

All Access '80s

Well, we knew it would happen didn't we? The '80s era looks have returned to the runways and the pages of top fashion magazines with a vengeance. Does that mean we should wear our Duran Duran t-shirts again? In a word NO! It is simply that the tides of fashion are revisiting a time when many trends co-existed in what could be called a "fashion free for all"! I can think of no better place than your local Goodwill Store & Donation Center to "retro-fit" your wardrobe with inspiration from this exciting moment in style history. I am going to run down a few of the top trends from this awesome decade and help you decipher the looks you should incorporate into your current wardrobe, and those better left in the past.....



The top 3 looks of the '80s:

The "Power Suit"

Then: Secretaries and women around the world adopted the "Working Girl" look, with its boxy jackets with industrial strength shoulder pads. This look derived from the man tailored suits of "Wall Street". Meant to give the woman wearing it a sense of strength as well as style. Claude Montana was *the* '80s designer to pad not only jackets, but slouchy dresses and sweaters too.



Today: Start by looking for a great jacket or coat that has a broader shoulder line and a smaller waistline. Make it modern by picking up a men's (or man tailored—meaning square and less feminine) jacket and wearing it over almost anything. This is a great look paired with "boyfriend" cuffed jeans for casual times, or over a sheath dress/skirt blouse combo. Avoid jackets that hang straight from the shoulder to the waist, with no definition of waistline, as this can definitely make a woman look larger.



The "MTV Generation"

Then: This is the term for the looks that "rocked" the world. Think of Madonna and her corsets, fluffy skirts and armful of bangle bracelets. The "hair bands" that gave us the "Sunset Strip" rock and roll pairing of leather and lace. Accessories really went wild in the '80s, with scarves, bangles, gloves, leggings, lingerie and everything but the kitchen sink seen in the videos that played on MTV and heavily influenced the fashion of the day.



Today: Lace has made a great comeback as a layering piece and is easy to incorporate with a blouse or top from a Goodwill Store & Donation Center. Wear it with distressed jeans, under a jacket or over a graphic t-shirt. Wear ankle boots with a skirt or dress instead of pumps to get that "tough girl" look. Strapless tops and dresses easily become foundation layers for anything else you can think of. Stack the bangles up your arm to make a statement of your own taste and style, and remember nothing has to "match" to be interesting.



The "Athletic Look"

Then: Popularized by Olivia Newton John's hit "Physical" and working out at the local fitness clubs that popped up across the country. Sweatshirt chic ruled all over the world, and "Flashdance" the movie, introduced us to the idea of creating our own one-shouldered t-shirts and sweatshirts. Neon colors helped to make the "working out" look fashionable and hip as well as influencing accessories bold looks during that era.



Today: Every person can find a bright or neon tone that can work in small doses with what you already own. Look for tops or sweatshirts that fit, and can be cut up and personalized. You might also find a bright purse, earrings, bracelets or pumps that can keep you on trend. Headbands have definitely stepped up to the front, and can frequently be seen on celebrities, and real folks alike.



Inspiration is always coming from the past, but the key to adapting it is not to make it look as though you are wearing a "costume". If neon pink leg warmers aren't for you, skip it! Adopt only those trends that work with your lifestyle, body type, and comfort level. The Goodwill Store & Donation Center is the frugalista's best friend when it comes to creating high style at a low, low price!

