

Fashion Forecast

by Sandra Keiser and Brenda Schweder

Find your colorful side

While spring style favored a muted palette, summer fashion is more playful. The tunic and wrap dress blossom in silk scarf prints with flowers or swirls. Trends from the 80s — preppy and nautical looks — have emerged with a more tailored fit. Primary colors pair with crisp white, giving polo shirts and Bermuda shorts distinction. And accessories such as shoes, charm bracelets, and hoop earrings are now larger in scale.



PREPPY PREVAILS

The beloved polo shirt is now fitted, with a longer placket (think plunging neckline) and a puff or cap sleeve. Seersucker appears in unexpected ways (such as in a halter dress). To take the chill off a cool evening, layer a body-skimming argyle sweater or rugby-striped cardigan. When accessorized with colorful jewelry and shoes, the look is casual yet put-together.

NAUTICAL NECESSITIES

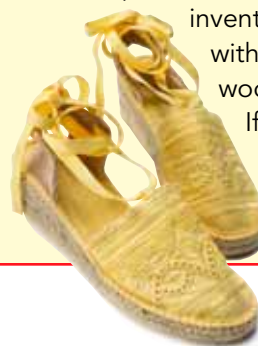
Red, yellow, and blue energize summer fashions. You'll have smooth sailing in a striped tee and sailor pants topped off with a cable-knit sweater. Accessorize with a rope belt or a bag with braided handles. Shiny brass buttons are also an eye-catching embellishment.

WHITE-IN VOTE

The perfect partner for brilliant summer colors, white is everywhere — in button-down shirts, trench coats, and cropped pants. Tailoring is key: if you prefer an oversized shirt, find one with high armholes, and cinch the waist with a belt. For a romantic look, try a ruffy blouse or babydoll top and eyelet skirt.

SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

Heels are either flat or high, but finding the right pair won't be a tall order. Look for an espadrille with ribbon ties, a Mary Jane or T-strap, or a sexy peep toe. Get an inventive pair of wedges with heels made of wood, cork, or jute. If you prefer flats, try a macramé thong sandal.



HOOP IT UP

A pair of large, round hoops is a must-have. If you don't want bangle-sized earrings, many face-flattering styles abound.

- 1 **Chained up** Chains curve around or crisscross the hoop (some, like dream catchers).
- 2 **On the perimeter** Beads twist around the hoop like a vine.
- 3 **Concentric** Circles within circles flatter the curve of your neck. Teardrop shapes are also popular.
- 4 **Charming** One or a handful of charms swings from the hoop.



CHARMED

The charm craze rages on, with heaps of vintage and new trinkets to choose from.

SUPERSIZED The updated charm bracelet has bigger links and charms. Find charms in gold or enamel or encrusted with gemstones. Oversized tokens also appear in belts, necklaces, and earrings, sometimes off-center.



SINGLE The stand-alone charm echoes a spiritual theme: wear a cross, heart, or star on a delicate chain. Try a dove, panda, seahorse, bumblebee, or even a gold lion head or a pavé Hello Kitty.

CLUSTERS

Gemstones, trinkets, and chains dangle from a ring, a decorative safety pin, or the bottom of a long necklace.



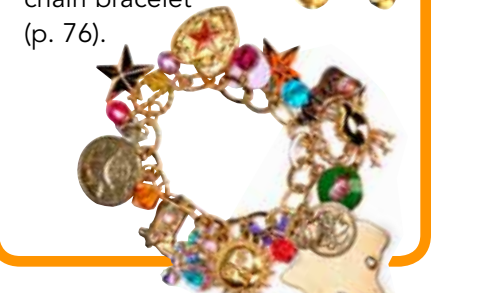
EXTRAVAGANZA Charms, chain tassels, and chandelier crystals cover every jewelry surface, attached with loops or tied with ribbon or cord.

DO IT YOURSELF

- ▶ Pair a long necklace (p. 44) with a wrap dress.
- ▼ Hammer simple hoop earrings (p. 38).



- ▶ Gorgeous earrings (p. 85) dress up a simple polo shirt.
- ▼ Suspend big, vintage charms from a large-link chain bracelet (p. 76).



JEWELRY LINKS

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

jenniferleitzes.com

lisalevinejewelry.com

lizziescheck.com

marnierocks.com

pagesargisson.com

patsusa.com

Sandra is chair of the fashion department at Mount Mary College, Milwaukee. Contact her in care of BeadStyle. Contact Brenda at Brenda Schweder Jewelry, b@brendaschweder.com.