

TOPS AND COATS

Beyond Blouses and Hoodies

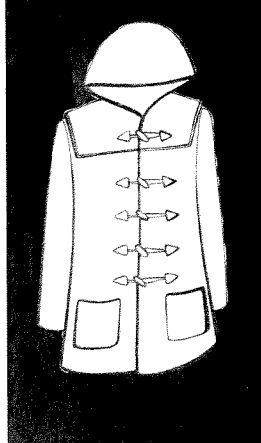
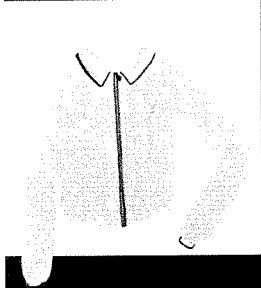
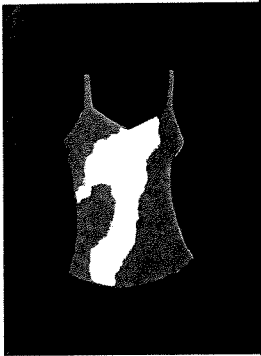
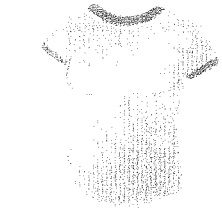
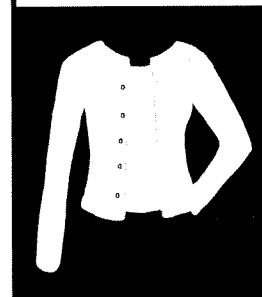
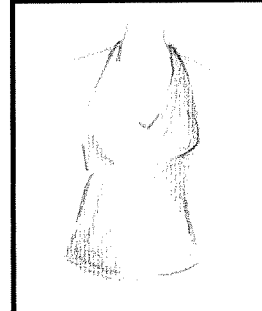
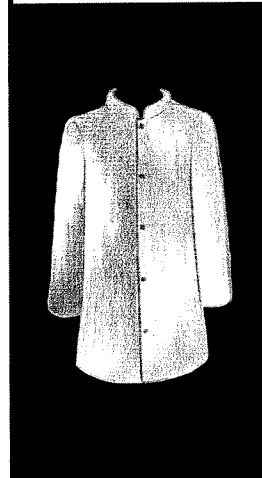
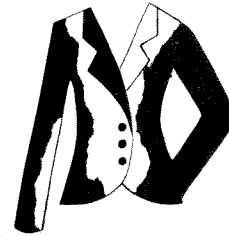
TOPS

Today, you've got a lot of choices to make when you get dressed.

In addition to worrying about underclothes and overcoats and all their variables, you need at least two basic pieces: something to cover your torso and something to cover your butt. But it wasn't always like that. Before the 1940s, dressing in separates—like combining pants with *tees* or skirts with sweaters—wasn't frequently done. Many women had a closet full of dresses and that was about it.

Then, as more women enrolled in college and went to work while their husbands were off fighting in World War II, ensembles that more closely resembled their male counterparts'—like two-piece suits and pants with *tees*—came to the fashion forefront.

In fact, the top is now a high-profile element of any woman's wardrobe. And because it is the garment worn closest to the face, a top is often the most memorable part of a person's outfit. Whether we choose a racy *tee* or classic *tee*, casual *tee* or professional *tee*, what we wear on top most defines our image.



COATS

Coats are high fashion nowadays, but did you know that most coat styles made their first appearance as military apparel? Your rain-proof multitasking *trench coat*? First seen on British soldiers in WWII. Your friend's cool-looking *bomber jacket*? It came straight from the US air force, which designed the garment specifically for pilots. Whether trudging through 35-degree temperatures in Virginia during the Civil War or fighting in a snow-bitten Armenia in January of 1914 during WWI, soldiers have always relied on serious outerwear to get the job done, and designers have always looked to the military for ideas about how to create functional clothing.

Of course, not all coat styles originated from the armed forces. We have Native Americans to thank for the *parka*. And designer Yves Saint Laurent gave the traditionally manly tuxedo jacket a sultry twist when he created the *Le Smoking jacket* for women. And some classics, like the trench, aren't even worn as just coats anymore; fashion-forward women tie one on with little to nothing underneath for a night on the town.

