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For any mood or image, there are glasses to match. *From top:* Tiffany & Co., "Lace," \$1,100. Oliver Peoples, "Lukas," \$315. Gucci, "GG2750," \$330.



From top: Paul Smith Spectacles, "PS-414," \$325. Heart-shaped sunglasses, \$10. Corinne Couture by Corinne McCormack, "Le Chat Rhinestone," \$88.

style O



From top: Dior, "Glossy," \$330. Vera Wang, "Dahl," \$300. Banana Republic, "Sofia," \$98.

O's Eyeglasses Intervention

If shopping for glasses leaves you cross-eyed, here's insight from O's experts: four makeovers that match frames to face shape and take you from glasses-as-dull-necessity to the joy of specs. ▶

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARC ROYCE

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{ ■ } The Square Face



■ FACIAL GEOMETRY

To find your shape, pull your hair back and look in the mirror (or do a postshower check—a wet head tells all). **Julia Sanderson, 38**, a creative associate at Eileen Fisher, is all about right angles: Her face is as long as it is wide, and she has a prominent jaw and broad cheekbones.



■ THE "BEFORE" PAIR

"The hard lines of these glasses just make her face seem boxier," says licensed optician Deborah Lochli-McGrath, a spokesperson for the Vision Council of America (VCA) and our expert guide for these makeovers. Black frames are way too dark for Julia's coloring, and their style is dated—not a good move for a hip young woman who works in the fashion industry.



■ THE "AFTER" PAIR

The general rule with glasses is to play against your facial contours (learn more at the VCA's Web site, eyecessorize.com). "See how soft her face looks!" Lochli-McGrath says after Julia's transformation: A low-profile pair with a curved, rimless bottom (Moscot, "Indig," \$159) gives angular features a rounder appearance, and the more emphatic upper edge diverts attention from the jaw and chin. A subtle greenish brown tint makes her blue-gray eyes stand out (look for a color that's complementary; an exact match may seem forced).



■ THE RIGHT SUNGLASSES

A slightly rounded shape and gradient lenses—dark on top, lighter at the bottom—help downplay Julia's jawline (Persol, "PO2866," \$249). People slather on sunscreen but forget that eyes also need shielding, Lochli-McGrath says. Forget pale tints; you need dark lenses that cover the entire eye area and build in UVA/UVB protection. Beyond the health factor, there's a glamour bonus: Demiblonde tortoiseshell frames pick up the highlights in Julia's hair, making her feel like an Italian movie star. *Bellissima*.

More Eye-Catching Options



Totally circular updated grannies might make a round face look chubby, but they're terrific for balancing chiseled features. Morgenthal Frederics, "Puro," \$395.

Semirimless aviators of clean, streamlined metal wire delicately offset a bottom-heavy jaw. Oliver Peoples, "Carraway," \$325.

No sharp corners on these snappy logo-print specs: They have a bookish, rectangular feel without being boxy. Coach, "Cora," \$215.



Playfully round, gray gradients are an option for a longer, more rectangular face, but they'd overwhelm delicate features. Nine West, "NW1211045," \$38.

Shield-style shades—one of this year's big trends—have a sporty-chic look; the curvaceous edges make facial angles look less acute. Oakley, "Breathless," \$175.

A strong, fluid line defines the upper third of the face, minimizing any boxiness at the bottom. Salt Optics, "Olivia," \$340.



{ O } The Oval Face

■ FACIAL GEOMETRY

The oval may not be absolutely symmetrical—**Luz Stella Kochiss, 44**, mother of three and a Spanish teacher, has cheekbones slightly higher than the middle of her face, and her chin is a bit narrower than her forehead—but it's close. Frequently described as classical or harmonious, this shape looks good in almost any glasses.

■ THE "BEFORE" PAIR

Although oval types can do fine in subtly rounded frames, you don't want to go ultracircular. These grannyish glasses are aging, not to mention just plain boring. They are also too narrow for Luz; to set off her gorgeous bone structure, glasses should be at least as wide as the broadest part of her face.

