



KAREN NG, 36, FASHION STYLIST

Ng owns more than 100 bags which she has collected over 20 years. Her cheapest carrier is a \$200 Whiting & Davis evening bag bought in Hong Kong about eight years ago.

The most expensive is, of course, the classic It bag, the Hermes Birkin which cost a whopping \$15,000. She has nine Birkins.

She is so intent on getting her bag of choice that she has even bribed salesgirls in Hong Kong to the tune of \$200 to help her jump the queue in waiting lists.

Do you have any tips on how to maintain and store bags?

Have a shelf where you can line up your bags. Arrange them from the lightest to the darkest colour for ease in outfit coordination.

Also, I don't throw away the stuffing that comes with the bags. I stuff it back in after use to maintain the bag's shape.

I carry a separate piece of luggage for my shoes and bags when I travel to ensure that they will not be squashed.

To clean, I just use a wet cloth to wipe my bags. Aldo has a very good selection of leather maintenance products as well.

Where can you get the best bag buys?

Go to Balenciaga for its motorcycle bags collection – they are very soft, light and durable. The bags can be squashed and they won't go out of shape. This year, there's the Balenciaga Giant Sphere which I like a lot.

What's your bag philosophy or idiosyncrasy?

Invest in at least one "It" bag each season. It can never go wrong and there's value based on cost per wear. The attention and compliments that it attracts also make it worthwhile. As for idiosyncrasy, I find that bags are so personal, I tend to be selfish and not lend them to anyone.

What do you think your bags reveal about you?

They show that I'm a fashionista.

Are you eyeing any bag right now?

A red Hermes Crocodile Birkin bag and a Chanel sequin tote (right) for spring/summer 2008.

