



hands, necks, and ears grow cold first, it's important to keep them warm. As someone who once hated having to wear a scarf, hat, and gloves to go outside for recess, I find myself reaching for them more and more, especially because it adds to my outfit along with preserving my warmth.



However, it's hard to just simply find a scarf, hat, or pair of gloves that catches your eye just from browsing in a clothing store. The best way to completely personalize an accessory is to create it yourself. There are countless patterns for crochet, knitting, or even reusing an old t-shirt. I once tried crochet in the past, I was not very good, yet it was interesting to learn and very peaceful. It was a great activity to wind down and have some time to myself. I attempted to create a scarf once, a daunting task that didn't turn out that pretty, but I felt very accomplished knowing I created something purely by hand.

consciously *chic* with *Sophie Amberg*

The crisp fall air is finally upon us causing jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, and warm socks to no longer act as accessories but as necessities for staying warm. I once hated wearing all of the above, mainly due to their consistently boring colors: black, brown, and gray. While now I am prone to more neutral colors, I find myself using my warm accessories as a unique pop of personality or color to a dull jacket. Stripes are a staple, though there are so many fun, fall colors and patterns to play with in this upcoming autumn season.

Long, short, black, white, plaid, solid, or fringe are all various fun choices to consider when looking for a scarf. My favorite scarf concepts from my ever-growing Pinterest board of fall clothing contains piano keys, longitudinal stripes, a funky design with hands on the end, an apple pattern that transitions from a whole to a core, a ruffled one, and even just bold colors all capture so much personality for a seemingly simple accessory. The same goes for gloves! There are plenty of knits that follow the same design concepts. Gloves even have more choices to consider when trying to find a pair. Pairs come fingerless, with a removable flap, are lightweight for brisk days, heavy for those late fall nights, or there's even just mittens! Once the wind changes and

Not only are there many patterns to choose from, there's different ways to wear each article of warmth. Scarves have almost an infinite amount of methods to tie them, all working to serve the same purpose of personalizing an outfit. Scarves can cover the ears and the neck, flow long in the wind, some work just tucked into the jacket, or climb high up the neck. Hats can be worn in a multitude of ways, even completely substituting them with a pair of ear muffs.

Personal connection to an outfit always amplifies the person who wears it. Taking stark accessories and simply finding them in a fun pattern makes a large change, showing who the person is through what they wear.





"peacoat"



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With snow sweeping over Michigan, winter coats become a new staple in everyone's outfits. Most of the time, a coat acts as an item just thrown on to brave the outdoors. However, there are numerous ways to beat the temperatures and stay stylish with all the varieties of winter coats and jackets!

A continuous tradition that rolls around each year is the simple wool overcoat. These coats are long, warm, and a fashion piece that can be reworn frequently and not feel repetitive. Colors vary when it comes to these, but neutrals tend to work the best, as a coat should not act as a statement, but more so an elevation. I feel winter colors can make the accessory pop, even if it's just for walking down the street. Cherry-red, evergreen, or even a peacock blue all work in this scenario; it's an aspect that doesn't seem too flashy or extravagant, but it's just enough of flavor to make a coat striking.

Another style of coat making the rounds in the trend cycle is the peacoat, specifically ones with high necks. A peacoat is very distinct and dainty, often a thick material, on the shorter side, and has large buttons up the centerline. They have more variety when it comes to colors, I believe they look the best with light colors, as the cut and style of the piece is very feminine. The versions that have a high neck, resembling a turtleneck, extend to the lower jaw with buttons lining it as well. With this, the "Olsen tuck" shines specifically with this coat. The Olsen tuck is a term coined from the famous twins, Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen. It's a simple concept; when a coat is either zipped or buttoned to the top, one doesn't pull out the hair stuck underneath the fabric, leaving it tucked. The Olsen tuck is an effortless and random feature that creates a unique, "lived in" style, even if it's just for a coat.

Similar in theory to peacoats, the

"Napoleon" style jacket gained recent recognition as a high fashion trend. These coats are, as named, a piece with a distinguished flair, gold accents, and buttons that are securely crossed over one another, resembling the fashion of the French leader from the 18th century. Frankly, it's an odd concept, but it works extremely well, showing a new perspective to a normally stark accessory. These coats come in a classic French winter color palette: black, browns, and reds. The accent color additions often are either silver or gold, though some are a lighter version of the original color of the coat. The accent pieces themselves vary, though they are mostly seen as shoulder and elbow patches, loops for the buttons, or trimming details along the jacket.

While some find that coats limit self-expression, it's truly the opposite, as they can enhance an outfit with all of the different ways of personalization that come with them!