

# RING IT ON THE MAN'S GUIDE TO WEDDING BANDS

## LET'S GET REAL

You asked for this, and she said yes.

And now you've been told you have to start wearing jewelry. This can go one of two ways. You can go passively along and let someone else pick your ring. Or, you can assert yourself. You can find something that you actually want to wear on your finger for the rest of your life.

But, you might be thinking, jewelry isn't a guy thing. Really?

## FACT OF MAN



*You know who wore jewelry?* **VIKINGS.**

That's right, the nomadic warlords who crossed the ocean in wooden boats and drank mead from the horns of gigantic Nordic bulls.

You know who else wore jewelry? Pretty much every significant man in history.

**DON'T LET THE FLUFFY JEWELRY ADS FOOL YOU. RINGS ARE SYMBOLS OF MIGHT, OF STATUS, AND OF POWER.**

They have been for thousands of years. They can be a token of the kind of man you are or want to be *if* you take the time to think it through.

So, without further ado, let's find you a band, man.

The essential parameters of every manly band

*METAL | STYLE | FINISH | ENGRAVING*

This thing will probably be on your finger forever – at least till death does you part. You'll fiddle with it, wear it to work, to sleep, when you're working out or swimming or golfing. Everywhere. It should reflect you, and it should fit your lifestyle.

Read on for the particulars.



**METAL** Are you more interested in rarity and value or do you want something that won't scratch easily, even in extreme conditions?

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### PRECIOUS BANDS VS. CONTEMPORARY METAL BANDS

**Precious metals** include gold, sterling silver, platinum, and palladium. They generally cost more, but they also hold value better over time. They're rarer. And they're easier to work with, which means they're easier to customize.

**Contemporary metals**, sometimes called alternative or industrial metals, are brutally strong technological creations. Highly resistant to scratching and extremely easy to maintain over time, they're a popular choice for men who do dirty work—mechanics, welders, rodeo cowboys, etc. They are, in general, very affordable, and they're available in a wide range of experimental modern styles.

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### FACT OF MAN

In Anglo-Saxon England, giant golden arm rings symbolized a man's achievements in battle. Kings and overlords were called "ring-givers," because they bestowed these battle trophies upon worthy warriors.



## PRECIOUS METALS

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### *GOLD*

Despite its soft and lustrous visual spell, gold was born of fiery celestial violence. Scientists believe most of the gold on earth arrived via asteroid, the product of either a fiery supernova or the collision of neutron stars. Prized by millennia for their lordly beauty, golden rings are nobility incarnate. Key quote: “Stay gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold.”

**WEIGHT:** medium

**SCRATCH RESISTANCE:** low

**SIZEABLE:** yes

**HYPOALLERGENIC:** no

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### *STERLING SILVER*

Can you think of a word that rhymes with silver? Don't worry neither can anyone else. It's one of the most unrhymable words in English, but silver has other benefits. Second only to gold in workability, sterling silver has the most brilliant polish of any metal. When polished completely, it reflects 95% of light.

**WEIGHT:** medium

**SCRATCH RESISTANCE:** low

**SIZEABLE:** yes

**HYPOALLERGENIC:** no

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### *PLATINUM*

Platinum stands for prestige. It's that simple. The most precious of precious metals, it's thirty times rarer than gold. It's also the densest precious metal, which means it will feel weighty and significant on your finger. If you seek a band that will convey a certain rarified and illustrious manliness, don't be bashful about going platinum.

**WEIGHT:** heavy

**SCRATCH RESISTANCE:** medium

**SIZEABLE:** yes

**HYPOALLERGENIC:** yes

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### *PALLADIUM*

Palladium was discovered in 1803 by an Englishman with a manly English name: William Hyde Wollaston. Think of palladium as platinum's more relaxed, more free-spirited younger brother. It's a close relative to platinum, scientifically speaking, but it's much more affordable and lightweight.

**WEIGHT:** medium

**SCRATCH RESISTANCE:** high

**SIZEABLE:** yes

**HYPOALLERGENIC:** yes

## CONTEMPORARY METALS

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### TUNGSTEN

Tungsten is so awesome that it has two names, and the second name, *wolfram*, is just as manly as the first. The word tungsten itself derives from an older Swedish term meaning “heavy stone.” That’s fitting: It’s the heaviest contemporary metal and one of the most durable metals known to man.

**WEIGHT:** heavy

**SCRATCH RESISTANCE:** very high

**SIZEABLE:** no

**HYPOALLERGENIC:** no

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### STAINLESS STEEL

The history of stainless steel is a manly one indeed. Invented by a chap named Harry Breardly in 1913, who was looking for a better way to make ultra-resilient weapons, it’s famously resistant to any form of corrosion. Stainless steel bands are extremely affordable and require little upkeep. Are you a man of steel? You could be.

**WEIGHT:** medium

**SCRATCH RESISTANCE:** low

**SIZEABLE:** no

**HYPOALLERGENIC:** yes

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### COBALT

Cobalt is a beast. The word comes from kobold – and it literally means “goblin ore.” Initial attempts to smelt it released poisonous gas, spawning a host of superstitions about the metal. It serves in a number of capacities, including jewelry. Highly scratch resistant and five times harder than gold, cobalt is perfect for men adept at turning the forces of darkness to good.

