

GIFTWARE TO WEAR

Everyone has them. They are pieces of jewelry, a favorite scarf, a great wrap or a comfy loungewear item. You may have gotten it as a birthday present, holiday present or maybe for no special occasion at all. That's the thing about giftware to wear — when you wear the item, it's a reminder of the person who gave it to you and the good feelings that go along with your relationship. Wearable gifts are functional gifts in many ways. Since they aren't as disposable, the gift just doesn't come and go. They show the gift-giver put extra effort into buying a gift that reflects something about the recipient. In addition, the pieces can also appeal to customers as a must-have for themselves.



Footcandy from **LAMO Footwear** (909/573-0225 or lamosheepskin.com) are sleek driving shoes and come in fun colors, such as Peacock, accented with large rhinestones set on a large bow. Suggested retail: \$70—\$90.

NEW PIECES OFFER FASHION, FUN OPTIONS

By Barbara Wujcik

"The time is right for retailers to sell green and socially responsible goods. With **GreenJute Products** (314/546-5515 or greenjute.com) your store will not only make a green statement but will also be a destination store for the green and socially conscious shopper. Our wraparounds can be worn as skirts and dresses and are reasonably priced."

*Manjula Pothuri, owner
Greenjute Products*

"Fashion watches that retail for \$15 to \$50 were big sellers at the summer market, especially those with large faces. There was also a lot of interest in capes and wraps. And fun, fashionable rain boots were as popular as ever."

*Jim Duncan, owner of Duncan & Company, with showrooms
in Chicago's Merchandise Mart*



Gallerie II (888/889-9868 or galleriell.com) dives into fashion's hottest new fascinators since the boldness of a British wedding. These headbands are part of the "Heads Up!" collection. Suggested retail: \$15.



This Bandana Peace T-shirt from **Green 3** (920/235-1288 or green3apparel.com) features a screen-printed jersey appliqué. It is made in the U.S. from organic cotton with water-based inks and dyes. Suggested retail: \$44—\$46.



Leather-like purse lights with colorful, stitched designs from **Natural Life** (800/884-3856 or naturallife.com) are functional and adorable. They conveniently slide on a key ring and are 2.225 inches round. Call for pricing.

WEARABLES WITH FLAIR



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1. Experience on-the-go warm comfort with this set of two, ultra-soft knit hand warmers from **Mark Feldstein & Associates Inc.** (800/755-6504 or markfeldstein.com) that have two reusable gel heat packs. Simply snap on the Gel Activator Disk to warm the gel pack to a toasty 100 degrees for approximately 45 minutes. A 10 — 15 minute bath in boiling water renews your gel packs to their original state. Gel packs can be reused multiple times. Suggested retail: \$9.95.

2. **Jessie Steele Inc.** (510/204-0991 or jessiesteele.com) has expanded into pajamas. The soft, lightweight flannel pajamas are in a pre-packaged design with a belly-band that doubles as a headband and a to/from tag. Some of the best-selling apron prints, along with new additions, are offered. A boyfriend nightshirt is also available. Suggested retail: \$65, pajamas; \$42, nightshirt.

3. This **Project Iris** (513/489-5683 or projectirisclimbing.com) T-shirt will brighten a day with beautiful orange poppies. The soft and silky Pink Champagne long sleeve v-neck burnout is 50/50 polycotton. U.S.-made, a portion of each sale is donated to the World Food Program. Suggested retail: \$53.

4. Zing Artwear from **Joan Baker Designs** (800/248-1983 or joanbaker.com) is body art with no regrets. Included are bracelets, ankle bands, chokers and necklaces in over 100 designs that appeal to every age group. The pieces are made of eco-friendly material. Call for pricing.

5. These Black Wool Fingerless Gloves with Embroidered Flowers from **Spirited Style LLC** (847/668-0068) would make a great gift. Suggested retail: \$40.

6. Boots are more popular than ever. These boots from **Rain Steps** (713/434-7463 or fapshoes.com) come in a variety of sizes. Suggested retail: \$29—\$59.