

Types of Jewellery



Jewellery Types you will be learning to draw

Learning Objectives

- Introduction to the many various types of jewellery available today
- Understanding the viewing direction from “Top view”

In this ever changing world we have more items for adornment than we have ever had. The first jewellery to ever be worn was a shell picked up off the sand and hand drilled due to the softness of the material. It would have been threaded with a sinew and worn around the neck as the first necklace.



Later in the Roman and Egyptian times earrings became very popular and were worn by both men and women. In the middle ages earrings fell out of style since the clothing was not appropriate or conducive to their wearing and brooches became the hot item. Throughout the centuries and many changes along the way we see new and innovative ideas which have developed, some sticking, some fading. All this gives the designer endless possibilities to choose from and we will attempt to cover as many elements of Jewellery as will be possible.



You will view from slides, magazines, drawings and web sites several of the following elements viewed in what we call “Top View”. This view refers to looking down on the object from directly above. (For best results try using one eye only!)

This direction is one of the most important views in drawing as it is the most common and practical direction for any piece of jewellery.



Jewellery Types in Today's Society

For Men

The most common top-selling items for men include rings, cufflinks, tie tacks, and lapel pins.

Some bracelets and earrings also sell well in some markets. Diamond studs (either single or in pairs) make both a fashion and a success statement for many professional athletes (like David Beckham) and musicians, as well as the men who emulate them.

- **Rings** - Most men's styles are described as strong and bold or tailored and businesslike.



- **Cufflinks** - A fastening for a shirt cuff, usually consisting of two buttons or button-like parts connected with a chain or shank that passes through two slits in the cuff.



- **Tie Tacks or Tie Bars** - an ornamented pin with a receiving button or clasp that is used to attach the two parts of a necktie together or to attach a necktie to a shirt.



- **Lapel Pin** - often worn on the lapel of a dress jacket lapel pins can be purely ornamental or can indicate the wearer's affiliation with an organization or cause.
- **Earrings** – Stud & Hoop earrings for men have grown greatly in popularity in the last decade and range from the most elegant to the most unique.



- **Bracelets** – can come in varied forms from metal to leather and with limitless designs to suit every taste.



For Women

Women's jewellery comes in an almost endless variety. Primary categories are rings, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and pins. Some of these have different names depending on the style.

Rings:

Engagement, wedding, and anniversary rings include:

- Cocktail or Dinner ring – An ornate diamond ring that's appropriate for dressy evening events. Almost any dramatic design can be placed in this category.



- Ballerina ring – A cocktail or dinner ring with a large centre gem surrounded by tapered baguettes. The baguettes are arranged in a radial pattern that resembles a dancer's flaring skirt.



- Crossover or Bypass ring – A ring that wraps around the finger, with the ends of the band not necessarily connected but passing each other on top. Some variations have a larger gem set on or between the ends.



- Right hand ring – Usually a non-bridal ring (that is, not for an engagement or wedding) that is worn on the right hand. This style has the most variations and is purchased for many different occasions and with any preferred size and type of gemstone.

Earrings:

- Studs – These are described as having either single gems or small clusters in a simple setting for pierced ears.



- Buttons – Disk-shape or slightly domed earrings, often with cluster or pavé settings.

- Hoops – Earrings in the form of rigid metal loops. Channel and tension set diamonds are especially striking in this style.





- Dangles, Drops or Chandelier – Earrings with decorative elements that dangle. These range from dainty drops to long and elaborate chandeliers.



- Cuffs – These are designed to hug the upper portion of the ear and is designed in a curved shape that fits snugly around the folds of the outer ear. They are widely used in many cultures as decorative jewellery, and come in a variety of metals and designs to serve as accessories for a wide range of personal styles.



- Industrial piercing - Basically any piercing that spans the distance from one side of the rim (helix) of the ear to another, connecting two piercing fistulas with one extra long bar. It can be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and still be considered an Industrial (or a Scaffold, which is the term used in some European countries).



- Ear Plugs or Gauge – A form of body piercing invented by the Egyptians around 3000 BCE this type of earring has become popular once again especially with the younger generations.

Bracelets:

Link bracelet – A flexible bracelet made of chain-like links or small hinged panels. A modern classic is the straight line bracelet, which consists of diamond-studded links that completely circle the wrist. This is also called a tennis bracelet.



