

# Leather Goods

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**WHO:** Fashion powerhouses Balenciaga, Christian Dior, Balmain and Gucci, as well as Celine and Akris, all heavily relied on **leather** fabrications in their Spring/Summer 2011 presentations. It's a trend savvy stylistas and stylistos will want to **jump on early** to pair with their winter shearlings, wools and plaids and then happily **carry into spring**.

**WHAT:** Designers are making the most of **leather's versatility**, rich textures and upscale appeal. It's a timeless fabric that is repeatedly revived and re-invented. To tap into this trend, eyewear designers have really stepped up their use of leather in their 2011 collections. **Earthy tones** and **warm supple textures** next to the face in chilly weather is a luxury attainable by most now as designers **wrap, cover and swathe sunwear** in these natural skins.

**WEAR:** (Clockwise from top left) **Gucci** GG 1943/S in a toasty cognac colored leather wrapped all the way around the brow bar, eye rim and down the temples from Safilo. The Hunter sunnies from **Lori Rodkin Eye Couture** by Sama come

in titanium with white gold details and features brick-hued leather trim on the endpieces and wide temples. The house of **Trussardi** has a long heritage in small leather goods; it's a heritage they're putting to good use in their new eyewear collection with Charmant, as evidenced by the glamorous TR12805 sunglasses in bone acetate with a generous helping of snake stamped leather on the outer rim. This **Ermenegildo Zegna** SZ 3169V sunglass from MARR International features luxuriously wrapped temples and upper eye rim in warm and subtle russet leather. One of the **Chanel** icons is their quilted leather handbags. Brilliant as ever, the brand has applied the leather quilting to the wide paddle temples of the 5202-Q sunglasses for spring from Luxottica (shown here in a lovely deep aubergine) with an added twist! The padded panel swings up on a branded hinge to reveal mirrors on both temples! C'est magnifique!

**WHY:** Its leather! Leather is an ideal fabric for winter weather since it doesn't just protect from the harsh climate but also makes you look truly stylish. Leather has a **timeless appeal** and can be considered a trend worthy of investment. Inherently sensual, **leather accented eyewear** is also classic and can easily **transition into spring and summer** as the temperatures rise.

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