

THE CRYSTAL EDITION / F 2013

# TREND

Nº 15

# ND

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

UNDER THE ARMOUR

LIMITLESS LEATHER

TRAPPED LOVE







# LIMITLESS LEATHER

When you hear the word leather, what comes to mind? A jacket, boots or your favorite bag, maybe? Not after this season. Leather isn't stepping down quite yet, and this fall it's taking on all imaginable forms. Evolving from a statement fabric to a staple, hides dominate the fall 2013 runways. Whether or not your style evokes edginess, leather will infiltrate your closet by the time spring hits.

Invading the fall 2013 runways with a hint of rebel, leather conquered collections of major designers from Michael Kors and Rebecca Taylor to 3.1 Phillip Lim. Pulling inspiration from bikers, or rather the chicks on their arms, these skin-filled collections instill toughness in sophisticated numbers.

Out of all the trends this one bears the toughest skin. Literally. Strengthening season after season leather proves it's bigger and edgier than ever. While the full-fledged leather ensemble ruled the runway, it's a bit challenging to pull off, so we'll leave it to Kors and Lim to perfectly execute head-to-toe skin chicness. Assimilating leather into your everyday attire doesn't have to be exhausting; without a doubt, there is a leather piece for everyone and one that doesn't make you look like you belong on the back of a bike.

"You can't let the runway looks intimidate you; take a look you like from the runway, water it down, make it your own and have fun with it," advises Cassy Dittmer, celebrity stylist and ISU graduate.

Infusing small leather details into classic pieces instantly puts your wardrobe on trend this season. From pockets and sleeves to the intricate seam details, there's nowhere leather isn't seen. Playing up leather accents creates unusual texture and dimension. "An item with partial leather detailing is easier to incorporate, cheaper and less daunting for those that are nervous to take the leather plunge," Dittmer says. Nanette Lepore's fall 2013 collection emulates that partial-leather trend with

its unanticipated touches of leather. According to Kelly Keough, designer at Nanette Lepore, "This fall's collection had a very modern, outer space, 'Nanette on Mars' vibe." Typically, the women's contemporary brand runs leather dresses, jackets and skirts. This year, pants, vests and coats have incorporated leather details and patching. Lepore's fall delivery merges leather in more unconventional places, like a corner of a dress or pocket. "Leather adds a more modern, edgier look to a garment—it takes it to another level," declares Keough.

Everyone loves a classic jacket, so it's not a surprise it's getting an edgy spin. Renovate your traditional denim jacket with the addition of leather sleeves. We're also seeing a lot of fabric mixing on the standard leather jacket, from tweed to jersey. And a timeless black leather motorcycle jacket is a leather investment piece every woman should own. "This item will never go out of style and is crazy versatile," says Dittmer.

For all the sporty spices out there, there's even leather pieces for you. Leather T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants are taking the fashion world by storm. From sleeve work to the entire garments fabricated with skin, athletic wear is tougher than ever.

Rough up your oh-so-classic black dress with a touch of hide. The LBLD (little black leather dress) is the perfect way to execute sophistication with a rough edge. From the classic sheath to pleated numbers, a dress has never looked so sleek. Dittmer suggests pairing a "leather shift dress with an ankle strap heel and statement necklace for a Euro-chic and super feminine look." Leather blocked dresses are the most effortless way to ease into the full-on leather trend.

Every girl's wardrobe demands a skirt, so why not make it leather? If your style is more traditional, pair a sleek leather pencil skirt with a basic button-down and pumps. If you're feeling daring, try the flared skater skirt with a crop top, denim jacket and

combat boots. Keough's leather pick is a miniskirt—"it's timeless."

Leather loves legs this fall, and though we've seen leather leggings done before, they're back with a twist. Infused with leather panels, the denim legging has never been so hot. A side panel or a leg patch provides the ideal amount of leather for everyday wear. The leather legging is sticking around, with unique seam details and modern shades this season.

There is no universal rule that says leather has to be black, so go ahead and plunge into the leather trend full force by experimenting with color. Upgrade your leather wardrobe with oxblood, camel, olive and rich navy. "My vote for colored leather is definitely go for it," Dittmer proclaims.

Everyone's probably dying to know where leather stands in future seasons. Dittmer forecasts that leather will continue to attract designers and continue to accent clothing because of its richness. As for spring 2014, Dittmer is seeing a lot of perforated leathers in tan and white hues. Combine your leather pieces with jackets and tights in the winter, then ditch the layers in spring.

"Leather is the new seasonless fabric, I don't see it going anywhere; in fact, I think we'll be seeing more," says Keough.

**LEFT: JACKET** \$60 PORTOBELLO ROAD  
**TOP** \$44 PORTOBELLO ROAD PORTOBELLO ROAD  
**SHORTS** \$54 **TIGHTS** \$8 TARGET  
**NECKLACE** \$13 PORTOBELLO ROAD  
**BRACELET** \$70  
**CENTER: DRESS** \$40 PORTOBELLO ROAD  
**JACKET** \$118 EXPRESS **NECKLACE** \$35 PORTOBELLO ROAD  
**RIGHT: TOP** \$40 PORTOBELLO ROAD **SKIRT** \$40 TOBI  
**EARRINGS** \$13 PORTOBELLO ROAD **NECKLACE** \$10 PORTOBELLO ROAD