

HOW TO DRESS WELL EVERY DAY: WE DO THE MATHS

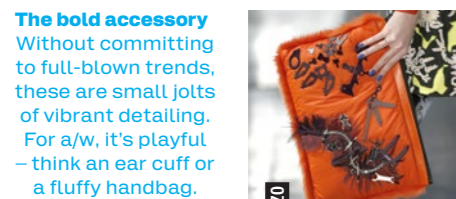
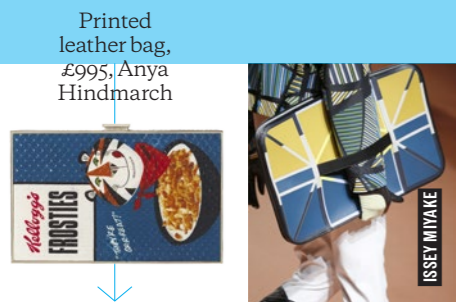
You know the drill. 'I have **nothing** to wear.' The answer isn't more clothes. In fashion, as in life, quantity doesn't equal quality. Whatever the size of your wardrobe, making it work is about getting the balance right: pay attention to its proportions. We've done the work for you – split your rail as follows, and you'll never again be stuck for what to wear

Compiled by **Maybelle Morgan**

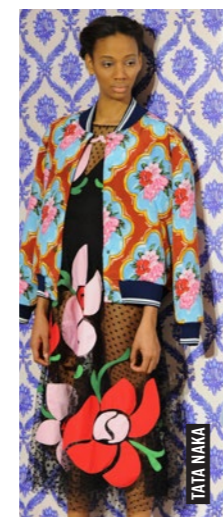
25%

TREND-LED PIECES

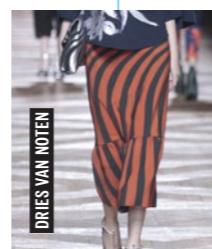
These are the shiny injections of joy to cherry-pick as the mood suits. You have free rein, with one caveat: this is one in, one out. But these pieces aren't meant to last more than a season. Head to the high street; only spend big if you think it might transition into a classic.



The bold accessory
Without committing to full-blown trends, these are small jolts of vibrant detailing. For a/w, it's playful – think an ear cuff or a fluffy handbag.



The trophy jacket
A fun outfit finisher – team with denim or a miniskirt. This season, look out for bright colour-pop anoraks.



The new-length skirt
This could be midi, mini or knee-length, but showing the right amount of leg will mark you as on-trend.

20%

COATS & JACKETS

When you find a coat that works for you – a pea coat, wrap or mac in navy, grey, black or camel – keep it fresh by dry-cleaning and relining at the beginning of each season. The cuts of these classic shapes don't tend to shift seasonally, so you can really invest.

HOW TO SHOP IT
Kitty Cooper, Personal Shopper, Selfridges
'Understanding your body shape should come before anything else – aesthetic preferences or budget – even for one-season wonder buys. A total of 35 pieces should be sufficient for a strong capsule wardrobe. For big investment pieces, a coat, a bag and a pair of shoes will provide a foundation. For the coat, choose a bold colour – a beautifully cut Prada will last for years. For shoes, select a trans-seasonal, versatile style – the Jimmy Choo 'Agnes' has the perfect heel height. A bag that you use every day represents a big spend, but the cost-per-wear is low. For work, start with one amazing dress – it becomes a focal point for your whole office wardrobe.'

Photography: 3 Objectives, Kai Z Feng, Jason Lloyd-Evans, Anthea Simms.

The bomber
Versatility is the bomber's number one selling point: in plaid, leather, silk and more, the varieties are endless.



The shearling
Ultra-luxe yet offering a boho feel, the shearling is the perfect unfussy throw-on piece for the weekend.



The coat
Timeless and reliable, this military-style double-breasted number works draped over anything and everything.



The casual dress
Inject femininity into laid-back weekend looks with the staple relaxed dress. Throw on and layer up – easy like Sunday morning.



15%

DRESSES

One-piece dressing at its simplest. Keep them neat, around the knee, and in classic colours for an easy office staple, plus casual dresses for effortless outfit-building. A couple of great sundresses are essential, too.



The shift dress
Office-appropriate, yet evening-friendly: this a classic for a reason. Up the ante with interesting textures.



ACTING SENIOR FASHION EDITOR **MICHELLE DUGUID** SOLVES YOUR WARDROBE WOES:

DO GO SHOPPING WITH A LIST AND **DON'T** DEVIATE FROM IT.

DON'T LISTEN TO THE SALESPERSON. THEY WILL INEVITABLY HAVE A DIFFERENT (OFTEN MISGUIDED) VIEW ON WHAT SUITS YOU.