Whether you're suiting up to battle the elements or adding a final touch to a feminine outfit, take a moment to really

CHAPTER GLOSSARY

bodice ● the segment of a shirt or coat between the shoulders and the waist.

double-breasted ● a style of coat or jacket with two rows of button closures, which overlap a bit in front.

horn-and-toggle closure ● a type of closure that fastens by pulling a horn-shaped segment through a wide loop.

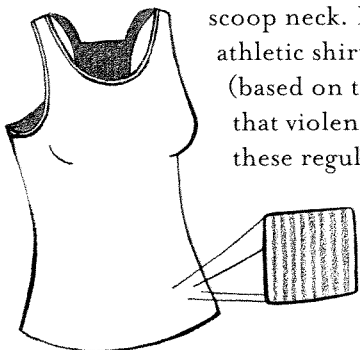
lapel ● turned-back detail on a jacket, coat, or blouse. The lapel concept originated in the armed forces. When not in battle, soldiers would undo the top button of their high, tight collars and fold the fabric back against their chests. Many of today's suit lapels still feature a buttonhole, as if the jacket had been turned back from a tighter fit.

single-breasted ● a style of coat or jacket with one row of button closures.

TOPS

A-SHIRT

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: This men's undershirt is a ribbed, traditionally white racer-back **tank** with wide armholes and a slight scoop neck. It's also known as an athletic shirt or a wifebeater (based on the assumption that violent men tend to wear these regularly).



A-Shirt

WHO MADE IT: This **tank**, now adopted as outerwear, was born of

all-in-one men's underwear called union suits. In the early 1900s, men's underwear evolved into separates, and by the 1930s men were wearing undershirts and boxers.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Bruce Lee, Kid Rock, and John Travolta are all known for working the A-shirt. In 2002, Shania Twain wore one on the cover of her *Up!* album, and Madonna wore an A-shirt in her "Die Another Day" video, making it a hot item for girls. Madonna was riffing on Marlon Brando's sweaty, dirty, and sexy-in-an-A-shirt look from the 1951 movie *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

HOW TO ROCK IT: Because they're so sheer, these ribbed tanks demand a bra underneath. Pairing your men's undershirt with a hot-pink or black bra adds a little edge to the clean look of white cotton. For a more innocent look, wear it with a flesh-colored **racer-back bra**.

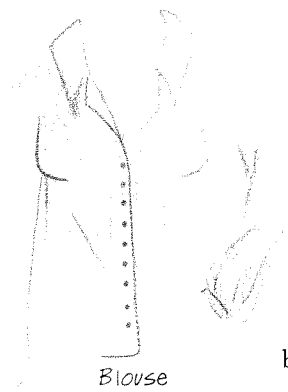
BLOUSE

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: Most women's button-up shirts that have a loose waistline or bodice are considered blouses.

WHO MADE IT: Men first wore shirts called blouses in the early 17th century. These were basically loose undershirts meant for absorbing sweat. Blouses made the leap from men's underwear to women's outerwear in the 1860s, when women tried out a more fashionable style called Garibaldi shirts. The full-sleeved, high-necked blouses mimicked the red shirts that Italian military leader Giuseppe Garibaldi chose for his men. This was one of the first instances of women wearing shirts with skirts, though they did so with a rib-cage-clinging belt that made the fit akin to a dress.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Blouses became smart wear with the rise in prominence of working women in the '80s. Some onscreen examples of blouse-wearing leading ladies are Lily Tomlin in 1980's *Nine to Five*, Sigourney Weaver in 1988's *Working Girl*, Elizabeth Perkins in the 1988 film *Big*, and a cross-dressing Dustin Hoffman in *Tootsie* in 1982.

HOW TO ROCK IT: Blouses can bring sophistication to anything—even a plain pair of jeans with flats. Because many blouses are made from see-through silks and chiffons, it's good to pair them with **camisoles** for an ultrafemme, but still conservative, look.



Blouse

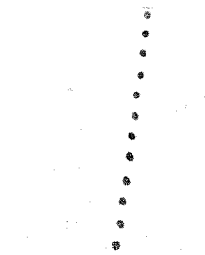
CARDIGAN

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: A collarless sweater with buttons, snaps, or hooks all the way down the front, a cardigan can be worn open like a jacket or fully closed like a pullover sweater.

WHO MADE IT: The cardigan style came from England's Earl Cardigan, who in 1854 led the Charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimea. Some historians say Cardigan wore his shoulder cape like a button-up jacket. Others contend he wore his long johns top open. Either way, the open-front look caught on and became known as the cardigan.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Grace Kelly was the queen of cardigans with **pencil skirts**.

