

STYLE



### SEXY STRIPE

Stripe Skater Dress £50 – Next, Unit 13, The Fort Retail Park, 20, Fort Parkway, Erdington, Birmingham or visit [www.next.co.uk](http://www.next.co.uk)

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## PUT SOME SPRING IN YOUR STYLE

A new fashion year means a whole new wardrobe. Style expert Natalie Dark looks at the key trends for SS13 and offers her must-have recommendations

With the end of winter in sight, our attention has fully turned to spring and the sensational new collections hitting stores and shopping sites. Fashion magazines are reporting on the top catwalk-inspired seasonal trends and it really is the ideal time to shop in preparation for the warmer months ahead.

### CHECKS

Check you out. Bold statement checks and large graphic square prints famously made their mark on the runways of Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Marni, Balmain and many more besides. Bold black and white prints adorned jackets, coats, handbags and shoes. Just add a checked power piece to your look for an instant outfit upgrade.

### FLORALS

Spring has sprung and once again florals are in full bloom. This season, we're talking delicate flower embroidery, bold 3D embellishment, graphic colourful prints and textured lace designs. You'll look bloomin' gorgeous if you say it with flowers.

### ALL WHITE

When it comes to white there's only one rule: if it's white, it's right. Ensure your wardrobe is awash with brilliant bright whites. Mix textures and fabrics or go top-to-toe in this perfectly pure spring shade.

### SHINY & SHEEN

Take a fresh, fashion-forward approach and invest in the new shiny and sheen styles. From futuristic holographic fabrics to glistening

embellishment and shiny metallic, you'll soar in the style stakes with this statement trend.

### FRILLS

Feminine frills and romantic ruffles make a welcome return. From fun and flirty frills on tops, to necklines on dresses, sleeve details and even ruffles on accessories - it's time to flaunt those frills.

### STRIPES

Get in line. From Breton stripes to nautical-inspired micro stripes, the horizontal lines have it this season. Ensure stripes adorn your work or off-duty ensembles to stripe it right this spring.

### MODERN MASCULINE

The modern, minimal, masculine trend encompasses oversized, slouchy separates – ideal for achieving a relaxed, laidback springtime vibe. Think floaty, billowing chiffon blouses worn with a fitted jacket, or loose wide leg linen trousers teamed with a soft, simple shirt.

### BLACK ATTACK

Black is usually key in the autumn/winter months, yet it's this season that sees the trend at its best. Figure-flattering and silhouette-slimming, black is always welcome in our wardrobes. Wear it head-to-toe on dresses, suits or for after-dark attire.

Plus our colour crush continues with neon brights and minimal, unstructured styles take centre stage for any spring/summer occasion.

Happy Shopping! ■

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ABOUT NATALIE DARK

Our fashion expert Natalie Dark has been working in the fashion industry since her teens and writes for numerous retail brands, magazines, websites and TV personalities with clients including Gok Wan, Nicole Farhi, John Lewis, Firetrap and Wallis. Born and raised in Walsall, she says helping Brummies to stay stylish is a cause close to her heart. Visit [www.thefashioncopywriter.com](http://www.thefashioncopywriter.com) or follow her on Twitter @fashcopywriter

SASSY JACKET

Blue Metallic Leather Jacket £325 (Biba) and Blue Pleated Skirt £99 (Oui) – House of Fraser, Corporation Street, Birmingham, telephone 0121 236 3333 or visit [www.houseoffraser.co.uk](http://www.houseoffraser.co.uk)

1. SPRING STYLE

Olsen is available at Savoir Faire, 18-20 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, Birmingham, telephone 0121 445 3334 or visit [www.olsenfashion.com](http://www.olsenfashion.com)

2. BLACK BEAUTY

Corelli Swing Blouse £61 and Side Split Chiffon Trousers £45 – Ann Harvey, visit [www.annharveyfashion.co.uk](http://www.annharveyfashion.co.uk)



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WHITE WONDER

Uta Raasch Blouse £159 and Peter Hahn Trousers £115 – Peter Hahn, visit [www.peterhahn.co.uk](http://www.peterhahn.co.uk)

1. HOT SHOT

Bobby Peplum Top £39.99 – Fever is available at People, 50, Poplar Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, telephone 0121 4443444 or visit [www.thepeopleshop.co.uk](http://www.thepeopleshop.co.uk)

2. BOHO CHIC

Monsoon, Unit 18, The Pavilions Shopping Centre, High Street, Birmingham, telephone 0121 643 0019 or visit [www.monsoon.co.uk](http://www.monsoon.co.uk)



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**CLEAN AND CRISP**

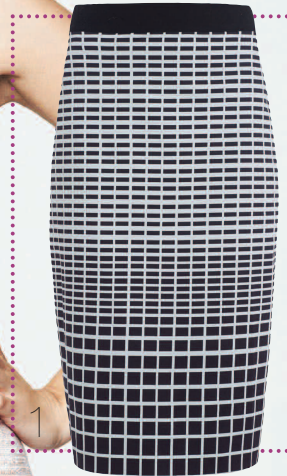
Nude Dress with Embellished Neckline £28 - F&F; visit [www.clothingattesco.com](http://www.clothingattesco.com)

**1. CHECK MATE**

J by Jasper Conran £40 – Debenhams, Upper Mall West, Bullring or visit [www.debenhams.com](http://www.debenhams.com)

**2. MASCULINE MAKOVER**

Jacquard Jacket £169, Polo Sweater £59, Daphne Trousers £110 and Georgia Loafer £139 – Hobbs, Units 19-20, Pavilions, 38, High Street, Birmingham, telephone 0121 643 6263 or visit [www.hobbs.co.uk](http://www.hobbs.co.uk)



**Other stockists in the area include:**

Serene Order, 41, Drury Lane, Solihull, telephone 0121 711 6942 or visit [www.sereneorder.com](http://www.sereneorder.com)  
Encore, 168, Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham, telephone 0121 442 4888 or visit [www.encoredressagency.com](http://www.encoredressagency.com)  
Joolz, 59, Hewell Road, Barnt Green or telephone 0121 445 4657.  
Disorder Boutique, Unit 1, Imperial House, 14, Needless Alley, Birmingham, telephone 0121 643 2131 or visit [www.disorderboutique.com](http://www.disorderboutique.com)  
Cow, 82-85, Digbeth High Street, Birmingham or visit [www.wearecow.com](http://www.wearecow.com)  
Beadesaurus, The Oasis, 110-114, Corporation Street, Birmingham, telephone 0121 710 5414 or visit [www.beadesaurus.co.uk](http://www.beadesaurus.co.uk)  
Urban Village, The Custard Factory, Gibb Street, Birmingham or visit [www.urban-village.co.uk](http://www.urban-village.co.uk)

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**WORKING WEAR**

CC is available at House of Fraser, Corporation Street, Birmingham, telephone 0121 2332 259 or visit [www.ccfashion.co.uk](http://www.ccfashion.co.uk)

**1. SHINE BRIGHT**

T-Shirt in Metallic Foil £22 – visit [www.asos.com](http://www.asos.com)

**2. NEON KNOCK OUT**

Limited Collection Fluro Black Dress £45 – Marks and Spencer, 42, High Street, Birmingham, telephone 0121 643 4511 or visit [www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com)

