## 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 3/4 sleeve jacket.



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 3/4-length sleeve. Elegant eight-button leather gloves in metallic grey. Also available in black. \$195 at Nordstrom.com

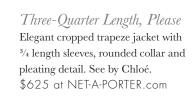


The best way to follow a trend is to put your own spin on it. Instead of pairing that charcoal grey coat with plum gloves, go for chartreuse. Opt for classic knotted pearls with your wrap dress instead of a chunky gemstone necklace. Or pick up that fabulous patent handbag from a vintage boutique. Have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

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







Article by Lawri Murray

Grey Goes Metallic

Kate Spade features a crossover

peep-toe design. Patent leather.

\$295 at Nordstrom.com

The metallic grey pump by

Also available in plum.

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  ${\sf SaksFifthAvenue.com}$ 

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





So sexy And just a 2.5" heel!

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

Violet patent leather sandal made in Italy by Sergio Rossi. \$544 at Couture.Zappos.com