

WARDROBE SOLUTIONS

# THE CARDIGAN

From frumpy to fashionable, the cosy separate has come a long way—*Vogue* traces its origins, evolution and rise. By MALIKA DALAMAL

When it comes to making a style statement, the cardigan is often overlooked, labelled practical rather than chic. Now, thanks to unpredictable weather and over-enthusiastic air-conditioning, having a cardigan on standby is almost essential these days—but that's not to say the versatile knit can't still be modern, sexy and cool.

**HISTORY LESSON**



The slouchy staple was named after the seventh Earl of Cardigan—a British officer who, though he didn't actually invent the garment himself, led his troops into Russia in the 18th century wearing 'sweater coats' to keep warm. The Brits were defeated in battle, but the cardigan went on to become a winner.

**WHY WE LOVE IT**

Chic and comfortable: this is the appeal of the cardigan. It's cosy, can be smart or casual, and provides a supple top layer that is more relaxed than a coat but equally effective when it comes to making a statement. Plus, it won't mess up your hair.



Saloni Lodha in her own line, Saloni

**STYLE TIPS**

Shuttling between London and Mumbai, Indian designer Saloni Lodha is known for her modern prints and romantic silhouettes. She shares three fresh new ways to wear a cardigan.

- I like to layer a printed cardigan over a dress with a different print.
- Contrast—with the right colours and patterns—can be really fun. For a twist on a classic look, wear a printed cardigan over a white shirt and jeans.
- Draping a cardigan over your shoulders instead of wearing a scarf is always old school and super chic.”



**SPOTTED**



Kate Moss

Chanel's famous bouclé jacket has been worn by everyone from Jackie Kennedy to Kate Moss, but at heart, it's still very much a glorified cardigan.



Claudia Schiffer

Claudia Schiffer's eponymous knitwear line, now in its second season, features the kind of chunky cashmere and slouchy-luxe boyfriend cardigans that the supermodel is very often spotted in.



Victoria Beckham

A famous fan of ladylike silhouettes and towering heels, Victoria Beckham adds a fitted cardigan to her body-skimming dresses.



Michelle Obama

Michelle Obama has been seen punctuating her colourful and embellished J Crew wraps with a wide belt—a stylish combination that has become the First Lady's signature look.