

# You Should Totally Rent Your Next Handbag, but From Where?

Buying a purse full price is so last season.

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SHOT ON LOCATION AT FASHIONPHILE



Khaite top. Frame skirt. Larroudé boots. Mounser earrings. Foundrae necklace.



## Rent the Runway

Our Rating: 8 out of 10

**The Deal:** You have two options: Anyone can do a one-time rental that lasts four or eight days, with prices starting at \$7. Or you can get a monthly membership, starting at \$94, and keep a purse for as long as you want. The more you pay per month, the more pieces you can rent (e.g., you can borrow 16 items for \$235).

**The Experience:** I knew I wanted a short-term rental for a romantic dinner with my husband, so I got to scrolling through a ton of lustworthy bags from trendy designers like Mansur Gavriel, Staud, and 3.1 Phillip Lim. I finally decided on a green JW Anderson purse, but honestly, it took me a minute to get there. It was hard to tell which items were available and when, and I ended up with about a zillion open tabs. Still, my cutie arrived within a day in good condition, complete with a return label for a swift send-back. And I loved that if I wanted to buy it in full, I could—at a nice discount.

**Nanushka** Anja mini baguette bag, \$90 for 4-day rental, [renttherunway.com](http://renttherunway.com)

HAIR AND MAKEUP: CAROLINE BARIBEAU

## Vivrelle

Our Rating: 9 out of 10

**The Deal:** This one is membership only, with three different cost tiers for handbags and a three-month minimum. The most affordable plan (\$99 per month) gets you one rental and excludes some high-end bags. The most expensive plan (\$279 per month) allows you to choose two with access to everything. You can keep them as long as you want and swap when you're ready. (Little tip: Prepay for 12 months and get 1 month free.)

**The Experience:** So, yes, you can visit Vivrelle online, but I particularly enjoyed browsing its NYC showroom, which has entire walls dedicated to designers like Bottega Veneta, Fendi, and Chanel. I camped out in a space for new arrivals and spent about an hour trying to decide on a rental. The selection was so impressive that I ended up with two: a vintage Chanel purse and a Bottega Teen Jodie bag. Because I shopped IRL, I got to personally vet each piece's condition, and I walked right out with—and immediately started receiving compliments on—my goods.



**Bottega Veneta** chain cassette bag, \$199 per month with Couture membership, [vivrelle.com](http://vivrelle.com)



## Bag Borrow or Steal

Our Rating: 8 out of 10

**The Deal:** No memberships here, so you pay à la carte. Prices vary depending on the bag—a Prada nylon Re-Edition 2005 crossbody rents for \$150 per month, while Bottega Mini Jodies go for \$225 per month. Before your time is up, you'll get an email asking if you want to renew.

**The Experience:** I got a little overwhelmed by the sheer volume of online options, so I narrowed my search to the New Arrivals tab and specific designers I like. I found a lovely baby-blue Prada Cleo bag that looked to be in pristine condition. It was...but it took its sweet time arriving (at least, compared with my other rental experiences). If I go this route again, I'll probably spring for the expedited two- or three-day delivery. That is, if I don't just buy the bag myself—it was the perfect addition to every outfit I wore all month.

**Gucci** Ophidia mini bucket bag, \$150 per month, [bagborroworsteal.com](http://bagborroworsteal.com)

## When You Find Something Worth the Splurge

Secondhand luxury items are a good deal, but they usually entail a final sale or a blink-and-you'll-miss-it return policy. These retailers have a trial period, in case you get shopper's remorse.



## Fashionphile

Having second thoughts about your new bag in the first six months? This cult fave will take it back for 70 percent of what you paid (75 percent if you return within three months). Hey, it's better than nothing.

**Chanel** denim quilted mini bag, \$6,195, [fashionphile.com](http://fashionphile.com)

## Rebag

With its Infinity exchange program, you get back 75 percent in credit after up to 3 months, 70 percent after 3 to 6 months, or 60 percent after 6 to 12 months. Another deal? A feature called Trade, where you can sell and buy a bag in one transaction. Immediate inventory refresh!

**Prada** Triangle embossed mini bag, \$2,880, [rebag.com](http://rebag.com)

“But I’m So Nervous I’m Going to Ruin It!” →

Look, it's a justified worry! These bags can cost more than a security deposit on an apartment. But most rental companies have taken this into account. Vivrelle and RTR have coverage for general wear and tear included with membership. Almost all Bag Borrow or Steal items come with a pouch for pens and makeup, the main culprits of accidental internal damage.