

# Chicago Tribune

## Practical magic Cold comforts

**Gloves, hats, scarves -- she's gotta have them. But infuse them with some practical magic.**

Accessories, by definition, add completeness, convenience or attractiveness to an outfit. Rather than depend on the merely practical, people who make it through winter with a smile on their face and admiring glances in their wake choose to elevate the utilitarian with a shot of posh or a touch of whimsy.

"Scarves, hats and gloves not only provide a function but they complete a look, and the bonus is that they never go out of style, as they can be resurrected from your closet every year," said Alexandra Wilkis Wilson, founder of Gilt Groupe, a members-only online shopping community. "They can make a simple outfit look like it has been accessorized by an astute stylist."

With so many options, giving a winter warmer as a holiday gift is likely to elicit immediate delight and ongoing gratitude from the wearer.

### Eternal chic

Scarves have evolved from standard-issue mufflers to year-round must-haves, beloved by celebrities and frequent travelers alike for their ability to transform the simplest of separates into something special. Oversize yet lightweight styles from Louis Vuitton are a versatile investment. A fresh option is a knit collar known as an infinity scarf, which is a circle with no tails, or a more compact chunky knit collar. "Infinity scarves look fresh and new," retail consultant Jane Hamill says. "One of these will update your whole wardrobe."

Louis Vuitton taupe polka dot scarf, \$745, at Louis Vuitton, 919 N. Michigan Ave., 312-944-2010. Loro Piana purple scarf, \$540, at Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan Ave., 312-642-5900.

### From the top

Generate heat rather than losing it with a hat that projects personality plus. "Even with a plain coat, a hat adds instant total style," Hamill says.

Tonya Gross "Pin Up" purple hat, price on request, at [tonya.grossmillinery.com](http://tonya.grossmillinery.com), 773-988-0279. Lola ivory studded tam hat, \$125, at Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan Ave., 312-642-5900.

### At length

Longer gloves in a color other than black or brown add a sense of the fanciful to this winter necessity. Lavender, the sleeper-hit hue of the season, has an unexpected freshness. Also consider bright hues or pale neutrals. Gilt Groupe's Wilkis Wilson suggests having fun with aubergine or a rich jewel tone. And she points out, "Fingerless gloves, ideally in cashmere, are a must-have for iPhone users."

Neiman Marcus label cashmere ivory fingerless gloves, \$110, at Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan Ave., 312-642-5900. Bloomingdale's purple leather gloves, \$129, at Bloomingdale's, 900 N. Michigan Ave., 312-440-4460.

### Hot for the holidays

Real or faux, cropped or long, affordable or high-end, "the hottest layering piece this season is a little faux fur vest," Redbook fashion director Audrey Slater said.

Intrigued but not looking for a big commitment? There are options at every price point.

For \$49.50, American Eagle Outfitters offers a weekend-rugged brown furry vest, below, lined in red plaid, available in the Water Tower Place store, 835 N. Michigan Ave., [ae.com](http://ae.com).

For \$62.99 each, J.C. Penney has two dressier options, an I (Heart) Ronson brown faux fur vest with black faux leather belt and a Bisou Bisou charcoal faux fur front-zip vest with tie-waist belt. See [jcp.com](http://jcp.com).

For \$150, Armani Exchange has a zip-front chevron-cut faux fur vest with an attached hood. See [armaniexchange.com](http://armaniexchange.com).

On the investment end of the spectrum, Intermix carries a Vince lamb fur vest, \$795, and a Karl Donoghue knitted lamb fur vest, \$1,275. See [intermixonline.com](http://intermixonline.com).

As for how you wear it, that's wide-open for interpretation -- casually with jeans, daringly bare-armed with leather pants (another hot trend) or conservatively with a sweater and pencil skirt. Or different ways on different days -- which is part of the appeal.

Whatever your pleasures, core warmth will be one.

-- Wendy Donahue

### The looks

On the cover: Zara gray vest, \$189, and black leather pants, \$189, both at Zara, 700 N. Michigan Ave., 312-255-8123 Tory Burch "Foster" silk interlock dress with sparkling detachable bib necklace, \$495 at Tory Burch, 66 E. Walton St., [toryburch.com](http://toryburch.com), 312-280-0010. Elizabeth and James black horsehair booties, \$470, at Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand Ave., 312-464-1515.

On this page: Haute Hippie vest, \$895, at Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand Ave., 312-464-1515. Zara black leather pants, \$189, and Zara cream silk shirt, \$89.90, both at Zara, 700 N. Michigan Ave., 312-255-8123. Elizabeth and James black horsehair booties, \$470, at Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand Ave. H&M black belt, \$24.95, at H&M, 20 N. State St., 312-263-4436.

Tribune photos by Chris Walker. Model: Amelia Pool/Ford. Stylist: Tony Bryan/Ford. Hair and makeup: Morgan Blaul/Artists by Timothy Priano.