

BRAND PLAYBOOK

Branding components, merchandising, creative, marketing guidelines and best practices for all areas of the company.

DISCLAIMER TO GO HERE





TABLE OF CONTENTS

OUR BRAND: Founding Story

Launched in 1987 as Midnight Velvet by Seventh Avenue, Midnight Velvet made good on its tagline, "Luxuries made Affordable." Among the gift and jewelry offerings in the first catalog were a tea set plated in 22K Gold, Hummel figurines, Credit Suisse Gold ingot pendants and ring—even a grandfather clock with solid oak cabinet.

Over time gifts and collectibles have become less opulent and expensive, though Midnight Velvet's identity as a dream book with a sense of magic has remained. By the early 90s Midnight Velvet began including home and apparel, at first with a more rustic, casual feel. As MV evolved, the apparel and home came to embody the unique and elegant styles we now offer, especially our glamorous social wear.

Midnight Velvet has long appealed to a multi-ethnic audience, and in general an older customer. We embrace her wholeheartedly, bringing her apparel and home décor that celebrates who she is.

Our new tagline we will be introducing in Fall 2017 is:

"Extraordinary Style for Extraordinary Women."



OUR BRAND: ESP (Emotional Selling Position)/About Us

We stand for you, the extraordinary woman, who embodies extraordinary style. You adore the unique details, wonderful flourishes, embellishments and elegant touches. We understand that your style comes from within. It's who you are; it's how you live. This rare gift elevates your look beyond trendy or cookie-cutter designs. You forge your own audacious path and effortlessly convey your unique imprint in every facet of your wardrobe, home and your life.

We search the world for inspiration to bring you special occasion wear, dramatic everyday looks, fine and fashion jewelry, unique shoes, unexpected home décor and more—all with the extra details you love. We know anything plain is simply not an option for you.

We applaud (and unabashedly admire) you-the extraordinary woman who lives life beautifully.

SUMMARY

About Us is actually ABOUT YOU.

- Your extraordinary sense of style comes from your own unique vision.
- You aren't interested in cookie-cutter design or latest trends.
- You love unique details, flourishes, embellishments and elegant touches.
- You bring this style to every facet of your wardrobe, home and your life.

Knowing that plain is not an option for you, we search the world for inspiration to bring you distinctive home accessories and eye-catching apparel with the extra details you love.

We applaud (and unabashedly admire) you-the extraordinary woman who lives life beautifully.

OUR BRAND: Positioning

BRAND VERB

CAPTIVATE

BRAND ATTRIBUTES

6S's: Stunning, Sophisticated, Statement, Sexy, Stylish, Social

Brand Tagline:	Extraordinary Style for Extraordinary Women	У	
Brand WHY:	We applaud extraordinary women who bring their statement style to every aspect of their lives.)	
Brand Nature:	"Wow-factor" looks. Sophisticated lifestyle settings. Vivacious. Elegant. Escape.	C	LL RECREATE THIS HART TO FIT THE AYBOOK FORMAT
Marketing Emphasis:	Midnight Velvet is a lifestyle boutique featuring distinctive apparel, home déco accessories and gifts that compliment hunique and expressive flair, all available using our credit plan.	or, ier	
Credit Emphasis:	Our credit allows her to afford indulging herse on occasion within her budget.	elf	



OUR BRAND: Voice

We speak to her as a friend, one woman-in-the-know to another.

In our headlines and other editorial, we aim to celebrate our customer's own fully-developed, thoroughly confident sense of style. We don't offer solutions, tips or how to put together an outfit—she knows how to dress and how to choose the accents that go with her décor. We are here to make that possible, and through our brand voice we speak to her aspirations, with language that is evocative, perhaps with a touch of fantasy. When appropriate, headlines will have the feeling of a call to action, with a verb pulling her into the spread. Product copy, with a few exceptions, is short and sticks to the details, letting her depend on visuals to decide whether she wants it. Exceptions include fragrance copy, a difficult blind buy, and electronics, which require more technical detail.

OUR BRAND: Employee Testimonials

WHY WE LOVE WORKING ON MIDNIGHT VELVET

TESTIMONIAL:

I enjoy working on Mid style, which comes from Ann's testimonial to go here. stomer—her confidence in her t afraid to wear something bold or bright, and her home style is an eclectic mix of things she loves.

BRENDA KULOW-KING:

I have worked on Midnight Velvet since 2011. I was hired to manage our social media platforms. It was such a joy to engage with our customers and learn about their style and lives. She's such an expressive gal and just loves to chat and shop. I especially love her fierce loyalty to Midnight Velvet and how much she adores us and can't wait to get our catalog. She would share on Facebook about how she had a ritual of lighting candles or making a special tea to sit down and page through our catalog. I was fortunate to help with the contests and sweepstakes so I even got to meet and spend time with our special customers and she was just as much fun in person as she was virtually. I am proud to be part of this team and to serve this amazing, extraordinary customer.

