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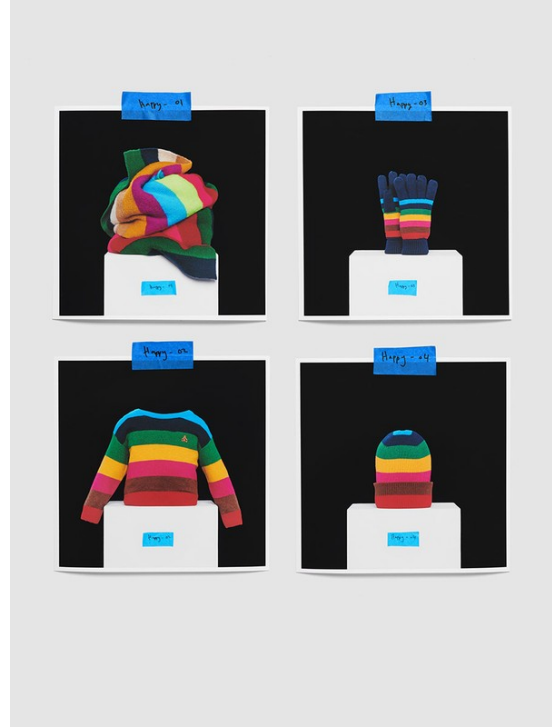
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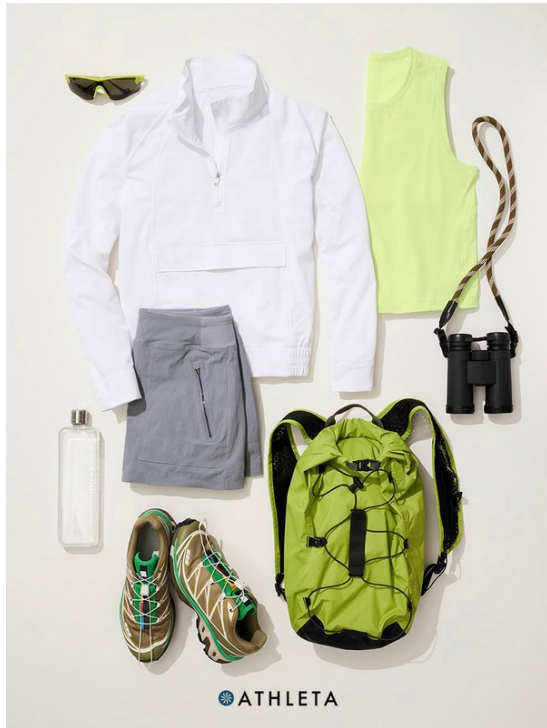
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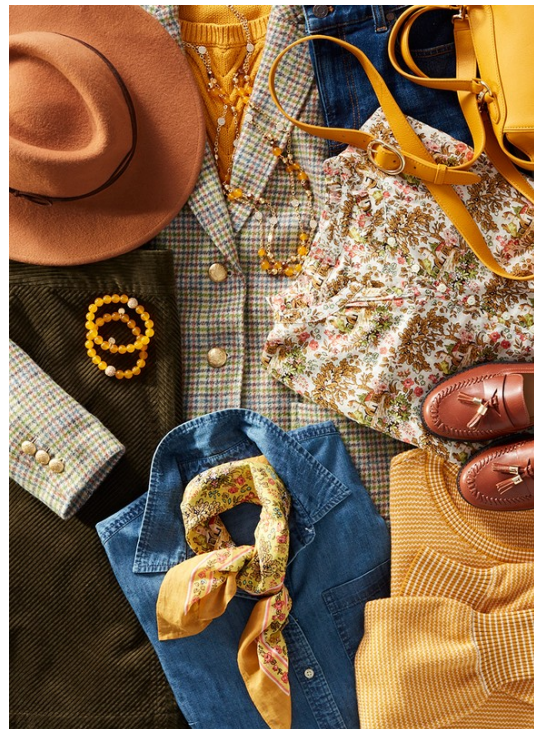
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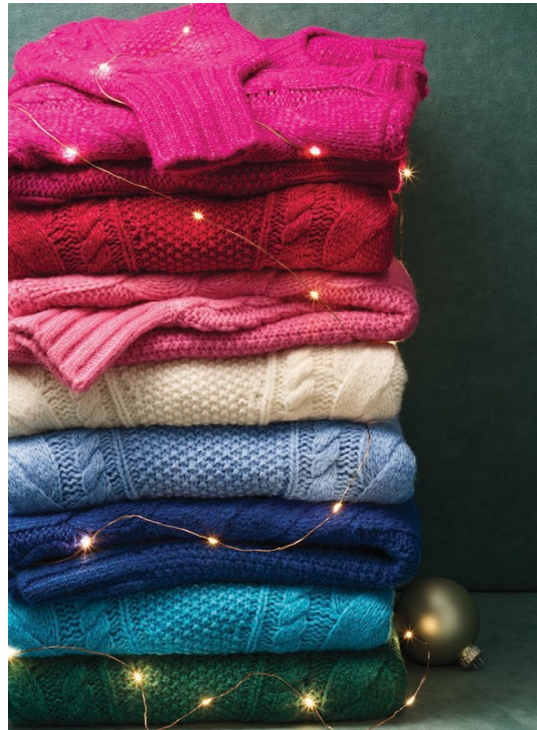
