

Shades

INTERVENTION

Caught between constant revival and abeyance, eyewear has undoubtedly been in and out of focus for over the millennia, but somewhere amidst John Lennon's vintage rounds to Kate Winslet's thick-rimmed black pair of spectacles at the Oscars in 2016, to even Kendall Jenner's angular, black glasses brought to the public eye via Instagram, eyeglasses have transformed into a staple fashion accessory.

For every mood and persona, there is a pair for you. An eclectic array of trendy shapes, exclusive designs, and even luminous colours await you to make shopping for eyeglasses an exciting adventure, but before you race off to find your ideal match, should you not know what kind to exactly shop for?

This is where a thumb rule comes in. To find the perfect pair, match eyeglass frames to facial shapes. The trick is to play against facial features to ultimately enhance your face, keeping proportions in mind.

Let's dial it back a bit. How do you even determine your facial shape? The simplest way is to take a washable marker or eye pencil, to outline the reflection of your face on the mirror.

And with that out of the way the real fun with settling your optical wardrobe can begin.

THE ROUND FACE

Characterised by full cheeks and usually free of harsh angles, eyewear on round faces should aim to add dimension to narrow-balanced features. For glasses, add an unexpected twist by donning uniquely-angled frames or ones with straight lines, or even a defined square. Chunky, thick-rimmed specs can give a 'stern but chic' vibe, whereas colourful brow-line glasses can complement a playful personality, while making a face appear both slimmer and longer.

When it comes to sunglasses, you can channel your inner glam by throwing on a stand-out version of a cat-eye pair.

Opting for classic Ray-Bans or the iconic navigator in dark shades, rather than pale

hues, will protect the eyes from UVA or UVB rays, and also add a timeless sophistication to your regular look.

THE SQUARE FACE

The idea in this case is to create an optical illusion against a prominent forehead and cheekbones, softening strong jawlines. And to your rescue stands the perfectly round eyeglasses like the ones popularised by the Hogwarts alumni, Harry Potter.

Curved aviators or airy, rimless frames are great to balance out chiselled features, and frames in complementary colours will contrast against your face to make subtle features like eye and hair colour truly stand out.

The right pairs of sunglasses, however, are ones with gradient lenses. Fading hues towards the bottom of the lenses with curvaceous edges will underwhelm strong facial features, and give off a softer appearance. You can also go bold with oval, vintage-style 'sunnies' or retro tinted shades that have made an unexpected comeback this year in the fashion scene.

THE HEART FACE

A face shape that is geometrically an inverted triangle with broad forehead and cheekbones tapering down to a rather narrow chin, this facial structure is quite obvious. Try drawing the attention away from the pointed chin with butterfly lenses in wider and an upswept style.

Trick your reflection in the mirror by creating an illusion of balanced facial features with airy and rimless spectacles. You can even channel your inner playfulness by going for semi-rimless ones with a pink or green-tinted bridge as to add that pop of colour.

With sunglasses, delve into the boldness in you and go all out for extravagant pairs like chunky aviators. Give rise to your outgoing personal style with oversized, yellow-tinted sunglasses with a '70s retro-chic vibe.

You can also tone down sharp angles by going a different route with mirrored wraparounds that can elevate any simple day wear into a real head-turner.

Taking the limelight all for itself, the humble glasses are far more than a hasty, last-minute add-on as you rush out the door.

Whether in eye-catching detail or exclusive colours and tints, glasses can be about highlighting individual personalities and contrasting your face with a mismatch. They excite and intrigue, and now all that is left to do is to get in the frame!

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