RORY METCALF:

I enjoy working on Midnight Velvet because I love the customer—her confidence in her style, which comes from her own unique vision. She's not afraid to wear something bold or bright, and her home style is an eclectic mix of things she loves.

BRENDA PAYNE:

I love that the brand is so eclectic and that I can offer unique "stand alone" shoes.

ANN HUNTER:

I enjoy the group because they are very interested in what the customer wants from the Midnight Velvet brand.



OUR BRAND: Employee Testimonials

WHY WE LOVE WORKING ON MIDNIGHT VELVET

CHRIS MILES:

Midnight Velvet customers take a creative approach to dressing, style, and making personal statements no matter their age. It's inspiring to work with our unique products to create eye-catching presentations with design and photography. I love the creative collaboration with photographers, stylists, decorators, and models to bring the Midnight Velvet dream book to life for our customers.

KRISTIN DURST:

I love working on Midnight Velvet because it is unlike any other brand, just like our customer is unlike any other woman. Having the opportunity to learn more about the customer and why she loves Midnight Velvet just as much as we do is inspiring and motivating. Being a part of a brand that embraces the one-of-a-kind styles our customers love makes my job that much more fun.

DANIELE HALL:

Midnight Velvet is inspired! The opportunity to celebrate extraordinary women by respecting their taste for unique merchandise keeps our creativity at the forefront of our work together. This customers' eclectic taste and bold style can't help but inspire you.

MARCY BRAYKO:

To me, Midnight Velvet is and has always been a magical brand. The merchandise mix is unique and eclectic, bold and dramatic, romantic and sexy, intriguing and statement making. When all the merchandise is brought together, it's magical the way each item lends itself to another to give the customer a place to escape and dream. The customer is very expressive in the way she dresses and decorates her home, and she can tell you about each piece she has bought. She is an avid fan of Midnight Velvet and so joyful that you get caught up in her excitement and can't wait to offer her more amazing items that she'll use to express her style.

OUR CUSTOMER: Her Profile

LICHELLE (Our most loyal persona)

She is an extraordinary woman who loves her life and her family. A giver by nature, she doesn't put herself first when it comes to her time or money, which makes our credit a great tool for her to splurge a little at a time for things she wants or needs. She never blends in, never runs errands in sloppy clothes. Bold, vibrant styles with a hint of the exotic are what attract her, both in apparel and her décor.





I AM MISSING A
CUSTOMER
PHOTO THAT IS
SHOWN
IN THE PPT FILE..
IS IT AVAILABLE?

I AM MISSING A
CUSTOMER
PHOTO THAT IS
SHOWN
IN THE PPT FILE.
IS IT AVAILABLE?

I AM MISSING A CUSTOMER PHOTO THAT IS SHOWN IN THE PPT FILE. IS IT AVAILABLE?

Submitted photos of her personal style



OUR CUSTOMER: Her Profile

Average Age:		63.7 Epsilon appended Data through F16				
Ethnicity:		49% AA / 34% Caucasian / 5% Hispanic Source: Email Survey Dec.				
Where she lives:		South / Midwest / primarily urban MDW1.customer table F16				
Income:		\$50.4k Epsilon appended Data through F16				
% Plus		Size 16+=51% / 12+=71% MDW1.colorsizeall table S17				
% Married		47% so	urce: Email Survey Dec. 2016			
% Credit Usage			rce: Email Survey Dec. 2016			
Order Channel %		RECREATE THIS CHART TO	Web MDW1.ordersall table F16			
Hobbies:	FII	THE PLATBOOK FORMAT	hopping, Reading, Cooking, Time eering, Card & Board Games			
What Motivates Her?		To be seen, to make a statement. She wants to look like no one else. Source: Email Survey Dec. 2016				
What she says about us:		"I have been a customer for about 25 years or more. I love everything I buy from you. My home & clothes are pretty much all from you. You are the BEST!"				
Other brands she shops (in general):						
Aspirational Brands		Z Gallerie, Boston Proper, Chico's, Soft Surroundings				

OUR CUSTOMER: Her Words

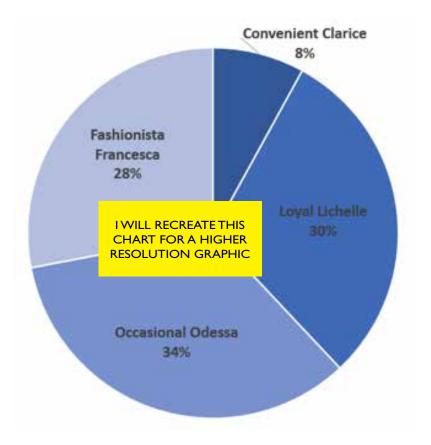
HER STYLE IN HER OWN WORDS (Home & Personal)

