

# À La Mode

## AUTUMN '07

**COLOR SHIFT** This fall's basic black is cool grey—demure and classic by itself, grey becomes electric when paired with purple, fuchsia or rust. The color is appearing everywhere, particularly in the season's wardrobe mainstays—the pencil skirt and the ¾ sleeve jacket.

Article by Lawri Murray



**A Flirty take on the Pencil Skirt**  
Courtesy of Vivienne Westwood's Anglomania label, Black wool-blend skirt offers tulip shaping and hidden back zipper. You'll wear this one for years. \$409 at RevolveClothing.com



**SHOPPING TIP** For those of you who've been lamenting the non-availability of grey shoes the past several years, it's time to stock up!

*Day-to-Evening Perfection*  
Dovima tweed dress by Cynthia Steffe. \$350 at SaksFifthAvenue.com

*The Perfect Pair*  
Pair a skinny sweater with the Avignon skinny patent leather belt in Violet, \$78 at Bloomingdales.com



**Instant Sophistication**  
Fownes black patent leather gloves with silk lining. 4-button length — \$98 10-button length — \$150 at Bloomingdales.com

**Instant Drama** The ideal accompaniment to the ¾-length sleeve. Elegant eight-button leather gloves in metallic grey. Also available in black. \$195 at Nordstrom.com

### Grey Goes Metallic

The metallic grey pump by Kate Spade features a crossover peep-toe design. Patent leather. Also available in plum. \$295 at Nordstrom.com

### PATENT PROFUSION

Though it never really goes out of style, the patent leather trend gets truly hot about once a decade. This fall marks one of patent's splashiest comebacks, as the glossy leather is popping up in everything from handbags to gloves to sleek trenches. But wear it sparingly—one to two items provides the perfect touch of glam for day or night.

### TEXAS TRANSITIONAL

For the diehard fashionista, there's nothing quite as challenging as autumn in Texas. While it's too warm for most of fall's cozy fashions, you'd rather stay home than be seen wearing your summer wardrobe! **THE ANSWER:** Transitional items—wardrobe staples constructed from lighter, cooler fabrics, but in rich, fall colors. Skirts, pants and blouses in cotton and poly blends, sleeveless and short sleeve sweaters and wrap dresses.

Fabric becomes its own embellishment this fall, with pleating and ruching details replacing beading and trims. There's no more perfect example than Nicole Miller's stretch satin off-the-shoulder cocktail dress in—what else?—grey. \$420 at LordAndTaylor.com



### Not for the Timid

The red patent leather trench by Dana Buchman. \$995 at NeimanMarcus.com or call 888.888.4757

### Grey Patent Leather

Mini handbag by Ghibli. Touted as an evening bag, but looks great by daylight as well. Approx dimensions 8.5" x 5" x 4". \$289 at Forzieri.com



### MAKE A STATEMENT

The best way to follow a trend is to put your own spin on it. Instead of pairing that charcoal grey coat with plum gloves, go for chartreuse. Opt for classic knotted pearls with your wrap dress instead of a chunky gemstone necklace. Or pick up that fabulous patent handbag from a vintage boutique. Have a little fun with your fashion!



**Three-Quarter Length, Please**  
Elegant cropped trapeze jacket with ¾ length sleeves, rounded collar and pleating detail. See by Chloé. \$625 at NET-A-PORTER.com



### Vivid Purple Clutch

Add to your grey ensemble for instant evening drama. The leather Rebecca bag from Brontibay Paris comes in six colors. \$95.20 at Brontibay.fr



**So sexy**  
And just a 2.5" heel!  
Violet patent leather sandal made in Italy by Sergio Rossi.

\$544 at Couture.Zappos.com



*Belts in all widths are hot this season, and even hotter in patent!* The wide patent and elastic belt by Eugenia Kim offers a sleek nickel slide closure and comes in black, navy and dark purple. \$185 at Barneys.com