

UPDATE YOUR LOOK



How to Wear: VELVET

Luscious and luxurious, velvet makes a timely fashion comeback.

It seems like only yesterday (actually, it was autumn/winter 2005) that velvet was having its umpteenth fashion moment, and yet, just two years on, fashion is again awash with the opulent fabric. The difference this time is that velvet is not being used as just a luxe eveningwear fabric: it works for day, too.

Designers are using the soft, smooth and oh-so plush material on everything from street-skimming skirts to minidresses and suits. And it's all about colour: think Luella's bucolic, equestrian red cropped trousers and blazers and Matthew Williamson's trouser suits in an array of colours, for his Pucci show. Marc Jacobs used a teal velvet gown as the final piece for his autumn/winter show, and Marc by Marc Jacobs is bursting with velvet accessories.

For evening, channel old Hollywood glamour, courtesy of Marc Bouwer's form-fitting gowns and Christopher Kane's "Scarlett O'Hara" sculpted minidresses in crimson and emerald. If you're still feeling a little wary, try accenting instead, with a velvet clutch or ballerina flats from Marc Jacobs. Because this really is a velvet revolution. ■



Bag, Dhs950, Whiting & Davies



Dhs1,995, Vanessa Bruno at Net-a-Porter



Jacket, Dhs7,000, Escada



Shoes, Dhs3,875, Jimmy Choo



Marc Jacobs



Matthew Williamson

See Where to Buy for details

1 Keep any velvet pleats or appliqué to the zone of your body that you are most comfortable with – this rich fabric can add unwanted girth.

2 For the ultimate slimmer, opt for slinky bias-cut shapes or straight cuts to the ankle.

3 Accessories are a great way to wear velvet, adding instant luxe and contrasting with the rest of your outfit. Think shoes, gloves, bags, cloche hats and hairbands.

4 Mix things up to avoid velvet overkill. Too much of the fabric and you may look more flock-wallpaper than fabulous. Combine with satin, lightweight wool or crêpe and chiffon.

5 Invest in a preppy, mannish blazer, à la Balenciaga. Not only is this an essential capsule piece for the season: it also goes with everything from jeans and flats to high-waisted pencil skirts and pumps.

6 Velvet can be voluminous. Those with bigger busts should skip past tops with too many drape or fold details.

Paul Ewart

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