

Fashion Forecast

by Sandra Keiser and Brenda Schweder

Turn up the volume on holiday style



A snake-print clutch accents a pleated sweater.



Pair a belted leopard-print vest with a fitted turtleneck.

It's party season — the perfect excuse to indulge in a new dress or separates. Since generous silhouettes are in, there are options for everyone. The waist is a favorite focal point — especially when it's belted. Jewelry is big and boldly accents holiday wear. In both clothing and jewelry, volume is key.

DRESSING UP

You'll find dresses in more styles than ever. Look fresh in a wrap dress or an empire waist. If you like a natural waist, layer a sheath over a button-down shirt. Designers have taken to **pleating, tucking, crinkling, ruching, and folding** to create three-dimensional details on lamé, gauze, linen, and wool. Similar details like gathers and pin-tucks appear on blouses, skirts, sweaters, scarves, and dresses.

Skirts are fuller — especially bubble or balloon skirts, where the hem is pulled up and softly gathered. You can get them in a range of lengths from mini to just below the knee. Pair the skirt with a top that has a halter neckline or a variation of pouf or cap sleeves. Deep V-necklines or cowls are the perfect setting for an ornate piece of jewelry. For a fresh take on holiday wear, **combine different textures**, like a velvet jacket with a brocade skirt. You'll have many luxe fabric options this season, including lace, chiffon, and velvet. Just remember to pair a voluminous piece with a more streamlined one for balance.

BELTS ARE A CINCH TO WEAR

Belts are the season's must-have accessory. Tie soft ribbon into a bow to add a feminine touch. To create a casual mood, try a leather belt; new versions have interesting textures, buckles, and rivets. Wide waist cinchers create an hourglass silhouette and can be worn **over a sweater and leggings or a blouse and short trousers**. The season's coats feature belts that wrap around the waist.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Colors like raisin, deep purple, and midnight blue are great accents. For extra sizzle, **think lipstick red, perhaps in a glitzy metallic**. If you opt for the little black dress, accessorize it with a heavy chain necklace.

Although the season's colors are subdued, patterns add a splash of visual interest. **Animal prints are showing up** in pieces as varied as pajamas and pashminas. Join the safari with a leopard, cheetah, giraffe, or zebra print. Or, update one of your wardrobe staples by accessorizing with an animal-print bag, belt, shoe, or boot.



An empire-waist dress is perfect for everyday style.

BIGGER IS BETTER

The texture and detail of the layered look requires jewelry that can hold its own. Extravagance defines the look. Alone, necklaces are bold and large, but you can pair them with other necklaces for extra emphasis. Chunky and complicated, a newer variation is a bib silhouette that completely fills a deep neckline with a bounty of large, faceted gemstone drops, pearls, crystals, and chains. Earrings are bigger, too — try strands of gold and gemstones that sweep your shoulders. Some jewelry styles to try:

- A pirate motif of dark metals, keys, and skulls
- An updated Y-necklace with huge gemstones or coral branches
- Filigree-style plastic pendants and beads
- Gemstones like garnet, peridot, and tanzanite (the size of chandelier crystals) combined with diamonds or rhinestones
- Captured beads — gold or silver wire cages surround loose gemstones or pearls



Hefty beads match the oversized links on a stylish necklace.



Layer two or more big necklaces, mixing colors and finishes.



Go for huge jeweled earrings to accent your holiday wear.



CHARM THEM WITH JEWELRY

Oversized jewelry reigns, and “chunky” is an understatement. Get the royal treatment with fleur-de-lis accents and faux crests in enameled bracelets and jewel-encrusted brooches. Romantic motifs like hearts and roses are also popular. The clustered look prevails in chain necklaces dripping with charms and pearls (check out House of Deréon or Juicy Couture for their versions). If you prefer a conservative look, go to the other extreme and try a delicate gold-chain necklace with a single charm like a sparrow, an owl, or a dove. Look for tiny birds to grace drop earrings, too.

A pendant necklace spills over with glass and metal beads.



Rings are charmed, too.

DO IT YOURSELF



Try animal-print beads in a nature-inspired necklace (p. 72).

Wear a multistrand pearl necklace (p. 50) with an open-collar blouse.



Suspend large nuggets on beading wire for a chunky necklace (p. 84).



Jewelry links

- argento-vivo.com
- elizabethcolejewelry.com
- beaux-bijoux.com
- kararossny.com
- twistonline.com

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