

## Mad For Plaid

There is really nothing more enduring when it comes to richly patterned fabric than plaid. Whether coming from the Scottish highlands of the 16th century or the Burberry (a trademarked brand of clothing using plaid as a theme) reinvention of the 20th century, one thing is for sure—this fabric has stylish staying power! Designer after designer has fashioned one thing or another out of plaid. This fabric is normally made out of wool and woven in a tartan (a Scottish wool, that denotes a particular clan or regiment) or checkered pattern. Popping up on runways for decades, it's the easiest of all patterns to wear.



In summer we see plaid exclusively done in cotton of course, in blouses, skirts, jumpers and dresses. It has a crisp quality due to the lines that make up the plaid pattern. For men we see plaid used in shorts, cargo pants, golf shirts and the like.



Accessories abound in this pleasing, classic, yet funky pattern. Look for handbags and especially clutches that can really liven up a traditional look. I am also seeing hats, scarves, headbands, earrings and even cuffs that are mad for plaid! On a quick trip to my local Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center I spied so many things that could interpret this important trend in YOUR wardrobe. Using accessories is the easiest and least expensive way to add punch and interest.



You'll see shoes and all weather boots are on hip hop stars and real people alike done in plaid. I have also spied tennis shoes and even some strappy sandals or pumps in every color of plaid imaginable—even metallic! Keep your eyes peeled for a pair or two of your own!



With winter fast approaching our thoughts turn more to woolens plaids. But, let's not forget flannel shirts and jackets as well.



Scarves are a great item to spice up the traditionally more dreary coats of winter. They come in every color, so choose a wool or acrylic woven plaid and you can't go wrong.



With woolens, we can run the gamut from traditional pleated "school girl" skirts, to fantastic trench coats. Look for sweaters, vests and blazers to "prep up" existing pieces in your winter wardrobe. Plaid in traditional "red tartan" is a classic choice when the weather gets cold. The color adds that bright spot we all need during those dreary days and dark nights.



Take these tips and run with them, to your Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center to get a piece of the "plaid" for yourself or someone you think needs it today!

