



SOUND

PERFORMANCE WEAR

Not selling records? **Stop blaming your drummer and start rethinking your jeans.**

Deirdre Corley calls out musicians who spend as much time on their ensemble as they do with their ensemble.

Alison Mosshart, of The Kills, appears in a J. Lindeberg ad campaign this season. 'It's time for more hard-core chicks again,' says Lindeberg of his muse.

DON'T LISTEN TO THE PURISTS: ROCK 'N' ROLL is not, and never has been, about the music. Okay, yes, the music is important. But it's also about an attitude, a statement, and, especially, a look. Rock 'n' roll and fashion are intrinsically tied. You can stay in your studio practicing power chords until your fingers bleed, but if your pants aren't tight enough, you're missing the point.

With an eye toward the rock icons that came before them, a new breed of stylish musicians is emerging, influencing designers and fans alike, and in true rock fashion, injecting the scene with a healthy dose of sex appeal.

As the father of the style referred to across the pond as "tweak chic," Pete Doherty has a strung-out but refined look that's the embodiment of the raw yet intelligent rock he creates. His trademark trilby hats, drainpipe jeans, ripped T-shirts, and expertly tailored waistcoats earned the Babyshambles frontman nominations in both the Best and Worst Dressed Man categories in Brit music magazine *NME*'s 2005 awards.

Leap-frogging between prison jumpsuits and custom Dior suits (depending on his current legal standing), Doherty's controversial lifestyle has made him a tabloid favorite, and his look is an inspiration for legions of fedora-wearing young rocker-types on the streets of London and abroad. Doherty's style influence can be seen in the output of popular U.K. retail lines like Topman and most notably in the work of top Dior Homme designer Hedi Slimane, who counts Doherty as his muse.

Dior disciples who refuse to abide by the soap-dodging principles of tweak-chic style can look toward Franz Ferdinand's Alex Kapranos for guidance. Like Doherty, you can find the singer outfitted in Dior Homme, but Kapranos' sleek style is more an amalgam of the dan-

dyish glam of 90s Brit pop mixed with a touch of mod courtesy of the British Invasion bands of the 60s. Favoring stripes over tatters, Kapranos often performs Franz Ferdinand's jumpy brand of dance rock in Paul Smith shirts, slim-cut trousers, skinny ties, and tailored suit jackets—a look that lands him again and again in men's mags.

The rock-fashion give-and-take can work both ways. When creating her Fall 05 line, designer Luella Bartley found herself so taken with the timeless cool of The Raveonettes frontwoman Sharin Foo, she not only invited the band to play at her New York City runway show, but also named her vintage-inspired collection "Pretty in Black," after the band's recent 60s-style garage rock album.

Topped with platinum fringe, Foo's edgy retro look is achieved by attaching a punk-rock sentiment to vintage pieces, earning her comparisons to other blonde rockers such as Nico and Debbie Harry.

Alison Mosshart, half of the rock duo The Kills, has a sexed-up, tough girl style that's served as inspiration to Johan Lindeberg, a designer known for his ties to the rock scene. "Strong women with high integrity are always intriguing and, for me, sexier than anything else. It's time for more hard-core chicks again," Lindeberg says of his fascination with the female face of his 2006 campaign. "I think Alison is an inspiring contrast to the too-girly and too-cute trend among women in the last few years."

With her long black hair often covering her face, the statuesque singer breathes new life into classic rock staples like old T-shirts and tight, ripped-up jeans, bringing an air of mystery and effortless cool to a well-worn look. And, of course, effortlessly cool music helps, too.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVEN KLEIN