

# We've Got You Covered Head to Toe . . . in Accessories

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## Heads Up

We're starting off on top, because according to our friend Grant Harris, who has graced *SRT's* pages before, we are going to see more hats than ever in the Spring of 2016. Harris, who has been featured in *Time*, *Wall Street Journal*, Huff Post (aka The Huffington Post) and on CNN, is the founder of Image Granted ([www.imagegranted.com](http://www.imagegranted.com)), a DC-based menswear consultancy "building bigger business for corporations and better closets for individuals through value-based products and services."

"Not since JFK took his inauguration hatless in the '60s [an event that caused a stir because hats were very fashionable back then] has headwear been so popular amongst men," Harris assures us.



Image Granted's Grant Harris

*SRT* concurs, and we note that many of our favorite celebrities, men *and* women – think Cameron Diaz, Reese Witherspoon, Justin Timberlake, Ryan Gosling, and of course Lady Gaga and Pharrell Williams – are seldom seen hatless anymore. As for men's hat trends coming in the Spring, Harris tells us, "All styles from formal to casual will be featured. However, the two most prominent are the Panama and the bucket hat. On

opposite ends of the style spectrum, the angular and streamlined Panama is popular amongst the tailored crowd, while the soft crumpled bucket hat is a convenient way to beat the heat with casual functionality."

## Heads Down

To find out what will be trending below the hat, for women at least, we spoke to Suzi Roher ([www.suziroher.com](http://www.suziroher.com)), a design-

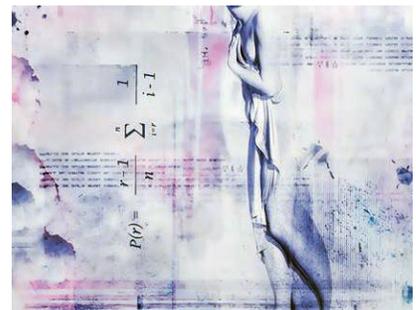
er of handmade accessories found at many prestigious retail outlets – including Neiman Marcus, Saks, Holt Renfrew – throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe.

Roher, who creates in the belief that women appreciate an element of fantasy, tells us that "the wrap belt is continuing to trend, and is being shown in multiple ways. One is the wrap as in double wrap obi [literally 'sash'] waist belt, and the other is a waist belt with a twist."

Also back in style, Roher says, are woven belts, "but reworked in a very new and modern way," and mesh belts, too. "The first piece we did that comes to mind is a double wrap mesh belt with leather," she recalls. Other trends include metal waist belts, hand-stitched trouser belts, and jeans belts "with attitude...studded or hand-stitched." And, we will also see lots of what Roher calls "jewelry" belts, which "include soft dressing chains in both resin and metal to finish off an outfit."



Designer Suzi Roher



Above, Roher's cloth belt, chain belt and Aphrodite scarf

As for scarves, Roher offers firmly, “[Consumers] are looking for wearable art. They love a gorgeous set of colors, but beyond that they want a beautiful picture or awesome message [to be revealed] when they open their scarf. It becomes their own personal piece of empowerment.”

“Aphrodite” and “Love Formula” are two Roher creations that will debut in Spring. “Aphrodite is a statue that sits right outside our hotel room when we stay in Florence,” Roher explains. As for the Love Formula, which was proposed by a mathematician, “it tells you how many people on average you will need to reject before finding true love.” The essence of Roher’s Spring collection mixes ‘60s fantasy with a sprinkle of tech. “The battle between science and emotion continues,” Roher concludes.

### In Hand or Across the Body?

No list of accessories would be complete without an update on handbags. Tony Drockton, CEO of Hammitt ([www.Hammitt.com](http://www.Hammitt.com)), a luxury handbag company based in Los Angeles, affirms that “Hammitt is known for its timeless silhouettes, signature rivet details and functional designs,” all of which will continue to be shown in the Spring.

