

THE Kit

BEAUTY &
FASHION

ON THE SCENT

Deborah Fulsang's top
tips to find your new
signature fragrance

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BLUE SKIES AHEAD

Channel spring with
fresh-air-inspired picks

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SWING FEVER

Invigorated by modern prints and fabrics, the elegant 1940s
staple is catching on. Here's how to work it

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HALIFAX MONTREAL OTTAWA QUEBEC TORONTO EDMONTON CALGARY VANCOUVER BCBG.CA



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5 TOP TO SING IN THE RAIN

Keep wet and cloudy days at bay with accessories inspired by clear blue skies. A blooming, sun-filled spring will soon be here



1. SECRET WEAPON Curly hair tend to get frizzed out? Manage your locks with this curl-taming conditioning treatment. Sally Hershberger Curvaceous Curl Perfection, \$13, at Shoppers Drug Mart 2. BLUE-EYED GIRL Have fun with your makeup. Update a classic smokey eye or apply wet as hot-hued liner. Essence 3D Eyeshadow in Irresistible Mermaid Kiss, \$4, at Shoppers Drug Mart, essence-cosmetics.com 3. NO MATTER THE WEATHER Keep nails bright and colourful on a grey day. China Glaze Nail Lacquer in Keep Calm, Paint On, \$9,

at beauty salons across Canada. Covergirl Outlast Stay Brilliant Nail Gloss in Mint Mojito, \$9, at mass-market retailers 4. HIGH TIDES This crisp aquatic floral mixes refreshing top notes of apple, apricot, and cucumber water with a white bouquet heart. Calvin Klein Eternity Aqua eau de parfum, \$92 (100 ml), at The Bay, Sears, Shoppers Drug Mart, and Sephora 5. DROP-DEAD GORGEOUS This stone drop necklace creates playful movement and sparkle. Express mixed shape stone necklace, \$35, express.com

—NATASHA BRUNO/PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADRIAN ARMSTRONG

web Find more cute and covetable picks at TheKit.ca



ASK JEANNE

“Ankle socks with open-toe sandals or wedge shoes: Can I still wear the look this season or will I be out of date?”
—Antonia

DEAR ANTONIA: I said it before and I'll say it forever: Do not get hung up on whether or not a trend is over. If you really love the look, wear it the way you feel most comfortable. You also must remember that there are very few looks and trends in fashion now that are truly new.

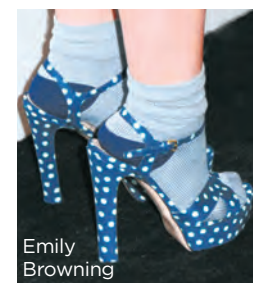
Most of what we see is inspired by or references ideas that have already come before. I remember the innovative and ultra chic Norma Kamali was among the first to re-introduce that 1940s look back in the 1980s. It certainly looked edgy, especially when worn with a mid-calf pencil skirt. Of course, it can also look very flirty and school-girlish to pair pretty socks with strappy sandals when wearing a short little skirt or dress.

I remember back in the early '80s, having a TV executive boss tell me that my little mauve ankle socks might be fine to wear when interviewing pop stars, but I'd never earn any credibility as a journalist if I wore them anywhere else. I ignored this and stuck to my little socks, proudly sporting them with open-toed burgundy heels. I thought it was a great look.

Some people totally cringe at the thought of socks and open-toe shoes, and certainly the look isn't for everybody. But if you love it, why worry about whether the trend is in or out? Fashion simply doesn't operate like that anymore—at least not when it comes to unique personal style.

Prada, Alexander Wang, Oscar de la Renta and Derek Lam are just three of the international runways that have given the socks-and-open-toes look a nod in the past. And there are lots of fun ways to wear ankle socks and lots of fun ankle socks to choose from. If you don't want to make a big fashion statement, you might just want to go for socks in a neutral colour, and wear them with neutral shoes so your feet don't stand out too much. But if you're hoping to debut the look this spring, I'd look around for some brightly coloured ankle socks to make your feet really pop and wear them with a colourful sandal or wedge shoe in a contrasting colour. There are also some very pretty lace and textured socks that would be perfect for a more feminine, retro feel. Of course, last year, we saw the notion of thick sweat-socks being worn with flat sandals. That particular hippie look was definitely not a favourite of mine.

It's great to have ankle socks on hand in case you've been slow getting your pedicure. But don't fall back on them too often: Pretty toes are a must all summer long. Just continue to march to the beat of your own drum, in whatever footwear you fancy.



Emily Browning

Send questions to askjeanne@thekit.ca. Jeanne Beker is contributing editor to the *Toronto Star* and host of Fashion Television Channel. Follow on Twitter @Jeanne_Beker.

radar



SNEAKER SERIES

With the literal rise of sneakers, courtesy of the likes of Beyoncé and Isabel Marant, comes a celebration of their growing popularity. From April 25 The Bata Shoe Museum is home to "Out of the Box: The Rise of Sneaker Culture," an exhibition about the history of our favourite runners, showcasing over 120 sneakers from the past 150 years. Race you! —Alex Laws

SMALL SHOPS, BIG LOVE

This month, American Express launches its Shop Small project in Toronto, a program supporting small businesses and recognizing the valuable contribution they make to both the economy and the city's cultural landscape. Give your fave T.O. store a shout out by voting at facebook.com/americanexpresscanada. The winner will be named Toronto's Neighborhood Gem. —Katherine Cameron



Atelier B.

