

Buy a Round

This season, the square-cut nerd glasses will face some new competition: the Panto, better-known as 1940s „intellectual“ glasses. In the streets of Berlin and at Lunettes in Prenzlauer Berg, the cult object is celebrating a comeback.

Last time the Panto adorned stylish noses was in the mid-eighties: colourful New Wavers and impeccably dressed Wall Street yuppies both fancied the expressive frame. In the best-selling novel American Psycho by Bret Easton Ellis, the frames are given a starring role as the absolutely essential accessory.

Today, celebrities like Woody Allen and Johnny Depp are loyal fans of the chunky profile with that certain something, distinguishing a mere film star from a Hollywood legend. Intelligence, eccentricity, stubbornness – all these associations make the Panto ideal for spectacle wearers outside the mainstream.

Though it lacks corners or angles, the Panto is flexible enough to suit a variety of personalities: thick and oversized, it conveys the image of a searching artist, while a tiny one rather looks grandfatherly. A medium-sized Panto gives one the look of a conservative attorney, whereas the filigree wire frame expresses an elegant retro charm.

“The new thing about it is that women are beginning to discover this shape,” says Uta Geyer, owner of Lunettes agency. The boutique, full of hand-picked eyewear from the 20th century, is loved by customers with a sophisticated sense of style. “Berliners spotted the trend at first. It’s not the first time we’ve seen the look, but it is being worn in an innovative way.”

Thus, the vintage wave continues to wash over the cityscape - again and again in variations from classic to boldly sophisticated. As Panto glasses allow for this range as well, they are the perfect fashion piece for 2009.

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