

Your Life

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FASHION

Pinching pennies

with panache

Buy these now to stay fashionable next summer

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A penny saved while shopping now can be a penny earned toward a great wardrobe next year.

While fashion forecasters don't yet know all the trends for next spring and summer, shopping wisely at the end-of-summer sales at many department, mass-retail and boutique stores is a smart, easy (and fun!) way to save money on clothes, shoes and accessories.

Susan Huston, wardrobe consultant and owner of Arlington-based Susan Huston Fashion Concepts, said she loves to buy something in late August, put it away and "forget" about it

Online exclusive

Do you know of a great sale going on right now? Share it at star-telegram.com/yourlife.

until next spring.

"When you pull it out next year, it's like you've been shopping for a lot less money," she said.

But how do you know what to buy that won't scream "SUMMER 2008" a year from now?

We asked three fashion experts — Huston, Nordstrom fashion director Gregg Andrews and *Today* show style editor Bobbie Thomas — what to buy on sale now that might be in style again next spring and summer.

Note: Many (but not all) of the clothes, shoes and accessories in the photos are actual sale merchandise from local stores; prices were as of Aug. 1. Call to check availability. Phone numbers are listed in "Where to shop" on fill.



The trend: Tie-dye/ombre

What the experts say: Tie-dye, or dip-dye, patterns popped up as a fun trend in casual wear this season, and it's safe to keep them in the closet for next spring, too, our experts said. You might want to stick with neutral hues, though, as we don't yet know what the popular color combinations will be next spring. "We'll see dip-dye but in more classic, neutral colors and more earth tones," Thomas said.

Tie-dye's close cousin, ombre (French for "shaded" or "shadow") is that light-dark faded effect sneaking up on shoes, handbags, even evening wear for the fall, which is a good indication we'll see it in spring as well, Andrews said. Again, right now "avoid anything using too many colors... or rainbows," he said.

Shown: Nicole by Nicole Miller gold "Gossip Girl" tie-dye banded top (polyester-spandex), \$44, J.C. Penney; Mix-it "Rinse" dark denim short, \$14.99 (sale, reg. \$30), J.C. Penney; Bold Elements metallic earrings, \$15 (sale, reg. \$20), J.C. Penney; metallic bangles, \$1 each, Ruby; metallic chain necklace in gold, silver and pewter tones, \$40, Ruby.

The trend: Classic dresses

What the experts say: A classic dress is seasonless, Thomas said. Simple sheaths, traditional shifts or figure-flattering wrap dresses can be building blocks of a great personal wardrobe. Invest in a great dress in neutral colors — white, black, navy — she adds, and punch it up with one colorful accessory.

One caveat about dress-shopping from Andrews: "A lot of the dresses we saw this season were those extremely long 'maxi' dresses or 'day gowns,' and I think those have the potential of looking dated," he said. "Stick to dresses at traditional lengths — right at the kneecap, with clean silhouettes."

Shown: Milly white cotton shift dress with navy trim and pockets, \$126 (Last Call sale; reg. \$360), Neiman Marcus; Enzo Angiolini "Serious" red patent slingback pumps, \$94.95, Nordstrom; Kate Landry red patent leather billfold, \$13.50 (sale, reg. \$30), Dillard's.



More fashion trends, shoes and accessories 4E

COVER STORY

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MODEL: BECKY PARIS/STHE CAMPBELL AGENCY; PHOTOS BY RALPH LAUER; STYLING BY STEPHANIE ALLMON

The trend:

Tribal/ethnic prints

What the experts say: It's safe to say the whole safari-tribal-animal-ethnic print trend that was huge in stores this year will transition to next, Andrews said. "Safari-inspired is very classic," he said. Stick to neutral tones such as khaki, tans and browns, he suggested. Huston adds that it's hard to predict the future of some of the big "travel prints" in unusual colors that might be on sales racks now.

"When you think about prints, lean more toward classic," she advised. **Shown:** Sunny Leigh pleated brown "Moody Blues" polyester blouse with ruffle trim, \$41.30 (sale, reg. \$59), Macy's; Sunny Leigh multi-color "Jungle Fever" cotton-silk skirt, \$35.55 (sale, reg. \$79), Macy's; Franco Sarro brown-metallic sling-back wedges, \$99.95, Nordstrom; gold chain with brown stones and beads necklace, \$40, Ruby; Amber beaded drop earrings, \$25, Ruby.



The trend: Color!