HOW TO EDIT IT

Eliisa Makin, Stylist,
thewardrobeconsultant.co.uk

'To start, discard anything that you've told yourself you'll mend or DIY (you won't), and items you haven't worn for more than two years (you won't again). Be rigorous with replacing basics: T-shirts, vest tops, white shirts and even jeans (those with an elastane content or in a dark colour) don't age well, so refresh your stock every six months or so. When it comes to coats, there are two key purchases: a classic in camel or black, and a trend-led piece. It's a fashion fallacy that good tailoring lasts forever – the cut can look stale quickly, so this area needs to be reviewed each year to stay on top of trend changes.

The blazer
The throw-on that makes casual whip-smart in 10 seconds. And it doesn't have to be black.

The jumper
Cosy, comfortable, goes with everything. Job done.



Wool jumper, £175, Whistles

JIL SANDER



15%

BASICS

They may not excite you, but basics make getting dressed easier. Wear these useful pieces – a plain white or grey tee, a sweatshirt – with the stuff that sets your heart racing. Stock up on what works for you; washing machines wage war on even the highest-quality clothing.

The Breton-striped top

A swift way to add a pattern hit. Stripes are your friend.



Wool and leather jumper, £209, Claudie Pierlot



Cotton sweatshirt, £140, Être Cécile

The sweatshirt
Casual, urban: make it contemporary with textured or surface embellishment.



PRINGLE OF SCOTLAND

The pencil skirt
Slim, sexy and goes with absolutely everything, including this season's knee-high boots.



MARGARET HOWELL

10% **TAILORING**

These are the grown-ups of the wardrobe world and details matter: skirt-split or trouser length, shirt cuffs that fall on the right part of your wrist. Once you find a brand with cuts to suit your shape, stick with it – but expect to alter to make it perfect for you. >

The just-so trousers

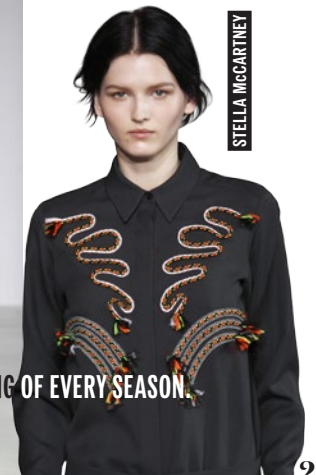
Sitting just on the ankle, in a lightweight fabric, with pockets that lie perfectly flat.



EUDON CHOI

The tailored shirt

Plain is good, but embellishment adds interest – a Peter Pan collar, embroidery or a pussy bow.



STELLA MCCARTNEY

DON'T BUY TROUSERS ONLINE. THE PERFECT LENGTH AND FIT IS TOO PERSONAL. DO A WARDROBE REVIEW AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY SEASON.

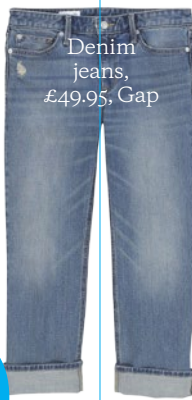
YOUR WARDROBE



10%

DENIM

The casual jeans
Loose and slouchy or distressed boyfriend. Just add a white shirt.



Denim jeans, £49.95, Gap



The killer dress
Feathers, sparkle, studs – it's supposed to be memorable. This is a true-love choice. Throw caution to the wind and invest in a guaranteed head-turner.

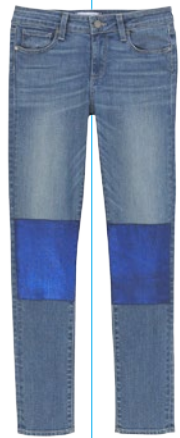


Rayon and acetate dress, £2,670, Stella McCartney

BLUMARINE

5% PARTY

Who cares if you can't walk in those shoes or your dress rains glitter? You should love wearing them and smile when you see them in your wardrobe. Don't be too quick to ditch once it has passed its best - we know party dresses have an emotional attachment. ●



The quirky jeans
This season it's patchwork, but for summer, white or pastels always work.

Denim jeans, £263, Paige Denim

Don't overstock your wardrobe with jeans you won't wear - find a few pairs that fit well, and keep on rotation until they fall apart, or fashion's silhouette shifts. Colour-wise, a light wash and an overdyed denim, plus an inky black, will see you through seasons.

The smart jeans
Straight, skinny or elegantly flared, this is a denim perennial. Take them to a tailor or turn them up for the perfect ankle length.



Denim jeans, £250, Joie



ASHLEY WILLIAMS

The denim jacket
Nineties normcore for cool trans-seasonal dressing.



VANESSA BRUNO

The statement stiletto
One pair of killer heels (and a decent pedicure) is all you need.



PRAGAL GURUNG

Leather sandals, £495, Aquazzura x Olivia Palermo

DO TRY EVERY SINGLE THING ON, AND ORGANISE YOUR WARDROBE INTO OUTFITS. DON'T KEEP IT IF IT DOESN'T WORK.

ELLE SHOP IT For your new-season capsule wardrobe, head to elleuk.com/fashion