

# Fashion Forecast

by Sandra Keiser and Brenda Schweder

# Holiday Glamour

'Tis the season to deck the halls and don our gay apparel – the holidays are the perfect time to pull out all the stops! Adornment rules in fashion; garment edges and accessories are bejeweled with abandon. From embellished sweaters, dresses, and skirts to decorated handbags and shoes, every minimalist style gets an extreme makeover.

**Satin** is the fabric of the moment. Watch for it in sexy dresses, blouses with plunging necklines, and pencil skirts in rich jewel tones (see Prada). Use satin in a brightly colored sash, on the front edge of a jacket or dress, or for an opaque pocket on a sheer blouse. For evening, regal colors reign in shades of purple, red, green, and teal. Or, make a dramatic entrance in silver or gold, worn alone or with black to accent an ensemble. For added mystique, choose lace or an animal print, especially when embroidered with sequins or beads.

Fabric and beaded accessories provide gorgeous holiday details. **Bows** continue to punctuate seasonal looks, adding a feminine touch around necklines, waistlines, and sleeve or pant cuffs. Dresses, tops, and sweaters feature elaborately beaded hems in a rich array of colors. Update a wardrobe staple by designing an overlay that matches its neckline or cuff shape. Or, string lengths of beads, tacking them down to echo clothing edges. Try clashing combinations, such as nectar with claret, midnight, or juniper.





The **shrug** is the must-have holiday cover-up, especially when fastened with a **big brooch** or a **cluster of pins**. Shrugs and ponchos are everywhere, laden with beaded trim and in luxurious fabrications such as cashmere, lace, and fur. Whether faux or real, **fur makes a comeback as a symbol of elegance**, in colors ranging from natural to dyed jewel tones. Stoles and collars look fabulous over a cloth jacket, closed with a satin ribbon tie. **Short, chubbie jackets** look new when lined with a funky print in satin or chiffon. Watch for affordable fur mufflers and scarves, either patchwork style or knit from strips. Drape one around your neck and secure it to your dress or coat with one or more brooches.

Evening sandals and bags complete the festive look. **Holiday glitz demands a stiletto shoe** – satin or leather – **encrusted with jewels** or tied seductively around the ankle with a bow. Dramatic handbags follow suit. Design a **jeweled appliqué for the front of a vintage clutch**, or remove a leather purse strap and replace it with a beaded chain. With such a bevy of bead and bauble options, your holiday trimmings are sure to be gorgeous.

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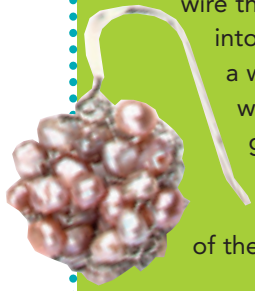
**THE BROOCH -**

Wear large, heavily encrusted jeweled pins to accent winter coats or jackets. Another option: Try an unusual, animal-friendly version with funky yarn that resembles fur, punctuated with glistening rhinestones in the center – perfect for nubby tweeds.



**CROW'S NEST -**

Weave extra-fine-gauge wire threaded with tiny beads (pearls are a favorite) into ropelike necklaces and bracelets. Or, create a wire structure, then twist, wrap, and roll wire around and through it. Work in small gemstones to further define its silhouette. The resulting pieces resemble a crow's nest a-tangle with sparkly treasures, reminiscent of the brazen bird that hoards things that glitter.



**GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD -**

Make pendants, bracelets, and dangle earrings with metal filigree components from India, Pakistan, and Turkey. Look for complex metalwork that resembles the art of quilling (narrow paper strips coiled and shaped three-dimensionally) worked into fans, flowers, leaves, or teardrops. Suspend gemstone briolettes and other top-drilled beads from the component for flowing sensuality.



**WIRED UP -**

Create a basic earring or pendant shape with 22-gauge gold-filled wire (gold is back!). Wrap gemstones around the perimeter with finer wire, Raphaela-Pasqualina style.

