

Which Chanel bags make the best investments?



1 Comment



Claudia Schiffer carrying a Dior 'Boy' bag at the house's Couture show in July CREDIT: GC

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19 AUGUST 2017 • 7:30AM

Today marks the birthday of one of the most influential designers to emerge from the 20th century, Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel. 46 years after the designer's death, her legacy is as potent as ever; her signature boxy tweed suits, little black dresses and ballerina pumps are still associated with her gamine, revolutionary approach to style.

But it is Chanel's chic handbags which are often seen as the pinnacle of investment pieces, but which one to buy? To coincide with the designer's birthday, the Parisian showroom and website specialising in the sale of pre-owned luxury items, Collector Square, has investigated the Chanel handbags which constitute the most worthy of investments. Of course, we would always advocate buying with heart as well as head, but just so you know, here are the 5 most collectible styles to keep your eyes peeled for...

The 2.55 bag

Undoubtedly the most well know of all of Coco Chanel's bag designs, the 2.55 (which refers February 1955; the month and year in which the style was introduced) was the result of the designer's desire to create a classic bag that was easy to carry around hands-free - a purpose is still serves for its owners today.

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The rectangular lock was a detail designed by Chanel herself, and was the standard for all of Chanel bags until the label's current creative director Karl Lagerfeld took to the helm in the 1980s.

"This model has increased in value by 70% over the last 5 years," says Jérôme Lalande, Collector Square's leather goods expert. "It's extremely difficult to find on the second hand market, and can exchange hands today for between £2,500 - £3,500."



Chanel 2.55 bag, sold recently for £3,540, [Collector Square](#)

The Timeless Classic Flap bag

An enduring classic, the Classic Flap bag was introduced by Lagerfeld the same year that he took up the role of creative director at the French fashion house in 1983, using the same silhouette as Coco Chanel's 2.55 bag.

"This bag has increased its average value by an impressive 140% over the last 5 years," says Lalande. "For the ultimate timeless Chanel bag, try to find an all black limited edition bag, with black accessories and hardware - these are the most rare, and therefore an excellent investment."



Timeless Handbag in black quilted leather, Sold recently for £ 2,320, [Collector Square](#)



The Boy bag

The Boy bag was named after Arthur Capel - an English polo player and Chanel's lover, who she affectionately referred to as 'Boy'. Lagerfeld found a picture of Chanel sporting a hunting cross-over bag in the archives, which inspired him to create this model.

"Designed in 2010, the Boy bag is still a relatively recent model and is only just surfacing on the second hand market," explains Lalande. "As ever, savvy collectors should look for limited edition varieties of the Boy bag because these are likely to be worth more on the second market in the next few years."



Chanel Boy shoulder bag, £3,540, [Collector Square](#)

The Shopping bag

The Chanel shopping bag dates back to the 1980s and comes in a wide variety of shapes, materials and colours. A particularly roomy style, the Shopping bag is the perfect travel companion.

"Convenient, urban and [slightly more] affordable, the Chanel Shopping bag can be used either as a handbag or a working bag," says Lalande. "This model is a very popular collectable item, representing 1 in every 10 bags bought on Collector Square."





Coco Chanel in the 1960s CREDIT: REX

The Camera bag

This boxy bag is defined by its vintage aesthetic. It's a go-with-everything accessory that is equally suited to being paired with jeans and a T-shirt as it is an evening dress.

"Its silhouette is reminiscent of a vintage camera shape," describes Lalande. "This handbag also has the advantage of being able to be worn underneath a coat, as it's smaller than most other Chanel bags," he adds. "This style is quite hard to find on the second hand market and is coveted by Chanel Connoisseurs."



Chanel Camera bag, £3640, Collector Square