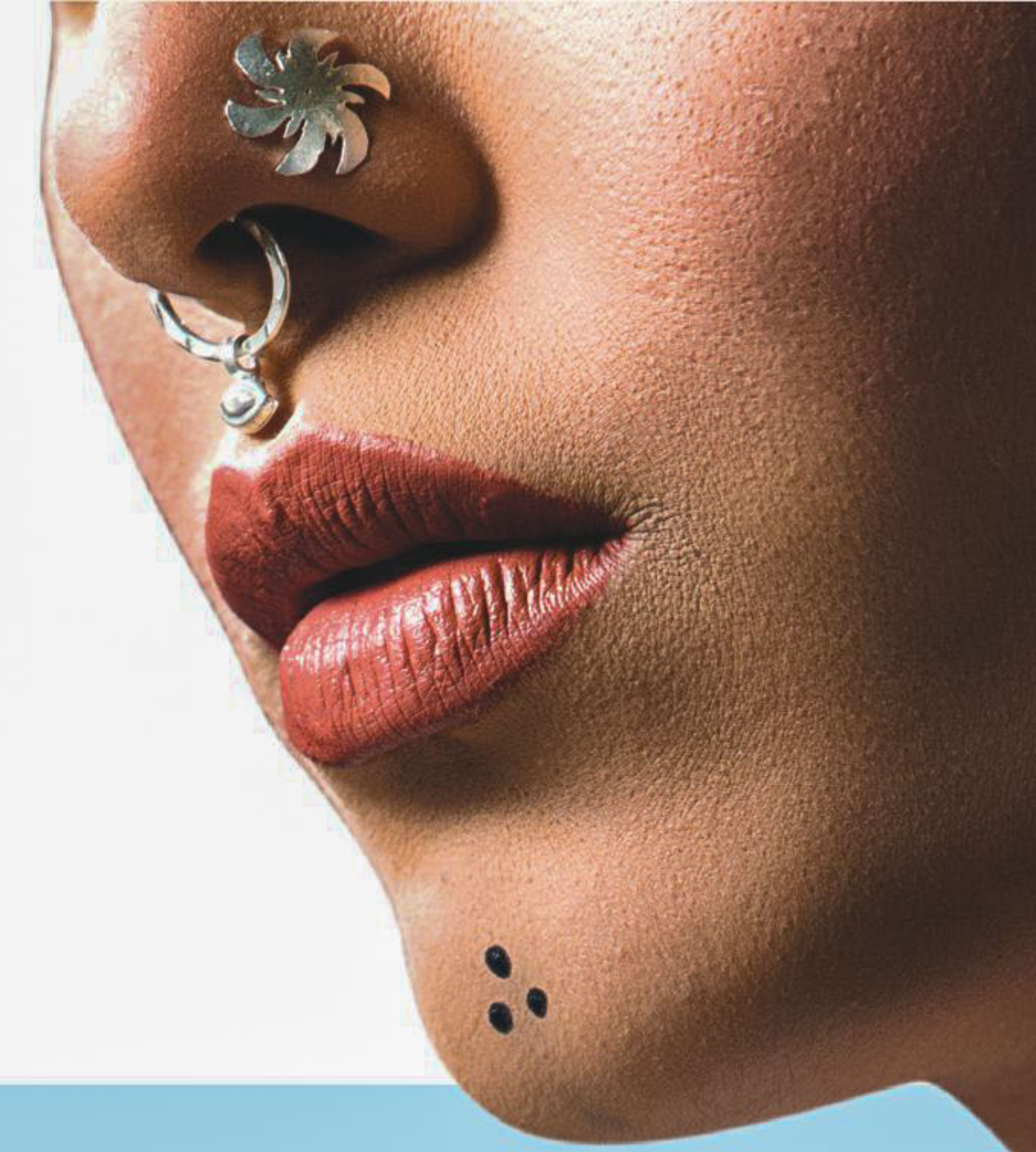


NOSE PINS

pinning a style statement



Nose pins are a big part of tradition in many countries. Even though it was a part of Middle Eastern culture, in the 16th century, the wives of the Mughal kings of India started to wear nose pins in the most simplest of forms.

The pins were floral patterned dots attached to a small stem which had a firm screw to hold it inside the nostril. They were also seen wearing big circular hoops which covered a part of their upper lip.