■ THE "AFTER" PAIR

Narrow glasses with upswept corners and vivid accents on top (Lafont, "Sarah," \$330) produce what Lochli-McGrath calls the facelift effect, emphasizing cheekbones and making the jaw look slimmer and more angular. These frames are a departure for Luz: "They're definitely different," she says. "I like change. And glasses are important—they're the first thing I reach for when I get up in the morning." Makeup alert: A strong prescription like Luz's tends to magnify the eyes, so go easy with mascara and shadow.

■ THE RIGHT SUNGLASSES

Newly popular shields are genius for arming you against the sun, but you don't want to look as if you just schussed down a mountain. Edged with a metal rope motif—gold and bronze are magnificent with Luz's warm brunette coloring—these shades are more elegant than athletic (Escada, "SES 627," \$255). Dark sunglasses are essential for ocular health, says Lochli-McGrath, who also recommends a variety of pairs because some lenses are better suited to certain light conditions than others.

Rx to Go



Ready-to-buy prescription eyewear—like the dreary kind found in drugstores—is suddenly chic. These readers (*top*, Eyebobs, "Co-conspirator 2136," \$60, case included) are in step with the high-fashion palette. Stylish shades (*above*, ICU Eyewear, "Be Glamorous," \$25) boast an up-to-the-minute shape and corrective lenses.



More Eye-Catching Options



Candy colors complement lighter skin; upswept corners and quirky cutout temples give a lift to the face. Bevel Specs, "8579," \$450.



Get intellectual with tortoiseshell in slim, classic rectangles—a great everyday shape. Gucci, "GG2976," \$155.



Pale, vintage-inspired glasses work on an oval face that's symmetrical (they're too subtle to correct imbalances). Oliver Peoples, "Noland," \$315.



Mad-for-plaid shades have tongue-in-cheek charm but offer serious coverage—with no severe angles. Bottega Veneta, "BV64S," \$485.



Buffalo horn temples give these silvery aviators an edge over ordinary sunglasses. Morgenthal Frederics, "Titanium Stealth," \$965.



Scaled-up tortoiseshell sunglasses would sink a small oval, but they'll lengthen and slenderize a slightly fuller face. Derek Lam, "Carmen," \$325.

{♥} The Heart-Shaped Face



■ FACIAL GEOMETRY

Your shape is an inverted triangle, with more weight on top: Artist **Maria Taylor, 29**, has a broad forehead and cheekbones tapering to a narrow chin. (Don't worry if your face doesn't fit exactly into our categories—lots of us are hybrids. Just decide if you're essentially angular or curvilinear, then try on glasses in a contrasting shape.)

■ THE "BEFORE" PAIR

The straight-across look of these boxy black rectangles accentuates the width of Maria's cheeks instead of minimizing it, Lochli-McGrath says. They're also sitting way too low on her face: Always check that your eyes are centered in the frames when you're trying on a pair (and the temples, or earpieces, should be level, not tipped up or down).

■ THE "AFTER" PAIR

One way to lighten up the wider portions of a heart-shaped face is to wear airy, rimless glasses (Robert Marc, "368," \$425). Butterfly lenses, which are slightly wider at the bottom, give a pointed chin more of a buildup. "It's amazing the difference you feel in your energy and confidence when you have a great pair of glasses," Maria says. If you're on the computer a lot, Lochli-McGrath recommends lenses with an antireflective coating that eliminates glare and reduces eye stress.

■ THE RIGHT SUNGLASSES

Softly curved wraparounds (Via Spiga, "VS 411-S," \$160) hug Maria's face and tone down the angles. "I like big, jazzy, extravagant sunglasses," she admits. "No subtlety! These have a shininess to them, a bit of bling, and that's my style." The glasses most likely to succeed will probably have the same basic palette—warm or cool—as your skin, hair, and eyes (see how bronze illuminates Maria's complexion). But if you try a few that break the color rule, you won't get arrested.