What the experts say: "Color is a great way to transition seasons — try adding colorful shoes and accessories to a fall or seasonless outfit," Andrews said. Don't be afraid to try a color you never thought you might wear — especially if a piece is on sale. But as with any fad, just because one color — yellow! magenta! — is on all the store shelves doesn't mean you should run out and buy it if it doesn't look quite right on you. "Avoid anything that has a 'trendy' color combination," Andrews said. "All of that turquoise and brown is going to look dated next summer. If you go into a yellow and gray combination, you run the risk of looking dated." Remember — white is always a great "foundation" color, he added. You can't go wrong with a crisp white shirt, white denim or a white dress.

Shown: Nancy Rose chartreuse silk "Klara" blouse with loop details at bottom, \$130 (sale, reg. \$243), Hot Poppy Couture; Ralph Lauren 380 white jeans, \$99 (Last Call sale, reg. \$398), Neiman Marcus; Shih by Stephanie Lin turquoise patent leather tote with metallic accents, \$264.90 (sale, reg. \$398), Nordstrom; Patterned, wide bangle, \$25, Ruby.

Where to shop

April Lane Exquisite Footwear: The Village at Camp Bowie, 6333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Ste. 216; 817-732-7700.

Dillard's: Merchandise from Ridgmar mall, Fort Worth, 817-731-4711; several Tarrant locations.

Hot Poppy Couture: The Village at Camp Bowie, 6333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Ste. 208, Fort Worth; 817-737-8881.

J.C. Penney: Merchandise from North East Mall, Hurst, 817-284-4761; several Tarrant locations.

Macy's: Merchandise from Ridgmar mall, Fort Worth, 817-570-2400; several Tarrant locations.

Neiman Marcus: Ridgmar mall, Fort Worth, 817-738-3581.

Nordstrom: North East Mall, Hurst, 817-590-2599.

Ruby: 1540 S. University Drive, No. 106, Fort Worth; 817-332-7829.

Target: Several Tarrant locations.

Shoes and accessories

The trend: Strappy sandals and fun flats

What the experts say: Shoe heights will continue to hit both highs (as in heels) and lows (as in flats). But it's hard to say how long Roman-inspired, gladiator sandals will stay in style, Huston said. Sticking with a traditional sandal with skinny to moderate-width straps might be

a better investment. "With anything too heavy or gladiator-looking, you do run the risk of looking a little dated next summer," Andrews said. **Shown:** (Clockwise from top) Jeffrey Campbell brown leather sandals



with fringe and metallic detailing, \$79.97, Nordstrom; Cynthia Vincent "Laurie" chartreuse flat, \$117.50 (sale, reg. \$235), April Lane; BCBG Max Azria "Ceren" white patent-straw ballet flat with metallic buckle, \$99 (sale, regularly \$198), April Lane; Frye "Dolly" jeweled T-strap sandal, \$99 (sale, reg. \$198), April Lane; Attilio Giusti Leombruni black patent wedge gladiator \$139 (sale, reg. \$278), April Lane.



The trend: Metallic handbags

What the experts say: "You can't go wrong with metallic," Andrews said. "They're always going to look chic." Purses now feature fewer trendy details and more functional features. Look for a whole new crop of bags with working buckles, oversize clasps, pockets and hinges, he said.

Shown: (Clockwise from top) Botkier silver hobo bag, \$49.99 (available until Sept. 14), Target; Black leather tote with metallic "chain" braiding, \$85, Ruby; Giani Bernini pearlized oyster leather satchel with front-pocket organizer, \$45 (sale, reg. \$75); Kate Landry black metallic wristlet with gold accents, \$22.05 (sale, reg. \$49), Dillard's; Jessica McClintock bronze ombre clutch with rhinestone button detail, \$36, Macy's.

The trends: Statement necklaces and bangle bracelets

What the experts say: "A statement necklace is great any year, any season," Thomas said, because there's no easier way to add a pop of color to an outfit than an eye-catching necklace. Slide on some arm candy, too, with a bright, colorful bangle. "Any of the bangle bracelets that we saw this season — in wood, bone, shell, acrylic, leather... are always a way to add interest," Andrews said. **Shown:** (Clockwise from top) Mix-It red shell necklace, \$16.80 (sale, reg. \$24), J.C. Penney; Roxanne Assulin blue acrylic-rhinestone beads, \$75 (Last Call sale, reg. \$215), Neiman Marcus; red and turquoise "cinnabar" etched bangles, \$20 each and turquoise and black cloisonne bangle with flowers, \$40, Ruby; silver necklace with acrylic rose and butterfly and turquoise stones, \$40, Ruby.

