

# COLOUR TRENDING

## Shine Bright

### FROM DAY TO NIGHT

What do Leonardo da Vinci, King Tut and Michael Jackson all have in common? Sequins. Three key elements of the sequin's history lies among these three icons. For instance, somewhere between 1480 and 1482, da Vinci made a couple drawings to build a machine that would, like a hole punch, cut small disks from a sheet of metal. Despite this, the machine was never made and therefore we do not know if his purpose was for business or pleasure.

Before da Vinci, there was Tutankhamun or more commonly known as King Tut from 1341 B.C.–1323 B.C. His tomb was discovered in 1922 with gold sequin-like disks which were found sewn into royal garments. For the average Joe, sequined clothing also doubled as a way of protecting one's valuables. Coins were kept close to the body and in most cases were attached to clothing for safekeeping. For others, wearing sequins meant the glaring sheen ward off evil spirits.

The word 'sequin' originated from the Arabic word 'sikka' which means 'coin' and has always referenced wealth and status in its presence. Venice produced gold coins called zecchino in the 13th century and for centuries, variations of sikka and zecchino

were used in Europe and in the Middle East. However, in the UK they were called spangles, not sequins.

Modern sequins worn today are the result of women of court during the 17th century, this included nobles and those who had achieved a certain level of wealth. Sequins first peaked in the 1920's, where popular flapper dresses were weighed down by thousands of metal sequins. The trend grew exponentially again after the discovery of King Tut's tomb.

Inspiration drawn from Italian art and antiques flowed through Gucci's collection for Fall 2016 RTW. Since taking over as creative director just 12 months ago, Alessandro Michele certainly has made his mark and is now the most-copied fashion creative on earth thanks to his fur-lined loafer designed last Fall. Giant suede wedges featured throughout the collection matched with a kimono-inspired sequined below-the-knee dress in colours like Resene Alluring.

As sequins moved into the 1930's, electroplate gelatin produced a light-weight version of the sequins. Unfortunately, the colour was lead-based and the gelatin sequins were difficult to work with let alone wear. For example, they would begin to melt if they got too warm or wet. The gelatin sequins found its way into recipe books and are

still popular to this day for decorating cakes and other baking.

Herbert Lieberman realised the gelatin sequins were no good and decided to give it go using acetate which is a type of plastic material used in film stock. The acetate sequins shined and reflected light beautifully, but were extremely fragile.

Later in 1952, Mylar was invented by DuPont and Lieberman became the largest sequin producer which is now based in Florida. Algy Trimmings Co introduced a transparent polyester film and Mylar surrounded the plastic colour sequin therefore protecting it from washing machines.

From solid metals to gelatin to acetate to mylar to vinyl, sequins have continued to develop for thousands of years. Creative director of Diesel Black Gold, Andreas Melbostad was glad to be back in Milan this year for the Fall 2016 Ready-To-Wear show, having previously showed in New York for several years. "There's definitely a new energy in the city and it seemed the right move for the brand to be closer to an international audience of buyers and press," said Melbostad. This new energy translated onto the runway with some very sparkly garments. With an already well-established rock 'n' roll vibe, Diesel smoothed it over with a more polished and less raw look with sequins adding a glam attitude to the biker jackets, similar in colour to Resene Bastille.

In 1983, Michael Jackson performed 'Billie Jean' and debuted his iconic moonwalk. It was this same day that he also wore a black sequin jacket paired with his iconic rhinestone glove. An instant milestone in fashion, 47 million viewers tuned in to watch the television special. From his early days in the 80s to his last tour, Jackson can be seen wearing sequins in almost every look in his tours.

Today, sequins are seen everywhere from handbags to t-shirts to Ugg boots. Sequins are here to stay and will be here long after we are all gone. So as the saying goes... if you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

Vetements designer Demna Gvasalia broke all the fashion rules for his Fall 2016 collection with the collection featuring a sequined dress similar to Resene Breathless that stood out from the usual hoodies the brand is known for.

The presentation from Sonia Rykiel included garments featuring the brand's infamous stripes but designer Julie de Libran took a new take on it for this collection using them for cutting a compact knit and high-waisted flairs. And for the evening looks where stripes are rarely seen, a blue sequined pant suit in a colour similar to Resene Bondi Blue appeared on the runway giving the collection a very snazzy, dressed-up feel. **AW**



Diesel  
Resene  
Bastille

Gucci  
Resene  
Alluring

Nina Ricci  
Resene  
Awol

Vêtements  
Resene  
Breathless

Valentino  
Resene  
Bone

Sonia Rykiel  
Resene  
Bondi Blue

Vera Wang  
Resene  
Good As Gold

Moschino  
Resene  
Colour Me Pink