



ELEMENTAL

BY DEIRDRE CARROLL / SENIOR EDITOR

WHO: Mad scientists, urban sophisticates, technophiles, industrialists, engineers and anyone who gets a kick out of the periodic table of elements.

WHAT: Carbon is the fourth most abundant element in the universe. It is present in all known life forms, in the human body carbon is the second most abundant element after oxygen, and it is the the chemical basis of all known life. **Carbon fiber** is a material consisting of **minute fibers** and composed mostly of carbon atoms that are bonded together in crystals. Knowing all this, it has taken eyewear manufacturers a shockingly long time to start using it in their designs! The properties of carbon fiber, such as high stiffness, high tensile strength, low weight, high chemical resistance, high temperature tolerance and low thermal expansion, has made it very popular in the aerospace, civil engineering, military and motorsport fields. Now designers are appreciating these same traits in the construction of eyewear.

WEAR: (L to R) The **Airlock** Broadway frame, part of the brand's Manhattan Collection from Marchon, adds an urban penache to the industrial textile. The **Chanel** 71001 sunglasses from Luxottica proves high-tech material can go glam in the form of an oversized round sun style with a carbon fiber front and metal temples with contrasting white temple tips. The **Joe by Joseph Abboud** JOE4016 from Altair adds a beautiful midnight blue hue to the carbon fiber to take the composited material popular in aviation to sophisticated new heights.

WHY: The **strong, durable** characteristics of carbon fiber make it naturally appealing to tech-oriented eyewear wearers, its position as a relatively expensive material appeals to the luxury eyewear segment, and the distinctive **silvery, checked pattern** of the material gives eyewear designs an urban, modern aesthetic.

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