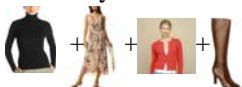


How to Make the Most out of your Wardrobe ~Fall Transitional Wear

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Ah! The leaves are a-changing, the air is getting a bit more crisp and the days a tad shorter. It's Fall, one of the most beautiful seasons and my favorite when it comes to fashion. Now's the time to trade in some of our light and wispy summer attire and instead cozy up in chunky cable knits, thick tights, and woolens. Its super easy to transition our warm-weather clothing into autumnal masterpieces. Its all done with layering—and a little open mindedness. Ignore mom when she tells you no whites after labor day, or warns against other such staid fashion rules. ANYTHING goes these days. The following are some ideas on how to get some extra mileage out of your summer basics.

The Sundress: That pretty little floral number that you reserve for hot summer nights



can be turned into a Fall staple by layering up with a thin turtleneck worn underneath—(remember— no ribbing), a chunky cable knit cardigan thrown over everything, a thick pair of cream tights and the crowning piece—a pair of to-your-knee boots. Round toe make the look a tad more informal while pointy toes are more sophisticated. Pick and choose your favorite—both look great! This easy transition also works well with skirts, especially the wildly popular prairie style from last season. Grab your white one from the closet and layer up with a black long sleeved number and shiny black boots (the higher the color contrast the better)—Throw on a cushy quilted vest or a fitted jacket and you are good to go.

Cropped pants: Invest a ton of moolah in cropped pants over the last few years? Don't put them away yet—you can still rock out these staples far into November.

Boots are a beautiful thing and will take you miles with your wardrobe. These beauties *can* cost a pretty penny, but you can fake out the best of them by shopping at discount venues like DSW (Designer Shoe Warehouse, Canton) or even at TJ Max or Target. As with skirts, don your knee-high boots with your crops, throw on a skinny tank, a fitted corduroy blazer and finish with a warm long scarf wrapped

around your neck—go the extra mile and don the very-popular and flattering newsboy cap to finish



your look and to appear more Boho than surfside. **Sandals:** Don't want to part with your pretty open toe sandals or wedges this year? Don't. Textured tights are a cute alternative to pants in the wintertime and look cool paired with an open toe or peep-toe pumps usually reserved for the warmer months. Get wild with color and seek out an eggplant tinged cable knit or fish net pair. The texture contrasted against a metallic summer shoe left-over will truly show off your fashionista side. Pair with a girly full skirt and finish with a cardigan sweater—How sweet!



So Guys, you are probably wondering, "Transition? I wear the same thing all year and just throw on a coat" Very true statement, but there are some items that you can add to your wardrobe that will



make you look cozier and more fashionable. Don't get rid of your Polos as they look great layered under sweaters—whether they be cable knit crew neck styles or a mock-style with a zip-down front. On colder days it also looks great to layer a polo under a button down (leave open and unbuttoned), under a jacket (whether it be wool or leather/suede). If you don't have a jacket now is the time to start looking because your outerwear is the first thing that will be noticed—and will either pull your look together or tear it apart. Another great look is a tee shirt layered under a polo layered under a plain suit blazer and finished off with a scarf—either striped or solid. Make the look more downtown by finishing off with tennis shoes or get more prep with loafers.



Guys and girls the main thing to remember is to be creative. I always say you don't have to spend a lot of money to look fabuloso—and you will look more unique and stand out in the crowd by borrowing looks from past seasons and making them work for anytime. Don't forget to scour thrift stores as well for one-of-a-kind pieces.

Stay tuned next month when I take you on a tour of Ohio's hot shopping venues and boutiques.