HOW TO ROCK IT: Whether you wear your cardigan with an old T, like Kurt Cobain, or with only the top buttons fastened, like a prim and proper schoolgirl, this lightweight, layer-friendly, and versatile sweater works in all seasons.



Cardigan

Breaking a Sweat

Sweaters can be knit of a seemingly endless selection of fibers. Here are a few to get you through chilly nights.

alpaca ● a material that comes from alpaca, a camel-like South American animal whose fleece makes soft, luxurious fibers for sweaters and

CROP TOP

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

The waistline of this tiny, tight-fitting T or tank falls right at the ribs, exposing miles of midriff.



WHO MADE IT: The crop top may have originated, in part, from the *choli*, a fitted half top that Indian women have worn under their saris for centuries. Another midriff-baring precursor to today's crop top is the shirt worn by belly dancers, who first performed stateside at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

Crop Top

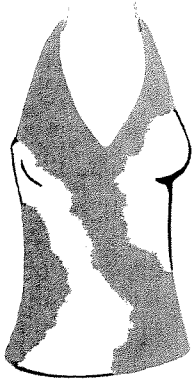
WHO MADE IT HOT: Barbara Eden in the 1960s sitcom *I Dream of Jeannie*, who wore bra-like crop tops with billowing, gypsy-type pants.

HOW TO ROCK IT: Gwen Stefani layers bikini tops over her crops, further emphasizing her toned abs. But if you don't have the belly to sport this look, try wearing crops like Indian women, as a cool underlayer to other clothing, like **overall**s.

angora ● supersoft fabric made from the hair of an angora rabbit, often used to make luxury sweaters and scarves. It is more lightweight and doesn't shrink as much as wool. Angora fibers are equipped with air pockets that trap warmth without the weight.

chenille ● type of supersoft fuzzy yarn or fabric

HALTER



Halter

WHAT IT LOOKS

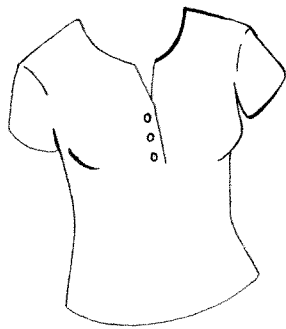
LIKE: This top is sleeveless like a **tank** but features a low back. Its U straps wrap or tie around the back of the neck to expose bare shoulders.

WHO MADE IT:

The halter neckline was first developed for evening gowns in the 1930s. In 1938, Levi's launched its Katharine Hepburn-inspired Tropical Togs line of colorful denim separates, which included halter tops. The cut went on to become popular for women's beachwear in the 1940s. But it was in the free-wheeling '60s and flashy '70s that halters made out of handkerchiefs and slinky fabrics like Lurex stole the spotlight.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Halston—a designer of slinky gowns worn by celebs to Studio 54 in the '70s—was best known for his sultry halter-style dresses. It was a look carried on by *Sex and the City*'s Samantha, who wore shirts and dresses with halter-top cuts as part of her highbrow, sexed-up character.

HOW TO ROCK IT: Try a high-neck, fitted halter to perfectly juxtapose a pair of slouchy slacks.



Henley



HENLEY

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: Henleys are short- or long-sleeved Ts with a slit neckline, no collar, and typically three buttons for closure.

WHO MADE IT: The Henley originated in the mid-19th century as part of the uniforms of the rowing crew in the English city of Henley-on-Thames. Rowers would wear the Henley—then known simply as a **vest**—along with **blazers**, **trousers**, and straw boater hats. These days, rowers wear sporty **tank tops** while on the water, but the Henley still has its place in fashion; it's now a staple of American sportswear, with companies like J. Crew regularly offering it.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Ivy League sporting life-inspired clothiers, like J. Crew and Abercrombie & Fitch, have long borrowed from the rower's uniform, making the Henley popular for decades. Later in her career, supermodel Lauren Hutton wore Henleys for J. Crew in the '90s.

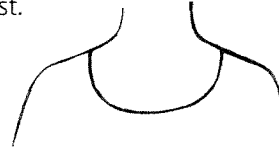
HOW TO ROCK IT: Like a T-shirt, a Henley works with **cords**, jeans, **track pants**—any kind of casual wear. For a layered look, wear it unbuttoned with a cute tank underneath.

