



Helmet Heads

WOMEN'S FASHION | By CHELSEA ZALOPANY | JULY 29, 2011, 10:00 AM



Sawako Furuno Helmet, 68 pounds. Go to CycleFashion.co.uk.

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Which came first — the bicycle helmet or the caplike fashion visor? Or does it matter? On the resort runways, we saw hats resembling head protection at Givenchy and Balenciaga, and in bike lanes across town helmet heads are now the norm. Let's call it out: once-dorky headgear has become a status symbol. "Helmets really haven't been cool until now," says the Tucker designer Gaby Basora, who recently collaborated with cycle aficionados Trek and Bontrager on a leopard-print version. "I wore it just last week, and I was stopped literally more than a dozen times by women asking me where to get their own!" So maybe it takes a close-to-the-skull purple velvet cap at Givenchy to help some of us wrap our heads around the look of a brimmed Bern helmet. Or maybe the helmet helped set the trend. Either way, when fashion intervenes, our options become a lot more interesting. Says the designer Lela Rose, who seldom wore a helmet with her George Bliss bike until recently, "There are so many now! I just found a hand-painted one with astrological signs." Here, T's crowning choices, from the reflective to the graffitied.

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