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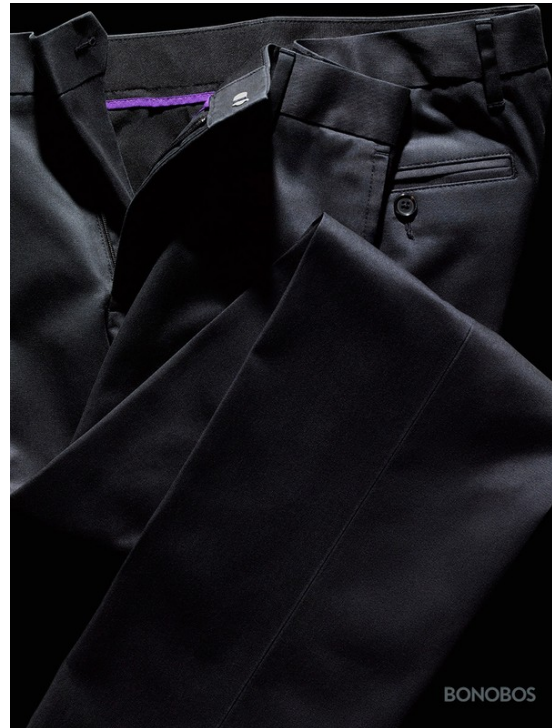
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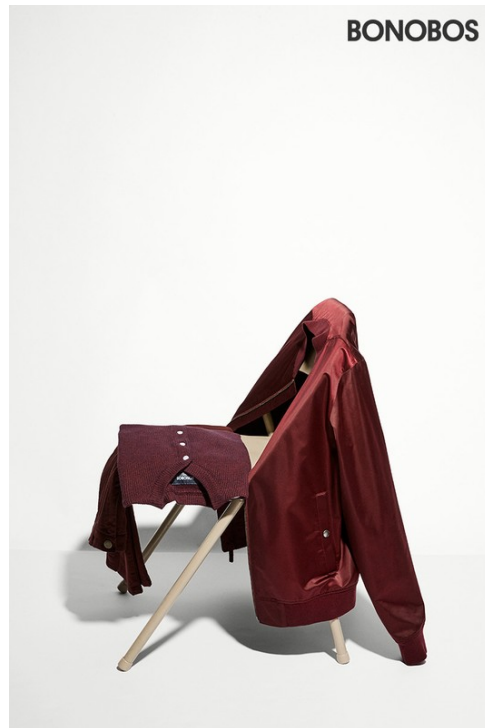
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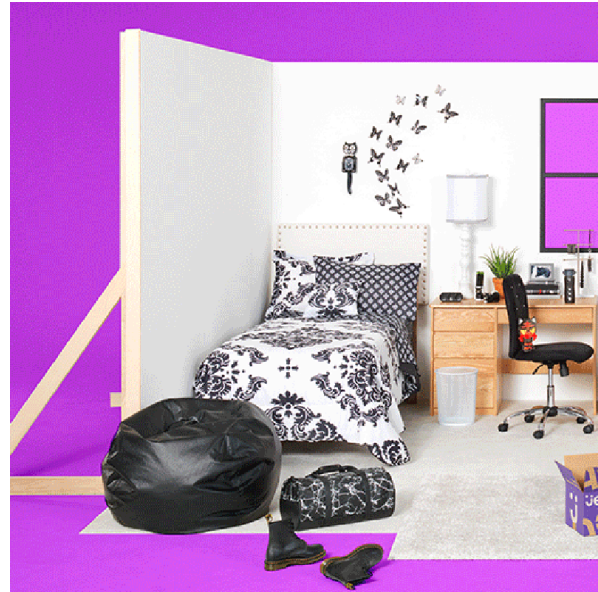
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What to Look for When You're Shopping for a Cord Suit

