



As we creep into August with high hopes that there are plenty of sunny days still to come, the shops are eagerly introducing their autumn lines and those summer clothes that we have only just started to wear are going on sale.

Use this as an opportunity to stock up on the basics that we all need to keep our wardrobes working well for us. This year it seems there are more bargains than ever before, with 70% reductions being the norm rather than the exception. Take Marks and Spencer and Boden for example;

If you suit a **classic** clothing style, check out the Autograph range at [Marks & Spencer](#)



Knot front top
£18 down to **£9**



Knitted waistcoat
£39.50 down to **£15**



Linen stripe, wide leg
£39.50 down to **£15**

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Boat neck belted dress
£55 down to **£19**

For those who suit something more **dramatic**, the Limited Collection range at M&S is great.



Cropped trouser
£25 down to **£12**



Short sleeved cardigan
£25 down to **£9**



Harem Trouser
£35 down to **£12**



Short sleeved metallic top
£22 down to **£9**

For a feminine, **girlie** look, try Per Una.



Linen retro swirl skirt
£39.50 down to **£15**



Cotton rose print dress
£45 down to **£22**



Square buttoned trousers
£35 down to **£15**



Linen Natasha Jacket
£59.50 down to **£29**

And finally for those who like a more **natural** look try the mail order company, [Boden](#).



Photographer Jacket
£65 down to **£49**



Crinkle linen dress
£55 down to **£39**



Inverted pleat skirt
£45 down to **£30**



Washed linen shorts
£39 down to **£15**

Look out for items that won't go out of fashion in the next 5 minutes (unless they are dirt cheap!) and don't forget to check out shoes, sandals, flip flops, bags and accessories to finish off your look. Look out for costume jewellery too, something to give your outfits that finishing touch that makes all the difference. Just think about your scale, and what works well for you.

The following mail order companies are also offering some amazing discounts.

www.artigiano.com for classics and the girlie look, with 70% off most items, well cut trousers, jackets and jersey t-shirts, timeless classics that won't date.

www.wall-london.co.uk for some great discounts off asymmetrical dresses and statement tops, for those dramatics out there.

www.fatface.com is fab for the natural look and those that suit more muted tones. It stocks all manner of comfy clothing, from skirts to t-shirts and natural jewellery.

And that is just a taster of the mail order stuff, hit the shops too but remember the three golden rules of sales shopping.

- 1/ Is it a good colour for me and does it fit my style rules?
- 2/ Could I wear it with at least 2 other items from my current wardrobe?
- 3/ Would I like it if it wasn't in the sales?

And remember, the sales don't last forever so move fast!

Happy shopping!

Helen Reynolds
Style Step