

Cold comforts

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

By Michelle Crowe | SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

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.



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.

