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The Rugged Wrist

NO BLING REQUIRED: HOW TO WEAR THE LATEST LINE OF MASCULINE, OUTDOORSY BRACELETS

THESE DAYS, DESIGNERS ARE CREATING MEN'S JEWELRY that's as comfortable as a scuffed-up pair of boots — made of tough materials like leather and Gore-Tex, and anchored with hardware like sterling silver that looks better the more banged up it gets.

"A simple bracelet can be worn by anyone, even at the office, because it won't look out of place," says designer Jill Platner, "whether you're an athlete or a lawyer." Here are 13 variously styled bracelets to try for yourself — and some tips on how to wear them.

WATCH THE SHINE

Metal accents, not chains, are your best bet. If it's a full metal bracelet, think thin, not chunky.

GO SILVER...

"Gold is so precious," says Platner. "A man shouldn't have to take care of his jewelry."

...OR BLACK

"A black bracelet rarely looks out of place," says Platner. "It goes with nearly everything."

LOOK FOR CONTRAST

Mix materials like metal and leather — a similar effect to wearing a leather jacket and T-shirt.

CHOOSE A STURDY SUBSTANCE

Pick materials that get better with time and "don't worry about keeping it pristine," says Platner.



TRY SHAPES YOU KNOW

Interesting hooks and buckles make the bracelet. "That's why I choose strong, rough-hewn hardware," says Philip Crangi of Giles & Brother.

IF YOU'RE FEELING BOLD...

Kick it up by stacking two or three different bracelets on the same wrist.

...AND ADD SOME COLOR

"A bracelet is one of the few places where color always works," says Crangi, "unlike, say, a colorful blazer."

DON'T FORCE IT

"A guy should never feel like he's in costume," Crangi says.

1. Double Wrap by John Varvatos (\$60, johnvarvatos.com)
2. Birdbone by Jill Platner (\$845, jillplatner.com)
3. JP Clasp by Jill Platner (\$185)
4. Double Wrap "S" Hook by Giles & Brother (\$85, gilesandbrother.com)
5. Woven Leather and Silver by Me & Ro (\$350, meandrojewelry.com)
6. Simple Tube by Me & Ro (\$735)
7. Sterling Silver Hook Cuff by Miansai (\$170, miansai.com)
8. Gunmetal Single Wrap by Chan Luu (\$115, chanluu.com)
9. Fishing Hook Navy Cord by Miansai (\$55)
10. Braided Hex by Giles & Brother (\$175)
11. Triple Wrap Sandalwood Bead by Nicole Schumann (\$125, nicoleschumanndesigns.com)
12. Coyote by Jill Platner (\$265)
13. Braided Nantucket with Sterling Silver by Miansai (\$89)