- Bangle – A solid band that slips over the hand. This style also includes designs with hinged half-circle segments, and those with narrow gaps between the ends.

- Cuff – A wide oval-shape bracelet. It may have a hinge and clasp, or encircle about 3/4 of the wrist with open ends that allow it to be slipped on. Diamonds or other gems can be set in almost any style or arrangement.



Panjas:

Also sometimes known as a Harem Bracelet, The Panja is a special type of combination jewellery that connects a ring to a bracelet with a chain to create a spectacular handpiece. Panjas are very popular in the Indian community as Wedding jewellery, and also amongst the Victorian Gothic subculture in the West



Anklets:

A foot/ankle ornament that functions in a manner similar to that of a bracelet; they are longer in length than bracelets to accommodate the anklebone and while stiff, 'cuff-like' forms exist, the majority are flexible so as not to impede movement.

Toe Rings:

As the name implies, rings for the finger instead of the toes. Due to similar ergonomic concerns as anklets, toe rings are generally less ornate than their finger-ring counterparts. Many also have open-ended shanks underneath.



Necklaces:

- Pendant – suspended from a chain through a bail and designed in unlimited forms with and without gems. Can be symbolic, religious or of any design.



- Slide – a large pendant with slotted sides made to slide onto a stiff neck-wire or a heavy neck chain



- Drop or Lavalier – a pendant that's suspended from the neck chain by another short chain or decorative element. (Lavalier is pronounced la-valLEER.) If the pendant is suspended by a longer chain, the style is often called a Y-necklace



- Lariat – an open-ended necklace that is held together by an ornamental clasp in front, usually with decorative ends





- Collar – the collar necklace that fits snugly across the neck and takes its name from a dog collar. It is usually made up of three or more strands.



- Choker - the choker hangs just at the base of the neck measuring typically 14 to 16 inches long. It is considered the most classic and versatile of all single strand lengths.



- Princess – At 17 to 19 inches long this style is a well liked length for wearing with added pendant or pearl enhancer.



- Matinee – Longer than the Princess but shorter than the Opera length, the Matinee necklace is a very good choice for casual or business dressing.



- Opera – This length is typically from 28 to 34 inches long and works well with high or crew necklines. More versatile than many it can be worn long or doubled up to look like a double strand choker.



- Rope – A rope necklace is considered anything over 45 inches. Very elegant the pearl rope necklace was a favourite of Coco Chanel. Very reminiscent of the roaring 20's and 30's this style comes and goes into fashion frequently.

- Neck-wire – a rigid necklace usually of heavy-gauge precious metal wire. Pendants can be added or removed to alter the appearance of the wire.



Brooches and Pins:



A brooch, or broach, is an item of jewellery that's fastened to a garment by a hinged pin and catch. To many it is known as simply a "Pin". They can be worn on the upper part of a dress, on a jacket lapel, at the neck of a blouse, to fasten a scarf in place, on a hat or cap, or even at the waist.

Circle pin – typically with an open circular design this style is one of the first types of pins worn to hold clothing together. Very popular in the Middle ages and has come back into fashion on many occasions. Typically with an open circular design.

- Bar pin – A pin design with its elements in an overall design that is straight and elongated.

- Spray or sun-burst pin – a free-form pin with radial design, often gem encrusted.



- Stickpin – A straight pin.



- Design or 'element' pin – a specific, defined shape (animal, symbol or other design), often set with gems, diamond accents or pave and threadwork.



Tiaras:



Iconic and regal, Tiaras were once the exclusive domain of royalty, but now see usage by anyone in occasions ranging from weddings to simply being the life of the party. Many modern tiaras are now even convertible into other forms of jewellery (usually a necklace) for added versatility.



Conceptual Jewellery:

Contemporary Art hosts many avant-garde artist-designers who use jewellery as a medium of their artistic expression, and who are not encumbered by 'traditional' ways of wearing a piece. These innovative thinkers often create highly unusual designs that radically explore new possibilities in what jewellery can be, as well as their meaning and significance in this modern world.



Almost any piece of jewellery will look good from the top view. Top view drawing is the most common form.