Elbow patches: a fairly optional old-school touch. If you are more of a laser-modernist, skip them.

Casual corduroy suits look especially good with kid-back patch pockets. (Also, ensuring Pockets can be laid-back.)

Suit Band of Outsiders (St. 200)
inverted Band of Outsiders, pocket square **Kaufman's Army & Navy**



This color is for corduroy suits: what gray is to flannel suits—the gold standard, (or in this case, the kinda bronzy, mustard yellow standard.)

Remember, a cord suit is a good look even if you're not a business-suit-at-the-office kind of guy. Sure, you can wear it with a white oxford shirt. But as you'll see over the next pages, going colorless and colorless is more in the spirit of 2014.



How to Catch the Right Wave

In addition to slimming cord suits way down and cutting them in vibrant new colors, designers have narrowed the wailes on modern corduroy. Traditionally, wider wailes were more casual and narrow wailes more refined. And that's still true. But the thing is, wider wailes are generally favored by dudes who hoard newspapers, smell like tuna-fish sandwiches, and wear car-corduroy blazers that are covered in cat hair and dandruff. So what we're saying is...you should go narrow. If you want to get specific about how narrow, you can break out a ruler: The good stuff has about fourteen wailes per inch, while your grandpa's hunting jacket has eight. But as long as it looks roughly like the suit you see on this page, you should be in good shape.

GO STEEL — PAGE 61



New Look, New Rules

How the Concept of the "Full Suit" Has Changed

By *Alexandra*
Illustration: designer of covered French brand AMI

In menswear today, everything is possible, so wearing a sweater or sweatshirt underneath a suit isn't out of the line. It's much easier to mix things up—it makes the suit more casual and elegant, and cooler. Making up textures is one of my favorite things to do—the a thin sweater with a tweed jacket, for example—but I always keep things in classic colors. I'll wear a navy sweater with my black jacket, or vice versa. We like the color combination of black and navy in Paris. I also love the look of a gray crewneck with black trousers and a black jacket. I've gotten to the point where I won't even wear a suit in a formal way unless I have to. I won't wear a suit with popper leather shoes anymore—I feel like too much. I always wear suits with trainers. Just last night, at a party for Budget, the jeweler, I was wearing a classic navy blue suit with a gray sweatshirt and my white Adidas Stan Smiths. To me, that's perfect.



Materials in right: This look is tailor-made for sneakers. May we suggest the cleanest, whitest kicks you can find? (See chapter 9 for a few good ideas.)

