



Hip hop pants for ladies

Karl Prouse/Catwalking/Getty ImagesA model sporting a barbecue walks the runway at a Baby Phat fashion show in New York City. Fashion is fickle - styles come, go and come back again in the blink of an eye. Hip-hop mode is no exception. In the beginning, DJs were the leaders of hip-hop style. Many took fashion cues from disco styles around them, while others developed styles of their own. As graffiti and breaking united with music to create the beginning of a cultural movement, eyes began to focus on MCs and breakers. Initially, most breakers dressed for comfort and functionality. Loose-fitting trousers (sometimes with braces), comfortable sneakers (with laces left mostly undone) and colorful t-shirts (to go with other members of a dancer crew) were standard on the East Coast. Meanwhile, military-inspired outfits with baggy pants (again, sometimes with braces) and lace-up boots were popular

with some dancers on the West Coast. When Run-D.M.C. hit the stage, so did a look that would, at least in part, be imitated for years: black fedoras or Kangol hats, large, chunky chains and, of course, Adidas. Eventually, these leather suits made room for nylon and cotton tracksuits, still adorned with heavy jewelry. The ensemble was often topped with a Kangol or baseball cap and bottom with a pair of designer athletic shoes (Adidas made way for Nike). African-inspired clothing also enjoyed a surge of popularity. Kente cloth from Ghana appeared in almost all types of clothing, and red, yellow, black and green were the colors du jour. Hats, and even entire outfits, were worn backwards (remember Kriss Kross video Jump?). Basketball jerseys were worn over t-shirts with jeans so baggy that they gathered in a puddle of fabric stopped only by the open, unlaced top of a Timberland or Lugz boot. As the 1990s came to a close, oversized was still the size of choice, be it denim or cargo pants. The gangsta style wearing pants so low that the underwear show continues today. Reportedly, the practice comes from prisons where belts are not allowed due to potentially lethal uses [source: CNN]. Kangol hats back, as do baseball caps. Joining them is do-rag, reportedly another prison-wear influence. Gangsta-inspired clothes weren't the only 90s hip-hop staple. Designer brands, such as Tommy Hilfiger and Ralph Lauren, filled closets from east to west coast. The brand's young trend is still today. Some of the more prominent brands on the shopping list include: Baby Phat, Carhartt, Converse, Dickies, Ecko and Ecko Red, Fubu, G-Unit, Lacoste, Phat Farm, Reebok, Rocawear, Sean John and Von Dutch. Some of these didn't originate in the fashion industry - they started in the hip-hop industry. Probably the oldest label is Russell Simmons' Phat Farm. The original hip-hop mogul's is reportedly worth \$325 million [source: Katel]. Jay-Z sold Rocawear for \$204 million and bought another clothing collection, the Artful Dodger, for \$15 million [source: Brown]. Clothing isn't the only big company associated with hip-hop. Accessories - especially jewelry - bring in Benjamins, too. Long before the word bling-bling (bling for short) was coined, Kurtis Blow gave gold a good name by donning several chains, some with medallions, at once. Run-D.M.C. and others took it a step further and beefed up the meter of gold, wearing incredibly thick chains that looked like actual ropes. As time went on, jewelry became more elaborate, and gold gave way to platinum - of ice-out black, encrusted with diamonds. For those so inclined (not all hip-hoppers adorn themselves), there is jewelry for almost every body part. Multiple-finger rings can double as a set of super-expensive, not-so-brass knuckleen. Stomach chains can complement a naving. Even teeth can go gold or platinum. While some early hip-hop artists advocated for simple gold caps, today's stars may have extra sparkle and shine with a barbecue. From graffit to barbecue, hip-hop is one of the most influential cultural movements ever seen in the United to one continent. Next, we'll take a look at how hip-hop has spread. Advertising Karl Prouse/Catwalking/Getty ImagesA model sporting a barbecue walks the runway at a Baby Phat fashion show in New York City. Fashion is fickle - styles come, go and come back again in the blink of an eye. Hip-hop mode is no exception. In the beginning, DJs were the leaders of hip-hop style. Many took fashion cues from disco styles around them, while others developed styles of their own. As graffiti and breaking united with music to create the beginning of a cultural movement, eyes began to focus on MCs and breakers dressed for comfort and functionality. 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Some of these didn't originate in the fashion industry - they started in the hip-hop industry. Probably the oldest label is Russell Simmons' Phat Farm. The original hip-hop mogul's exploits are reportedly worth close to \$325 million [source: Kate]. Jay-Z sold Rocawear for \$204 million and bought another clothing collection, the Artful Dodger, for \$15 million [source: Brown]. Clothing isn't the only big company associated with hip-hop. Accessories - especially jewelry - bring in Benjamins, too. Long before the word bling-bling (bling for short) was coined, Kurtis Blow gave gold a good name by donning several chains, some with medallions, at once. Run-D.M.C. and others took it a step further and beefed up the meter of gold, wearing incredibly thick chains that looked like actual ropes. As time went on, jewelry became more elaborate, and gold gave way to platinum - of ice-out black, encrusted with diamonds. 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