

The Kangol Cap Hops Again



In a previous life they were favored by London cabbies and the argyle-clad golfing set, but now Kangols or peak caps have risen to the top of the fashion fairway. The originals evolved from berets and were invented in England back in 1954. They first achieved hipster status when they were adopted by rappers in the 80's, but then they fell off the style map until Philip Treacy, the British milliner, enlisted designers to reinvent some classic Kangol styles. Katharine Hamnett and Fraser Moss (formerly of Vivienne Westwood) reinterpreted the 504 style (the one worn by Samuel L. Jackson in "Jackie Brown"). Ms. Hamnett's aqua check version (\$40) and Mr. Moss's perforated suede style (\$48) are available at Knox Hats, 620 Eighth Avenue, or through Kangol at (800) 431-1802.

Nicole Miller's Spring 2001 collection featured colored 504 Kangols, shown worn backward with metallic hot pants. "I'd used them in '94 and saved one," Ms. Miller said. "When I dragged it out of the closet, it looked right again." And in her show, Cynthia Rowley paid homage to Phillip Bloch, the fashion stylist who is never seen without a Kangol, sending down the runway her version, called "Philip's hat."

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