

THE STYLLICIAN

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Clear plastic has been making its way into the fashion industry since its invention. Many designers have tested out this transparent trend and have created a variety of fashion items including clear clutches and bags. Practically speaking, my handbag usually has everything but the kitchen sink in it and that's not always pretty. I always use the clear bag as a statement piece and less as a handbag. Call it your counterfeit clutch, because no one really believes you only need to bring your lipstick and change purse.

Plastic fashion didn't just stop at the clutch; it also became prominent in shoes, jackets, and belts. Topshop

pushed the plastic practices, turned off the privacy settings, and created some controversy when it introduced its MOTO clear plastic straight leg jeans. These plastic pants were made of 100% polyurethane and were completely see-through. Loewe also tried its hand at transparent trousers in its 2016 RTW Spring collection, using similar plastic materials.



We've seen an array of clear plastic fashion recently, which we've narrowed down into three categories. *Frosted, Graphically Obstructed and Completely Clear.*

Frosted

Frosted is transparent, but not fully clear (think of a frosted bathroom window.) You can see this trend represented in jackets from Burberry's Fall 2017 RTW and Fenty x Puma's Spring 2018 RTW collections.

Graphically Obstructed

Graphically Obstructed designs use graphics and patterns to block and distort what lies beneath. This is present in Balmain's Spring 2018 RTW and Kristopher Cane's Spring 2018 collections.

Completely Clear

Completely Clear is like it sounds, plain and simple—you're out there with nothing to hide behind. Chanel's Spring RTW 2018 collection set the stage for the *completely clear* trend, with its clear plastic hats, gloves, shoes, and shawls. Anya Hindarch also used see-through plastic in one of her Spring 2018 RTW trench coats.



Anya Hindarch SS RTW 2018 & Burberry RTW Fall 2017; Images: vogue.com.



Christopher Kane SS 2018; Images: vogue.com.



Anya Hindarch SS RTW 2018 & Chanel SS RTW 2018; Images: vogue.com.

Here at The Stylician we're all for trying new trends. It's fascinating to observe new materials being used in new ways. However, we think we'll stick to using clear plastics for accessories and overlays. Some things are better left a mystery.

Disclaimer: We're no textile chemists over here (we're not even sure those are the right people to talk to about these things.) From what we know the terms PVC, Vinyl and PU (polyurethane) are used interchangeably to describe plastic-like fabrics (clear or not.) Each garment is different and to really understand their molecular makeup it's best to check the tag to see what materials they're made of. For convenience sake, we've also used these terms interchangeably. We definitely do not have the credentials to use them any other way.

Fun Fact: On a side note. While we were shooting the images for this article we misplaced the clear watch and spent almost fifteen minutes looking for it. It was lying in plain sight the whole time. So we know first-hand how relevant the question "Have you seen my PVC?" really is.

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