

Toting the newest looks

Thanks to luxe hardware and playful handles, practical totes just got so much more stylish



Battle of the bags! Blake Lively (left) sported a neutral \$1,980 Valentino tote, while her *Gossip Girl* co-star Leighton Meester carried an \$895 Ralph Lauren Collection scarf-print style on set in NYC on March 14.

FROM LEFT: JAMES DEVANEY/WIREIMAGE; STILL LIFE: HBB



Eggplant hues work with black, brown and navy. SHIH by Stephanie Lin, \$470, shihshop.com



The six interior pockets and detachable purse make organizing easy. MZ Wallace, \$275, mzwallace.com



One of the hottest trends this season is tribal prints. Altiplano, \$65, 212-876-1368

So sporty! The lightweight nylon won't weigh down arms. Necessary Objects, \$46, endless.com



Zippered compartments on the outside of this 16½"-wide shopper mean no more lost keys. Candie's, \$50, kohls.com



Perfect for the beach, this 20" canvas tote holds towels and magazines. Old Navy, \$10 (originally \$13), oldnavy.com



The white-gold trim dresses up any outfit. H&M, \$30, hm.com



The designer label Jessica Biel and other celebs love — for a fraction of the price! Gryson for Target, \$35, target.com



IT'S REVERSIBLE!

Tired of pink? Use the navy side of this 2'-wide canvas tote instead! Buji Baja, \$65, Canopy Blue, 206-323-1115

How to keep a tote organized

Melissa Picheny, founder of Declutter + Design, shares her top three tips.

1 CREATE STRUCTURE

Want the casual feel of a tote but miss the compartments of a purse? Create custom sections with inserts (available at purseket.com). Fold-up organizers or pouches are great for storing everything from glasses to gadgets.

2 PARE DOWN

Declutter with items that serve triple duty! Carry a universal charger that works with an iPod, a phone and a camera; tote a multi-purpose cosmetics case to store makeup in or to use as an extra compartment or as a clutch!

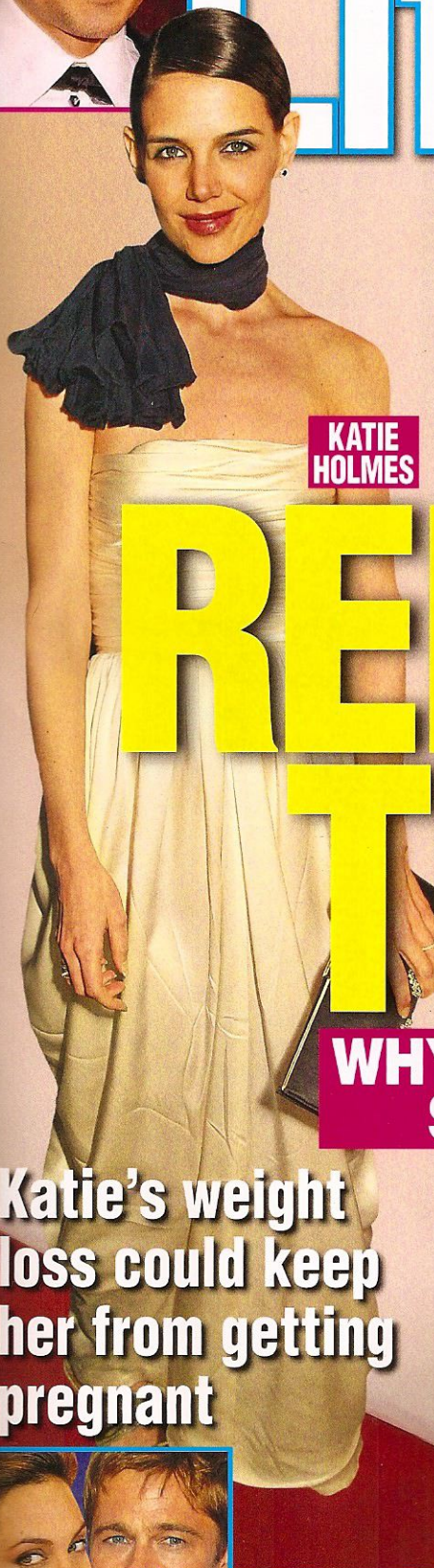
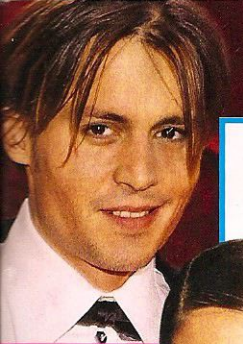
3 PLAN AHEAD

Get ready the night before. Discard old notes and wrappers. Place papers in folders so they don't get crushed. Look for styles with labels, tabs and Velcro or tie closures to ensure nothing falls out and gets lost.

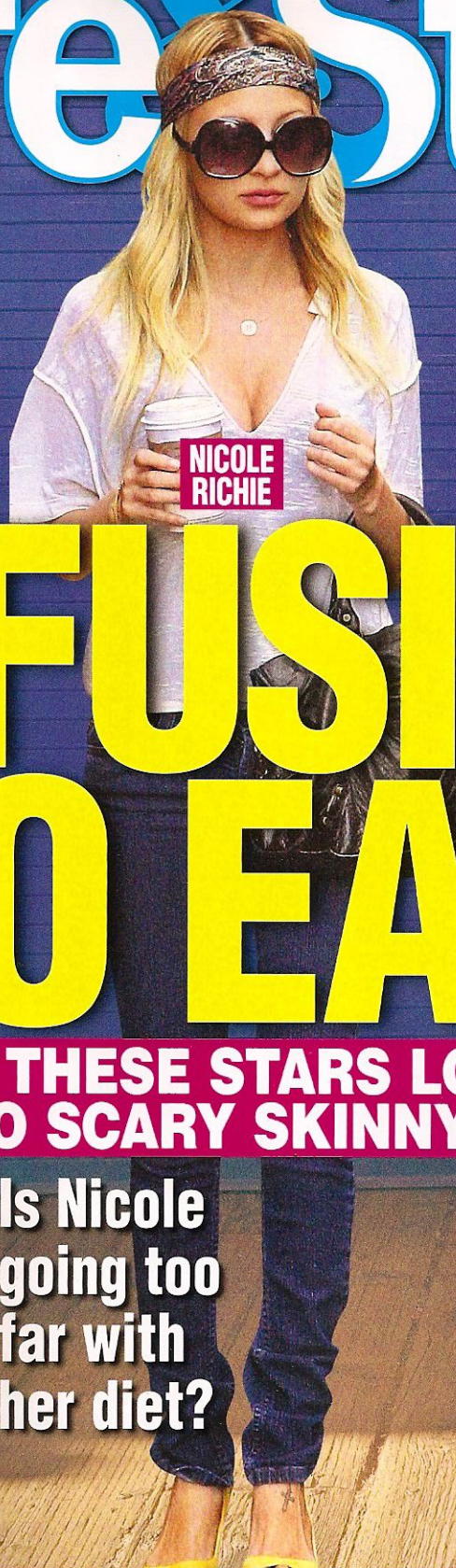
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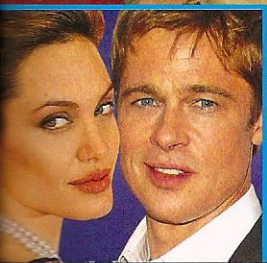
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