# Braces are back!



Braces, a fashion accessory traditionally associated with figures like Steve Urkel and Larry King, have seen a resurgence in popularity in recent times, largely propelled by social media influences. Initially designed by British designer Albert Thurston in the early 1820s, suspenders, or "braces" as they are known in the UK, were devised to tackle the practical challenge posed by the high-waisted trousers of the era, where belts proved ineffective.

These functional accessories consistently evolved over the decades. In 1894, suspenders were adapted with metal clasps, versatile enough to be attached to any trousers regardless of whether they had buttons sewn into them. Despite their early popularity, suspenders saw a decline throughout the 20th century, correlating with changes in fashion that favoured belts. By 1938, American men reportedly preferred belts over suspenders by a margin of 60 to 40, according to LIFE magazine.

However, the 21st century has seen a revival in the popularity of suspenders, spurred on by their adoption by various celebrities such as Harry Styles, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Channing Tatum. These figures have brought the accessory back into the fashion spotlight, showcasing diverse styles that often include wearing suspenders without accompanying jackets or button-down shirts. This has shifted the public perception and usage of suspenders as not just a functional item but a statement piece capable of dressing both up and down.

The rediscovery of suspenders embraces variety and inclusivity, as evidenced by the vibrant activity across social media platforms. Various individuals flaunt their suspenders in creative and bold ways, ignoring the traditional fashion advice that suggests sticking to muted colours like navy or black, and wearing suspenders under outer garments.

This fashion trend sees even more relevance with the observance of National Suspenders Day yesterday, a day when the accessory is celebrated for its enduring adaptability and style. Visual displays shared on platforms like Twitter feature individuals ranging from influencers to everyday users experimenting with different looks, often inclusive and celebratory of diverse expressions of identity.

The resurgent appeal of suspenders not only underscores a nostalgic return to earlier styles but also highlights changing fashion norms that embrace individual self-expression. This blend of vintage charm and modern styling continues to captivate a broad audience, propelling suspenders back into the contemporary fashion consciousness.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://hespokestyle.com/suspenders-history/> - Corroborates the origins of suspenders in 18th-century France and their development by British designer Albert Thurston in the early 1820s.
* <https://hespokestyle.com/suspenders-history/> - Explains the practical challenge of high-waisted trousers and how suspenders addressed this issue.
* <https://time.com/archive/6916886/a-brief-history-of-suspenders/> - Details the adaptation of suspenders with metal clasps in 1894, allowing them to be attached to any trousers.
* <https://time.com/archive/6916886/a-brief-history-of-suspenders/> - Discusses the decline of suspenders in the 20th century and the preference for belts over suspenders by the 1930s.
* <https://hespokestyle.com/suspenders-history/> - Mentions the revival of suspenders in the 21st century and their adoption by celebrities like Harry Styles, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Channing Tatum.
* <https://blog.suspenderstore.com/the-top-3-most-recognizable-suspender-wearers-in-popular-culture/> - Highlights the role of celebrities in bringing back the popularity of suspenders and showcasing diverse styles.
* <https://welchworkwear.com/about/history-of-suspenders> - Describes the creative and bold ways individuals wear suspenders, deviating from traditional fashion advice.
* <https://wrkr.com/celebrities-who-can-pull-off-suspenders-on-national-suspenders-day/> - Mentions National Suspenders Day on October 20th and the celebration of the accessory's enduring adaptability and style.
* <https://hespokestyle.com/suspenders-history/> - Discusses the nostalgic return to earlier styles and the changing fashion norms that embrace individual self-expression.
* <https://time.com/archive/6916886/a-brief-history-of-suspenders/> - Provides examples of how suspenders have been used in various cultural and subcultural contexts, highlighting their versatility.