A V-neck over a white dress shirt used to be a 00 staple. But these days, when styling shoots, we reach for crewnecks ten times out of ten.

sweater Under (St. 200)
suit Band (St. 200), shirt **Blue Brown New York**, pocket square **David Hart & Co.**

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DON'T MAKE US CALL THE STYLE SHERIFF

The Do's and Don'ts of the New, Wilder Westernwear

John Mayer's ongoing troubadour phase has included a transition to head-to-toe next-generation westernwear. It can be tough to stomach a total celebrity makeover, but fuck it—we think Mayer looks cool. Here's how to co-opt the best parts of his style and avoid the mistakes.



Do not design for whom westernwear is a revolution rather than a styling trend. Like Keri, [Mayer] may be from the South, but his westernwear cred is impeccable. **Do** focus. [Mayer is a major collector.]

Don't tack your jeans into your boots.

Do keep everything smoothed, neatly buttoned, and distended. Mayer nails this aspect.

Don't pile on too much of the embellished stuff like everything on your body needs fringe, plating, chain links, and/or leather ripping. This look would be too much if Mayer's shirt had eagle embroidery.

Do watch old Westerns for inspiration. A few stylish ones we dig: *Gun to You*, *Once Upon a Time in the West*, *Highway*.



Willie Nelson uses select pieces of westernwear to achieve an effect that's more outlaw than it is country. (Frankly, he'd look right at home in the hipster neighborhood of any number of American towns.) To channel the Red Headed Stranger, you don't have to go full cowpoke. Just some dusty old jeans, a flannel T-shirt, and a few western-style accessories like bandannas and beaded neckties.

PAGE 126 • DO STYLE



My Early Days on the Fringe

By Fred Woodard, GQ design director



We're standing on the sidewalk in front of Cash's department store in downtown Meridian, Mississippi, on a hot and sticky late summer's day a long time ago now, and I'm staring into the display window at a fringed suede jacket on a child mannequin that looks a lot like me. It could have been cool and awesomely right on my rail-thin 18-year-old frame.

As a rule, my parents don't argue much, but there's a pretty serious discussion going on, and it's all about this jacket. The disagreement couldn't

possibly be about its beauty. Mom questions spending that much on any single article of clothing (probably their entire back-to-school budget) for a kid growing up at such a site. And in a mild southern climate to boot.

None of that matters. I don't guess, because we were in and out of that store before you could say Davy Crockett, and that jacket was mine. Dad's passionate, practically devout belief that one great thing always trumped several common ones overruled Mom's practicality that day, as it almost always would throughout

my fifty-year marriage. And not necessarily because he was the stronger-willed of the two, but because she wanted that little fringed suede jacket for me every bit as much as he did. Maybe more.

It may have been a splurge, but they got more than their money's worth that day. I wore it to school over chinos or cords, and I loved with a crewneck to the football games on frosty Friday nights. I wore it with my favorite pair of reworked Wranglers to the barbershop on Saturday mornings, and to church on Sundays with suit pants and a heavily starched and pressed white Arrow

shirt, buttoned up to the top. I loved the way the suede felt to the touch, how the fringe moved with my body when I walked and against it when I ran. I loved that the more I wore it, the more I owned it—that the worse for wear it looked to everyone else, the better it looked to me.

The damn thing was practically alive. There was never a day that I pulled that jacket on, not a single time, ever, that it didn't make me feel bigger and stronger and more confident, that it didn't make me feel, like, well, somebody. Don't ever let anyone tell you that clothes don't help make the man.

- 1. Fringe (12, 2005)
- 2. Levi's Vintage Clothing (1510)
- 3. Polo Ralph Lauren (1, 1985)
- 4. Versace (1415)



The One Confusing Gray Area with the Color Gray

Forget fifty shades—there are a thousand shades of gray. So which one should your new flannel suit be? Well, if you're a conservative businessman, the answer is charcoal. If you're looking for cool points, here's a rule of thumb: The lighter the gray, the bigger the style statement and the harder the suit is to pull off. So try on a few options, starting with the ones we chose here.