- 66 Unique. My choices in certain things, either colors in my clothes or my house are different. It makes me smile. When I go out, I still like to be dressed, even to Costco, it makes you feel better.
- When it comes to décor –very colorful. The bedset is white with dark purple, the walls are lilac. It makes me feel warm. I. will change the comforter for Christmas. Will change up the accent colors in the bathroom.
- 66 In home décor, the things l've redone in the past 10 years are more modern, clean lines. I like some things a little quirky.
- 66 Put Together. I feel confident in myself. I wear earrings every day. I don't go out of my driveway without my lipstick.
- 66 Classic. I like style and fashion, but I don't like trends. I like things that will last. 99
- 66 Unique and Flattering. I don't try to copy someone else's style, I make it my own. I'm comfortable with my body...when someone makes a comment that what your are wearing is flattering...what really matters is that I like it. I am wearing it for myself.
- 66 Elegantly Casual. Casual because it's comfortable and socially acceptable. Elegant is the embellishment. 99



MIDNIGHT VELVET CUSTOMER PERSONAS

The goal of persona segmentation is to create groups of similar customers while exploiting the differences among groups. All customers used in this analysis have purchased in the past 18 months and are current customers; because of this, they share certain characteristics (like to shop, purchase from Midnight Velvet, etc.). This report explores the differences among top consumers.



Source: Email Survey Dec. 2016

LOYAL LICHELLE

Loyal Lichelle likes to make a **bold statement**. She loves prints and embellishments. She often wears Midnight Velvet's **suits, dresses and special occasion items**, and is driven by **fabrics** and **new items** more so than others. She is quite **loyal**, and **very satisfied** with Midnight Velvet. She is the most interested in brands, and will choose **looks over quality**, but is always watching her budget. She **purchases the most from Midnight Velvet**, loves the **home décor** (especially spiritual items) and holds Midnight Velvet in the highest regard. She tends to purchase from Midnight Velvet because of **quality, return policy and customer service**.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- Most likely to be married
- · Least likely to have kids in the household
- Tends to live in the south
- Has the highest incidence of African Americans and Hispanics
- 2nd to lowest income

MOST LIKELY TO SHOP AT:

JC Penney Seventh Avenue Sears K Jordan HSN QVC

MOST LIKELY TO PURCHASE FROM MV

(self-report):

- Special occasion clothing (leisure/weekend activities, casual social activities, work)
- Dresses (casual wear, dressy activities)
- Suits (work, leisure/ weekend activities)
- Active wear (exercising)
- Accessories
- Makeup, perfume, wigs

SPENDING HABITS:

- Highest Midnight Velvet sales, orders and credit balance
- Highest sales of home décor, housewares, accessories, women's clothing, beauty and linens for Midnight Velvet
- Most likely to order in the next 6 months

FEELS HER STYLE IS:

Dress to Impress

DESCRIBES HER STYLE AS:

Comfortable, Confident, Classy

MOST LIKELY TO BE FOUND:

Church activities
Dancing
Board games/cards
Sunday at church or
volunteering

HELP

She wants to add more statement items to her wardrobe that she can build outfits around, learn how to add accessories to complete her outfits, and learn how to create looks that show off her style. She wouldn't mind accentuating her thighs, waist and arms at the same time!



FASHIONISTA FRANCESCA

Fashionista Francesca has her own unique style and spends the most on clothing. She considers herself a fashionista, and is more likely to be driven by trendiness than other groups. She loves to shop, and finds her fashion info by watching celebrities, Pinterest and fashion blogs, fashion magazines and fashion TV. She's the most involved in social media, and especially likes Instagram and Pinterest. She wants to be seen and make a statement with her one-of-a-kind style in Midnight Velvet's casual items. She wants Midnight Velvet to offer more new styles. She would like to see improvements in quality and value.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- Highest incidence of sizes 10 and smaller, missy sizing and tall sizing
- Youngest group, but most affluent
- Most likely to be single, work full-time and reside in the Midwest

MOST LIKELY TO SHOP AT:

Macy's

TI Maxx

Marshall's

Dress Barn

Venus

Ashley Stewart

Nordstrom & Rack

MOST LIKELY TO PURCHASE FROM MV

(self-report):

- Career-wear (for work)
- Casual tops (weekend/ social activities)
- Casual bottoms (work, dressy social activities)
- Shoes
- lewelry
- Intimates
- Décor
- Outerwear

SPENDING HABITS:

- 2nd highest MV sales
- 2nd highest credit balance for MV
- Highest jewelry and shoe purchases from MV
- Ties for top home décor purchases from MV

FEELS HER STYLE IS:

Dramatic, Exotic, Bold, Trendy, Sassy

DESCRIBES HER STYLE AS:

Confident, Classy, Feminine

MOST LIKELY TO BE FOUND:

Shopping

Traveling

Entertaining others

Exercising & Yoga

Reading

HELP

She wants to add more one-of-a-kind items and accentuate her bust, butt and legs. She loves to accessorize with shoes and jewelry.