ECO FASHION

The sixth Eco Fashion Week takes place April 21 to 24 in Vancouver's Robson Square. Seminars, industry panels and a fashion show will inform and inspire the fashion-conscious and sustainable-minded alike. Highlights include global trend analysis and the Thrift Chic Challenge presented by Value Village. Required listening: "Thrift Shop" by Macklemore. —Nadine Anglin

VERA WANG WORTHY?

Vera Wang's bridal boutique in Shanghai, China is charging 3,000 yuan (\$482) for 90 minutes in the dressing room in an effort to "protect the copyright of the designer." The good news: if you buy the dress, the fee is deducted from the price. The bad news: if you don't, you just spent nearly \$500 to stare at yourself for an hour and a half. —Kiley Bell

Vera Wang 2013 Bridal Collection



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ON THE COVER

IN FULL. SWING

The skirt that screams 1940s elegance gets a modern makeover. Here's how to give the below-the-knee hemline a whirl **BY** INGRIE WILLIAMS

The midi can't necessarily claim to be new, but with fresh prints and fabrics it certainly looks it.

"After so many seasons of really short skirts, this new silhouette is ultra-feminine," says Lisa Tant, VP Fashion Editor for Holt Renfrew. "In many ways, it reminds me of Dior's New Look from 1947—it has a beautiful fit-and-flare shape that's very modern in new prints and fabrics."

Lightweight textiles, such as silk, jersey or cotton, lend today's midi subtle fluidity for day or night.

HOW TO WEAR IT

MASTER THE MIDI

1 FIND A PROPER FIT

"There are so many different options that everyone can find the right shape," says Lisa Tant, VP Fashion Editor for Holt Renfrew. "If you're curvy, pick a style that lies flat around the waist and hips and gently flairs out."

Kimberly Newport-Mimran, designer of Pink Tartan, agrees. "Just make sure the length is proportionate to your height," she says, especially if you are petite.

"Another trick is to choose one that's not too full," says Vancouver stylist Michelle Addison.

2 TAILOR YOUR TOP

For the simplest approach, follow Newport-Mimran's advice: "I like a fitted top with a full skirt," she says. But don't stop there.

"A skirt this versatile works with so much—a T-shirt, thin-knit cardigan, belted tailored blazer or cropped leather jacket," says Tant, who'll be pairing hers with a denim jacket on the weekend. "Avoid anything long and unstructured on top or you'll end up with too much fabric overwhelming your figure," she says.

3 TREAD LIGHTLY

Don't ruin the ladylike look of a midi skirt with a clunky shoe. "This skirt suits a high heel or pointy-toe flat, like those at the Marc Jacobs Spring '13 runway show," says Addison. Single-sole pumps with moderate heels were the preferred pick on the Pink Tartan catwalk, and Tant is partial to pumps or sling-backs to keep the look long and lean. "You need to show some ankle to capture the retro feeling," Tant says.

Rochas
Spring 2013



ROCHAS

"I loved the pockets and casualness of a typically evening-only skirt," says Michelle Addison, a Vancouver-based personal stylist. "The skinny belts and tops were perfect with it."

CHRISTIAN DIOR

"I love how they showed this new style in light fabrics with pretty patterns," says Holt Renfrew's Lisa Tant.

Christian Dior
Spring 2013

Pink
Tartan
Spring
2013



PINK TARTAN

"I chose a full skirt in a midi length because it felt new and right," says Kimberly Newport-Mimran, Pink Tartan's designer. "We will see this as a continuing trend for fall."

give us a twirl

Fashion-forward celebs prove midis are a must!



new

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FIND YOUR SIGNATURE SCENT

With so many different perfumes on the market, it can be hard to know where to start. Thankfully, our beauty editor and resident fragrance expert Deborah Fulsang comes to the rescue with her top tips to sniff out the right scent for you **BY** MARY KIM

1. THINK HAPPY

"Think about the things, the places and the experiences where you were happiest," says Fulsang. "Beach vacation? Close your eyes and think about being in that place. What does it smell like? Maybe it's your coconut-scented sun lotion or the fresh ocean air. Keeping scent memories at the forefront will help you find a fragrance that has a hit of coconut or a sea breeze element to it, and the chances are it will make you smile when you wear it."

"Keeping scent memories at the forefront will help you find a fragrance that... will make you smile when you wear it." —Deborah Fulsang

2. CHANNEL YOUR PASSIONS

"Maybe you're a total foodie or maybe you love being in the garden—that will determine the types of notes —spicy? floral? —that you want to find in a signature scent," says Fulsang.