**WEIGHT:** medium

**SCRATCH RESISTANCE:** medium

**SIZEABLE:** no

**HYPOALLERGENIC:** yes

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### TITANIUM

There’s a reason titanium is a popular choice in body armor. It’s extremely strong, but it’s also extremely light. For an unyielding metal that won’t feel heavy on your hand, choose titanium.

**WEIGHT:** light

**SCRATCH RESISTANCE:** low

**SIZEABLE:** no

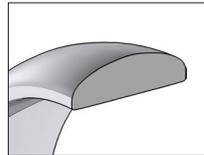
**HYPOALLERGENIC:** yes

## FIT AND BASIC LOOK

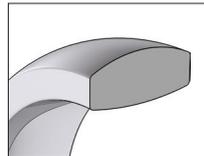
Think of this like you think of pants. How do you want the ring to sit on your finger, and what style seems fitting and realistic? With a ring, these considerations are exponentially more important.

When the skinny, highwater jeans that your inner hipster picked out at J Crew last summer seem suddenly ill-advised, you're relatively free to tuck them to the back of your drawer and pick a roomy pair of Sansabelt slacks. But casting aside your wedding ring is a rather different proposition. One your future wife might question.

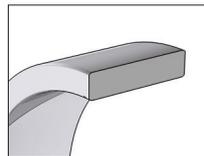
For that reason, we recommend you consider a few of the prevailing classic band profiles. These time-honored fits never really go out of style, and chances are you'll be happy to stick with your choice if you really think about it now.



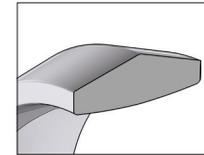
**Half Round:** *Flat surface against the finger, domed surface away from the finger.*



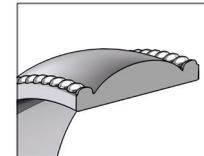
**Inside Round:** *Also called Comfort-Fit; rounded surface against the finger, domed surface away from the finger.*



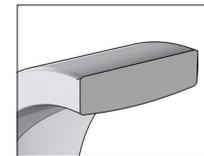
**Flat:** *Flat against the finger, flat away from the finger.*



**Knife-Edge Comfort-Fit:** *Rounded surface against the finger, 2-sided peaked surface away from the finger.*



**Milgrain:** *Flat surface against the finger, domed surface away from the finger, with narrow beaded edges.*



**Square Comfort-Fit:** *Rounded surface against the finger, soft square exterior shape.*

### FACT OF MAN

*Why is the ring finger the ring finger?* The Western tradition of wearing rings on the third finger of the left hand derives from the Roman belief that a vena amoris ("vein of love") ran through that finger, linking it straight to the heart.



# FINISHES, ENGRAVING, AND LASER PATTERNS

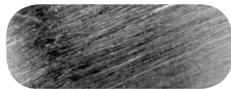
**FINISHES** No other object will touch your body more often than your wedding ring in the years to come. Don't you think the way it feels to the touch should be important? What makes one man cringe is soothing and comforting to the next, so make sure to ask your jeweler to let you run your fingers across the surfaces of a few rings to see what works. Here are a few of the options you might consider:



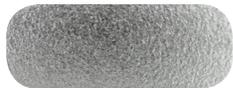
BRIGHT POLISHED



SEMI-POLISHED



SATIN/BRUSHED



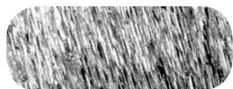
BEAD BLAST/MATTE



GLASS BLAST



ICE



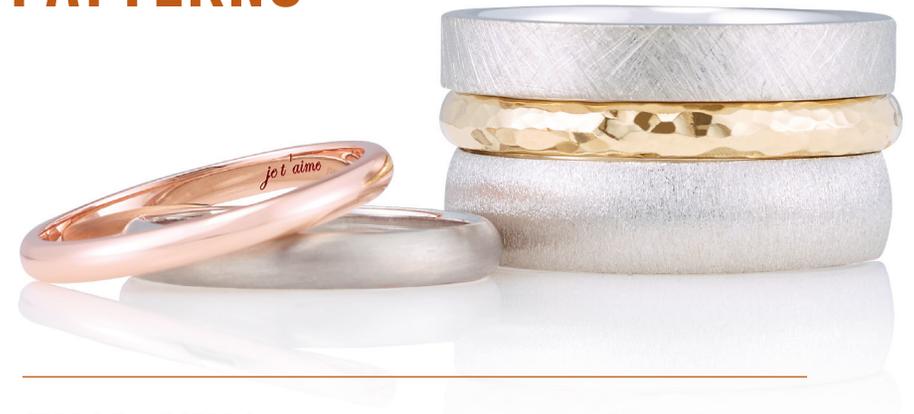
STONE



HAMMERED



FLORENTINE



**ENGRAVING** How often do you get a chance to emblazon your words into precious gold or platinum? Pick a powerful font, even use your own handwriting, and inscribe a manly (yet tender) message that will echo through the ages.

**LASER PATTERNS** Want to honor a noble Celtic lineage or sport a rugged tread befitting an all-terrain vehicle? Specify a laser tread for an extra measure of manliness.



CELTIC KNOT



GREEK KEY



MOKUME



TRIBAL



BARBED WIRE



TREAD

*Need advice on which brand of band best befits a man?* Ask your jeweler about Stuller wedding bands.