Source: Email Survey Dec. 2016

OCCASIONAL ODESSA

Occasional Odessa is an older woman, and takes her fashion cues from friends and family. She tends to feel rather indifferent to Midnight Velvet (not extremely satisfied, nor dissatisfied). She tends to dress for comfort, and isn't necessarily looking to impress anyone or stand out. She wants help putting looks together and wants to be appropriate for the occasion. She's not into brands or accessories, and doesn't spend much on clothes overall; however, she is motivated by fit. Olivia tends to buy a little of everything from Midnight Velvet, but loves to buy gifts for family and friends. She likes the convenience of mail order and the payment plan. She has concerns over shipping and handling fees and doesn't necessarily like all the styles. She has had problems with returns and customer service issues.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- Skews to plus size
- Oldest group
- Most likely to be retired, work part-time
- Highest incidence of living in western states
- 2nd highest income

MOST LIKELY TO SHOP AT:

Woman Within Kmart Full Beauty Soft Surroundings

MOST LIKELY TO PURCHASE FROM MV

(self-report):

 Nothing specific but leans towards casual tops

SPENDING HABITS:

- Highest Midnight Velvet sales in beauty and gifts
- Has the lowest corporate balance

FEELS HER STYLE IS:

Classic

DESCRIBES HER STYLE AS:

Comfortable, Feminine, Confident, Casual

MOST LIKELY TO BE FOUND:

Spending time with friends Movies

Music

Crafts

Volunteering

HELP

She would like to learn how to put outfits together, especially how to incorporate color into her looks.



CONVENIENT CLARICE

Convenient Clarice is all about comfort; she loves to wear loose fitting clothes that are functional rather than fashionable. She feels most confident when her clothes fit and are not too tight. She is driven by availability of sizes, sales, prices and value, and purchases from Midnight Velvet because of the credit plan. She is the least interested in fashion, and generally does not look for fashion information. She is most likely to purchase clothing from discount stores, and spends the least amount of money on clothing in general. Convenient Clarice purchases from Midnight Velvet because she likes credit options and payment plans, as well as having the sizes she needs. She feels Midnight Velvet offers an overall good value and has prices she is willing to pay (with help of the payment plan). She would like to see improved quality and lower prices.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- Highest incidence of plus size
- Highest incidence of homemakers, unemployed and disabled
- Highest incidence of Caucasians
- Lowest income

MOST LIKELY TO SHOP AT:

Walmart

FAVORITE STORES:

Walmart Kohl's JC Penney Macy's

LEAST LIKELY TO PURCHASE FROM MV

(self-report):

- Career wear
- Social Occasion clothing
- lewelry

SPENDING HABITS:

- Highest Midnight Velvet sales in men's, fitness and watches
- Highest sales from nonclothing brands - Swiss Colony, Seventh Avenue, Ginny's, Country Door and Montgomery Ward

FEELS HER STYLE IS:

Casual, Basic, Traditional, Conservative

DESCRIBES HER STYLE AS:

Comfortable, Casual, Feminine, Basic

MOST LIKELY TO BE FOUND:

Reading
Cooking
Kids/grandkids activities
Watching college/pro sports

HELP

She would like help learning how to put outfits together, specifically learning how to mix and match staples to create new outfits. She wants to camouflage her body instead of showing it off, especially hips, bust and shoulders.

Source: Email Survey Dec. 2016

OUR CUSTOMER: Customer Service

She loves our customer service reps!

QUOTES ABOUT

- **66** Once again, thank you for excellent customer service! Your company is a pleasure to work with, and your treats are terrific!
- 66 Your customer service reps are the BEST!! I love this company!! Keep up the good work! 99
- 66 Thank you very, very much. When it comes to customer appreciation, you guys are number one in my book and I'll make sure to spread the word amongst my friends and colleagues. Thanks again. 99
- Just wanted to send a note thanking your coworkers for their excellent customer service. I had a missing package and everyone I spoke to while working through the process have been more than accommodating, supportive and tolerant. Customer service is very important to me it defines a company. Outstanding work. Thank you very much.

NEED PHOTOS OF CSR'S TO ADD TO PAGE



OUR MERCHANDISE: Categories

MERCHANDISE SIGNATURE CATEGORIES

SPECIAL OCCASION

Elegant suits and, dresses with sophisticated details, embellishments, beading & sparkle that will turn heads at any event.





DRAMATIC EVERYDAY LOOKS

Casual wear with something extra, whether sparkle, embroidery or unusual details, lifting it above the plain and practical.

Denim jeans with studding or embroidery, tops with unique sleeves or bodice, fringed Southwestern looks.



