Left:** Have fun - Scarf, £45, Glen Prince.

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Kirstie is an experienced fashion stylist to both men and women

Shopping and The Tea Terrace restaurant at House of Fraser, call 01483 307400.

For one-to-one shopping and styling appointments, tailored to your own requirements, call her on 07773 234947 or email [kirstie@kirstiesmillie.com](mailto:kirstie@kirstiesmillie.com).

Photographs by Anna Saverimuttu, a Guildford-based commercial and corporate photographer. For more details of her work, visit [annasaverimuttu-photography.co.uk](http://annasaverimuttu-photography.co.uk). Email [anna@annasaverimuttu.co.uk](mailto:anna@annasaverimuttu.co.uk).

All clothes from House of Fraser, Guildford. Personal