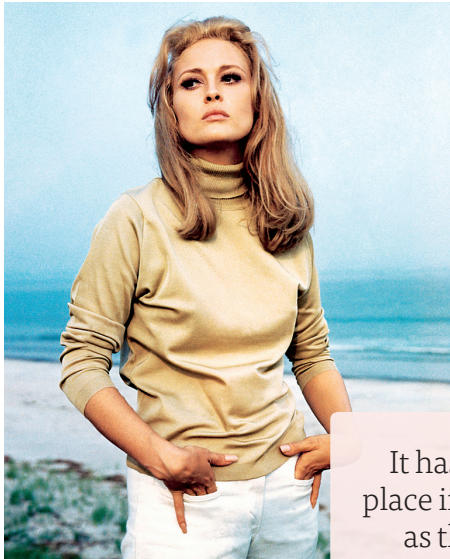


Classics revisited The polo neck

How to wear it now by Victoria Bain



REX FEATURES

It has long had a place in pop culture, as the attire of beatniks and the costume of smart, stylish starlets

If an embrace were a piece of clothing, it would be a polo neck. Comfort, coverage and convenience all wrapped up in one trusty item – a true wear-with-anything winter wonder.

It has long had a place in pop culture, from its role in the ‘sweater girl’ movement of the 1940s and 50s to its adoption as the attire of beatniks and the costume of smart, stylish starlets – see Faye Dunaway in *The Thomas Crown Affair* (above).

But to understand the polo neck’s place today we must consider one of its most iconic wearers: the late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs. His black polo neck, sported with stonewashed jeans, became his signature. How? After a much-maligned attempt to bring an Issey Miyake-designed uniform to the Apple workforce, Jobs asked the Japanese designer to make him a number of plain black polo necks so that he could have a daily uniform for personal convenience. Miyake made him 100, and Jobs wore them every day, a quiet yet bold style statement.

This season it’s all about layering the polo neck. The autumn/winter 2015 collections saw it sit under a shirt and jacket (at Hermès), beneath sleeveless dresses (short and sparkly at Sonia Rykiel; mid-length and elegant at Dior), and paired with high-waisted A-line skirts and tailored flares in a nod to the 1970s trend.

So dig out yours and wear it with pride. Even better, buy a rainbow of colours and treasure them for ever. **Bibby Sowray**



The extra layer
Try a brightly coloured version under dresses and tunics to breathe new life into your basics. Wool polo neck, £24.90, Uniqlo (uniqlo.com); leather bag, £717, 3.1 Phillip Lim, from net-a-porter.com; gold-plated earring, £210, Charlotte Chesnais, from matchesfashion.com; buckled shoes, £46, Topshop (topshop.com); mid-length dress, £180, Whistles (whistles.com)



The rock’n’roller
The cool girl will be teaming jersey polo necks with PVC trousers and leather skirts. Coated trousers, £175, Claudie Pierlot (claudiepierlot.com); round-buckled belt, £8, Asos (asos.com); bouclé jacket, £420, Sandro (uk.sandro-paris.com); suede boots, £580, Saint Laurent (ysl.com); jersey polo neck, £470, Michael Kors, from net-a-porter.com



The statement polo
Opt for a style with a hint of interest for an of-the-moment look. Keep it smart with tonal pieces. Viscose-mix polo neck, £155, Sandro (uk.sandro-paris.com); gold-tone bracelet, £350, Chloé, from net-a-porter.com; leather satchel, £105, & Other Stories (stories.com); crêpe trousers, £39.99, Zara (zara.com); patent loafers, £365, Nicholas Kirkwood (nicholaskirkwood.com)



Next week: Jérôme Dreyfuss lands in London