FINE & FASHION JEWELRY

Embellished and exquisite necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings, etc. Colorful & statement-making. Gold, Platinum, and cubic zirconia jewelry, bridal sets & bands.



From stunning slingbacks, to daring peeptoes, to flat-out fabulous sandals, to studded boots, the eye-catching styles are must-have wardrobe additions.





UNEXPECTED HOME DECOR

Items that express her unique style as much as her clothes do. Romantic and bold bedding sets; colorful wall art and prints; globally inspired figurines of people, elephants, and giraffes; inspirational figurines





OUR MERCHANDISE: Guidelines

MERCHANDISE OFFER

OUR MERCHANDISE OFFER:

Our fashions for her and her home provide her with eye-catching options that are unique and uncommon. We are like a treasure hunt for her, offering distinctive styles for her wardrobe and home. We act as her favorite boutique, providing complete looks—specializing in special-occasion fashions, dramatic everyday looks, fine & fashion jewelry, unique shoes and unexpected home accessories. Our customer appreciates the ability to buy our moderately priced merchandise on credit. And she especially appreciates bringing her personal style with her wherever she goes!

THE PRODUCT:

Captivating styles to dress and decorate with.

MERCHANDISE GUIDELINES

- Makes a statement, whether it is a fashion piece or a unique home accessory
- Unique details, something special she can't find anywhere else
 Dramatic fashion looks that make a statement; could be sexy
 Embellishment and/ or unique details and features
 Specialty fabrics include jacquards, shantungs, chiffon, peachskin crepe, etc
- · Always exudes style
 - Both home and fashion speaks to her own style Casual and activewear apparel is "dressed up" with shoes and accessories.
- · Understand her life stage
 - Mid-50s and older, mother and grandmother; family is very important Confident is who she is and she likes to make a statement Not looking to furnish a room, but update with new exciting home accessories Primary shopper in household; purchases gifts and shops/dresses her husband in 4th quarter
- Social Occasion Apparel
 - Skirt suits and jacket dresses could be found in a boutique; very unique feel Age-appropriate styling arm coverage, below knee lengths, looser fitting with shape



OUR MERCHANDISE: Guidelines

MERCHANDISE DOS & DON'TS

DO

- MAKES A STATEMENT
- COULD BE FOUND IN A BOUTIQUE

CLOTHING:

- Embellished or has special details that gives item a unique twist
- · Creates drama or attitude
- Event worthy

SHOES:

- · Completes an outfit
- Creates drama or attitude
- Embellished and/or with special details

FASHION JEWELRY:

- Complements apparel or can stand on its own
- · Bold and sophisticated

UNEXPECTED HOME DECOR

- Completes or complements home furnishings with style
- Often ethnic and speaks to customers culture
- · Embellished or has special details
- Can border on novelty or trend (i.e. peacocks, butterflies, safari animals, etc.)

DON'T

 PRODUCT SHOULD NOT BE BASIC, PLAIN OR BORING

CLOTHING:

- If product is mass market and easily found at retail, then it doesn't belong in MV
- Lengths of skirts & dresses should not be higher than I" above knee length
- Don't develop product for customers younger than target age

SHOES:

- Do not offer many heels above 3"
- Do not offer orthopedic shoes (offer stylish casual shoes)

FASHION JEWELRY:

- Should not be poor quality
- Should not be novelty (not fun and flirty)

UNEXPECTED HOME DECOR:

- Should not be mainstream or mass market
- Should not be too trendy or avant garde

OUR MERCHANDISE: Guidelines

MERCHANDISE GUIDELINES

FOR DIGITAL (WEBSITE, EMAILS, DISPLAY, CONTENT, SOCIAL)

- Ensure navigation accurately represents product depth & breadth
- Build & support special categories based on seasonal brand stories
- · Assign products to categories with customer shopping habits in mind
- Rank featured products to top of thumbnail pages (nav & search)
- · Update & maintain banners and site messaging
- Determine how products are best sold (general, family, ensemble)
- Utilize dynamic cross-sells & up-sells based on user behavior & overall business rules
- Utilize product attributes for site merchandising (PIMS)
- Put redirects in place for internal searches if needed (ie. pay my bill)
- Product Selection for features in emails, homepages, etc. is based on the following:
 - Product performs well based on sales and indexes
 - Product is sourced by Midnight Velvet (not mega), unless that is the strategy
 - Product is in-stock and available for customers to purchase (or at minimum core sizes)
 - Product is seasonally relevant
 - Image will work in space allowed and represents the brand well
 - Has positive overall review rating
 - Does not have problem pack or other QA issue

BASIC IS NOT AN OPTION



Source: Burrell Presentation, Spring 2016



OUR MERCHANDISE:

WHERE DOES SHE WEAR MIDNIGHT VELVET?

