

# Fashion on a Budget



I have thought long and hard about something my chief editor asked me to write about. She wanted me to share shopping secrets for readers on a budget. Let's get started with this three-part series called "The Art of Budget Shopping".

In keeping with the biblical principles described in Luke 16 and Matthew 25, we should be good stewards over our finances even in the fashion area. If you're like most women, be it career driven, stay at home mother, or college student, and are being disciplined about your spending, you know the value of a great deal.

I am going to get you started this fall with a peek at some amazing outfits – complete for under \$150. In this series, I have discovered some fantastic outfits at Marshall's, Loehmann's, H&M, and even Target that you will see on the pages to follow. Yes, complete with accessories.

## The Art

Do not shy away from discount stores. There you can find some of the same designer items found in major department stores for up to 80 percent less. Here is the key. Timing is everything. Know your time to shop. The difference between major department stores and discount stores is that their inventory changes more frequently. The changes occur daily or weekly...rather than seasonally. So do not hesitate to ask a manager about



### BACK TO SCHOOL - MARSHALL'S

Angel blue jeans	\$19.99
Joan & David shirt and vest	\$24.99
Computer bag	\$29.99
Wedge shoe	\$15
JLO gold hoop earring	\$10
Atlantique ring	\$7
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$106.97</b>



**BUSINESS ATTIRE - MARSHALL'S**

Kenneth Cole tan blazer	\$ 35
Ann Klein Mint button down shirt	\$ 16.99
Nine West chocolate skirt	\$19.99
Calvin Klein chocolate leather boots	\$29.99
Matt & Nat chocolate & mint handbag	\$29.99
Isis Cross wood earring	\$7
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$138.96</b>

shipment arrival. Pick a day that you can dedicate a couple of hours to browse, and get a feel for each store's rhythm and merchandise. Move at a slow pace.

Breathe. Do not get overwhelmed. You will surely find some great items.

But remember, you are on a budget. Do not be afraid to ask a sales rep for assistance if you are unable to find your size, and ask if they might have your size in their back stock. In most of the stores mentioned, sizes range from 0 to 24.

Do not be discouraged if you do not find everything at one store or on the same day. I have purchased a dress and shoes in one store and accessories in another within a week's time.

For this issue, I have selected Marshall's. I covered most women's needs in this one store. I saw something for the college student to the corporate executive to the perfect little black dress, and everything in between. And while you are getting in shape to wear that cute little black dress, I even put together a great workout outfit including a tote bag for, you guessed it, under \$150.

It has been proven that seeing is believing, and with that being said, enjoy the pages to follow as I hope this will offer some helpful ideas to get your budget shopping started.

From me to you,  
Roni





### LITTLE BLACK DRESS - MARSHALL'S

Ann Klein black dress	\$39.99
Nine West black handbag	\$29.99
Clair's earrings	\$10
Clair's gold necklace	\$10
Joey - Black strappy sandal	\$39.99
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$129.97</b>



### WORKOUT GEAR - MARSHALL'S

New Balance tote bag	\$12
New Balance white jacket	\$12
New Balance black workout pants	\$14.99
New Balance tennis shoes	\$29.99
Champions body top	\$9
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$77.99</b>



### Saturday lunch with the girls

Purchased at H&M  
 Print top \$29  
 Stretch Jeans \$39  
 Gucci high heel Sandal  
 (Model's own)

### TIP

Free flowing top with your favorite jeans and a great high-heel sandal is very fashionable and cute.



## SATURDAY NIGHT

Preparing for a date or going out to meet that special someone does not mean you have to be overtly revealing to be young, feminine, or appealing. In many cases, less is more. Men appear to be attracted to the woman who exposes her assets, but in reality, he is more attracted to the woman who is discrete, poised, and displays confidence. Confidence from within, speaks volume.

Change from casual to upscale casual, after-five or eveningwear. Younger singles focus on color and cuts that accentuate. More mature singles need to be aware of their body type, which dictates attire. For example, if you are still working on tone, consider long-sleeves or a shawl that works well with various garment types.



Purchased at Nordstroms  
 Designed by Bread and Butter  
 Black dress \$39  
 Jessica Simpson Shoe \$29  
 J Lo Rhinestone Earring \$10  
 Nordstroms  
 Bracelet/necklace \$40  
 Purse \$20

### Dinner with Mr. Right