

Styleforum's Guide To THRIFT SHOPPING

Use the "Touch" test: trust your hands before your eyes.

Check the composition: avoid synthetic fabrics, wool is the best option.

Check the union tag: quickly Google it to find out when the item was made and where.

Care tag: if it's missing, the piece is likely made before 1971, when the Care Labeling Rule was first issued.

Look for cool details: patch pockets or belted-back jackets are unique finds.

Lining: no lining or half-lining dates prior to 1970s. Be aware of mass-produced, lined stuff produced after the 70s.

Labels: "Artsy" labels date earlier - stiff corporate labels date to the 1960s and after.





CHECKLIST

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- Shoulders:** make sure they fit, as they can't be altered.
- Shoulder padding:** do you like it? Make sure it's okay because you cannot change it.
- Lapel size:** make sure it's thin/wide enough for your tastes and the shirts you usually wear.
- Button stance:** If the last button on the suit is below the pocket line, the overall buttoning point will be too low and results in an extremely dated look.
- Sleeves and chest:** they can be taken in and out, but make sure there is enough fabric available.
- Jacket length:** you can shorten a jacket by less than 2"; anything more will ruin the balance and proportion of the garment.
- Trousers:** they're easy to alter, but make sure there is enough fabric if you need to let them out.
- Fly:** a long fly (11" or more) will usually mean that the trousers feature a high rise.
- Wear & tear:** leave anything with visible holes, tears, and non-seam rips.

If the item in your hand passed all the tests, **BUY IT!**