Know Your Necklines

boat ● a wide neckline that mimics the line of the collarbone.



scoop ● a U-shaped neckline that dips down on the chest.



cowl ● a draped neckline that dips down on the chest or across the shoulders.



slit ● a crew neck that creates a narrow V in the front.



crew ● a neckline with ribbed trim.



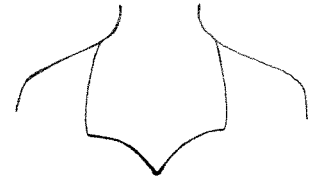
square ● a wide neckline that drops straight down and crosses horizontally to make a square shape.



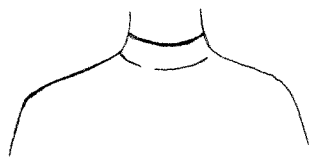
keyhole/cutout ● a high neckline with a round cutout.



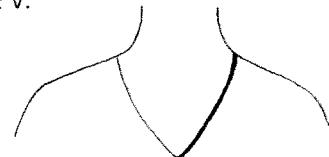
sweetheart ● a square neck with an M front that resembles the top of a heart.



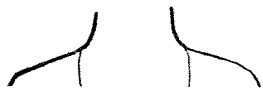
mock ● a short turtleneck that stands about 1½ inches tall.



V ● a neckline that dips down on the chest in a wide V.



plunging ● a superdeep V neckline.

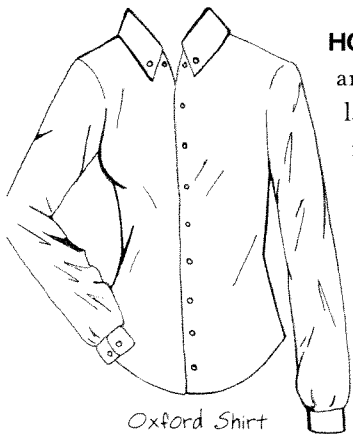


OXFORD SHIRT

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: Fashioned after a men's work shirt, this shirt has collars that button down and long sleeves with single cuffs.

WHO MADE IT: In 1900, Brooks Brothers introduced the oxford shirt for men. The company emulated a style of shirt worn by English polo players, whose collars were kept buttoned down (and not flying up) while they played. Forty-nine years later, the company finally tailored one for women — made in pink, of course — which helped usher in "prepster cool" among Ivy League American girls and loafer-wearing collegiate wannabes.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Candice Bergen has sported oxford shirts both in her private life and in her TV role on *Murphy Brown*, creating a no-nonsense look for the ladies. Scarlett Johansson wore oxford after oxford in the 2003 film *Lost in Translation*.



Oxford Shirt

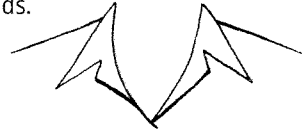
HOW TO ROCK IT: Take an oxford from straight-laced to saucy by unfastening the top three buttons and allowing a peek of lacy **camisole** to show through.

Peasant Shirt

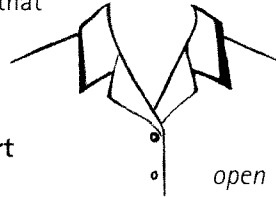


Key Collars

butterfly ● a wide, oversize open collar with drastically pointy ends.



convertible ● a collar that looks like a lapel jacket when worn open, and like the collar of an **oxford shirt** when worn closed.



closed

open

Peter Pan ● a narrow collar with round ends that fits closely to the neck.



mandarin ● a small collar that stands about 1/2-inch high and sits close to the neck.



PEASANT SHIRT

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: This loose-fitting blouse can take many forms, but its basic shape lends itself to the **chemise** and it typically has loose-fitting sleeves. It's usually made of cotton or muslin, worn on or off the shoulder, and features a slit neckline or lace-up front.

WHO MADE IT: Male colonial settlers in the 1700s wore peasant shirts, knickers, and long stockings along with their powdered wigs. Though the style originated with European paupers, Yves Saint Laurent created the Rich Peasant and Peasant Chic looks for his 1976 runway shows.

WHO MADE IT HOT: For the ever-cool intellectual Beatniks and folk rockers of the '60s (like Joan Baez), peasant shirts were a wardrobe must. New-school hippie Kate Hudson is the modern-day peasant-shirt fashion plate.

HOW TO ROCK IT: To avoid looking like a full-blown hippie or ren-fair queen, pair your peasant not with a long, flowy skirt, but with tailored, superdark denim and flats or **espadrilles**.