Through different times, women from varying cultures have been expressing themselves by accessorising with nose jewellery. Be it a simple nose stud or a big round ring encircling the curve of the cheek, each has a different appeal to it. Even if it's more popular in the Hindu religion given its multifarious beliefs, the trend of nose pins has become quite popular among Muslim, Sikh and Christian women.

When we think of Indian women and nose rings, more often than not we imagine the face

of a Rajasthan woman with an arc of gold, dangling by her upper lip. These pieces of bold jewellery are not just mere accessories but are intrinsically tied to the belief systems that are endemic to each culture.

In India, two types of nose pins were worn by women - kokas and naths. The kokas were studs which come in simple shapes and designs, symbolising the virginity of an unmar-

ried woman. On the night of the wedding, she would get to replace that koka and wear a stud made of diamond or gold.

On the other hand, the naths were worn by married women and are worn mostly by brides today. Besides, there is a belief among Indian women that piercing the left side of the nose helps the female reproductive organs, and is supposed to make childbirth easier.

In countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan that time has long gone when only married women pierced their nose. Now, girls as young as 13 are also seen doing it; there are no more age barriers.

TYPES OF NOSE PIERCINGS

The most common way of piercing is doing it just above the crease where the nostril curves gently away from the cheek. This has the widest range of jewellery potential. They allow the insertion of just about any type of nose jewellery. Other piercings include: septum, bridge, nasallang, high nostril and vertical nose tip. The septum piercing which is also known as the bull nose piercing is very common among village girls, and are accompanied by simple studs on both sides of the nostril, a moon/star on the left and maybe a ruby on the right.

SIMPLE STUDS

The most conventional nose pins are the simple studs. They are small and can be of simple shapes made out of diamonds, gold, imitation metals, or pearls. They come in different designs and shapes like stars, moons or just ordinary ovals. Whereas affluent women prefer studs of gold or diamond, young girls are killing it with simple gemstones. They make the structure of the face quite prominent and one can wear it with just about any dress. According to the occasion, one can wear simple studs with saris or shalwar kameez. With Western outfits, these go just hand in hand. They add a sophisticated touch to any ensemble.

THE CHIC CIRCLES

When we think of big hoop nose rings, we immediately imagine bridal jewellery. What never skips our minds is the circular ring by the side of her nose, and an intricate chain attached to it, that goes all the way up to the earlobe. Some brides prefer a gold

ring styled with a small diamond, with a combination of a plain chain. Again some brides go crazy over chic patterns of pearls or stones. Brides are mostly seen wearing thin circles of nose rings. But some brides, who are more bent on the traditional side, are seen wearing thick rings designed with studs of diamonds and pearls in thickness of gold.

THE FUNKY LOOPS

Nowadays, women no longer wait for the wedding bells to ring for making nose pins a part of their everyday look. They have come up with very trendy pieces available in the market. Loops of different gauges can be worn even if one's nose is not pierced. They are held by circular barbells on both sides of the nose. They look very funky and can be worn with saris or Western clothing. These loops have the added benefit that getting them is an absolutely painless process and they serve as a contrast to the simpler studs adorned by women. If you consider yourself a bit of a wild child, try a funky loop and let your personality show.



FASHIONABLE NATHS

Being part and parcel of the Maharasthrian tradition, naths are big nose pieces that often cover the mouth or the side of the face. The special designs that they come in are elegant and eye-catching. The designs are very intricate and made of 22 karat gold with a touch of pearls and polki.

Various combinations of coloured stones can also be used such as emerald, ruby, amethyst, and sapphire. The best part about a nath is that it can be worn without getting your nose pierced.

Two kinds of naths are made for those who do not want to pierce their nose. One style is a button nath which is locked by a small button connected with the ear and the other style is a screw nath which is locked by a screw and has a small chain to support it.

The other types of naths available are sling nuts which work as a clip-on nath nose ring and also the magnetic or push style naths. Such has been the acceptance of naths that it has even become a big part of the hippie culture. Other types consist of: nostril

screws, L-shaped pins, nose rings, circular barbells (commonly known as horseshoes), and captive ball rings.

STYLISING IT

First of all, you need to check the size of your nose and that of your face. Large noses and big round faces may look great with a giant red ruby. On the contrary, a smaller nose may be adorned with a silver stud. Big nose rings are mainly worn with saris. Even though only brides were seen to wear loop nose rings with the extension of a chain, nowadays girls often wear them with saris and heavy makeup while at a wedding.

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