

Why it's Worth it



If you have only one pair of earrings, make them 'diamond studs' — they lend instant glamour to even the plainest tee. Here are a few options for your holiday wish list.

ROUND

There's a reason it's the most popular shape. A well-cut round stone generally sparkles the most. Diamond cutters have been refining the proportions for more than 100 years. Classic and timeless, this can definitely accentuate your personal style.

SQUARE

Square or 'princess' shapes have a modern, tailored look and are the second most popular style after round. 'The Dream' cut, with 70



HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT PAIR FOR YOU

First, choose a reputable jeweller who accepts returns within 30 days. Then it's all about the four C's.

CUT

This is not about shape; it's about how a diamond interacts with light. Get the highest grade your budget allows (there are five, from poor to excellent).

COLOUR

You have more leeway than with a ring, since no one is scrutinising your earlobes. Just do not go below a colour grade of H (on a scale of D to Z).

CARATS

One carat or smaller is good for everyday, and works with jeans or a cocktail dress. Two to four carats are more of a statement.

CLARITY

The bigger the stone, the more clarity matters. For one carat or less, choose a grade of at least SI2 (slightly 'included,' or flawed); for larger stones, at least VS2.



CARE

Get studs professionally leaned and tightened once a year. Between cleanings, you can wash them with water, a liquid nonchlorine detergent, and a soft-bristled brush. Store separately from other jewellery to prevent scratches.



facets, was created by retailer Hearts on Fire and combines the square silhouette with nearly as much brilliance as a traditional round diamond.

CUSHION

Cushion is the third most popular shape. "They do not give off as much sparkle as a round," says diamond expert Adelaide Polk-Bauman of Forevermark, which specialises in rare, but responsibly sourced stones. "People love the vintage style."

ASSCHER

This shape is similar to an emerald but less rectangular and with larger facets, which means the clarity of the diamond is especially important. "It's great for women who like an Art Deco look," says diamond expert Josh Holland of online retailer Blue Nile.

COST PER WEAR

These sparklers will last forever, so spend as much as you can afford. Your investment is bound to become a family heirloom.

Photo: Collected



All about fragrances

Your everyday perfume is a part of what makes you who you are. It gives wearers a presence and a pleasant fragrance never fails to leave a lingering impression.

Your favourite perfume is basically the scent of your aura, the fragrance that you identify yourself with. You will find yourself going back to the same brand over and over again.

If you do not already have a set of staple fragrances, or if you are a first-time shopper for fragrances, be aware that you're a spoilt for choices, and that can be an overwhelming experience.

Fresh citrusy fragrances are created from fruits like oranges, bergamots and lemons. They are usually light and fresh smelling. Chanel No. 5 Eau De Parfum, Victoria's Secret Lemon Escape Eau De Parfum, and Daisy Marc Jacobs EAU SO FRESH are some iconic fresh citrusy fragrances for ladies.



For men there is Orange Spice by Creed, and Terre Hermès by Hermès for Men.

Floral scents are usually strong, clinging and sweet. Such fragrances are usually a blend of rose, violet, lily, jasmine and lavender. Chloe Absolut De Parfum is in its tenth year of production, and is an absolute favourite of most women.

Most men's floral fragrances consist of orange blossom — the main ingredient that works like a love potion. The Burberry Brit for men is hands down the best floral scent for men.



Earthy or woody fragrances are blended from plants such as cinnamon, vanilla, honey, sandalwood, patchouli and oakmoss. They are warm, dry and musky. Most fragrances for men are heavily based on this theme. Also, the classic fragrances for men are earthy or wood themed.

Oud, very popular today, falls under this theme. Gucci Guilty, Intense by Dolce & Gabbana, and of course Tom Ford Sahara Noir are amongst the bestselling men's perfumes. For ladies who like a deep musky scent, Miss Dior and

Burberry Body have the perfect blend of sweet and smoky.

Oriental themed fragrances, as the label suggests, are made from ingredients sourced from exotic parts of the world. Ingredients include spices such as pepper, cloves and cinnamon. The scents are usually warm and sensual, and definitely for the ones who love travelling.

Two must have exotic fragrances are Opium by Yves

Saint Laurent which is amber based, and Prada Candy which is caramel based. For men, perfumes of this theme include the cult favourite Paco Rabanne 1 Million Intense — the ingredients in this include cardamom, black pepper and saffron.

Lastly, a word of advice, make sure the fragrance you chose to wear is an extension of yourself like an invisible ID!

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Photo: Collected