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Comments (15)

I recently tweaked my budget spreadsheet so that I'd have an idea of how my chequing account balance fluctuates from now until the end of the year (barring unexpected expenses or catastrophes). Let's just say that there isn't a lot of room for "fun" purchases. Now, I like purchasing new clothes (usually shirts) every now and then...but used clothing may be an avenue I pursue more often.

Posted by [Damien](#) on March 6, 2008 11:45 PM

Wow! First and foremost, the fact that you have a budget spreadsheet, Damien, is awesome in itself! I wish I could keep myself so consistently organized. It's amazing what a new (or new- to-you) shirt can do for the self-esteem. Spring-time (almost upon us) is when I usually crave something new. I highly advise being patient and actually digging through the clothes and you'll find some really nice stuff. Good luck!

Posted by [Nick Simard](#) on March 7, 2008 9:49 AM

99% of the clothes in used clothing stores are garbage. However, you can get lucky if you know what to look for. A while back, I bought a Boston College basketball jersey. I swear, I've worn that thing once a week for 5 years!...and it still looks new. High quality brands (Champion, Nike, Levi's, etc.) last longer than a lot of expensive, stylish brands (Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, etc.)

One man's garbage is another man's treasure.

Posted by Cory on March 7, 2008 3:17 PM

Nick,

Amen to you for finally exposing the wonder of buying used clothing!! I actually have friends of mine who ask me to come shopping with them at a "Sally-Ann's" *Salvation Army* so that they can get some mad deals too!!

Thank you again for spreading the "joy"!!!

A

Posted by Ariane on March 7, 2008 4:54 PM

Nick, you are a god. When can we go shopping together?

Posted by Kate Longmoore on March 7, 2008 5:51 PM

Cory: I will be the first to admit that there are a lot of, how shall we say, less-than-stellar items at used clothing places. But like you say, with a bit of searching you can come across that once-a-week-for-5-years piece with HUGE savings.

Ariane: It's my pleasure to be spreading this joy. As you may or may not know, my mother owns a Frenchy's back home so I get plenty of clothes sent to me. She gets some REALLY nice stuff. Heck, it's to be expected. I have some nice clothes that just doesn't fit anymore, so SOMEBODY might as well wear it.

Kate: Haha. Can't tell if you're genuine in your praise, but I'll take it. Hehe. As for shopping, I would LOVE to check out some used clothing places. Perhaps next time I'm in Toronto. Or, you could make a trip down to Nova Scotia. We have a wide-range of shops here.

Everyone: Thanks for the comments on this one. I really appreciate it.

Posted by [Nick Simard](#) on March 8, 2008 6:57 AM

@ Nick: it's a lot of work to keep the spreadsheet accurate, but it's also a godsend when figuring out how to allocate your income (as opposed to randomly picking numbers). Heck, I'm tweaking it yet again as I type.

Posted by [Damien](#) on March 10, 2008 11:15 PM

Hey Damien,

I remember one summer I created one to calculate my earnings and my tips over the course of a summer. At the time I was involved in a course that taught me Excel, so I wanted to make use of the skills. It's definitely an aid in "allocating your income" as you put it. I have this thing against the word "budget"; I think people see it as this scary thing and therefore avoid doing it. I think I'm gonna blog about that fact. I may borrow your term, with full credit of course. Hehe.

Posted by [Nick Simard](#) on March 12, 2008 12:18 AM

I love used clothing. Sure I don't stand on top of the CN Tower and scream it out, but I have a wardrobe that people envy and all because I am smart shopper and typically a traditional dresser. I find plenty of name brand material "Hillfiger, Gap, Levis" and all for the fraction of the cost. Sometimes I even prefer the used items because they are worked in. My best find was a Hillfiger blazer - brand new, never worn for \$5.99. I prefer Salvation Army over Value Village as their cost seem to be increasng all the time. Did you know that GOODWILL colour codes their clothes and after a certain amount of time it is moved to another GOODWILL store for variety and to increase the odds of it being sold. Great idea. Share the wealth.

Posted by Bev on March 18, 2008 9:57 AM

Awesome!

Ok, first off, I always used to have an extremely negative image of thrift stores because as a kid, people used to get teased the most about being poor (weird eh? maybe because i'm from Jane & Finch aka The Ghetto).

Then, One day, I went to University. There, I realized from friends (when asking where they got that sickness shirt) that the VV Depot (my nickname for Value Village) can be a pretty cool place.

I primarily go to used clothing stores for (you're not gonna believe it) Suits. Yes, suits.

I'm a professional Illusionist and I need some cool outfits that have a lot of pockets for tricks. I figured, instead of spending at minimum \$150 on a cheap, plain, new suit; I would buy a holt renfrew suit from the VV for \$20.

Actually, my TWICE-a-week-for-the-past-3-years purchase is an awesome plad blazer. I'm wearing it in my demo video @ <http://www.revelmagic.com>

Keep on spending smart,

Rob.

Posted by [Rob Testa](#) on March 18, 2008 1:23 PM

Hey Bev,

I feel the same about finding crazy cheap items that would normally cost 5-10 times as much brand new. To me, that's a much better feeling than bragging about how expensive something was. I have no need to throw my money away like that. And I find it hilarious that many people will buy NEW clothes that is meant to look old and worn, when they could simply buy USED clothes that is ACTUALLY worn. I've found some decent things at the Salvation Army, but all the items I found for this blog were at Value Village. It was a particularly good day. Thanks for commenting!

Posted by [Nick Simard](#) on March 18, 2008 6:58 PM

Hey Rob,

May I first say that I checked out your site, and I really like what I saw. It's well-made (smooth inclusion of your site in the comment, by the way). Also, great blazer! It "suits" you (pun fully intended). I know for a fact that used clothing places are great for suits. My mother owns a used clothing place and there are often great suits there for extremely reasonable prices. Thanks for offering your opinion, Rob.

Posted by [Nick Simard](#) on March 18, 2008 7:31 PM

Hahaha, I felt the need to non-chalantly throw that plug in there because i'm excited about the fairly new site.

But thanks a lot.

Honestly though, sometimes i'm afraid of going into a Value Village because I think that I'm going in there for just another suit purchase, when I come out with a \$200 receipt.

(But then I just try to convince myself that I shouldn't feel guilty because it's like I got 8 for the price of 1)

Cheers.

Posted by [Rob Testa](#) on March 20, 2008 12:11 PM

hey Nick !!!!!

Gotta tell you that I am so proud of you .I've read & looked at all that you have sent in by now & it all makes perfect sense.I might add a big "Thanks " for mentioning & promoting my store back home , as you so rightfully put it.keep up the good work & the comments thus far are great.

Love, Mom

Posted by Judy on March 23, 2008 11:51 AM

Thanks, Mom. I never thought that I would have a blog on which you would be commenting that you're proud of me. Hehe. I hope things only get better, as I get more into the blogging rhythm and have more time on my hands to focus on it. And I hope that someone who reads this checks out your Frenchy's, in Cheticamp, Nova Scotia, on the main street (right-hand side if you're heading towards the Cape Breton Highlands National Park ;)

Posted by [Nick Simard](#) on March 25, 2008 8:01 PM

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