More Eye-Catching Options



Semirimless specs create optical illusions, like a more balanced-looking face. Pink-tipped temples (opticianspeak for the pieces that extend from eye to ear) add playful color. Salt Optics, "Heidi," \$325.

Eyes sparkle (and look wider set) in metal frames lined with tan. Anne et Valentin, "Parole," \$370.

These seriously chic glasses have a dip at the bridge, making the upper face seem narrower. Vera Wang, "V150," \$180.



The pared-down aesthetic of these yellow-rimmed gradients is perfect for weekends. 3.1 Phillip Lim, "Kitt," \$240.

Unusual colors—brown fading to pale green—make these shades great for city wear but too light for direct sun. Liz Claiborne, "Iesha," \$36.

Chunky aviators with wide bottoms lower the focus on a heart-shaped face, balancing a sharp chin. Chloe, "Hakea," \$330.





{●} The Round Face

■ FACIAL GEOMETRY

Full cheeks, scant angles, and roughly equal length and width place chef and food writer **Judiaann Woo**, 36, squarely in the round. To clarify where your face fits, try outlining it on the mirror with a washable marker or eye pencil. Once you know your type, you can reduce hundreds of optical possibilities to a few well-focused pairs.



■ THE "BEFORE" PAIR

The last thing Judiaann needs is more curves, says Lochli-McGrath—you never want glasses that echo and reinforce your core shape. The dark color is the right idea (bolder frames help to define a round face), but stylistically these specs are pretty ho-hum; plus, they sit so high that she looks as if she has no eyebrows.



■ THE "AFTER" PAIR

Geometrically inclined glasses take the place of visible bone structure, sculpting Judiaann's face to look longer and slimmer. Flattering rectangular frames (Vera Wang, "V169," \$260) are fairly narrow, so the bottom edges won't collide with her cheeks, and the subtle metallic and discreet crystals suit her minimalist taste. They also stay secure on her hard-to-fit nose: On a flat bridge, Lochli-McGrath explains, specs slip down easily. This pair has adjustable nose pads on either side—tilt them up or down to find precisely the right angle.



■ THE RIGHT SUNGLASSES

Shades are Judiaann's summer uniform. "I live in them," she says. "It's nice to go incognito." But they shouldn't be too much of a mask. Scale is important; these squared-off titanium sunglasses (Christian Roth, "14287," \$400) aren't so jumbo that they swallow her face. Drawing the focus up and out makes plump cheeks recede. One stylish way to do it is with decorative temples—here, they're tortoiseshell—that stand out from the main frame. **O**

What About Brows?

Eyebrow authority Eliza Petrescu on how to pair your arches with frames:

- **RESPECT YOUR FACE.** Sculpt brows to flatter your bone structure, not the latest eyewear fad. Shop for specs accordingly.
- **THINK BALANCE.** Neither brows nor glasses should dominate. Sunglasses excepted, frames should never cover arches—they're key to defining your face.
- **AVOID EXTREMES.** No ultrathin, ultraround, or bushy brows; no mega-high arches. Aim for a soft, groomed, slightly elongated effect.
- **STAY INTEGRATED.** Brows that jump off the face look intense; same goes for glasses (anything too bright or costumey can be risky).

More Eye-Catching Options



The cat's-eye strategy uses upswept outer corners to lift and slim a chubby face. Oliver Peoples, "Roxana," \$350.



Straight lines make this cool blue-green pair with crystal accents a great complement for curves. Vogue Eyewear, "VO2486," \$99.



Chunky red specs give extra definition, but save them for playtime; they're a bit adventurous for every day. Selima Optique, "George," \$300.



This handsome tortoiseshell pair has Jackie O allure (her broad cheeks did look less obvious with big shades). Sama Eyewear, "Mine," \$345.



Consider the navigator, a less curvy version of the aviator, an excellent fit for round faces. Paul Smith Spectacles, "PS-834," \$310.



An emphatic square shape doesn't loom large, because it is softened by subtle color. Burberry, "BE4034," \$235. *For details see Shop Guide.*