

BUTTFESSIONS

Yeah, our made-up word sounds like a laugh riot, but trying to dress a butt is no joke. (The backside can make or break an outfit.) So our fashion team helped three women with three common derriere dilemmas. Better bottom lines for all!

“I HAVE A SQUARE BUTT”

A body geometry lesson for those playing along at home: That means your butt goes from your hip bone to your outer thigh in one straight line. For *WH* online senior associate editor Ashley Oerman, 26, it’s been a very personal struggle. “I didn’t own a full-length mirror for three years to avoid looking at my lower half,” says Ashley, who felt it was out of proportion with her petite torso and made her look shorter. The laundry list of clothes she deemed unwearable? Low-rise jeans, shift dresses, and white *anything*. Our fix: high-waisted pants that are generously cut on the sides and shorts with trompe l’oeil details and soft textures.



STRIPE THAT

Straight-leg pants may seem like the last thing you’d want. But since pinstripes fan out from the smallest part of her body—her waist—they give the illusion of curves at the hips. A cropped top flatters her slim upper half. *Polo Ralph Lauren pants, \$245, ralphlauren.com; Stylestalker top, \$159, stylestalker.com*

SHOW FLARE

Silk A-line shorts skim the butt so it looks full, not square. “I’m obsessed with this look,” Ashley says. “The print makes my derriere stand out without screaming ‘booty, booty everywhere!’” *Stylestalker shorts, \$139, stylestalker.com; Levi’s top, \$72, levi.com*



BEST JEANS FOR THIS TUSH

The seams are crucial. Look for no more than an inch and a half between the middle seam and the interior sides of each pocket. This will narrow your hips. The hexagon shape at the bottom of the pockets (and the V detail within) helps create definition. *Hudson, \$235, hudsonjeans.com*

“I HAVE A BUBBLE BUTT”

For some, the dream butt. But for video producer Jenn Peña, 31, it's complicated. While she loves her backside, it can be tricky to dress. Jeans gape at the waist (thanks to her small middle), full skirts give the sense that she's a size larger than she actually is, and work dresses and suits make her “super self-conscious of my butt.” Her friends here: pieces that gently drape the bum, and lots of dark, rich hues.



SUIT YOURSELF

A jumpsuit can give the average butt a pancake-like look. (The top just merges with the tush.) Not in Jenn's case. These black, belted overalls hug her curves, embracing her hourglass. Jenn's reaction: “This says sophisticated sexy!” *7 For All Mankind jumpsuit, \$279, 7forallmankind.com; Mavi top, \$38, mavi.com*

WRAP UP

Most women with a generous seat tend to gravitate toward voluminous skirts in hopes of hiding it—a no-no since they add visual weight. This dress subtly flares at the *bottom* of her bum. *Yumi Kim dress, \$248, yumikim.com*



BEST JEANS FOR THIS TUSH

Look for a high-waisted pair (no gaping), a dark, stretchy fit (flattering yet comfy), and angled pockets (they make your butt look taut). *J Brand, \$188, jbrandjeans.com*

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ACT REFINED

Looser styles give flat butts that saggy-diaper look (stay far away, boyfriend jeans!). Ultra-slim pants make every ounce count. Back pocket slits (or even faux slits) eke out more definition. *Ann Taylor pants, \$98, anntaylor.com; Alice + Olivia by Stacey Bendet top, \$275, alicelandolivia.com*



BEST JEANS FOR THIS TUSH

Go for slim or straight fits and pockets with frayed edges, flaps, or shading... anything that creates the illusion of shape. *7 For All Mankind, \$189, 7forallmankind.com*



“I HAVE A FLAT BUTT”

“I often felt less feminine for my lack of a booty,” says Ashley Grohoski, 27. For that reason, the marketing coordinator stuck to überflowy skirts or oversize boxy pieces that buried her backside. We said good-bye to all that and went fitted and streamlined down below while giving her upper body some attention. Halter tops with ruching and tanks with wide armholes expose plenty of biceps and back, girling up her silhouette.

PENCIL IT IN

Pencil skirts exaggerate the lower half, adding a certain roundness. The slight sheen (and large floral print) of this number lends even more bodaciousness. *Pinko skirt, \$303, pinko.com; J Brand top, \$498, neimanmarcus.com*