

Paint it Black



RABD
Resene
Delta



VETEMENTS
Resene
Double Bison



BALENCIAGA
Resene
Indian Ink



YOHJI
YAMAMOTO
Resene
All Black



DRESSED
UNDRESSED
Resene
Poured Milk



BED J.W. FORD
Resene
Twilight Zone

Johnny Cash famously wore black every day and said, "I wore black because I like it. I still do, and wearing it still means something to me."

Colloquially known as 'goth ninja', this fashion movement is a dark spin-off of avant-garde fashion, a style with a monochromatic colour palette and minimalist aesthetic. It first began in the late 2000's when fashion houses like Raf Simons, Rick Owens, and Givenchy all incorporated elements of the style on the runway, draping top-heavy black and grey robes, leather jackets and scarves with strange cuts.

In brief, goth ninja consists of dark, minimalist clothing and regularly contains references to 90s hip-hop and grunge, as well as religious iconography and gothic horror imagery.

As most garments in the style are black or very dark, using layers and textures is essential to make an outfit stand out. Materials like leather feature heavily, as do zips, drapery coats and oversized t-shirts.

The look starts from the top, with caps, beanies and facemasks, working its way down with scarves draping onto coats, and robes, over generally tight-fitting pants and jeans and finally ending with military boots and other black footwear.

On the streets, rappers like Kanye West, ASAP Rocky, and Pusha T put their twist on the style, stamping labels and insignia all over the clothes, creating what's sometimes known as 'street goth'.

This streetwear adaptation also incorporates new elements like sneakers and bling as well as shirts with religious iconography.

Rab'd's Men's Spring 2019 collection is a modern example of the style, pairing extralong pants with motorcycle jackets and a variety of asymmetrical garments. The oversized satin pants, similar to Resene Delta, break the black-on-black mould and makes the look stand out among ninja goth inspired pieces.

At Bed J.W. Ford's Tokyo Fashion Week Show, the model leant completely into the ninja aspects of the

style, wearing entirely dark shades like Resene Twilight Zone all over, from his cowl down to his socks. The high-fashion look took 'ninja' literally, sporting a full ninja robe draped over tight-fitting clothes, all tied together with a traditional-looking rope belt with tassels hanging down.

Balenciaga's RTW Spring 2019 show displayed a cross-section of modern glamour and technology. The collection was mostly androgynous and gothic in nature, with sculpted coats, dresses, and jackets all completely covering the model. On the runway, the model showed off a relaxed take on the style, sporting a dark robe like Resene Indian Ink that conjoined on the bottom like a dress, hiding the rest of the model behind the over-sized robe.

Yohji Yamamoto's RTW Spring 2019 collection featured a lot of draped clothing, designed as a nod to old-school tropes of feminine and masculine. "Recently, young boys, they've started wearing more feminine clothes," said Yamamoto. So instead he presented a collection that doubled down on the feminine aspects. With a robe in a colour like Resene All Black hanging down to the model's feet, the look was a distinctly feminine twist on the goth ninja style, with cuts in the model's pants which revealed the body rather than shrouding it in fabric like traditional ninja goth looks.

Designer Takeshi Kitazawa showed off a new side to his DressedUndressed brand. The collection featured androgynous pieces including slim vinyl pants, blazers and tailored coats. In this look, the model wore a chalky black coat with white powder marks splashed over it like Resene Poured Milk, making for a minimalist, stripped back look which reduces the style to its most important elements.

Vetements Spring RTW 2019 collection at Paris Fashion Week incorporated elements of streetwear, including spikey military boots, a balaclava, and a graphic print t-shirt. They were all paired with a modern military influenced jacket in a colour like Resene Double Bison, showing how other colours and patterns can work alongside the style to elevate it even further. **AVB**

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