

August

Lesson of the Month: APPROPRIATE ACCESSORIZING

By Lauryn Prattes

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Accessories are huge this season. Literally. Shoes are higher, necklaces are bigger and bags are more oversized than ever. In this time of "more is more" it can be hard to figure out what is just right. To help solve this dilemma, think of accessories as cake toppings; icing, like clothing, is essential. While it is as practical as it can be ornamental, anything else is purely decorative. Some additional aesthetic is nice, but too many toppings will make a cake look messy. Likewise, an outfit sans accessories risks looking drab, but too many can overwhelm and ruin a good thing. For a perfectly accessorized look, follow this recipe to establish when enough is enough:

Start with clothing, the obvious first ingredient in looking fashionably fabulous. Take a look at your outfit. Is it simple and in need of a little embellishment? Or does it already speak loudly on its own? Answering this question will help you determine which tips to take.

For a Plainer Outfit:

Tip 1: Shoes are undoubtedly the new "IT bag" this season. A plain outfit calls for an attention-grabbing pair, like one in a fun color or with great detailing.

Tip 2: When it comes to other accessories, follow the Rule of Two: Choose only two types of accessories to wear at one time (for instance, a scarf and bracelets; necklace and headband; earrings and bracelet). Any more than this and you'll look like you're trying too hard.

Tip 3: Layer certain jewelry items. When stacking larger necklaces or chunky bangles, any more than three will look like overkill. If you are wearing those of the thin, dainty variety, however, you can add on a few more.

Tip 4: Don't attempt to double up on items like scarves or headbands.

Bottom Line: Spice up plainer outfits with more accessories, but beware of the danger of over-accessorizing and, thus, ruining the outfits.

For an outfit that already has a lot of details:

Tip 1: Keep the accessories minimal, adding either simple bracelets, a necklace, or earrings.

Tip 2: When it comes to a bag, choose one in a color that compliments your outfit, but that also has detailing that is sleek and simple.

Tip 3: Find a shoe that falls somewhere between "bold" and "completely plain." You don't want your shoe to be the center of attention, but you do want them to attract some interest.

Bottom Line: No accessory should be the first place the eye goes. If this occurs, change out that accessory for a less eye-catching one.

Before you walk out the door give yourself a once-over; you should feel fashionable without looking like you spent hours trying. Then, remember the words of the great Coco Chanel: "Before leaving the house, a lady should stop, look in the mirror, and remove one piece of jewelry."

