



About Bernice

Bernice Melrose, 47, is a working mum who wants to update her look. "I'd like to be stylish and fashionable, but I don't want to look like mutton dressed up as lamb!" she says. "I'm afraid to experiment with new looks and I'm nervous about wearing colour."

What to wear

Makeover expert Chata Romano shows Bernice Melrose how to look fashionable at 47.

During the initial consultation, Chata asked Bernice about her lifestyle and decided she needed three different looks: a smart suit that's comfortable for work; a relaxed but stylish look for casual outings; and a glamorous outfit for a night on the town.

Bernice is nervous about wearing colour, so Chata chose a suit in a stone hue. This neutral option allows Bernice to liven up her outfit with shirts in brighter shades of blue or warm pinks.

Chata also showed Bernice how to choose clothes that flatter her well-proportioned figure and camouflage the areas she's less happy with, most notably her short neck, square waist and rounded stomach.

Personal style: What to wear

Evening

This champagne-coloured lace top is both fashionable and feminine. If you have a rounded tummy, don't wear tops tucked in – choose a style that's nicely tailored and not baggy. Queenspark lace top, \$140; Equip earrings, \$9.95.

For continuity, your handbag and shoes should be a similar tone. When wearing lace or prints, keep accessories simple. Equip bag, \$19.95; Stellar bangles, \$19.95; Lumière large bangle, \$34.95, and thin bangle, \$34.95.

The pants from Bernice's new work suit are teamed with an evening top, demonstrating the versatility of a plain pair of trousers. Stitches at David Jones pants, \$129; Mollini sandals, \$128.



Want a makeover?

For more about this makeover and how to apply for one yourself, visit www.notebookmagazine.com.

Casual

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This wrap top has a side bow that diverts attention from Bernice's stomach. The singlet worn underneath has a low, rounded neckline, which makes her neck appear longer. Ping Pong at David Jones chiffon top, \$199, and singlet, \$99.95.

When buying jeans, look for a pair in a medium indigo tone as they work with light, bright and dark colours. Sportsraft jeans, \$129.95; Stellar bangles, \$19.95.

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A versatile choice, chocolate-brown shoes look great with both warm and cool colours. Novo mules, \$49.95.

Hair and beauty

We gave Bernice a mid-length haircut, taking the weight out of the sides and adding layers to draw attention to her face. The golden highlights are warmer and make her look younger. For the make-up, we used bronzer and gold tones. The cheeks were contoured with a bronzer, then a soft orange blush was applied. We used darker tones to emphasise the eyes, then finished with a natural-looking pink lipstick and a little clear lipgloss.



Business

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Bernice has balanced shoulders, so she can wear shirts with wide collars. As she has a rounded stomach, Bernice should avoid tight tops and empire cuts. Simona shirt, \$99; Frou Frou Designs necklace, \$110.

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This classic pants suit has a single-breasted jacket, so it's more slimming than a double-breasted design. The jacket has a curved hemline, which takes the focus away from Bernice's tummy. Stitches at David Jones jacket, \$229, and matching pants, \$129; Ruthless bag, \$329.

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Sandals can be worn with light- to medium-weight fabrics, but heavier-weight fabrics require closed shoes. Williams the Shoemen heels, \$49.95.



Need a new look?

Change your Image, Change your Life by Chata Romano offers women proven advice on colour, hair and make-up, style and wardrobe management. This inspirational book will help you achieve your best image for your lifestyle. It includes more than 450 photographs and incredible makeovers. For more information on Chata, visit www.chataromano.com.

