

CATWALK: DAN & CORINA LECCA. STILL-LIFE FROM TOP: COURTESY CHANEL, EFFRAIM EVIDOR, COURTESY FENDI. ALL PRICES APPROXIMATE. SEE WHERE TO BUY FOR DETAILS



How To Wear Pearls

A timeless classic, pearls are no longer the preserve of the twin-set pack

Look into your jewellery box and chances are that there are pearls lurking beneath the Jade Jagger, Marni and Monica Vinader pieces. But when did you last wear them? Although, for some, the pearl is a fashion perennial, its popularity among middle-aged matriarchs has not helped its fashion credentials. Now, though, with some creative rejuvenation from the catwalk, pearls are enjoying a revival – and this time it's not confined to jewellery. John Rocha, showing in London, offered tailored pieces embellished with pearls, crocheting and embroidery, while Valentin Yudashkin in Milan showed pretty corset-encrusted styles and lace, pearl-beaded dresses. Emporio Armani produced pearls of bauble-like dimensions and Chanel, a label with which pearls are synonymous, expanded upon its legacy this season with oversized pearl drop



Ralph Lauren

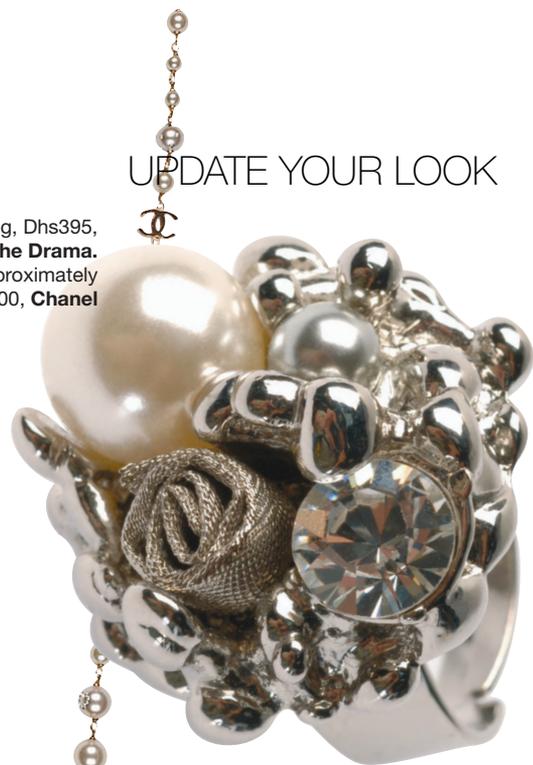
Emporio Armani

Lanvin

Bag, price on request, Fendi

UPDATE YOUR LOOK

Ring, Dhs395, Save The Drama. Necklace, approximately Dhs6,200, Chanel



earrings and multistrand necklaces (used as belts and held together with bows and the trademark interlocked Cs). This look is not just for the girls, either: designer Giambattista Valli is so enamoured with the treasures of the deep, he even wears a string of Bassora pearls as part of his daily wardrobe.

Whether you opt for a pretty and romantic look with pearl-embellished dresses or masculine tailoring softened with a twisted necklace (or three), being creative is key. So, dig into your jewel box – pearls have fashion kudos once again.

Pearls of Wisdom

1 To avoid the matronly look, don't match your pearls: try layering long single strands with other materials, such as chains, beads and stones.

2 Pearls are the perfect accessory for the mannish trend, adding just the right amount of femininity to a pair of wide-legged trousers and a tailored blazer.

3 Don't always opt for white. Try black Tahitian pearls or freshwater pearls in white, black, pink and even purple.

4 Pearls don't have to be worn in a classic way – twist a strand round your wrist, use a long rope as a belt or tie shorter strands onto a favourite bag.

5 Think vintage: antique pearls by the likes of Bulgari or Cartier are often spotted on the red carpet and can be very valuable. Turn the page for a guide to buying vintage jewels...

Paul Ewart