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## Retro Baby Clothing

By Kirsten Hawkins

If it was cool when you were a kid, it's cool for your kids!

Baby clothing is quite a bit different today than it was when you were an infant. From the designer styles of Baby Dior and Baby Phat to the bizarre offerings of the alternative baby clothing market, there's now something for every parent to adorn her children with in an effort to transfer a bit of her own personality onto her offspring. One of the latest trends in baby fashions is the "retro" look in baby wear.

Retro baby clothing indicates baby sized tees and "Onesies" that have been printed or screened with images of pop culture past. In many cases the pictures are of icons from before even the parents' time, making it cool to be the most obscure. Interested parties are not likely to find these offerings at the local Wal-Mart but will instead have to order them online. Fortunately for those interested in giving their children a little piece of the past to wear on their chests, there is no shortage of those sites available.

The most complete and probably best known of these sites is The Retro Baby. Perusing the offerings of the site is like a walk down memory lane for anyone who is in their thirties or has a keen fix on the pop-culture of the 1980s. Designs available here include television references like The A Team, ALF, CHiPs, and Dallas (the Dallas print will be instantly familiar to anyone who remembers the summer that America was wondering who shot J.R.) as well as older images from shows that the parents of today watched in reruns while growing up: Barbara Eden in her silky outfit from I Dream of Jeanie and Clayton Moore in his blue Texas Ranger outfit complete with black mask from The Lone Ranger. Prices for these printed "Onesies" are a bit steep at \$14.95 (\$16.95 for toddler-sized tees) considering the baby will grow out of them completely in a few months' time, but even the most stoic of thirty-somethings will have to admit that they are getting a certain dose of cool for their cash.

Retro doesn't just mean pop culture references, however. Several clothiers are offering styles that are a clear throwback to those worn by kids in the fifties, sixties, and seventies. One such company, Cakewalk Baby, offers flower print designs reminiscent of the post-hippie era of the late seventies; a time when PC meant petty cash, Elvis Presley was still with us, and no one knew what a video game or MTV was. A website called Milena Bee offers these designs and more and is definitely worth a look.

## Retro Baby Clothing

Whether you want to put stills of Bruce Lee from Enter the Dragon or flowery designs from an era gone by on your baby's body, retro baby clothes may be just what you need to show the world that your baby is cooler than cool. Look hard enough and you may be able to find a tee shirt that says "I'm the Fonz" or "Frankie Say Relax."

Kirsten Hawkins is a baby and parenting expert specializing new mothers and single parent issues. Visit

<http://www.babyhelp411.com/>

for more information on how to raising healthy, happy children.

### **Traditional, Classic, And Old World Baby Clothing Dressing Your Baby The Old-School Way**

**By Kirsten Hawkins**

In today's world there are nearly as many styles in baby clothing as there are babies crawling about. Parents who want modern clothing can find it at the nearest Wal-Mart, those who desire alternative forms of clothing for their babies can usually find it online, some people make their baby clothing by hand, cutting cloth and sewing together designs from patterns purchased at the nearest Hancock Fabrics location. The choices are nearly limitless and include styles and designs too numerous to mention completely.

Like in other areas of the fashion world, baby clothes designs never really die, they go in and out of style according to the whims of the populace which, in the case of baby clothes, means the whims of the parents. Right now one of those whims is leaning toward retro clothing styles.

The term retro can mean a number of things, but often refers to pop culture of the recent past. While its true that styles influenced by the pop culture of the 1970s and 1980s are becoming popular, there is another retro movement taking place and it leans toward classic or old world baby clothing. Designs that were popular fifty, sixty, seventy, and up to a hundred years ago are gaining popularity with parents all over the country.

For baby boys, billowing "rompers" are selling from a number of specialty shops and websites from around the world to a largely American clientele, as are two piece short & shirt sets and old-style coveralls. Classic designs for girls include mostly flowing dresses and female counterparts to the boys' rompers.

Most of these designs can not be found in the average American store and many come from Europe and must be purchased online or by mail order. The British web site "Baby Classics" offers these styles and more to their customers, so many of whom are in the US that the company saw fit to quote their prices in dollars as well as British pounds. The outfits are expensive by most baby clothing standards, costing about the same as some of the more extravagant designer outfits for babies, but have found an audience because of the "cute" appearance of the clothing as it is worn by the infants or toddlers.

## Retro Baby Clothing

These extremely retro baby fashions may not be for everyone because of their unique looks and hefty prices, but many parents are jumping onto this classic bandwagon and dressing their babies in the fashions of long ago. Due to the cost and the delicate fabrics you probably won't see a lot of these designs showing up at the local park for play dates, but don't be surprised if you're sitting in church or at some special occasion and see a baby dressed like she's living in the 1920s.

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