POLO SHIRT

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: Essentially a T-shirt with a collar, this pullover typically has three buttons at the top center. It can be short- or long-sleeved and is most often made of cotton or cotton pique.

WHO MADE IT: These shirts were originally made of wool and worn for playing polo in the early 1900s. But French tennis player René Lacoste—nicknamed “the crocodile” for his quick game—eventually designed the version known so well today. He first wore his short-sleeved, breathable cotton pique creation on the courts in 1927. In 1933, in one of the first examples of blatant branding, he slapped his crocodile logo on the breast of the shirts and

WHO MADE IT HOT: Ali McGraw epitomized Ivy League chic in the 1969 film *Goodbye Columbus*. Decked in her white polo shirt, she was *the* rich college girl—a look that was emulated en masse across the country. Gwyneth Paltrow wore Lacoste polo dresses all through the 2001 film *The Royal Tenenbaums*, breathing new life into the old style and brand.

HOW TO ROCK IT: For a preppy look, pop up your collar. For a more modern look, do like Natalie Portman and wear a polo in an unconventional color (like lime green) with a dropped-waist skirt.



Polo Shirt

Writing the Book on Preppy

The term *preppy* was invented by author Erich Segal, who in his novel and movie *Love Story* called a perfectly dressed, perfect-acting person who attended prep school a “preppy.” Can’t get enough prepster cool? Check out Lisa Birnbach’s *The Official Preppy Handbook*, which was published in 1980.

SEE-THROUGH SHIRT (AKA SHEER SHIRT)

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: A top made of chiffon, micromesh, or any sheer fabric.

WHO MADE IT: Though Yves Saint Laurent is sometimes credited with inventing the see-through shirt in 1968, Peggy Moffitt, muse to West Coast designer Rudi Gernreich, wore Gernreich's 1964 version on the streets months before Yves Saint Laurent's Paris show. Gernreich's exposure of the female form didn't stop at the see-through shirt. He was also the first to create the topless bathing suit in 1964—a shocking but successful launch that sold 3,000 suits—and the no-bra bra, a design with sheer netting that simply covered the boobs instead of molding them to a round or missile shape.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Songbirds of every genre have copied Moffitt and Yves Saint Laurent's models. Since the style's debut, rocker Courtney Love, pop star Dannii Minogue, and pop rocker Sheryl Crow have all worn see-through shirts on stage.

HOW TO ROCK IT: It's all what's underneath when donning a see-through shirt. Choose a dark **push-up bra** if you're feeling flashy or a silky **camisole** if you're feeling more demure.



*See-Through Shirt
(AKA Sheer Shirt)*

SLEEVELESS SHIRT (AKA SHELL)

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: A sleeveless shirt differs from a **tank top** in that the armholes are cut more narrow and straight, not in toward the shoulder blades. Sleeveless shirts can have a collar or not, be pulled over or buttoned up. A crewneck-style pullover sleeveless shirt is also called a shell.

WHO MADE IT: It's hard to say who created the sleeveless shirt. Like **Bermuda shorts**, it may be that the look was born out of the necessity to keep cool in hot climates. Another theory comes from Australian folklore: In the early 1890s, a sheep shearer named Jacky Howe cut the sleeves off his flannel shirt to help him shear sheep faster than anyone in the world. Some folks still call sleeveless flannels "Jacky Howes."

WHO MADE IT HOT: By wearing **shift dresses** and donning shells for casual shopping trips, Jackie Kennedy and daughter Caroline brought elegance and grace to sleeveless dressing.

HOW TO ROCK IT: Since this is the most conservative style of tank, reserve a sleeveless shirt for visits with the grandparents or a community picnic. By pairing it with a single-strand of pearls or **pendant necklace** and a **pencil skirt**, you'll pass the decency test every time.



*Sleeveless Shirt
(AKA Shell)*



T-Shirt
(Ringer T)

T-SHIRT

WHAT IT LOOKS

LIKE: The T-shirt is cut to resemble the letter T. T-shirts generally have crew necks and short sleeves, though long-sleeved, scoop neck, ringer Ts (shown here), and other styles are also produced.

