

Scarf Tricks

Hands down, there is no more versatile accessory than the silk scarf. Whether subtle or bold, large or small, long or short, these bits of fabric have the power to enliven even the blandest ensemble. Learning how to utilize them in decorative and innovative ways is what this column is about. Now would be a good time to go through your mother's drawers, or look at the Goodwill Stores and Donation Centers for expensive feeling, designer scarves in all sizes. The simple scarf, with a few tricks, gives an instant update to many of spring's styles and is an inexpensive way to wear a trendy print or color. They can also be made into amazing accessories!



Head Wrap

As a head wrap, the scarf can be worn as a headband for the hippie chic look. It may also be folded and tied kerchief style. I love the look of a small scarf tied around an ordinary ponytail holder to make it look fashion forward.



Neck

Worn at the neck, the scarf has many options. Today we see men and women doing what is called a "hacking knot". This is where you simply fold an oblong scarf in half lengthwise, place it around the neck, and pull the two ends through the centerfold. I have seen this over and over so it is definitely a trend to adopt!



Ascot

To achieve the "ascot" look, fold a square scarf into an oblong shape (or just use an oblong scarf), place it around neck and flip one end over the other, tuck the ends into your shirt or jacket and fluff a little.



The Ring

The "ring" tie is just so easy to do. Start with a 24 inch square scarf or larger, and fold it on the bias so it looks like a triangle. Place it around your shoulders and pull the ends through your favorite ring! Now that is what I call multi tasking!

Top

Did you ever think of wearing a scarf as a top? Well, it is easy to do with my instructions. Fold a large square into quarters, and then tie a small knot in the center on the wrong side of the scarf. With the knot underneath next to the skin, tie the two ends at the back of the neck. Then bring lower ends around waist and tie. Adjust where necessary. This is now a fabulous shell, for under suits or jackets, or as a halter-top to wear with jeans, shorts, or a skirt!



Belt

Make a designer belt by pulling a long scarf through belt loops and knot casually at the side. This looks great with neutral or solid color tops and adds a feminine touch to denim and casual jeans, shorts, and skirts.

A hip tie is more of a sash to accent skirts or slacks. Fold a large scarf into a triangle and tie around the waist to the side. You could layer some chain belts over it for the "global" or "ethnic" look so popular this season.



Tote Bag

Need a tote for the beach? Carry your things in a hobo bag. Simply take a large scarf and bring the opposite corners of the square together and tie. Repeat with the remaining corners to form the shoulder strap!

Last but not least, tie a small colorful scarf to the handle of your luggage so you can be the first to spot it when traveling!

Given the fact that these accessories are plentiful and inexpensive, now is the time to head to Goodwill Stores and Donation Centers to get a "head start" on some new style options!