WHERE WEARING

Casual tops and bottoms are generally being worn for leisure on the weekends and casual social events, but sometimes to dressy social events as well. Activewear is considered more for leisure/weekend wear than for exercise. Career wear is being used for both work and dressy social events. Monroe and Main dresses and suits run the gamut from dressy social occasions to work to casual social events.

Midnight		Leisure/	Casual	Dressy	Casual		Ashro	Work	Leisure/ Weekend	Casual/ Home	Dressy Social	Casual Social	Exercise
	Work	Weekend	Home	Social	Social	Exercise	Casual						
Casual Tops	33%	51%	22%	42%	52%	2%		30%	50%	18%	47%	45%	29
Casual							Casual						
Bottoms	31%	55%	29%	39%	55%			35%	52%	21%	41%		
Activewear	10%	58%	38%	19%	32%	29%		11%	53%	24%	33%	39%	279
Career							Career						
Wear	49%	31%			-			12%	30%	10%	61%	34%	19
Special													
Occasion	12%	17%						8%	18%	6%	90%	17%	
Dresses	25%	20%						8%	19%	8%	86%	20%	09
							IC DEINIC	400		20.00		4.7007	0.0
Suits	23%	12%		I HIS IIV		ATION I	IS BEIING	4%	11%	3%	94%	12%	U
Suits	23%		Mon and I	I HIS IN			IS BEING	11 11	11% Exercise	3%	94%	12%	09
Suits	23%		Mon and I	I HIS III				1 1		3%	94%	12%	0.
Suits	23%		Mon and I	39%				1	Exercise	3%	94%	12%	U.
Suits	23%		Mon and I Casual	39%	RE	VISED	29% 5	11	Exercise 2%	3%	94%	12%	U.
Suits	23%		Mon and I Casual Casual Bottoms Activewear	39% 11%	55% 56%	28% 42%	29% £	55%	Exercise 2% 4% 35%	376	94%	12%	U.
Suits	23%		Mon and I Casual Casual Bottoms	39% 11%	55%	VISED 28%	29% £	55%	Exercise 2% 4%	376	94%	12%	U.
Suits	23%		Mon and I Casual Casual Bottoms Activewear Career We	39% 11%	55% 56%	28% 42%	29% 5 12% 3 51% 3	55%	Exercise 2% 4% 35%	3%	9476	12%	U
Suits	23%		Mon and I Casual Casual Bottoms Activewear Career We Special	39% 11% ar 60%	55% 56% 25%	28% 42% 8%	29% 5 12% 5 51% 3	55% 34% 37%	Exercise 2% 4% 35% 1%	3%	9476	12%	U

Source: Email Survey Dec. 2016

OUR CREDIT: Card

OUR CREDIT CARD







OUR CREDIT: Positioning

CREDIT POSITIONING

CREDIT CARD DESIGN

Credit card always incorporates brand pantone color as much as possible (whether it's background or on the card)

Credit card image should include brand logo

I design only (Will need to have that I design with a white box for Page 3 for laser printing, otherwise, everywhere else, remove the white box.)

The word CREDIT should be the "hero" of the credit card

Should we include a fake name or Valued Customer and fake number to make it look like a card? Like Seventh Avenue?

PRINT GUIDELINES

• Page 3 Guidelines:

Must include a credit card with white space for laser printing

Minimize background

No guarantee messaging (move to IFC)

• In-Book Guidelines

Credit bugs should be every 2-3 spreads

Credit footers do not "count" as a credit bug

Bugs throughout book won't include the white space on the card, but will be same color and look.

Bugs must include a credit card

WEB GUIDELINES

- Credit card should be brand pantone color
- · Credit card image should include brand logo
- Credit banners on emails/homepages, etc. should contain credit card image, logo, & be in the brand color.
- Try to include customer testimonial as much as possible.
- Credit Landing Page:

Contain the key points (see Hierarchy)

Include credit card image

Minimize background

Include a customer testimonial

• Social Media

Post about credit a minimum of monthly.

HIERARCHY OF INFO on page 3 & bugs

CAN INCLUDE:

- "Credit" or "Credit Plan"
- Buy Now, Pay Later
- Payments as Low as \$20 a month or Monthly Payments as Low as \$20
- Dedicated URL: brand.com/Credit
- Phone Number

OPTIONAL:

- Credit Burger graphic
- No Annual Fee
- Secure and confidential online account management
- Build your credit limit with "on-time" payments
- Credit line increases
- · Leverage your buying power
- · Fast, Friendly Approval



1600

OUR CREDIT: Messaging

CREDIT MESSAGING

NOT PRE-APPROVED (NPA) KEY MESSAGES:

- Indulge yourself—without adding to bank card debt. Buy now and pay later, as low as \$20/month.
- Easy to love, easy to use, easy to budget—Midnight Velvet Credit lets you buy now and pay later—as little as \$20/month.
- Love it? Get it now and pay later with Midnight Velvet Credit. As low as \$20/month.