WHO MADE IT: The T-shirt has naval origins. French, British, and American naval uniforms all included a short-sleeved undershirt in the early 1900s. Legend has it that the British sailors were ordered by captains to sew sleeves onto their undershirts to clean up their look for visiting royals.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Marlon Brando circa 1951 dressed in a plain white T-shirt became the ultimate American tough-guy image—fashion's male counterpart to Marilyn Monroe standing over a breezy street gate in a flowing halter dress. In the 1959 film *Breathless*, Jean Seberg was decked in a *New York Herald Tribune* T-shirt, confirming that the look had infiltrated women's wardrobes as well. The University of Michigan was reportedly the first to emblazon T-shirts with a university logo back in 1933. The logo look has since evolved to say a lot about a person: where the wearer has been, what bands they like, and even how they plan to vote.

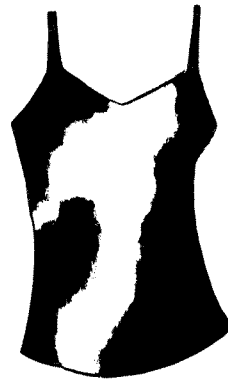
HOW TO ROCK IT: A T-shirt is the final word in no-fuss style. It has no finicky buttons or fasteners, is made from supercomfortable cotton, and can be paired with just about

TANK TOP

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: This top has wider armholes and thinner straps than the traditional sleeveless top. It's generally fitted and made from wash-and-wear materials like cotton or cotton-Lycra blends.

WHO MADE IT: Before the dawn of the T-shirt, men wore tank tops as underwear. The tank didn't become popular in everyday women's dress until skin became a little more "in" during the 1960s and '70s.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Janet Jackson's simple spaghetti-strapped, midriff-baring tank and jeans made a splash when she released her 1990 "Love Will Never Do (Without You)" video, directed by famed fashion photographer Herb Ritts. Of course, her rock-hard abs garnered a little attention, too. Actresses like Franka Potente in the 1998 *Run Lola Run* and Scarlett Johansson in 2007's *The Nanny Diaries* jetted about town in tanks throughout the films, illustrating the tank's sporty side.



Tank Top

HOW TO ROCK IT: Tanks are another basic that work with just about anything.

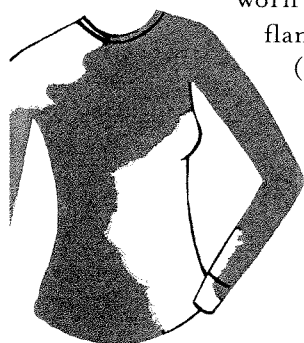
To jazz up a tank-and-jeans combo, pile on **pendant necklaces** of varying lengths or layer a few tanks so the corresponding straps make the colors of the outer layer tank pop.

THERMAL SHIRT (AKA LONG JOHNS TOP)

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: A long-sleeved crewneck shirt made of waffle-weave cotton, the thermal is a closet staple in winter climates.

WHO MADE IT: Thermals originated in the US in the 1800s when Boston-based boxer John L. Sullivan began wearing long wool underpants as a boxing suit (they became known as long johns). The thin long pants and a matching long-sleeved shirt evolved into flannel and then the waffle-weave cotton people wear today.

WHO MADE IT HOT: In the late 1980s, the grungified rockers of the Northwest may have worn thermals under their flannels out of necessity (its freakin' cold in Seattle), but when their music exploded internationally, the look also exploded and landed on runways in a Marc Jacobs line in the early '90s.



Thermal Shirt
(AKA Long
Johns Top)



HOW TO ROCK IT: A timeless look in cold weather dressing: a printed thermal

(anything from hot-pink stars to skull and bones) under a **T-shirt** with jeans.

TUBE TOP

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

This tight, strapless top is often held up by an elastic band.



Tube Top

WHO MADE IT:

Mosaics that date back to fourth century Greece depicted women wearing tube tops, likely for swimming. Modern-day tubes surfaced in the 1950s, when women paired them with shorts and wore them to the beach. Tube tops are most associated with the anything-goes '70s, when young feminists wore the tube, sans bra, as both a sexy and political statement.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Former *Vogue* editor, jet-setter, and trendsetter Diana Vreeland was regularly photographed in the 1940s and 1950s wearing a tube with high-waisted shorts or a **miniskirt** while on holiday in Southampton. More recent tube-toppers include Chloë Sevigny in the 1998 film *Last Days of Disco* and Cameron Diaz, who wore a rainbow-striped tube to the 2001 MTV Movie Awards.

HOW TO ROCK IT: When worn alone, tube tops radiate the light and breezy sensibilities of summer, but when paired with a light jacket or **cardigan**, the tube can go from tart to tasteful in a snap.

