

## Dos and Dont's of Mixing Patterns

Written by Kirstina Bolton

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Summer in Phoenix is practically here and it's time to revamp our wardrobe. Yet instead of spending money on different apparel, let's first delve into the majestic world of mixing. Mixing prints and patterns not only grasps the edgier side to an otherwise dull look, but also ties in the lovely themes of our season (think nautical stripes, Aztec and floral prints). To be honest, I have the hardest time mixing prints and patterns without coming off a little clownish and juvenile in my style. I can't help it, I like clean lines and solid colors, so breaking that habit was tough. Luckily for me, I had the help of mixing master, Jennifer Mumford of Scottsdale Fashion Squares's HUB Clothing and G Star RAW, to tell me all the Dos and Don'ts of mixing patterns to keep me stylish and sophisticated. Here, Mumford mixes and matches pieces from HUB Clothing, and I got to see just how fierce blending prints can look.

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Mumford likes to build on the foundational prints and patterns. "Stripes are my go-to," she says as she layers some items on her countertop, "they really go with anything."

Vertical stripes, horizontal stripes, even diagonal stripes—if done with class—can take highlight your figure without overpowering your complete look.

Other patterns like polka dots, floral prints and the recently-hyped Aztec prints are ideal for mixing in the summer time. But take note of Miss Mumford advice and stick to the same color palette. "The most important thing is to keep with the colors of patterns, otherwise you'll look like a clown."

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After leaving HUB Clothing I walked past J. Crew, who—wouldn't you know it—also makes mixing look like a dream. Stripes and florals at their best.

It's safe to say mixing patterns are not only possible, but it opens doors to an entirely new wardrobe for the summer season, free of clowns. [www.hubclothing.com](http://www.hubclothing.com)

[All featured clothing can be found at HUB Clothing (last photo at J. Crew)]