

In The Trenches

The "it" coat this season is the reliable trench. Given that the trench makes a great transitional coat for both spring and fall, you can't go wrong with the many options available.

While in New York for Mercedes Benz Fashion week, I saw numerous versions of the trench coat, many done in metallic, but just as many done in traditional tan or black. This is a wardrobe staple that every man or woman should have. I own a John Bartlett denim trench coat that I purchased in Williamsburg, Brooklyn at a resale shop, and I do wear it in both spring and into fall. Next time you're at the Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center near you check to see if you can snag one of these fashion favorites for yourself.

Let's take a look at some of the styles and ways to wear them.

Metallic.

Here supermodel of the '60s Twiggy wears a leather mid-length bronze metallic to the Burberry fashion show in London. In the next picture, she poses with her daughter who is also wearing a black fitted poplin trench coat in a past the knee length. Note how both women are wearing simple outfits with minimal accessories. This is the right way to go.



Traditional.

By that I mean tan or khaki, with the details of the simple trench: buttons, epaulets and in some cases belted. Our first girl has on a mid length or "car coat" length. A simple black outfit and accessories and smoky eye make up. This look is a very modern take on this traditional style.



The boy is wearing a brown knee length coat, with a simple beige merino wool sweater, flat front slacks and brown shoes. This is a sophisticated yet totally comfortable look.



Charlize Theron wearing a trench with heels and a scarf for a night out in L.A.



Colorful.

First we have Jessica Alba in a soft yellow trench, worn with jeans, scarf, retro sunglasses and an oversize tote. Classy and chic is all I have to say about this look.



The gal in the blue trench looks fresh. Notice the details of contrasting piping, and buttons on the coat. The peep toe heels look great with the overall a-line shape the belted jacket gives her body.



Trendy.

Unique treatments, and a departure from the traditional style is what we see here in this Burberry short trench in pink with poufy ruched sleeves. Modern with the contrasting buttons and belt yet '80s look with the pastel tone.



I was just at a fashion show recently and saw two bubble hem coats—one in leopard and one that was black with ruffled lapel. Here we see a bubble hem mini! Notice the ruffles and the contrasting leather belt.



So to recap the runway trench trends: we have unusual materials like metallic and prints, as well as unusual feminine details like ruffles, or bubble hems. Colors that are not traditional, like red, blue, yellow and green, as well as pastel tones in mint and pink. Traditional looks worn with simple outfits will always be a winner in my book. Now that you know what to look for in this two-season wonder, make sure to keep an eye out the next time you're at Goodwill for your own trendy trench!