Kashmir Connection

Cashmere fibers come from goats, camels, and yaks raised in the mountains of India, Tibet, Afghanistan, and Mongolia, where cold winters encourage the growth of a soft undercoat of downlike fibers. Until 150 years ago, the processing of these fibers — called *pashm* — into fabric, was done only in Kashmir, India. When the British learned of the Kashmir shawl, they incorrectly referred to it — and the fiber itself — as "cashmere." The name has stuck. Meanwhile, the term *pashm* experienced a rebirth in the West, due to the surging popularity of the pashmina wrap — a silk and pashm scarf that became one of the biggest trends of the '90s thanks to stars like Jennifer Aniston.

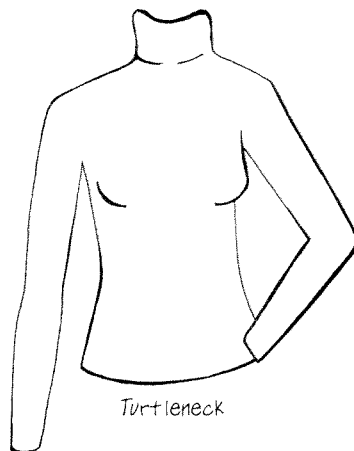
TURTLENECK

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: A winter must-have, the turtleneck is a pullover that features a high collar that covers the entire neck. When the collar covers only half the neck, the look is called a mock turtleneck.

WHO MADE IT: English polo players first wore turtlenecks in the 1860s. By the early 1900s, the style had become part of US football players' uniforms.

WHO MADE IT HOT: In the 1940s, Greta Garbo and Marlene Dietrich donned turtlenecks with their **trousers**, helping catapult the shirt from sporting uniform to style piece. Audrey Hepburn was famously photographed in her turtleneck, trousers, and flats in the 1950s. The Gap revived this image in their 2006 "Keep It Simple" campaign, showing footage of the late Hepburn dancing in her signature look in the 1957 movie *Funny Face*. And don't forget about Velma, the braniac from *Scooby Doo*, who always wore an orange turtleneck on Scooby adventures.

HOW TO ROCK IT: Turtlenecks will work with pretty much anything—they can take the skin-exposing look of the **mini** down a notch or make **capri pants** look artsy-cool.



Turtleneck

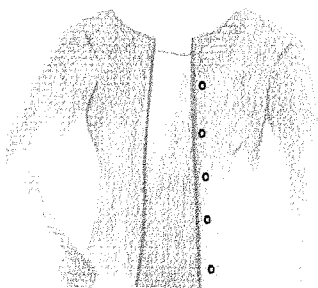
TWINSET

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: A twinset pairs a **sleeveless shirt** (also called a shell) and a **cardigan** made of the same material.

WHO MADE IT: Coco Chanel created the first twinset in the early 1920s. She used jersey knit cloth—usually reserved for making underwear—to design a crewneck and cardigan from the same color.

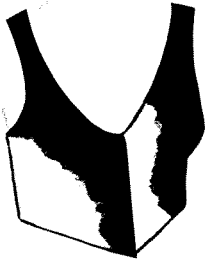
WHO MADE IT HOT: Actress Lana Turner sparked a clamoring for sweater sets after she wore them in various films, including 1959's *Imitation of Life*. She became so known for her tight double tops, which she wore a few sizes too small, that she garnered the nickname "the sweater girl."

HOW TO ROCK IT: Twinsets can look a little too "soccer mom" with a simple pair of **trousers**. To funk things up a little, try wearing them with bubble skirts.



VEST

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: This sleeveless top can be either a pullover sweater vest, usually with a V-neck, or a button-front vest that can be worn with a men's suit, also called a shirtwaist.



Vest

WHO MADE IT: The English adopted the style from the Turks in the 17th century. Rather than creating the vest from silks and muslins as the Turks did, the British used wool

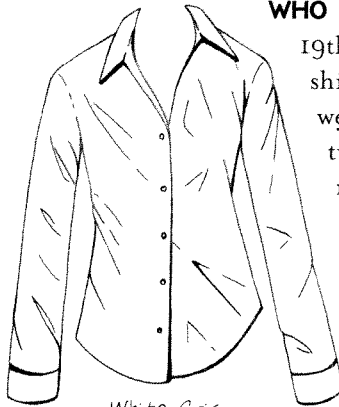
to create a gruffer look and made it part of what's now known as the three-piece suit.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Eighties pop queen Debbie Gibson brought the vest out of menswear oblivion and into the closets of thousands of teens. Kate Moss is known as a fashion troubadour, but she is most often photographed in her tiny shorts and open vests worn over T-shirts.

