

Fashion Forecast

by Sandra Keiser and Brenda Schweder



Celebrate end-of-year drama



Layer a fitted vest over an untucked blouse. Add skinny jeans for 80s style.

Subversive elegance is the theme for late fall. Piggybacking on gothic chic and industrial trends, black remains a key element in the season's fashions. Rock-star style is back — skinny jeans, lots of dark, heavy jewelry, and smoky eye makeup. Plaid is also popular, especially in opulent fabrics and new styles. Bottom line: right now, it's cool to pair the classic and the edgy.

NEW-SCHOOL PLAID

Unlike the pattern from your old schoolgirl uniform, **fall's plaids are oversized and less sober**. New ways to wear it include pants, skirts, and strapless cocktail dresses. The patterns are showing up in lightweight flannels, wool blends, silk taffeta, chiffon, and satin. If you like subtle patterns, look to classic herringbone, pinstripe, and tweed.



Try a plaid blouse in soft satin.

1980s STYLE IS BACK

Clothing is less revealing, and **menswear details abound**. Blouses have tuxedo pleats and neckties. Pants are either superslim pencil styles or baggy, pleated-front trousers; get both in cropped or long lengths. Pair skirts with opaque hosiery, leggings, or leg warmers.

Long, chunky sweaters are everywhere — especially those with a slouchy turtleneck or a fisherman-knit pattern. Pick one up in a neutral color and pair it with leggings and ankle boots. You can also wear the sweater over a dress; belt it to accentuate your waist. Or, wrap up your outfit with a puffy anorak or parka.

Layering is the key to wearing these styles — pile them on. And don't forget your hat.



A deep V-neck sweater adds color for evening glamour.

SOLIDLY IN THE BLACK

With so many fabrics and styles, black is especially versatile this season. To top off a white menswear shirt, try a sleek vest or a velvet jacket with wide lapels. Add dark-denim trousers for work or **skinny black jeans** for a glam evening look. Accessorize with a patent leather clutch. If you prefer a romantic look, opt for a black skirt or dress with a white or nude lace overlay.

STAKE OUT NEUTRAL TERRITORY

Early fall jewelry features subtle neutrals and textured components. What to look for: shades of brown, beige, tan, and creamy white; carved elements such as gemstone, wood, bone, and faux ivory; large-link chain in resin (in tortoise, black, or gold colors) or brass; horn, antler, and tusk shapes; rope and tassels; clusters of beads and charms, especially hearts, keys, and padlocks. Gold lockets are also a popular accent, worn alone or layered.



Wood, tortoise-colored beads, and carved pieces accent a gold chain necklace.

DO IT YOURSELF



A huge, shield-shaped pendant (p. 60) pairs well with fall's bulky knits.



A marcasite bracelet (p. G-8) makes a fashionable gift.



Oversized mixed-metal earrings (p. 76) complement the season's dark separates.

Jewelry links

- ahjewelry.com
- alyssanorton.com
- carolee.com
- ccskye.com
- moniquepean.com
- venacavanyc.com
- yossiharari.com

HOLIDAY JEWELRY HAS A DARK SIDE

For an edgy but stately vibe, stick with black (or blackened) jewelry. Shades of gray and black pearls are popular. Make a long chain necklace with large, oxidized links and layer it with other necklaces. Other options include oversized rose rings in ebony and bibs overflowing with jet or onyx beads. Look for unusual pieces such as mesh-covered beads, black-and-white cameos, or oversized safety pins dripping with pewter or gunmetal chain.

Fibers are still used liberally, whether woven through chain, dangling like tendrils, or wrapped around chain links, hoops, or bracelets. Celebrating oversized jewelry proportions, scarves are worked into chains or knotted between large-hole beads.



Gunmetal rings and chain tendrils dangle from a long necklace.



A key, a horseshoe, and a heart-shaped locket decorate a mixed-metal chain necklace.



For day or night, try earrings with asymmetrically attached black briolettes.

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