



Great Buys

A wardrobe for all seasons

Experts share their knowledge on the must-have pieces that deserve a place in your wardrobe – and why, writes **Renata Gortan**

Vania Hayes

stylist and wardrobe consultant
Just Jeans, sequin top, \$39.95
justjeans.com.au



What makes this style versatile for mid-winter and early spring? Layer under or over it for winter or wear on its own in spring. There's also enough detail in the top to take you from day to night.

Why is it a wardrobe essential? The style suits most body shapes. The low, scooped and gathered neckline creates the illusion of a longer and leaner body and adds volume around the bust, the longer cap sleeve is flattering and the draped viscose jersey hangs off the body, so it won't hug you through the middle — but will still give you shape.

When looking for tops that can be worn trans-seasonally, what should shoppers keep in mind? These are the pieces that you will wear a lot due to their versatility, so make sure that it is flattering and you should be able to picture yourself wearing it at least three different ways.



Colette Harvey
stylist
Katie's classic beige trench coat, \$79
katies.com.au



What makes this style versatile for mid-winter and early spring? A predominantly cotton trench means the fabric will breathe easily and can be worn all year. I recommend it as a finishing touch to any outfit in winter and in the warmer months of early spring, belted over a pair of tights for a look that can be worn day and night.

Why is it a wardrobe essential? A trench is versatile all year round, perfect for layering over your knits in winter and wearing as a dress in summer. This year it seems to be a little colder than usual and a trench is definitely an investment for years to come.

When looking for jackets that can be worn trans-seasonally, what should shoppers keep in mind? Make sure you stick to fabrics that will breathe and have natural fibres; these will keep you warm in winter and cooler in summer. Stick to block natural colours that will be versatile with your wardrobe.



Ashleigh Sharman
personal shopper/
stylist
Karen Walker Eyewear, \$295,
honeyhoney.com.au



What makes this style versatile for mid-winter and early spring? Vintage-inspired style is not only on the rise, but here to stay thanks to the success of shows like *Mad Men* and *Boardwalk Empire*. The beauty of a vintage-inspired pair of sunglasses is that you can choose the right frame type for your face shape, with styles all meshed under the banner of "vintage".

Why are vintage style sunnies a wardrobe essential? Eyewear is a fast, easy and cost-effective way to update your style; not to mention protecting your eyes from UV rays in the process. They have the ability to define your style or participate in a trend with minimum effort.

When looking for accessories that can be worn trans-seasonally, what should shoppers keep in mind? The item needs to work with the colourings of your favourite wardrobe pieces and the fabric and style of the piece should lend itself to layering across both seasons for maximum wearability. I always think of trans-seasonal pieces as those that I'd take on holiday — they're up for any season or occasion.



Wendy Mark
smittenwith style.
com.au
O'Hara, Catriona leather laptop bag, \$399.95
oharadesigns.com



What makes this style versatile for mid-winter and early spring? It is a classically shaped bag, leather never dates and the colour tan doesn't have a particular association with a specific season, so you can wear it all year round.

Why is it a wardrobe essential? A padded internal pocket will keep your laptop or iPad safe and there's also a thermal insulated pocket for yoghurt or coffee.

When looking for bags that can be worn trans-seasonally, what should shoppers keep in mind? Colour is crucial. Black can be too hard on some lighter outfits in warm weather. Look for mushroom, tan or blue-greys that can be worn with winter's greys, camels and blacks, plus the brighter colours of spring. Go easy on the hardware — it can look too heavy in warmer seasons.

Paula Joye
lifestyled
[.com.au](http://com.au)
Trenerly, maxi shirt dress, \$199
trenerly.com.au



What makes this style versatile for mid-winter and early spring? It's a classic navy, which means it works for all seasons. It's light enough to wear on its own as the weather gets warmer and you can layer it in the winter.

Why is it a wardrobe essential? Every woman should have a shirt dress — it's so versatile. And they're flattering. I like the maxi; you can wear it undone at the beach over your swimsuit, or belted to the office.

When looking for any items that can be worn trans-seasonally, what should shoppers keep in mind? Versatility, wearability, colour and fabric. We don't need anything too warm in Australia. It's hotter for longer than it is cold.

