

STYLE TIPS

Dark And Light Suiting

One of the hottest styles to hit the autumn runways is dark and light combo suiting for both men and women. A refreshing and inventive twist on the traditional monochromatic jacket and trousers ensemble, this updated rendition plays with neutrals on opposite ends of the color spectrum, offering corporate apparel an elegant alternative to conventional dress.

"Today's sophisticated look of styling a black or a navy top and a white or cream bottom is a classy alternative to traditional suiting," says Taraynn Lloyd of Edwards Garment Co. (asi/51752). "It's a fun look that's dramatic and makes a statement of confidence." Lloyd offers another excellent color combo of this suiting style: "Pair a black suit coat with a white or cream sweater shell or blouse to match the skirt or pant, and use the bold black suit coat to give the look cohesion."

Bayo Simmonds, president of Assertive Creativity LLC (asi/37166), lauds black and white suiting in particular for its ability to rely upon neutrals as a color foundation. "Black and white are colors you can always depend on," he says, "because they act as a base from which all other colors are derived." When combined, particularly in suiting, they have a powerful impact. "They make a significant fashion statement without requiring much effort," he says. A Brooklyn native, Simmonds points out that the Brooklyn Nets recently adopted this color combo as its brand identity: "This makes it easy for fans like me to integrate their new team clothing in an everyday wardrobe."

Lloyd sees this trend as having wonderful potential for the promotional products industry. She suggests distributors should present three or four outfit options to customers. "Once buyers understand more options can be created using only a couple of colors and styles," she says, "they'll be more open to adopting the entire program."

Simmonds suggests catering companies, restaurants and the wedding industry as potential clients for this suiting trend; Lloyd mentions hotels and education and office environments as well as any industry wanting to make a statement.



Fashion Tip

Don't forget to extend this trend to shoes when incorporating it in your suiting ensemble. For example, wear white or tan shoes when sporting a white shirt or blazer.



Cardigan Suit Coat

This attractive polyester/wool, one-button cardigan suit coat (6490) is available from Edwards Garment Co. (asi/51752; circle 112 on Free Info Card) and can be used to complete a dark and light suit ensemble.

Brown and Black Suit

Assertive Creativity LLC (asi/37166; circle 116 on Free Info Card) carries numerous men's suit styles, all of which can be mixed and matched. For example, consider the jacket in this brown "wool-feel" suit (2912V) with trousers from this dapper black pinstripe suit (5903V).



Skirt and Vest

This cotton/spandex khaki skirt (23157) and adorable V-neck black vest (2100) make a perfect pair and are available from Executive Apparel Inc. (asi/53418; circle 105 on Free Info Card).