

# Fashion Outlook

Creative necking

## Wrapping up the latest scarves

By Rochelle Chadakoff

This season, fashion experts and enthusiastic shoppers agree that the secret to a well-accessorized wardrobe is a scarf. They utter the word with the confidence of a stockbroker with a solid-gold investment tip. They rhapsodize about its powers until they bring to mind those late-night TV ads for Veg-o-matic. ("It slices. It dices.")

But the promise that a scarf is an all-season, all-purpose fashion tool has solid backing: In its January issue, Vogue previewed the fashion news for 1989, declaring, "The most versatile item: a scarf. Giant-sized, knotted and draped like a toga, it now becomes a blouse, a halter top, a wrapped skirt."

Vogue's vision of the scarf requires some fancy folding and perhaps some breath-holding; most women who swear by scarves think along the lines of Lisa, my friend the scarf-wearer, who says, "I see a scarf as a fast way to change my look. When I wear a suit with a jewel neck, instead of wearing a necklace, I can wrap a scarf so it looks like a turtleneck. Or I dress up a plain blouse by wearing a scarf camp style. Sometimes I wear a scarf wrapped around my waist like a cummerbund."

Lisa may experiment with a scarf's possibilities to add color and personal dash to her outfits, but she is selective about the type.

"Only Hermes scarves," she says. "They're large enough to be worn many ways, the colors are beautiful, and they are made from a lovely heavy silk twill. I bought my first one when I was 13. I was flying home from Italy, and the scarf was duty free. Last year, I treated myself to the scarf Hermes featured to commemorate their 150th anniversary. I now have 10 Hermes scarves, but one's on loan to my mother."

The cachet of a Hermes scarf is undebatable. When a French astronaut joined a recent Russian space mission, one of the things he packed was a special Hermes scarf.

The Paris-based Hermes family, "saddlers since 1837," began making silk scarves in 1937 when Robert Dumas-Hermes introduced the first wood-blocked design, "Jeu des Omnis et Dames Blanches," depicting a popular game from the 1700s. Over the last 50 years, Hermes has created 900 scarves. Now it introduces six designs each fall and spring and updates 25 "classics." Many of the distinctive designs have an equestrian theme, but the spectrum is quite wide. A popular



ECHO has done a lot for the tradition of wearing scarves by creating a wide array of affordable patterns. This Matisse-inspired scarf will turn any outfit into art.

The idea that a scarf is a piece of art appeals to both fashionable women and designers. Louis Vuitton will introduce scarves created by artists, including Sol le Witt, James Rosenquist and Arata Isozaki. The consumer investment for these artworks: \$165.

If you're looking for a scarf inspired by great art, but not requiring a great deal of money, check out the catalog from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which includes moderately priced silk scarves with patterns inspired from their Oriental and other collections. The Guggenheim has offered Picasso prints and the Museum of Folk Art has used quilt and folkloric patterns.

Well-known designers have put their imprint on the accessory market by creating scarf lines. Dior, Chanel, Kenzo, Ungaro, Givenchy and Gianfranco Ferré have created patterns to accessorize their haute-couture designs. (Expect to pay at least \$100.)

American designers have also squared off their business by translating their distinctive look to this popu-

**They're a great way to solve that knotty fashion problem: how to give any outfit a new twist.**

lar accessory. Most department stores offer scarves (usually from \$30 to \$75) created by favorite designers Ralph Lauren, Perry Ellis, Liz Claiborne, Ellen Tracy and Anne Klein.

Scarves are such big sellers that most designers can't afford to ignore the market. This spring, Calvin Klein will introduce some scarves, as will Coach Leather.

Long before designer labels held so much prestige, Vera and Echo were familiar names to women buying scarves. Both companies continue to put out lines of moderately priced scarves. This spring, Echo, which has been making scarves for 65 years, offers floral bouquets, fanciful geometrics and nautical styles.

The wrap-up on scarves? A great



LAVISH preparation makes a lavish product for Hermes: Each one of their intricate designs is silkscreened.

### OUR LANGUAGE

by Jeffrey McQuain

Stylet refers to a slender probe used in surgery to explore wounds. You'll discover there's a helpful clue for spelling stylet that's in style.

In Britain, broly means "umbrella." This usage may sound all wet to some, but broly has kept the British dry for more than a century.

Q. When people pronounce the word "perfect," some stress the first syllable and others the second. Which should it be?

A. Emphasize the first syllable of the adjective perfect; however, emphasize the second syllable of the verb perfect, as in "Perfect your pronunciation."

That way your pronunciation will be perfect.

Despise looks down on or scorns. You may not like this strong verb, but there's no reason to despise it.

The adjective intrinsic describes a part that's essential or basic to the nature of something. For an intrinsic spelling clue, you'll find in twice.

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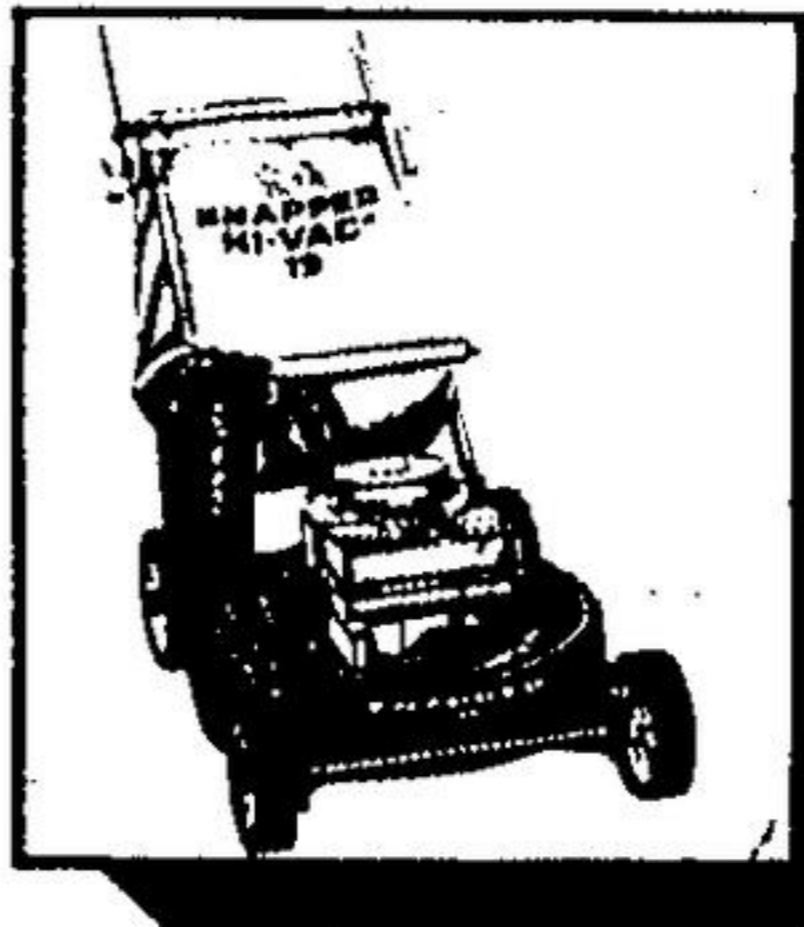


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