

FASHION WRAP

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Accessorize – Belts, Purses...

I don't know about any of you, but it has come to pass that my pay packet has shrunk quite a big titch, and my investment gurus have also clawed back a bit of the 'ole moola too.

But I'm not going to let Wall Street, Main Street and whatever other streets are causing me and the world mahja problems get in my fashion way.

No way, no how. Faltering incomes and tough times aren't going to destroy my passion for the "f" word...that's fashion, people.

So, instead of hitting a street, I went to a road to shop for some small baubles as a retail pick-me-up. Sorry my pocketbook only allowed me to do my own heavy lifting, you gals gotta do yours by yourselves!

And, what can make a fashionista happy in times of great distress?

Accessories, of course!

They're cute, they're cheaper than that new spring trench I'm jonesing for, and they can liven up last year's cocktail dress without the bruised bank account in tow.

So I found myself slithering up the stairs of a little boutique to hone in on a cool snake-like belt that can wrap you up and down and all around. In one turn, I could see it doing double duty as a belt and a sinewy cuff that would trail up my arm when I'm channelling the goddess in me or doing hardcore biker glam time at a club.

I could also see this belt snaking around the waist of my old-but-new-again black jumpsuit (yes, the fashion gods have proclaimed it's back and better than ever) that I'll likely drag out.

On the other side of the fashion spectrum, I spied a new neutral looks-just-like-leather but isn't handbag, that, at \$60 bucks, could really help me out for the transition times facing us. Ugghhh, those black purses just are starting to look too dreary, n'est ce pas?

I also considered loading up on some cost-effective cuffs, bangles and stuff - nothing livens up a sheath dress more than a strong Wonder Woman accent or a stack of faux-gold on the side.

Toss in a statement necklace (still all the rage and more this spring/summer) and you're ready to rock but please don't roll into one of the distasteful potholes the city has yet to fix or else you'll have to tidy up your tights - which, by the way, are still de rigueur this spring. Another great accessory without the big ticket pricetag, no?

Yup, when times get tough, it is time to pull up your bootstraps and hit that bumpy road.

Of course, you might want to hit the makeup counter for concealer to cover up the bruises!