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Leopard scarf to engagement

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TODAY, The Daily Telegraph app launches a new fashion advice column called What ... to Where? Every Friday, three fashion experts and a woman who simply loves clothes will be put to the test with a "mystery item" of clothing or an accessory -- the What -- as well as social event the mystery will be worn -- to Where?.

The "mystery" will often be in your own wardrobe or at least affordable and easily found in most shops and the event will be one which most of us get invited to from time to time.

Many of us have made an impulse-buy only to discover nothing in our wardrobes to match it. So we want to give you a hand.

Our three experts are Sydney stylist Annalisa Armitage, designer Sally Smith, Sydney Confidential's Joel Christie and fashion lover / newsreader Michelle Taverniti.

For our first What to Where? challenge, I threw our experts in the deep end and I gave them a leopard print sheer summer scarf and chose a cocktail engagement party as the event.

Here's what they had to say:

Michelle Taverniti is a Newsreader and a fashion lover.

"Use the scarf as a way of enhancing your outfit - as either a neck-tie or tied around the waist as a belt over a black LBD (little black dress). If black's not your thing, try wearing it with a bright

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summer dress - either a coral or emerald green which are two of this summer's most-seen colours.

"But just remember it's an engagement party, not Field Day. I'd avoid transforming it into a head scarf.

"Depending on what you wear with the scarf, some chunky gold bangles or a statement necklace would work best with the earthy tone of leopard print.

"If all else fails, tie the scarf on an oversized bag for a chic accessory to a cocktail dress."

Annalisa Armitage is the Owner and Principal Stylist for My Image Consultant. Visit www.myimageconsultant.com.au for more expert advice.

"Leopard print can either look tacky and try hard, or chic and elegant. To project the later and not the former heed the following points.

"Obviously it could look gorgeous with your staple LBD (little black dress) and gorgeous black heels, however be bold and wear the colour of love. Red. A slim fitting, simple, chic red dress to the knee. (Think Breakfast at Tiffanies or a typical Victoria Beckham 40s style dress).

"If your hips and thighs can't manage the pencil skirt and you are average height or taller, a 50s style full skirt on a dress will work just as well. The red will create a beautiful contrast with the colours in the leopard print.

"It should be the only strong pattern in your outfit to ensure that it stands out and the outfit doesn't look too fussy.

"Shoes and clutch should each be a different colour also found in the scarf. Go earthy rather than bling for jewellery.

"Consider an oversized amber ring, a wooden bracelet and simple bronze hoop or stud earrings (depending on face shape and how you are wearing your hair). Tortoiseshell oversized glasses for your arrival.

"If the party is inside they should be taken off immediately so as to ensure maximum connection with the other guests. The pattern in tortoiseshell is subtle and will connect well with the pattern in the scarf.

"The scarf must be silk and not polyester as silk is a class all of its own. If you have a long neck and wear your hair up (or it's short) you can tie the scarf around your neck in air-hostess style, if you don't have these attributes wear it long and vertical, or gently draped."

Sally Smith is the Director and Designer of her own business called Sally Smith. To find out more about Sally visit sallysmith.com.au.

"I love that the leopard print scarf is sheer as any animal print is usually a strong statement, a transparent fabric will soften the impact, whilst not minimising it.

"I would team it back with something unexpected, say a pretty dusky pink 50s style dress, and matt-gold shoes to pick up the gold in the print - also vermilion red lips.

"I would never wear this scarf with more animal print, or basic black. This is way too predictable and safe, which equals boring.

"The print scarf is the accessory, so just the great matt-gold shoes as high as you dare and the vermilion red lips. My favourite is Mac Chilli.

"Animal print looks great also with duck egg blue, sage green for a feminine/girly feel, or for a stronger colour, go for orange, not red."

Joel Christie is the Daily Telegraph's Sydney Confidential Reporter.

"Women should wear a leopard print scarf with neutral colours, definitely. Something solid or dark for the backing would work wonders. The print of the scarf instantly draws attention upwards so nice make-up and hair is also important.

"Unless you deliberately want to clash prints, don't wear anything too over-the-top. Bright colours like reds and oranges look great, but keep it simple. Also make sure the scarf is just on the neck; draping it around yourself is too much.

"Again, less is more with accessories. Leopard is a sexy look, so something classy, like pearls or a statement ring, are a perfect tone-down.

"This is a timeless piece. Kate Moss has worn the same one off and on for over three years. Louis Vuitton released a leopard print scarf in 2009 that is still considered a must-have piece. But for \$700 it would want to be!"

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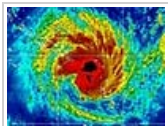
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