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Editor's Picks: Jewelry

Fashion Jewelry Trends

Baubles, bangles and beads will always be glittering stars in fashion's firmament, but there's no need to break the bank to look like a million. Heavenly creations can be yours for a very terrestrial price.

[Shannon McCarthy](#) shines the spotlight on some beautiful bargains.

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Earrings

The term "dripping with glamour" has never been more apropos. Modern earrings are anything but restrained — you'll see luscious linear drops, large embellished hoops, classic chandeliers, bold interwoven geometric shapes and lush clusters of gold leaves and berry-hued beads. Sure, simple studs have their place, but if you want to play with scale and dazzle, this is the season to do it.

Get the most bling for your buck by choosing gold vermeil (this is typically gold plating over sterling silver and costs substantially less), or cubic zirconia in place of diamonds. The dazzle you throw off will be the same, minus the insurance policy you'd have to take out on them were they "real." There's nothing fake about the fantastic chic you can achieve with, say, a column of clear crystals suspending a perfectly glowing faux pearl. And trends are *much* easier to indulge in when you can afford a variety of fun and fresh looks. Consider semi-precious gems like rose and smoky quartz, freshwater pearls, or citrines when you want to amp it up a bit.

			
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Yellow Gold Triangle Vermeil Diamond Accent Earrings	CRISLU Cubic Zirconia (CZ) Stud Earrings in...	14K White Gold Rice Pearl Drop Earrings EDRKW6036	Sapphire and White Cubic Zirconia Earrings: Sterling Silver
At Target	At MyJewelryBox.com	At Target	At Diamond.com
\$9.34	\$38.00	\$59.49	\$75.00
Similar items	Similar items	Similar items	Similar items

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Necklaces

Extroverts rejoice — there's very little that's shy and retiring about current jewelry trends. This is especially true for our neckwear. The overall mood in clothing is one of well-tailored restraint, so our trinkets are set to take center stage and necklaces add just the right finishing touch.

Big and bright are two key motifs, as are other lavish touches like tassels, iridescent glass and multi-tiered layered necklaces woven with three or more strands. Lengthy chains dripping with seed pearls, crystals, faux gems and faceted wooden beads are a perfect (and perfectly affordable) way to flaunt your fashion sense. Gals who prefer something more abbreviated can wrap on a toursade thick with

tiny beads or rough-cut, multicolored, bold shapes. For those of us who'd like something just a smidgen less large, graceful gold-toned link chains are stylish without being *too* substantial. A strand of white pearls (either faux or freshwater) is also a hot choice. You can typically find them in very realistic millimeters, but choose the newer oversized rounds for the latest tweak on this classic design.

			
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Freshwater Black Pearl 7-7.5mm Necklace in Sterling Silver At MyJewelryBox.com \$39.00 Similar items	Silver Necklace: Sterling Silver Bead Necklace At Blue Nile \$55.00 Similar items	Xhilaration Metal and Hematite Faceted Colored Beads... At Target \$12.99 Similar items	10K Yellow Gold Singapore Chain Necklace At Target \$25.49 Similar items

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Pendants

This season, pendants deserve their very own category. This look has built slowly over the past few years, but now these sizeable beauties are the biggest thing going. Examples range from audacious hammered medallions and solid rounds of stone, to simpler nuggets of rose quartz or circles of delicate, airy golden filigree.

I would wear the smaller, sleeker models (little stars are especially chic) for a timeless look, then grab some of the chunkier, more exotic, examples when I want to be completely on-trend. Opulent cross pendants, crusted with cabochons, look like something salvaged off a Spanish galleon, while discs of wood or fat jumbled beads seem like old-world artifacts. There are a number of ways to work this look — you can opt for an all-in-one pendant necklace, or try a design where the pendant easily slides off to be worn on another chain or cord in your collection. (Of course, you could always choose a pendant all on its own, although you'll find that most come complete with at least a slender silver necklace.)

			
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Star with Diamond Pendant on Chain 18 At Target \$99.99 Similar items	Granite, Blue Topaz and Diamond 14K White Gold Pendant on... At Ice.com \$200.00 Sale \$95.00 Similar items	Cross Pendant: Child's 18k Gold Cross At Blue Nile \$75.00 Similar items	Xhilaration Metallic Silvertone and Goldtone Hammered Discs... At Target \$9.99 Similar items

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Bracelets

It's a good thing that there are so many value-smart ways to decorate our wrists, since the overwhelming "it" look at the moment is one of rich excess. Where a couple of bangles would've done before, now we want to pile them on, and that substantial single gold-hued piece has morphed into the wildly popular cuff.

You'll best be able to fully arm yourself by choosing vermeil over solid gold, sterling silver instead of platinum, and CZs in place of outrageously expensive diamonds. And the ornate cuff bracelets we saw on the runway — dense with inlaid high-carat precious gems — have been translated into real-world wearability. Pair a couple of these at a time for the same high-style impact, minus the economic downturn. As with the newest pendants and necklaces, there's a definite rough-hewn, vintage feel to many of these pieces. And by "vintage" I don't mean art deco or even 19th Century, but something much older — say, Elizabethan-era finery. It all looks more regal than frugal. (Hint — segmented and stretch designs make it comfortable to sport substantial arm candy.)



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Crystal Cross Cuff Bracelet 7 1/2"

At [palmbeachjewelry.com](#)
~~\$77.99~~ Sale **\$59.99**
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Xhilaration Purple Cuff Bracelet

At [Target](#)
\$8.99
[Similar items](#)



Bracelet, 'Silver Latitudes'

At [NOVICA](#)
\$99.95
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Sterling Silver 7''' "La Bonita" Cuff Bracelet

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\$69.99
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Rings

I've saved my favorite for last. I *love* big rings. So, obviously, I'm really happy about the ascendancy of the "cocktail" ring. And just when I thought the trend had hit its peak, along comes another season of substantial growth. Yep, they seem to be getting *bigger*. But here's the best part — this fantastically fun look is also getting more affordable.

When rock-candy fever first hit, you couldn't find very good fashion jewelry equivalents. And once those carat weights hit a certain hefty size (even in semi-precious stones) the idea of investing in this trend just didn't seem so much fun anymore. But now, savvy merchants are stocking faux glow, and these bargain baubles are irresistible. Black and white is a mega-trend, so you'll see tons of faceted opaque black glass or resin stones in sterling and silvertone settings. And while many of these rings look proudly primitive, some of the best examples of the trend are fabulous fakes — crystal or CZ-encrusted wide-band beauties that mimic estate treasures, or mock ruby and sapphire rings that you'd assume were heirlooms.



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8 Carat Sky Blue Topaz and Peridot Sterling Silver Ring

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Sterling Silver Onyx Ring

At [JCPenney](#)
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Sterling Silver Pink Cubic Zirconia (CZ) Ring

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14K/Sterling Silver Amethyst Ring 1.68 ctw.

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