

# THE ART OF MIXING PRINTS



## HOW TO TURN FASHION CHAOS INTO CHIC

### Mastering the Trend: Mixing Prints and Patterns

With mixed prints and patterns being such a hot trend right now—and one that's set to continue—it's time to take a closer look at how to combine them to create a stunning display of individual style. The more prints and patterns you try to combine in one outfit, the more skill it takes. And as this trend reaches its peak, you'll see designers pushing the boundaries to leave their mark on fashion. But for most of us, pulling back just a little from their flights of fantasy will help us create outfits that work for our height, weight, shape, and age.

I'll never forget the time I decided to get adventurous with my wardrobe. I had just watched a runway show where models were strutting down the catwalk in a wild mix of patterns—polka dots with florals, stripes with animal prints. Inspired, I decided to dive headfirst into the trend. I grabbed every patterned piece I owned and started mixing them with reckless abandon. I walked out of the house feeling like a fashion icon...until I caught a glimpse of myself in a shop window. Let's just say I looked less "runway ready" and more like a "fashion disaster." That's when I realized that mixing prints isn't just about throwing everything together—it's an art form that requires strategy and finesse.

### Mixing Solid Colors and Patterns

This is a skill businessmen have mastered for years, coordinating suits, shirts, and ties. The same rules apply when a "mix everything together" pattern trend is in. Failsafe coordination comes from mixing two patterns with one solid color, or two solid colors with one pattern.

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## Know When to Say No

When you're browsing stores and flipping through fashion magazines, you'll be bombarded with photos of models wearing all kinds of fashion experiments. But remember, just because a model is wearing it, or a designer has deemed it "in," doesn't mean it's worth wearing. Before you commit to a look, ask yourself these questions:

### Will I be the focus if I wear this?

If the outfit is the clear attention winner, it's probably best to pass it by.

### Do I feel confused looking at this?

If yes, move on.

### Is it ugly?

If your first reaction is "yes," trust your gut and pass it by.

### Will this highlight my best or worst features?

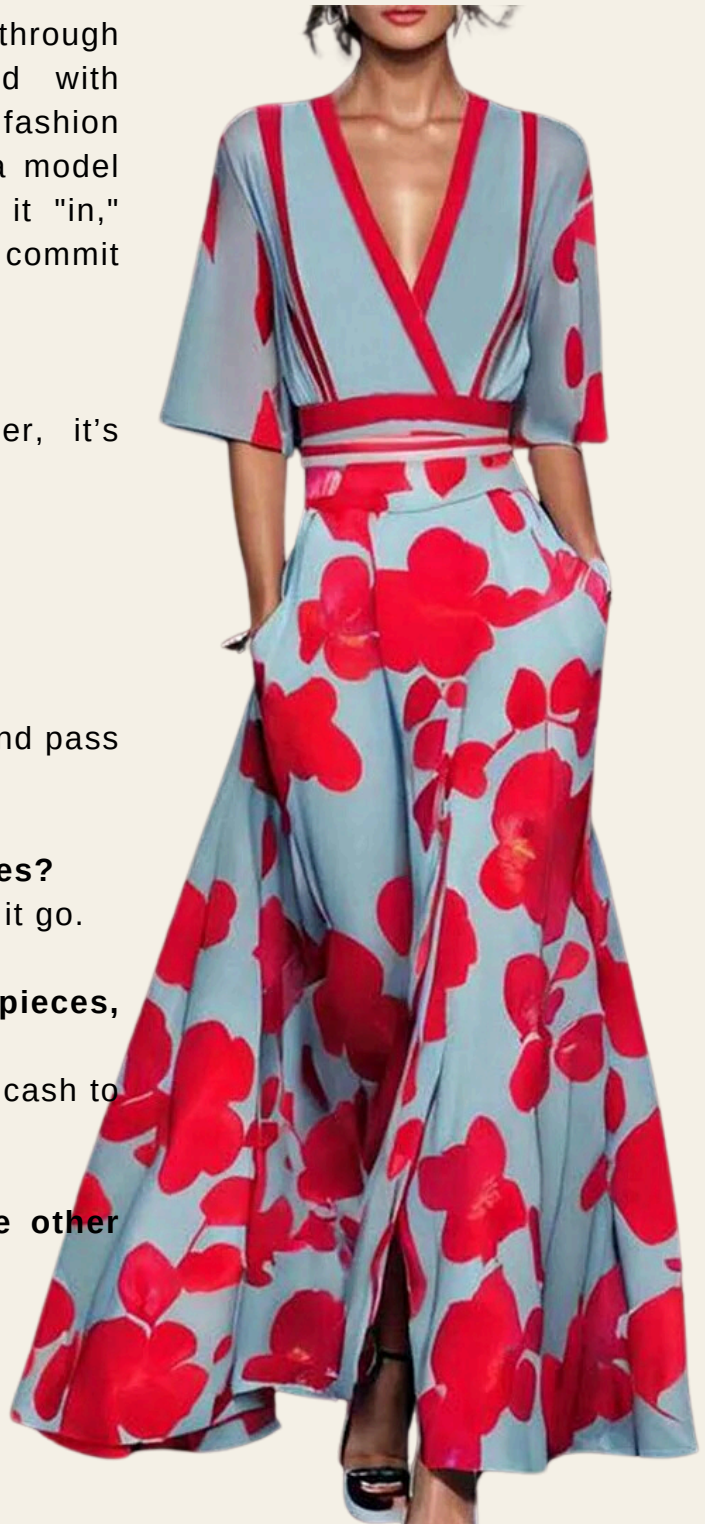
No need to explain here—if it's the latter, let it go.

### Will I get my money's worth from these pieces, or is it a one-season-only look?

If it's a fleeting trend, only buy it if you have cash to spare.

### Can these pieces be separated to create other outfits?

If not, it's probably best to pass.



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## Get in Sync

- To appear harmonious, the colors and shapes within an outfit need to look as though they belong together. Here are a few basic guidelines to help you master the mix:
- If you're a novice, stick to two patterns.
- The more complex the pattern, the better it pairs with a solid-colored garment or a garment with a simple pattern or texture.
- Look for a unifying characteristic.
- This could be a color (the easiest option), a theme, or a design line.
- Consider texture as a pattern.
- If the texture is obvious from about three feet away, treat it as a pattern.
- Different textures are often easier to mix than different patterns.
- One pattern should be dominant.
- This gives the eye a place to settle, and ideally, that place should highlight your best feature.
- Use solid-colored accessories or skin to "lock" patterns together.
- This can also help to calm the overall effect.
- Ask store assistants for matching items.
- Often, designers create mix-and-match collections, but always remember that every item in your wardrobe should pair well with at least three other pieces.



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## Coordinating Three Patterns

- If you're feeling confident, here's how to mix three patterns:
- Look for a common theme.
- Whether it's color, line, or design, find something that ties them together.
- Vary the scale.
- Combine small, medium, and large patterns for a balanced look.
- Select different values.
- Choose one pattern in a light tone, one in a medium, and one in a dark shade.
- Let one pattern stand out.
- This should be the focal point of your outfit.
- Smaller prints are easier to mix.
- But avoid mixing two patterns of the same size unless there's a significant color difference to separate them.

Mixing prints and patterns can transform your look from basic to bold—but it's all about finding the right balance. With these tips in mind, you can confidently experiment with this trend and create outfits that are uniquely you, without crossing into chaotic territory.