- DON'T DO ALL FLAT** As you can see, the best flannels are flannel and warm, not flat and overly colored. Your suit can make a strong boring if the color is too uniform.
- WETS**
- 1. Hanes (1555)
- 2. Patagonia (1515)
- 3. Club Monaco (1515)



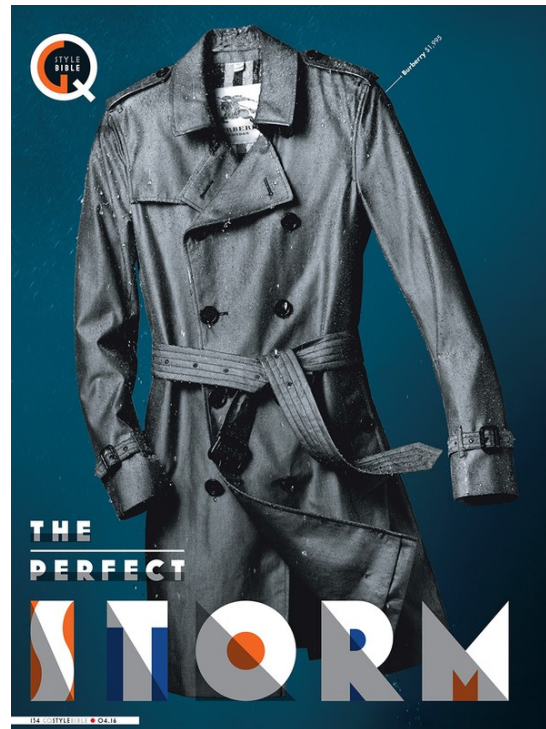
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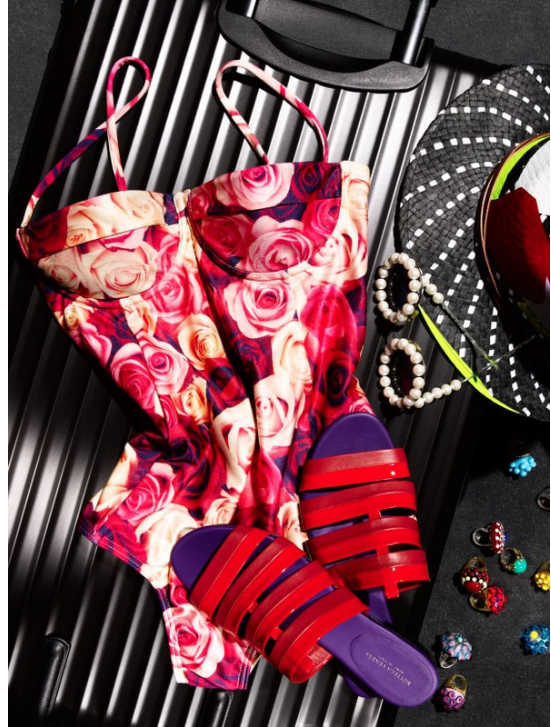


