

# Made in the Shade



**Reata Ranch Cowgirl Bling Sunglasses with turquoise stone and AB crystals.**

\$90

➤ More than just a way to ease the harsh light of the sun, sunglasses have become a fashionable accessory. But how much do you know about the selection and care of this iconic piece of eyewear? COMPILED BY BREANNE HILL

**F**ROM JACKIE O'S ROUND-ED, oversized lenses, to Tom Cruise's sleek Ray Bans, sunglasses have for years been used by celebrities as a way of making a fashion statement. Recently, those in the Western set have also latched on to the idea of shades as an accessory on par with jewelry and belts, and manufacturers, such as Cowgirl Divaz, Elusive Cowgirl and Reata Ranch, have taken this interest and created

entire lines of cowgirl-friendly eyewear.

Swarovski crystals, conchos, spur rowels and painted scenes are just a few of the artistic elements that separate Western sunglasses from the pack. But even though these shades stand out in style from other types of glasses, the standard theories of selection and care still apply.

Here are some points to remember the next time you're searching for that next pair of attention-worthy sunglasses.

**1. Shape.** The first step in choosing a pair of shades

that will compliment your features is to match their shape with the shape of your face.

In general, if your face is square, you'll want a frame shape that is not as wide as the widest part of your face. Rounded frames are also a good bet for reducing the severity of a wide jaw line.

A round face, on the other hand, tends to look best in straight or angular frames, which have a thinning affect.

Oval frames, or even frameless glasses, work well on diamond-shaped faces, while round, deep frames compliment a rectangular face.

As for triangular visages, a traditional triangle shape should be paired with strong frames that will balance the upper half of your face with the lower half. But if your face is shaped like an upside down triangle, you might try rimless glasses or those that sit low on your temple.

Individuals with oval-shaped faces are lucky. As long as the frame is in proportion to the face width, any style of glasses should work well on them.



\$40

**Cowgirl Divaz zebra bling sunglass with clear Swarovski crystals and star concho.**

**2.** **Lens Color.** There are a variety of lens colors on the market—but there's more to this choice than what others see when they look at you. Lens color can also affect what you see.

Lens colors in the orange and yellow family let a little bit of light pass through and are, therefore, recommended for cloudy days more than sunny days. Blue or purple lenses are much more versatile, providing shield for your eyes on sunny days, but also providing enough light to translate well in cloudy or darkening conditions.

As for color contrast, green and grey lenses keep the landscape looking the most natural, while brown lenses, including copper colors, show a sharp contrast in colors.

Rose-colored glasses also provide enhanced definition between colors, but overall, the most popular lens treatments are black and mirrored. Mirrored glasses do help reflect glare, while blocking others from seeing where you're looking, but black lenses are the most reliable, cutting down on glare and, of course, blocking the sun for even the most sensitive of eyes.



**Elusive Cowgirl Swarovski Pistol Concho Sunglasses.**



**Reata Ranch Cowgirl Bling Sunglasses with bronze cross concho and topaz crystals.**

**3.** **UV Ratings.** True or false: The darker the sunglasses, the higher the UV rating. The answer is false.

Ultraviolet coating is actually invisible, although its affect on eye health is quite apparent. UV coating on sunglasses prevents ultraviolet rays from harming your eyes and can even hinder the development of eye cancer.

The highest UV rating available for sunglasses is UV-400.



**Cowgirl Divaz black and white sunglasses with zebra-striped cross bead and red Swarovski crystals.**

**4.** **Care.** Simplicity is key when caring for your sunglasses. Mild soap is the best cleaning agent to use on them. However, ammonia-free glass cleaners are also an option. (Note: ammonia will strip UV coating off of lenses.)

Dry your glasses with a soft, no-scratch cloth. And while it may be tempting to throw your sunglasses up on the dashboard of your truck when you don't need them, they'll last longer if you show them the same respect that you would show a pair of reading glasses and store them in a case.

Breanne Hill is managing editor of *Barrel Horse News*. Send comments on this article to [bhneditorial@cowboypublishing.com](mailto:bhneditorial@cowboypublishing.com).

## ➤ Riding in Style

Barrel racer Lynn Sullivan is the owner of and designer for Cowgirl Divaz. She offers the following advice for picking sunglasses that are suitable for your time in the saddle.

❖ The sunglasses have to fit. You don't want to be distracted by them slipping off or bouncing while you are trying to ride and compete.

❖ When competing, I personally like glasses that have bigger lenses or wide arms to block as much sunlight as possible.

❖ It is a good idea to have more than one pair or type of sunglasses because no two arenas are alike.

❖ Consider weather conditions. For example, it might be overcast and windy, and you want a pair of sunglasses to block the dirt that is flying around, but because it's overcast, you don't want too dark of a lens.

❖ If you are starting your run from outside and going into an arena, you will want a lighter lens, and if you are strictly racing outdoors in bright sunlight, you will want a darker lens.

❖ Finally, because you are competing, as opposed to sitting in the stands, you probably want a pair of sunglasses that will allow you full peripheral vision and not give you unnecessary blind spots due to lenses being too small, or gaps between the forehead and the lens allowing sun to penetrate. A second pair with smaller lenses is a nice option for when you are sitting in the stands.