

Fashion meets function Sunglasses: More than meets the eye

FASHION



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Today's sunglasses are as much about style as eye protection. While the fashion-conscious have virtual wardrobes of sunglasses that they choose for sheer fashion value, these same glasses do have a more practi-

cal function.

"People today have more than one pair of sunglasses," explains Norman Salik, vice president of public relations for Ray-Ban, the sunglass division of Bausch & Lomb. "It's no longer an issue of sunglasses as fashion accessories. Today they are a fashion necessity."

While some people buy three or four pairs of sunglasses at a clip, the average number of sunglasses purchased per person is 1.3 pairs, according to Ray-Ban research done two years ago.

Currently, sunglass trends match styles found in films and, as always, reflect an aura of mystery, romance and drama. As status accessories, sunglasses are unmatched in their range of fantasy-meets-function styles.

"The trends continue to be dominated by older '50s-type styles that are pretty much generated from movies rather than any other factor," observes Salik. "I hate to keep using the Tom Cruise influence, but look at what he did for sunglasses in the movies 'Risky Business' and 'Top Gun.' The same thing is happening as a result of his movie 'Rain Man.'"

Serengeti eyewear from Corning Optics was made famous by race-car drivers who preferred its glare-reducing features. Since their 1982 introduction, Serengeti glasses have stressed protective lenses, and this year they strengthen their fashion sensibility with 20 new styles.

According to Sharon A. Stone, marketing manager for Corning Optics, eyewear has definitely become a status accessory, reflected in today's more elegant materials and treatments.

"Over the past few years," she explains, "consumers have become more sophisticated about eyewear. They understand the need for protective lenses, and they have come to expect good-looking, streamlined design. Now they want something more — sunglasses that combine these features with a rich fashion awareness."

Stone cites the following eyewear trends:

- Surfaces that look and feel expensive. Gold and tortoise frames fit the

classic bid to elegance.

- Two-tone and two-textured effects. Look for combinations like black mixed with colored textured materials.

- Black frames. In matte or shiny finishes, these are classics, whatever the styling. Aviator, '50s, "nerd," beaded and sculpted shapes rely on black.

- Neon frames. Brightly colored frames take their cue from sports. Flashy neon tones are popularized by surfers and skiers.

- Colored lenses. Rose-colored glasses and other pastel-tinted lenses are a big story this year.

Designer names obviously add cachet to sunglasses. At Optyl, major international designers like Christian Lacroix, Christian Dior, Alfred Dunhill and Paloma Picasso create highly stylized lines of sunglasses.

From European designers this year, look for "art" details like the arabesque sculpture forms circling Lacroix's bold round sunglasses. Dior's wrap-around frames are black with metallic accents. Sculpted shapes dominate the Picasso line, which likes tortoise and hard gold in frames.

Whatever the style, Optyl offers these shopping tips:

- Make certain that lenses offer protection. Optimum lenses absorb 100 percent of ultraviolet, or UV, rays, which can impair vision, age the eyes and contribute to cataract formation.

- Determine the shape of your face, and purchase shapes according to the following guidelines:

Oval — Choose standard shapes



OPTYL offers stylish eyewear from big-name designers. Left: Christian Lacroix creates temples of sculptured links in gold and turquoise (\$250). Right: Sunglasses by Paloma Picasso feature gold-plated hinges (\$100).

and designs, but avoid frames that are too small or narrow and that curve up and out.

Round — Angular frames work beautifully. Vertical and up-swept lines are appropriate. Avoid shapes that are round or too narrow; also, stay away from thin-rimmed frames.

Square — For women, large oval shapes with broad, vivid rims are right. For men, square frames on square faces underscore a look of strength. Women should also avoid small and vertical accented frames.

Triangular — These faces look best

with thin-rimmed frames, but avoid bold colors and up-swept lines.

- Look for frames that follow the natural line of the eyebrow.

- Consider your hair style. Light, thin or short hair calls for delicate frames. Heavier, more dramatic frames are right for thick, dark hair.

- A long nose can be corrected by a low bridge, and a short nose with a high bridge. Big noses call for big, thick frames.

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False alarms keep local Fire Dept. busy

The Halton Regional Fire Department report Georgetown and Acton seniors' homes experienced a number of false fire alarms during the last few days of April. The first of the four occurred April 27 in the morning at the seniors building at 8 Durham St., Georgetown. A malfunctioning alarm was given as the cause. Malfunctioning alarms were also the reason for false alarms at senior homes at 3 Hyde Park, Georgetown at 4:05 p.m., and at 11:26 a.m. at 17 Elizabeth Dr. in Acton.

The Holy Cross School's fire alarm went off at 10 a.m. and it was also the result of a malfunctioning alarm.

The fire department also responded to two grass fires, the first at 11:45 a.m., April 29 at Lot 6, Con. 8 in Georgetown and the other approximately two hours later on the First Line in Erin Township. The Georgetown fire resulted from someone burning off dry grass and the one in Erin was caused when a resident dumped ashes on a brush site.

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