

Waistcoats – Not just for the men!

Not so long ago, waistcoats were associated with bridegrooms and waiters. Thank god women like Sharon Stone started ransacking their other half's wardrobes and made unisex dressing more popular

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What exactly are waistcoats? Are they the same as vests? My Google search results described the waistcoat "an 18th century garment for women that is similar to a man's vest, usually worn with a riding habit", and also "a short, sleeveless, collarless garment worn especially over a shirt and often under a suit jacket; also known as a vest".

So now we know the theoretical description, let's head on to the practical part. If men can wear skirts, of course women can wear waistcoats. But that's beside the point – we all wore waistcoats back in the 70s' and 80s'. Don't you dare shake your head and deny vehemently. We all remember hot kitten Kylie Minogue in her then-unglamorous days with large frizzy hair and – you guessed it – washed out denim waistcoats.

Now that waistcoats are back in fashion again, let's dust those cobwebs off your mother's waistcoats and give them a new lease of life.

WEAR THEM RIGHT!

- There are various lengths of the waistcoat available – the half-length ones that end just at the bottom of your rib cage, the normal-length ones that end at your waist and the long-length ones that are halfway down your bum.

- You can either leave the waistcoat open or button it up for a slimmer silhouette. However, if you do so, ensure that the waistcoat fits well. You don't want to look like a piece of sushi with too much rice.
- For a preppier look, pair it off with a skinny tie which you can steal from your brother or boyfriend. Let's avoid the bow tie unless you decide to take on a part-time job as a waitress.
- For an even slimmer outline, wear your waistcoat with skinny jeans and semi-pointy tip heels. If you're more comfort-conscious, bring on those rounded-tip ballet flats.
- Pair off the plain waistcoat with a printed t-shirt and some accessories such as chunky charm necklaces. Don't do black on black unless you're a goth. Or just really grumpy.
- If you must buy it in black, at least go for a different material other than cotton. Try satin, denim or corduroy. Avoid red – it only screams "banquet helper".
- Make sure you get waistcoats with interesting details such as trimmings and buttons to stand out and not be part of the whole waistcoat bandwagon.
- If you're narrow-shouldered, go for waistcoats with a halter neck cut.
- To give an impression of bigger boobs, go for pieces with a lower and wider neckline. Vice versa, if you want to minimise your voluptuous figure, go for higher and narrower necklines.
- If your boyfriend is small-sized for a guy, go ahead and confiscate his waistcoat / vest. It will look amazingly good on you if it's just one size larger than what you usually wear. Otherwise, return it – you don't want to look like a bag lady.
- Fancy that light blue vintage waistcoat? Pair it off with really trendy items and t-shirts, and watch the jeans you wear. Otherwise, you will look like a 70s' fashion reject.
- Those pockets will look a lot better if you don't dump 1kg worth of items in and weigh the whole waistcoat down.



Khaki pin-striped Nicholas vest with triple pocket detailing from Tangs, \$129



Black pin-striped Nicholas vest with triple pocket detailing from Tangs, \$129



Black Martina Pink vest with polka-dotted ruffle hem from Tangs, \$89



White Martina Pink vest with polka-dotted ruffle hem from Tangs, \$89



Halter-style light grey vest with brown pin stripes from River Island, \$105



Halter-style light grey vest with buckled stripe at the back from River Island, \$105



Men's Grey Knit vest from River Island, \$69



Light brown vest from Luis.n, \$57



Black vest with lapels from Forever 21, \$43



Champagne beige vest with vintage tarnished buttons from Topshop, \$79



Checked vest with satin lapel and racer-back finishing from Depression, \$69



Black blouse with sewn on khaki striped vest from Depression, \$59



70s' style light blue denim vest from Topshop, \$93



Men's Charcoal grey vest with striped satin interior from River Island, \$105



Halter-style dark grey pin-striped vest with assimilar buttons at front and buckled stripe at the back from River Island, \$105

RUNWAY REPORT

Latest trends and styles

And the award goes to...



▲ **Emily Bunt**
in Calvin Klein gown,
H. Stern jewels and
Jimmy Choo shoes

Somebody give her the job at Runway magazine already! *The Devil Wears Prada* star lives up to the couture standards in this flattering electric-blue sequined Calvin Klein, showing off her bare shoulders and yummy figure.



▲ **Helen Mirren**
in Christian Lacroix gown,
Chopard jewels and Jimmy
Choo shoes

At 61-years-old, Helen Mirren knows how to bring sexy back. Firstly, she reveals she isn't wearing any underwear. And more importantly, have you seen that plunging V-neck? Pardon us for checking you out that way, my Queen. By the way, you look really regal in that shimmering Christian Lacroix dress.



▲ **Penélope Cruz**
in Atelier Versace dress, Chopard
jewellery and Jimmy Choo shoes

Hands down, the *Volver* star is the best dressed for the entire evening. The dress, in all its ruffled glory, epitomises a Best Actress nominee well – dramatic and beautiful. The soft pink hue is gentle on the eyes and the flamboyant train in silk chiffon, organza and tulle simply leaves everyone gaping in awe.



▲ **Jodie Foster**
in Vera Wang halter gown and
Jimmy Choo shoes

The twist-front bodice helps to take away some attention from Jodie Foster's heaving bosoms but it also creates a pleasant line of sight all the way to the train of the dress. Splendid!



◀ **Jessica Biel**
in Oscar de la Renta gown, Neil Lane
jewellery and Jimmy Choo shoes

We have known Jessica Biel to be an action lady (*Cellular*, *Blade: Trinity* and that stinker *Stealth*) and that piece of fuchsia Oscar de la Renta gown certainly shows off the toned shoulders very well. But we're not too excited about the hair.