

Fashion Forecast

by Sandra Keiser and Brenda Schweder

Points of View

- Individuality is always in style. In denim and in jewelry, the details provide many options for self-expression.

IN THE JEAN TIME

Synonymous with comfort and versatility, denim jeans are universal. Today's brands take an artisanal approach in response to the consumer's quest for distinctiveness.

- ▶ **Embroidery and decorative stitching** may climb the legs or gild the back pocket; crystals, studs, and grommets accent pockets, waistbands, and legs.
- ▶ **Patches** of vintage denim or prints, tweed, velvet, and leather are also popular embellishments.
- ▶ **Aging processes** are now gentler and less destructive. The newest washes include light blue and wine-colored variations.
- ▶ **Fraying** further defines vintage looks.

Silhouettes are defined by the cut of the leg, the fit, and the rise. Narrow cigarette legs allow jeans to be tucked into western-style boots, while flare-leg jeans are worn over boots. Cuffed or cropped styles also work well for this look. Silhouettes for the younger set continue to be low rise, while jeans for those over 35 tend to feature a higher rise and darker, cleaner washes. Mix jeans with brocade or velvet jackets for a dressier look or with tracksuit jackets or hoodies for casual comfort.

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

- **Crosses** and mandalas (geometric designs symbolic of the universe) communicate individual spirituality.
- **Found objects** that seem ordinary — old coins, bits of wood — are meaningful when the collector wears them as separate charms or in small clusters.



WIRED

Handcrafted, no-two-alike styling defines the trend toward unique jewelry:



Minimalist

Single or grouped gemstones are wired to simple rings; on some, additional wirework surrounds the stones. Sarah Graham's flower necklace features a wood center and free-form gold-wire petals.



Exposed wire

New techniques emphasize the decorative, not the solely functional, aspects of wire: bent wires remain visible on a chain with suspended gemstones; long, exaggerated wrapped loops and cuffs in dream catcher styles trap gemstones and nuggets.

Branches

In her *Blossom Branch* necklace, Rena Tom wires smoky quartz petals and pink jade briolettes on a core of twisted wire. Chokers feature diamonds, pearls, and crystals attached by delicate wire branches. The necklace shown is by *BeadStyle* contributor Jill Italiano.



FABRICATED

This season's fiber jewelry celebrates a multitude of textures:

Frayed

Silk is a popular material, especially when raw-edged and knotted between beads. Tattered tulle and cotton also pair with gemstones or costume beads for an edgy look.



Crocheted

Necklaces feature crocheted jawbreaker-sized beads or knit metallic links in a formidable chain (see Prada or Marc Jacobs for high-end versions). Also look for lacy chandelier earrings and crocheted flowers.



Collage

The mixed-media look continues. Flowers are especially popular; see Louis Vuitton's chain mixed with silk flowers and Prada's velvet pansies with electronic clips and rhinestones.

Mesh

Mesh tubing goes both through and around beads.

BeadStyle contributor Stacey Neilson fashions mesh into a choker with asymmetrical draped leaves.



DO IT YOURSELF

▶ Twist and turn fine-gauge wire into branch earrings (p. 38).



◀ String a fiber necklace with frayed-cotton rag yarn (p. 86).



▶ To add a personal touch to a leather lariat, include handwrought wire details (p. 48).



JEWELRY LINKS



To see more of the latest jewelry styles, check out:

barejewelry.com

barneys.com

devonleighdesign.com

miaandkompany.com

mauripioppo.com

renatom.com

vadisturner.com

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