

STILL ONLY



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Claire's clothes clinic



Daily Express fashion expert CLAIRE BRAYFORD offers smart advice on all your style dilemmas

Q WHERE can I find unique but inexpensive jewellery? I have a limited budget of £250 but would love something a bit different that I can wear for both day and evening.

Susannah, 25, London

A INVESTING in statement jewellery is a very wise move right now. Next season, the fashion pendulum will swing back to being moody and minimalist so, rather than spending a fortune on the ruffles and florals around this summer, some bold jewellery will give you far more mileage. A striking bangle or quirky brooch will add instant polish to a casual outfit. But remember, the louder the jewels, the more subdued the clothes – just take a look at this oversized Louis Vuitton necklace worn over a simple white shirt.

So, where to shop for pieces with personality? On May 24, The William and Judith Bollinger Jewellery Gallery will open at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and the museum's shop will have more than 600 new designs, including pieces by burlesque performer Dita Von Teese and artist Grayson Perry.

Don't dismiss some of the big design houses as too expensive. Minu Mini has a range of kooky bug brooches from £165 (020 7409 0900) and an Yves Saint Laurent costume ring starts at £90 (www.ysl.com). My current favourite niche designer is French jeweller Ela Stone. Her striking designs look very expensive, such as these cuffs, above, £100 (www.ela-stone.com). Alternatively, Matina Amanita has stunning costume cocktail rings from £250 (www.matinaamanita.com).



GOING FOR BOLD: A Louis Vuitton necklace



Q I AM going on holiday with my husband and he needs new swimming trunks. Where's the best place to look? Saddy, he doesn't look like Daniel Craig. Jo, 36, Sunderland

A I WOULD go for a simple board-short. The classic choice is by Vilebrequin with its quick-dry fabric and flattering flat front, from £70 (020 7589 9445). Alternatively, Bjorn Borg has a great range of bold and unusual prints that fit well and are affordable, from £60 (01604 654277). Or you could try beachwear supremo Heidi Klein's website, which also stocks men's swimwear by Orlebar Brown (www.heidiklein.com) or www.fgleaves.com which has a top 10 swimwear listing for men.

If you buy only one thing this week...

Clutch, £125, Wilbur and Gussie (www.wilburandgussie.com)

● E-mail your fashion dilemma to clothes.clinic@express.co.uk or write to: Claire's Clothes Clinic, Expressyourself, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN, and include your name, age and phone number. Questions will be answered in this column. Claire cannot



expressyourself

I'm Queen Geek and love gadgets

LIFE CHOICES: LISA B

Model, actress and writer Lisa, 36, is married to property magnate Anton Bilton, 43. They live in north London with Orlando, three, and Noah, one



FOOD

Experimental or tried and tested?

I'm experimental and cook a lot. My family is a mix of Puerto Rican and Italian so I think cooking is in my blood. I have a sense of flavours and putting together things that go well.

SHOPPING

Until you drop or avoid at all costs?

I buy almost everything online because I like the convenience. I make a cup of tea, sit at my computer and browse the different sites. Even if an item costs me £5 postage I reckon I've saved a fortune in time, parking and bother.

HOLIDAYS

Beach or piste?

Neither. I'm not keen on skiing, although my husband loves it. Growing up in Brooklyn, New York we didn't really have ski holidays and I don't want to start breaking anything at my age. I'm not a sun worshipper either. My ideal holiday is to rent a house by the sea and relax with the children.

FRIENDS

Quantity or quality?

I'd say I'm blessed to have a quantity of quality friends. I also enjoy meeting new people. I think there's so much to gain from new experiences and new people.

I love the fact everyone's interesting for some reason or another.

ENTERTAINMENT

Intimate dinner or big bash?

I enjoy both. My husband and I entertain a tremendous amount. We have fun weekends with lots of friends at our house in the country and we also have lots of parties in London. I love entertaining but other times all I want is a cosy dinner in front of the TV.

DRINK

Beer or Bolli?

Never beer and I prefer wine to champagne. I drink when I'm socialising and have a few glasses of wine. If I'm going out for a bit of a boogie, I may have a cocktail or two.

HOUSEKEEPING

Aggie & Kim or Wayne & Waynetta?

I'm fastidiously tidy. Everything has a home and a label. I've got 10 trays on my desk, each labelled with things for different categories in my life. I enjoy domestic chores and find some of them therapeutic, such as pulling up weeds.

CARS

Girl racer or Sunday driver?

I love cars and admit to being a racer. I've got an Audi GT which is huge and quite speedy. Anton is a classic car collector so we go to racing events and host classic car days at our house in the country.

MONEY

Rainy day or live for today?

I was brought up to save for a rainy day. If I can buy three for two at the supermarket I get very excited.

PROPERTY

Urban chic or rural retreat?

I come from New York City and have remained a city girl at heart. We have our house in the country but the country for me is a cosy fire and a glass of nice red wine and I can have that in the city.

CHILDREN

Mary Poppins or Cruella De Vil?

Mary Poppins but I'm actually quite a disciplinarian. I'm strict about routines and any behavioural issues. I watch Supermanny Jo Frost on TV whenever I can and I try to stick to her particular method of discipline, such as the naughty step.

HEALTH

Alternative or aspirin?

I'm more aspirin because of my lack of patience. I just want to know that the pain has gone even if there are after effects. I drink detox tea and anti-stress tea and I use arnica to relieve bruising. I love massages and have those regularly but I can't say I've delved into anything alternative in a big way.

RUBBISH

Bin it or recycle it?

We try to recycle as much as possible but I don't think we're doing enough. It is an effort but it's worthwhile because we are responsible for this planet and for our children's future. I think there's a different mindset these days and people are thinking about recycling a lot more, which is great.

FITNESS

Jane Fonda or Jim Royle?

I go through periods when I'm more active than other times but I'm not one of those women who felt they had to whip their body back into shape three weeks after giving birth. In fact, since the boys were born I've had problems with my lower back so now I don't run. I will go to the gym and do dance classes.

TECHNOLOGY

Gadget girl or technophobe?

I'm Queen Geek. I get more excited about a gadget than I do about any item in my wardrobe. When my husband treated himself to a new car, I treated myself to the Ferrari of computers – I almost have to strap myself in when I switch it on in the morning because it is so powerful. I can hack codes from internet sites, I kid you not.

● Lisa B's book *Lifestyle Essentials*, £12.99, is out now (www.lifestyle-essentials.com).

DEANY JUDD