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COTTON - HIGH -

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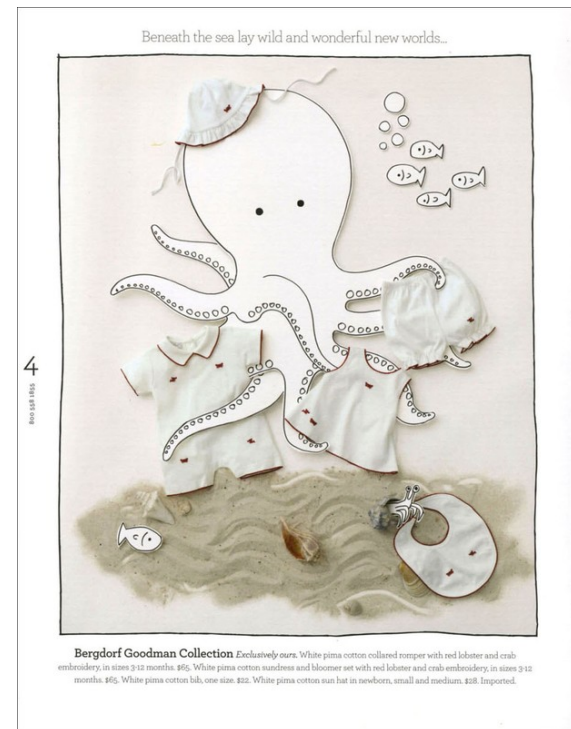
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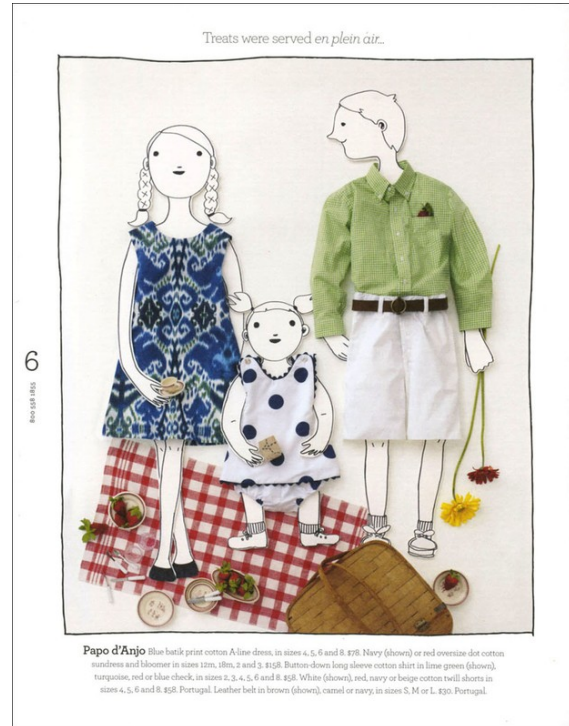
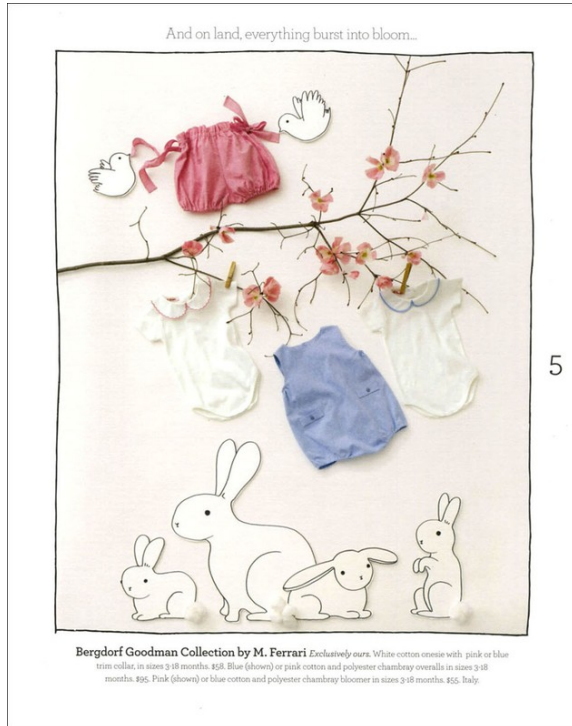
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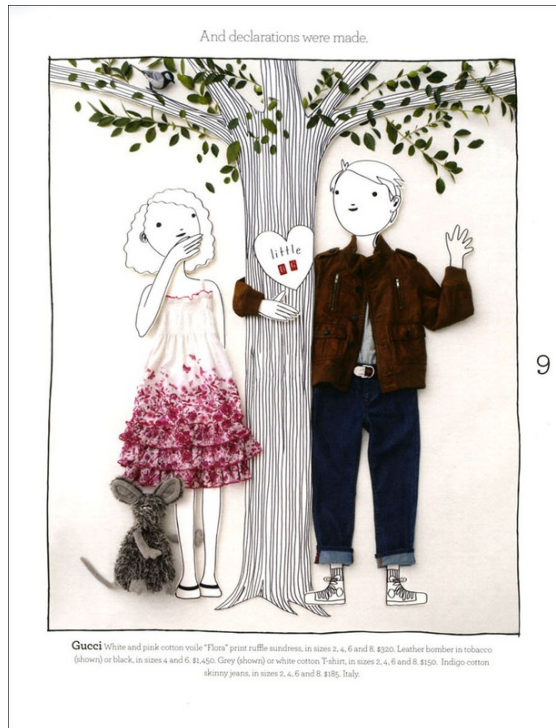
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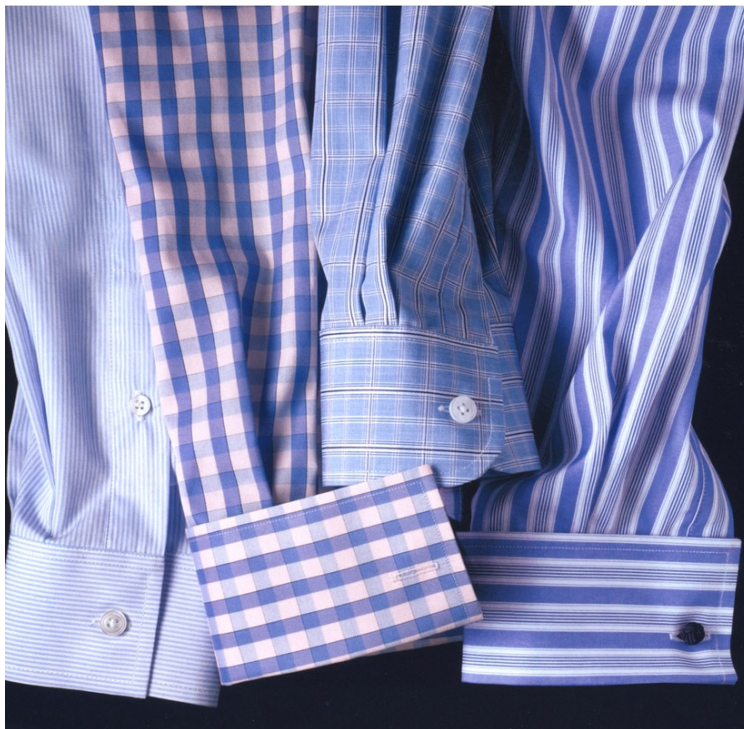
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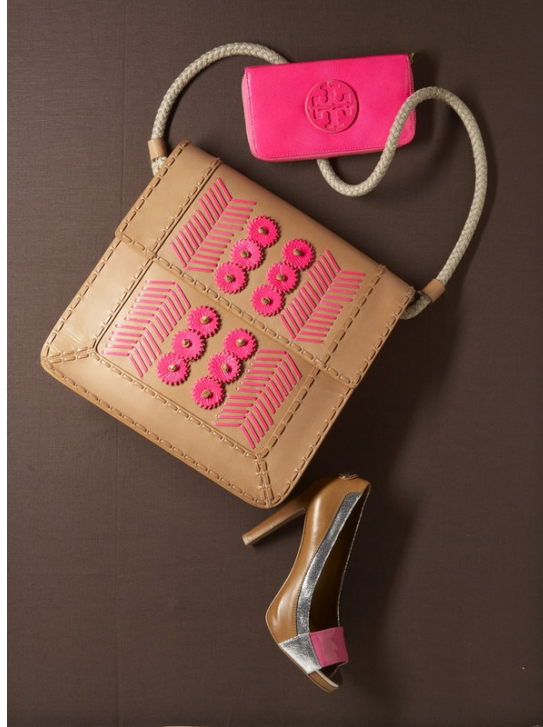
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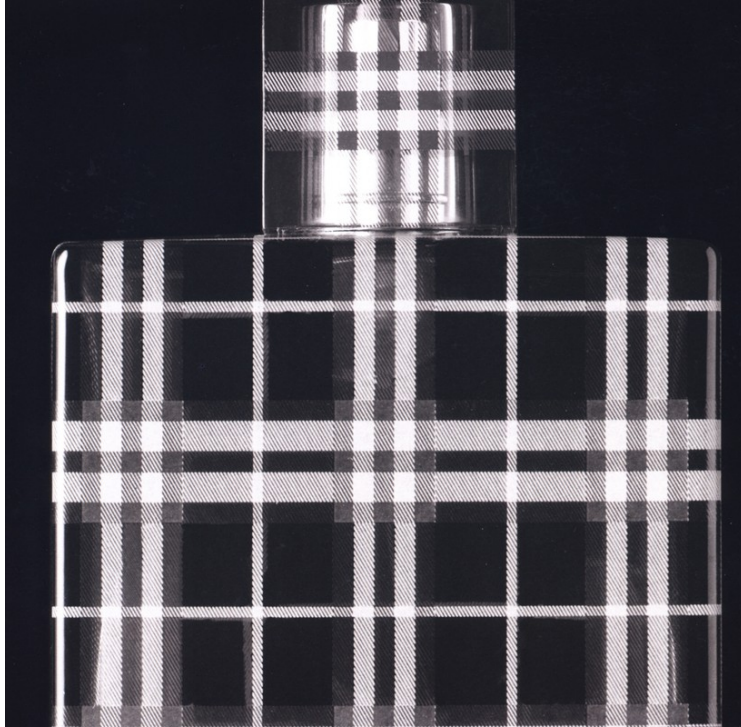
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 page 63, 588E
WOOL FLAUNT—\$692.50
 A rich, handsome wool dry clean. Women's suit
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 POCKET SQUARE—\$132.50**
 Design pocket for your pocket. Dry clean.
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 High-end luxury winter scenes by illustrator
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 Choose ink in gold, "Season's Greetings"
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Clockwise from top left: EBEL stainless-steel Sportswatch GMT (\$2,200), 800-810-2311; BULOARI stainless-steel Ergon watch (\$5,000), 800-800-8048; CHRISTIAN DIOR stainless-steel Chiffre Rouge by Hedi Slimane (\$3,095), 800-929-DIOR; BEDAT & CO. stainless-steel No. 7 (\$5,000), at Neiman Marcus, 888-888-4757; ROLEX stainless-steel Oyster Perpetual Datejust (\$5,800), 800-95-ROLEX. Top right tie by SALVATORE FERRAGAMO, 800-628-8916. All others by J. CREW, 800-562-0255.