But in addition to its cornerstone creations, Hammit embraces trends that reflect today’s cultural and social vibes. Says Drockton, “We will be seeing [more] androgynous shapes and designs that can be carried by men or woman.” Nor will gender lines alone be obscured. Drockton promises that we will also see “blurring of the lines between casual and dress in design and functionality.”

Drockton’s Spring collection will include “classic, smaller silhouettes” that will function as wallets and clutches that “can also be carried inside a tote or day bag for easy access to night-time essentials.” And of course the Hammitt collection will have the larger functional bags that can carry tablets, computers and chargers, as well as make-up and all the day-to-night essentials.

“We have added additional convertible cross-body/clutches with even more interior functionality,” Drockton continues.

“Cross-body is **not** an option but a necessity for any bag.



**Tony Drockton, CEO of luxury handbag maker Hammitt**



**Hammitt bags come in various sizes to appeal to the widest possible audience.**

This allows our Hammitt fan to easily carry one bag that will flow from coffee to cocktails.”

Drockton promises that we will see “natural leathers with deeper grains and softer feels,” and “tonal designs including ‘flooded’ bags in both earth tones and pastels.” For those new to bag terminology, “flooded” means leather and hardware are the same color. And yes, fringe is still in, “due to the overwhelming popularity of the festival culture which was revived (from Woodstock) on the west coast” with Coachella, Burning Man, Stagecoach and more.

### Last but Not Least

Accessories for your feet? Of course! Kara Mac, formerly a fashion designer for Ralph Lauren and Talbots, is the brainchild behind ShoeCandy by Kara Mac, a company she co-founded in 2014 with fashion expert and TLC *Wedding Day Makeover* star Ann Merin.

The idea behind ShoeCandy by Kara Mac was this: Instead of weighing down a suitcase with different pairs of pumps, boots, ballet flats and loafers to meet all of a female executive traveler’s fashion needs, Mac has created an



**ShoeCandy by Kara Mac co-founder Kara Mac**

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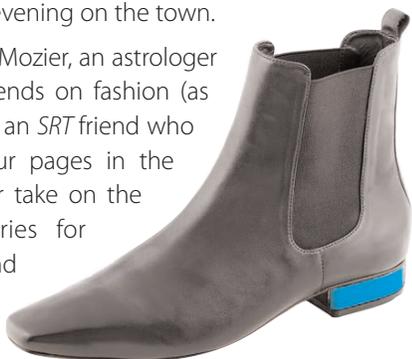
**Fashion**  
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accessory-based shoe enabling the executive to pack one pair of pumps, one pair of loafers, one pair of ballet flats and one pair of boots (four pairs of shoes) but have with her twenty, or even more, shoe options.



But even non-travelers will want to get in on this act. And Mac has created an interactive website at [www.karamac.com](http://www.karamac.com) that makes it easy to do so. The base she begins with is a collection of Brazilian-made shoes, including a pump, ballet flat, loafer, high and low boot and sandal. Then the fun begins. There are interchangeable snap-on heel covers (called Sole Sisters) in a wide variety of colors and designs, buckles and bows and other ornaments (called Clipsters), and for the sandals, strap covers that can take a pair of feet from a day at the beach to an evening on the town.

We asked Jeanne Mozier, an astrologer and predictor of trends on fashion (as well as politics) and an *SRT* friend who has also graced our pages in the past, to give us her take on the future of accessories for shoes generally, and on ShoeCandy by Kara Mac in particular. Mozier confidently predicts that “Tiny details will have big impacts, especially at modest prices. Kara Mac’s ShoeCandy captures the trend.”



**Kara Mac’s  
Betty Boot with Turquoise Heel**

Since Kara Mac recently exhibited at FN PLATFORM/MAGIC, the noted industry convention in Las Vegas where manufacturers show their lines to retail buyers, you could say that she is already aligning herself (and our feet) with the stars. ■