

FIND YOUR SHAPE

It doesn't take a closet-blasting visit from Stacy and Clinton, of TLC's "What Not To Wear," to create a more practical and form-fitting wardrobe. The secret is understanding your body type. **Ernie Sulpizio**—creative director for Boston Proper, the Boca-based retailer of women's apparel and accessories—helps to outline the best styles for each shape. (Look for a Boston Proper store, coming soon to Town Center at Boca Raton.)



"You should be comfortable in your body. I love a woman who embraces her curves. Accentuate them in every single way. You want to be happy at whatever size you are."—Ernie Sulpizio

YOU ARE AN APPLE IF:

- You have a full bust and wide shoulders.
- You have an undefined waist.
- Your upper body is larger than your lower body.

STYLE TIPS:

1. To balance the top half of your body, add volume to your hips by looking for skirts with ruffles or pleats.
2. Avoid vertical stripes on bottom.
3. Buy flared or wide-legged jeans and pants.
4. Tone down broad shoulders with soft, draping blouses and tunics.
5. Play with patterns on the lower half of your body.
6. Wear an unbuttoned cardigan and V-necks to help draw the eye down.



"If a woman is [an apple], she wants something very slim on top, even showing off the shoulder—and then drawing in the waist and fuller on the bottom," Sulpizio says.



THE LOOK

This cobalt blue body suit (\$118) draws the attention from the shoulders down to your middle. To complete the look, throw on a pair of wide-leg, dark denim jeans and a bright heel.

WHERE TO GET IT: Lucx Boutique, 307 S.E. Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton, 561/368-6364

YOU ARE A BANANA IF:

- Your waist, hips and shoulders are all similar width.
- You are on the slimmer side.
- You have a long, rectangular torso

STYLE TIPS:

1. Layer clothing to add volume; this can be done with cardigans and belts.
2. Full skirts give the illusion of curves.
3. Use belts to help accentuate your waist.
4. Scoop and sweetheart necklines work best; stay away from square collars.
5. Avoid dressing from head to toe in one color.
6. Look for pieces with bold patterns and prints.
7. Show off your legs with a range of shorts, capris and slim pants.



"You want to do anything you can to draw in the waist," Sulpizio says. "A wrap dress would be ideal, because it creates all this ruching around the waistline. You probably want that fuller silhouette on the bottom. You are creating an illusion with all of these things."



THE LOOK

This bold, side-swept sheath dress (\$98)—with a unique neckline and side ruching—provides the illusion of curves.

WHERE TO GET IT: Ann Taylor, Town Center at Boca Raton, 6000 Glades Road, 561/391-0785

YOU ARE A PEAR IF:

- Your hips are wider than your bust.
- Your shoulders are narrow.
- You often need a smaller clothing size for your upper body than your lower body.

STYLE TIPS:

1. Look for empire-waist dresses (that stop just above the knee) and jackets that hit the top of your hip.
2. Go for dark-wash denims and straight-leg trousers.
3. Avoid stitching, embellishments and wide pockets on your lower half.
4. Halter-style and strapless dresses/tops look best on your shape.
5. Look for tight, A-line skirts.
6. Invest in big necklaces and earrings to draw attention to your upper body.



"Embellishment [heading into spring] is getting bigger—big gemstones, big brooches and big pieces of jewelry," Sulpizio says. "[Pears] want to draw a lot of attention up to the neckline and the shoulders. Create a very slimming silhouette on the bottom."



THE LOOK

This black, sequin-detailed top (\$158) shows off shoulders with an interesting cut and emphasizes the top half of the body with a little sparkle.

WHERE TO GET IT: Lucx Boutique, 307 S.E. Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton, 561/368-6364

YOU ARE AN HOURGLASS IF:

- Your bust and hips are the same size.
- You have a narrow, well-defined waist.
- You have a large bust and large hips.

STYLE TIPS:

1. Look for tops that accentuate the waist. Wrap-style dresses best complement your curves.
2. Look for clothing that has banding above the hips.
3. Avoid wearing baggy clothing.
4. Invest in tailored, high-waist pants, preferably in a boot-cut style.
5. Accessorize outfits with wide or skinny belts.
6. Keep the attention to your middle.
7. Buy soft, clingy fabrics.



"A new favorite skirt shape is the accentuated long pencil skirt, which ends well below the knee," Sulpizio says. "It is very nipped at the waist and hugs you the whole way down. It elongates, draws the eye towards the waist and then down towards the ankle."



THE LOOK

The peplum looks great on almost every shape, but especially an hourglass figure. This polka-dot print (\$68) accentuates the waist and draws attention to the hips.

WHERE TO GET IT: Ann Taylor, Town Center, 6000 Glades Road, 561/391-0785