HOW TO ROCK IT: A very fitted pinstriped vest (swiped right from a man's suit) looks sexy buttoned up with just a bra underneath.

WHITE CRISP DRESS SHIRT

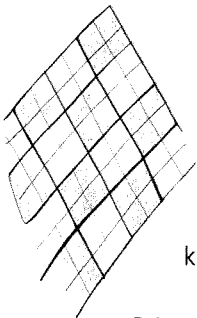
WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: This collared shirt with buttons down the front is made of white cotton and often features a breast pocket and single cuffs.



White Crisp Dress Shirt

WHO MADE IT: Back in the 19th century, the white dress shirt was first worn as formal wear—namely with men's tuxedos. But as Americans moved into the 20th century, the men's dress shirt was chosen for less formal evening events and, finally, the corporate world. It wasn't until the greed-is-good '80s that ambitious, high-powered women

began to dress in men's dress shirts when attending both casual and formal functions.



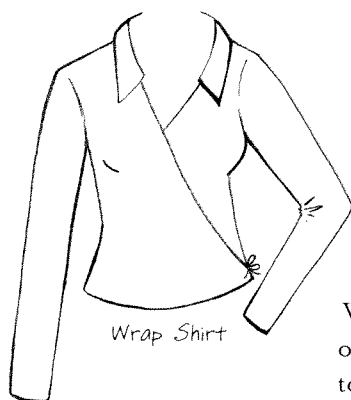
Argyle: From Feet to Geek Chic

The argyle pattern is centuries old, but argyle sweaters and sweater vests are relatively new. Who was responsible for argyle's leap from the socks on Scottish feet to the geek-chic pullovers on our chests? The fashionable Duke of Windsor, who in 1920 asked knitwear specialist Pringle of Scotland to create a sweater to go with his argyle socks.

Pringle fashioned the diagonal segments of tartan plaid in a sweater form—a look that was adopted by Scottish golfers in the 1930s. The argyle wasn't the only sweater the snappy-dressing Duke helped make trendy—when he wore the Fair Isle fisherman's sweater (a pullover sweater knitted with colorful patterns) and the tennis sweater (a V-neck, cable-knit sweater with thick stripes bordering the V) as casual wear, the locals followed suit.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Sharon Stone turned heads by wearing one of her husband's white crisp shirts with a floor-length, **ball gown**-style skirt at the 1998 Academy Awards.

HOW TO ROCK IT: Like the **little black dress**, this classic men's shirt is a wardrobe staple for women. It can be worn with the top buttons undone, or tied at the waist à la '50s glamour queen Marilyn Monroe.



WRAP SHIRT

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE: Typically designed with a convertible collar or V-neck, this shirt has one side that wraps on top of the other and ties on the side.

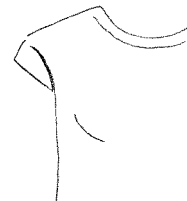
WHO MADE IT: Though the origins of the wrap shirt aren't well documented, this figure-hugging version of the **white crisp dress shirt** likely stemmed from the centuries-old **kimono**.

WHO MADE IT HOT: Ballerinas have traditionally tied thin wrap sweaters over their **leotards** post-workout, giving a chic, sweet, and street look to their dancewear. Company dancers in the 2000 film *Center Stage* tied delicate wraps over their spandex **tanks**.

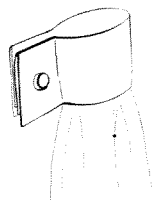
HOW TO ROCK IT: Even if your best friend is a few sizes smaller than you, the wrap shirt is likely to be the one thing that you can borrow from

Sleeves and Cuffs

cap sleeve ● an abbreviated T-shirt sleeve that barely covers the shoulder.



double cuff ● a cuff usually closed with two buttons.

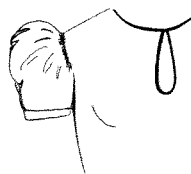


French cuff (aka reversible double cuff) ● a type of double cuff that turns back and is fastened with a button.

kimono sleeve ● a very exaggerated open sleeve.



knit cuff ● a ribbed cuff that provides a tight fit around the wrist.



puff sleeve ● this gathered sleeve stands up, away from the shoulder.

single cuff ● a cuff usually closed with one button.