3. TEST TWO AT A TIME

"Ultimately, you have to test fragrance on your skin. Try one on one wrist and one on the other, and walk away—for a couple of hours—and see how they change, says Fulsang.

"The first part of the fragrance, the top note, is going to have a distinct character. After 15 to 20 minutes you get into the heart of the fragrance, which lasts longer. At the end of the day you're left with the base notes."

4. MAKE SURE IT'S LOVE

"If you love it, you should buy it. If you're really not sure, don't. For me, fragrance is a love-hate thing and you need to want to wear it everyday. It becomes part of you," says Fulsang.



MODEL & PETALS: GETTY IMAGES.



CLOSET OF THE WEEK

Jane Aldridge

Blogger, seaofshoes.com; New York

BY THE COVETEUR

Starting her blog in 2007, at the age of 15, Aldridge was ahead of the fashion-blogging curve from the beginning. She documented her day-to-day ensembles, revealing her extensive shoe collection (some of which she shared with her ex-model mom) and it wasn't long before the industry started taking notice. She was even invited to attend the renowned Crillon Ball in Paris, "you know in a situation like that I was bound to feel like a bit of a hillbilly. Going to Paris to be fitted in Chanel Haute Couture is definitely the coolest thing to ever happen to me!"

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Aldridge in one of her beloved vintage pieces; a favourite pair of brocade pants; retro-inspired beauty products; designer accessories.

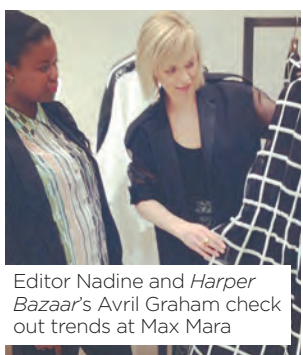


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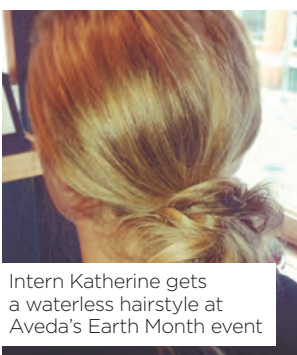
See more of Aldridge's style on TheCoveteur.com

THE KIT ON instagram

Visit instagram.com/the_kit to join us behind the scenes. See our candid pictures from photo shoots, events and more.



Editor Nadine and Harper Bazaar's Avril Graham check out trends at Max Mara



Intern Katherine gets a waterless hairstyle at Aveda's Earth Month event



Fragrance talk over tea: beauty editor Deborah and @OscarPRGirl

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TESTING, TESTING

BY CERI MARSH

BRAID BRIGADE

Many of the beauty trends I've talked about and tested in this column have come from the runway, and some have had their beginnings on the street. The trend I'm chasing today has made many appearances on both catwalks and red carpets. But if you really want to see it in action, head over to Pinterest. Braids, my friends, are the real reason for Pinterest to exist at all. From milk maids to crowns to waterfalls to classic French braids, the ladies of Pinterest cannot get enough of plaits. Because, unlike some editorial notions of beauty, braids are just plain pretty. Now, I'm hooked, too.

Think you can't pull it off? Don't let the tight, slick Sunday school braids of your childhood scare you. Modern braids are full of texture, and even though they take some effort and nonchalance, they're meant to be soft and romantic, not severe. Even if you get a salon braid, it should look like you did it yourself. I asked editorial hair stylist Cody Alain to help me out with my braid debut. After poring over Pinterest options, we decided on the fishtail braid, a variation on the classic, three-strand plait. I was wearing a jersey and lace black dress to a film festival that evening and Alain agreed that a side-swept, roughed-up version of a fishtail braid would be a great contrast to my polished outfit.

Alain started by spraying my hair with a texturizer. A small amount of any kind of mousse, balm or spray to give your hair a bit of "grab" will also do. (Clean hair is not the best for braids.)

Alain pulled my hair to one side while leaving my natural centre part in place. When I asked him why, he laughed, "Brushing over is a little too *Full House*, 1990s extreme. It reminds me of D.J. Tanner."

Enough said.

He started by grabbing my hair in two handfuls. Creating a successful fishtail braid is all about holding your hair in two big pieces and pulling a small bit of each larger piece across, then repeating on the other side. Don't worry, YouTube is filled with tutorials. "The braid should resemble a herringbone pattern," said Alain. "It's more detailed than a regular braid, more luxurious." If you've got some layers in your hair, some of the ends may pop out of your braid. Alain recommends using small bobby pins to tuck them back in. Use pins that are close in shade to your hair colour.

Or just leave it slightly undone.

That night, my long, thick fishtail braid sat on my left shoulder and felt like the only accessory I needed, even as it became slightly loosened as the evening wore on. As I walked into the TIFF Bell Lightbox for the evening's opening, I spotted the always gorgeous Marlo France, a personal shopper at Holt Renfrew. On her head was a perfect, soft braided crown.

Instead of saying hi, we immediately spoke to the top of each other's heads: "Love your braid!"

Ceri Marsh is a best-selling author and co-creator of the food and family website SweetPotatoChronicles.com

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