



Susan Eisen offers advice on everything from buying and selling jewelry to working the pieces you own (and might not wear) back into your wardrobe.

Dip into drawer for bonus bling

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You've heard about shopping from your own closet, right?

As recession fears brew, the jewelry expert Susan Eisen suggests that you can do the same thing with accessorizing.

"You have a treasure chest in your drawer," said Eisen, an El Paso, Texas, resident who wrote "Crazy About Jewelry: The Expert Guide to Buying, Selling and Caring for Your Jewelry" (\$16.95, Full Circle). It touches on everything from how to buy, sell, clean and insure jewelry to teaching your significant other how to buy pieces for you.

The book also addresses how to change your jewelry to fit your personality.

"It's important that the jewelry you wear expresses who you are," Eisen said during a recent phone interview. "The way you do that is by kind of experimenting and by looking at other people you know, seeing what kind of disconnect there is (between them and their jewelry) and trying to correct them in yourself."

Say you work in a law office, she said. You own big dangly earrings. They might totally reflect your personality but could stick out in that conservative environment. "And is that something you want to do?"

First take inventory of your jewelry, Eisen advises. Put all your earrings, rings, necklaces, bracelets and brooches together, and analyze whether you need other pieces to go with them.

When pulling from your "treasure chest," first find those things that are most like you. For example, consider a ring that you don't like that much but is in the same color family as a bracelet you love. Wear them together to diffuse your negative feelings toward the ring.

Or you could take pieces apart and have them redesigned, Eisen said. She told of a woman who brought in inherited "very blingy and dangly" diamond earrings that weren't her style. Eisen made three different pairs of earrings from the one.

"People have these things in their drawer and think that it has to stay like that," Eisen said — and it doesn't.

For more information, go online to tulsaworld.com/crazyjewelry.