

Purse/Accessories Swap Party

Invitations

If you prefer to make your own invitations, rubber stamps featuring purses or handbags are easy to find. For cover wording, try something like:

No Need to Shop; Let's Swap!

or

**Why Shop
When You Can Swap?**



Instruct your girlfriends to bring as many handbags, costume jewelry, belts, and scarves as they would like to swap. They should bring only items that are clean, in good condition and not hopelessly outdated. (Vintage is ok, however!) Girlfriends may also bring items that others have donated to the cause. (see sample invites included)

Setting and Setup

All you will need is a large enough space for everyone to view the offerings and try things on. Since accessories are generally small, you may want to provide a table to display them. You'll need at least one large mirror for trying on.

If you want to pad out the offerings, you could try scouring sales and discount stores for trendy and cheap scarves, purses, and jewelry. You may find a bargain: We recently spotted some great crocheted scarves for a buck at the dollar store. The accessory section at Target often has great clearance deals on belts and jewelry.

Food and Drink

Non-messy, non-fussy finger food is the order of the day. Wine and cheese, (a little bubbly makes things more celebratory, and goes with anything), simple appetizers, possibly a few sweets. Set up your buffet away from the display table, of course, and save the good stemware for another day. There is likely to be a lot of picking up and setting down of glasses, and the stain from a toppled-over glass doesn't look good on any accessory.

Swapping and Other Activities

Generally, swap parties are conducted as "organized chaos"—there are no real rules on who takes what. When everyone is ready, just start browsing and trying on. We hope your girlfriends are polite enough not to hoard items or fight over them. However, if two people really, really want the same item, you could have the group "vote" on who should get it.

OR You could have an organized swap:

- Draw numbers (15 guests:15 numbers).
- Go around the room one time for each person to get up and pick out a new purse.
- Go around the room again. Each person who brought a 2nd purse gets to go again.

- Draw numbers again for the new purse swap. Mix things up a bit; start at the highest number first, for instance.
- One last time around the room; those who brought 3 purses will, in turn, pick out their final selection.
- Optional "*Dirty Santa*" Swap:
 - 1st person a new purse and unwraps it.
 - 2nd person can steal 1st person's new purse, or unwrap a new one.
 - If 2nd person steals, then 1st person gets to go again.
 - The new purses are "dead" after 2 steals.

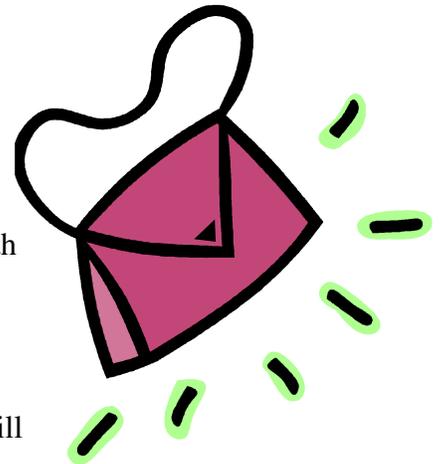
What to do when the swapping's done? Well, you could TiVo some episodes of [What Not to Wear](#) (always good for a few laughs!) and watch them together. Or, if you are in the position to splurge a little, hire a stylist, image consultant or personal shopper to come for an hour or two and discuss accessory dos and don'ts. She may even be able to offer some personal fashion advice to your guests.

Don't forget to donate any leftover items to a local women's shelter, Goodwill, the Salvation Army or another charity.

Variations on the Theme

Here are some other ideas to try:

- Give your accessory swap a serious or campy theme—black-and-white, special occasion accessories, wear-to-work only, bad holiday pins, garage-sale finds.
- Extend the swap to shoes, if you've got enough girlfriends with similar-size feet.
- Ask each girlfriend if there is a story associated with her accessories (she wore it the night she met Jon BonJovi; it was given to her by her Great-Aunt Harriet, whom she hated; she bought it in a bazaar in Bangkok)—and if there is, get her to spill it!



Party Favors – Door Prizes

Since everyone will be leaving with new stuff, you can skip party favors and no one will notice.

But if you just can't resist, here are a few ideas:

- purse-themed favors that are reasonably priced.
- latest copy of *Vogue*, *Lucky*, or whatever fashion magazine you favor, so they can study the latest trends.
- Purchase a circle hanger or special hanger to organize belts, scarves and other accessories and give as a door prize.

This is an **easy** party to organize, so go ahead and give it a try. You're going to look fabulous, girls!



To make invitations, prepare a pattern by rounding the corners and making a flap to fold over the top. That could be a different color as in the pattern on the left – just cut out a flap and glue it on. Also add a ribbon or paper handle.

Inside you could either print the invite right on the paper or print out the invites and glue them inside (easier way)! See sample invite on next page.

See sample invite on next page.

Why Shop When You Can Swap?

Women to Today are having a Handbag/Accessory Swap Party

When:

Where:

Time:

RSVP/Info:

What to bring: as many handbags, costume jewelry, belts, and scarves as you would like to swap. Please bring items that are clean, in good condition and not outdated. (Vintage is ok, however!) If you don't have anything to donate, come and join the fun anyway!

Women of Today is a dynamic and diverse women's organization interested in the bettering our community, ourselves and having fun. We are not politically or religiously affiliated. We are women from various backgrounds who want to meet new women, make our communities a better place for all of us to live and become stronger, more confident women.