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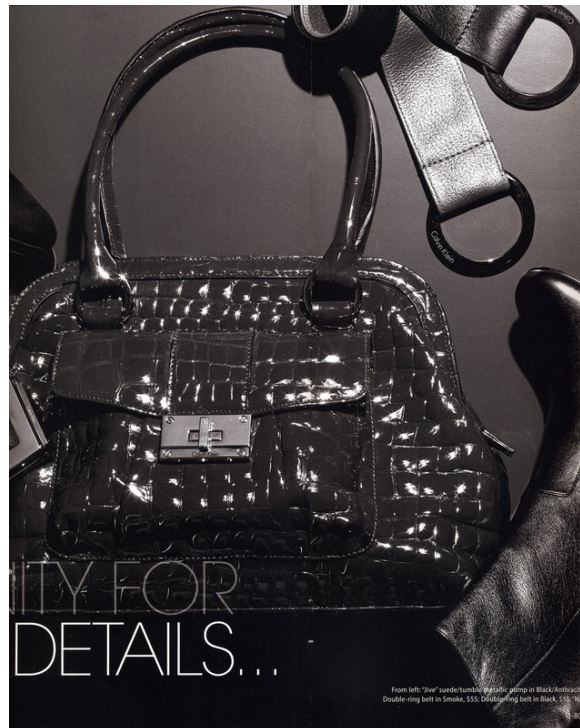
Top collar: from left, Cole Haan Collection vintage bouclé Rex rabbit collar coat, \$645. At attached Cole Haan stores; Marnoch coat with milk collar, \$4,095. At Barneys New York; Bergdorf Goodman.

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