ESTABLISHED CREDIT ACCOUNTS (PA)KEY MESSAGES:

- The convenient credit you know and love. Midnight Velvet Credit.
- It's time to pamper yourself. Midnight Velvet Credit is available to make it possible within your budget.
- Midnight Velvet Credit—making your home and wardrobe dreams attainable.

PRE-APPROVED OFFERS (PA) KEY MESSAGES:

- You're Pre-Approved! Use your Midnight Velvet Credit to get what you want now, and pay later.
- Congratulations! You're Pre-Approved! Shop now and pay later, as low as \$20/month.
- You're Pre-Approved! Midnight Velvet Credit makes it easy to love your look, with low, easy-to-budget payments.



OUR CREDIT: Concepts

BUYERS



PLEASE PROVIDE
THE HIGH
RESOLUTION
FILE FOR THIS
SPREAD

PROMOS



OUR CREDIT: Banners/Bugs

CONCEPT: CREDIT BANNERS/BUGS









Web: Examples of banners & bugs with the new credit card. Will need concepts created.



OUR CREATIVE: Copy Guidelines

COPY DOS & DON'TS

IN WRITING CATALOG COPY BLOCKS, HEADLINES, AND DIGITAL COPY

DO

- Evoke an extraordinary response
- Be positive, uplifting, aspirational
- · Speak to her as an equal
- Let visuals speak for themselves
- Be culturally-sensitive & relevant

DON'T

- · Speak down to her
- Use cheesy humor
- Veer into practical advice regarding her style
- Be boring

HEADLINES

Use call-to-action verbs

Tell our unique story, be aspirational and impactful

Use customer testimonials when possible

Capitalize on unique, one of a kind, individualistic, extraordinary details

YES-HEADLINES:

- Standout Glam
- Complete Your Look with...
- Enhance Your Style with...
- Make a Statement with...

NO-HEADLINES:

- Update Your Decor (too practical)
- Enhance Your Shape (too MM)
- Mix & Match (too cheesy/overused)
- Chic Looks (too boring)

COPY ON DIGITAL CHANNELS

We aim to celebrate our customer's own fully-developed, thoroughly confident sense of style. Our emails and blog posts are informational, but we don't tell her how to achieve her style. Product copy will be longer than in the catalog for top items, detailing the benefits (hard or soft).

OUR CREATIVE: Design Guidelines

CREATIVE GUIDELINES

MIDNIGHT VELVET SHOULD BE VIEWED THROUGH AN "EXTRAORDINARY" LENS

• Refer to seasonal Creative Style Guide

FOOTER:

- Left-hand page: page number, MidnightVelvet.com, 800-383-5283
- Right-hand page: web drivers to call out merchandise, blog, Facebook, credit or tagline

WEB-DRIVERS:

• On every second or third spread

Digital Guidelines-overall?



OUR CREATIVE: Print Design

Hotspots are based on location in the catalog that are the top viewed spreads according to how she typically flips through a catalog. Once she reviews hotspots, she will decide whether she's going to page through the entire book, so the hotspots need to represent the brand well and adhere to the guidelines:

- Inside Front Cover (IFC)
- Gatefold
- Page 4-5
- Center of the Book (COB)
- Inside Back Cover (IBC)
- Outside Back Cover (OBC)

HOTSPOT GUIDELINES

COVER ONLY (I-3 DIFFERENT VERSIONS)

Type Treatments: Seasonal headline font, headline, and subhead fonts only

Logo on every cover

Use MV brand color for the logo when possible

Tagline: "Extraordinary Style for Extraordinary Women"

Misses & Plus

Many Shoe Sizes in Wide

MidnightVelvet.com

Season and year

Credit banner/bug if possible

PAGE 3 CREDIT: See credit guidelines for this information?????

HOTSPOT SPREADS (see box to the right)???

Type Treatments: Seasonal Headline font, headline, and subhead fonts only

(Max of three different fonts)

Represent/display home & apparel, if possible

Include customer testimonial(s)

Represent one or more signature categories

Feature at least one rockstar

Include Credit Bug

Include Web driver

Include product based on price point if possible

OBC (OUTSIDE BACK COVER) ONLY

Mailing requirements (including QR code if discount applies)

Feature product based on price point

Credit Bug

Include social & blog drivers if possible

OUR CREATIVE: Brand Logo Variations & Usage

MIDNIGHT VELVET:

Gill Sans UC Regular or Light

TAGLINE:

Gill Sans Italic ULC Regular or Light

SIZE:

To fit space

STANDARD USE:



SMALL "M" USE:

MIDNIGHT VELVET®

Extraordinary Style for Extraordinary Women

STACKED USE:

MIDNIGHT VELVET

Extraordinary Style for Extraordinary Women

TIGHT USE:

MIDNIGHT VELVET
Extraordinary Style for Extraordinary Women



OUR CREATIVE: Brand Logo Color Usage



COLOR VALUES

CMYK: 98 62 0 14 RGB: 0 78 168 HEX: 004EA8 ACCEPTABLE ONE COLOR USE:

PMS 2145C

I NEED THE COLOR OR WORKING VERSION OF THIS LOGO

MIDNIGHT VELVET®

Extraordinary Style for Extraordinary Women

Black 100%



White



ACCEPTABLE 4 COLOR PROCESS USE: 98C 62M 0Y 14K



OUR CREATIVE - Brand Color



COLOR VALUES

CMYK: 98 62 0 14

RGB: 0 78 168 HEX: 004EA8

WHERE BRAND COLOR IS USED:

PRINT:

Print:

Credit Card

Catalog Covers

Packaging

Support Materials

Banners/Bugs for credit or web drivers. Tints can be used.

DIGITAL:

Credit Page (credit card)

Logo on Site Header

Credit Banners

Email Banners

Email Header

Social Media profile pic

Social Media cover image

PROVIDE METALLIC COL-ORS SO THEY CAN BE ADDED



OUR CREATIVE - Photography

PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

- Emphasize the exclusivity of the products and special/unique details
- · Sparkle effect: Each piece is extraordinary. She sparkles wearing it or having it in her home
- Dramatic photography and layouts, especially on social spreads
- Themed stopper spreads will pace the book and tell our brand story
- · Seated apparel shots should also be covered standing to show cut and details best

SET AND LOCATION GUIDELINES

- Midnight Velvet furniture & décor will be shown in model shots with interior sets
- Light Social Set for Glam/Social Shots:
 Upscale, classy, rich, glamorous interiors. Warm ivory walls with moldings and details, gold trim, windows with sheers and/or gold or burgundy drapes, tassels, mirrors, candles, chandeliers, sparkling décor items
- Dark Social Set for Glam/Social Shots: Same as above with dark wood
- Contemporary Light Loft Set for Contemporary/Bold Shots: Upscale, sophisticated urban contemporary loft. Cool white walls, chrome details, large windows, sheers
- Global Set for Global/SW Shots (includes Santa Fe/southwest, Moroccan, etc.):
 Textured walls in light to medium earth tones and neutrals. Rough plank floor, details/
 props with natural wood, wooden lattices, oversized earthenware pots, hammered
 metal pots.
- Locations for outerwear:
 Simple sidewalk/street, cool tones, concrete. Can be created in-studio
- Locations for swimwear and summer casualwear:
 Pool (not beach), balconies and terraces with ocean views

PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES FOR DIGITAL

FOR WEBSITE, EMAILS, DISPLAY, CONTENT, SOCIAL

- Product photography:
 - Goal is to have an image of every color option available
 - Include detail shots for selling features not easily noticed on main product image
 - Include alt shots that show versatility of product
 - Utilize spin and video to better sell product
 - Replace primary image for pick-up product if better performing shot is available

OUR CREATIVE: Models

GUIDELINES FOR MODEL SELECTION

- Show models our customers can relate to. Not too upscale or high-fashion.
- Allow her to imagine herself in the place and the apparel.
- Curvy, sexy, glamorous, beautiful, sophisticated, elegant, soft, feminine, chic

DIVERSITY: Models will represent our target market

- 50%-60% African American,
- 30% Latina/Mixed Race/Brunette
- 10%-20% Caucasian

SIZES: Missy 4-6-8-10, Height: 5'8"-5'11", B: 34 B-C-D, W: 25-26, H: 35-36, Age: 30-45

HAIR & MAKEUP: Updated looks to coordinate with merchandise.

- Glamour/Social: Put-together, elegant, glamorous. Hair can be worn down or up to complement apparel.
- Modern/Bold: Clean, modern, sophisticated, up-to-date look.
- Romance: Soft, romantic, natural makeup, looser hair.
- World Traveler: Natural makeup, looser hair.
- MV Spa: Clean, contemporary, relaxed, natural

ATTITUDE: confident, approachable, sophisticated, sexy. Exuding style.















OUR CREATIVE: Print Typography

FONT/TYPE TREATMENT GUIDELINES

Kepler & Gill Sans

For a cohesive look, our font families are:

SERIF: Kepler

SANS SERIF: Gill Sans

SCRIPT: Bickham

FOR BOTH PRINT AND DIGITAL USE

KEPLER CAPS

GILL SANS CAPS FOR SUBHEADS

Kepler

SOCIAL

Headlines and subheads Kepler Light Italic

casual kepler lt lc subhead

Kepler, Bickham & Gill Sans



OUR CREATIVE: Touchpoints

WE COMMUNICATE WITH OUR CUSTOMER

OUR CATALOG

BRAND NOTES/CARDS:

"Thank You Cards" or Blank cards

DIGITAL PIECES

Emails

Promotional Emails

Transactional Emails

Program Emails

Website

Display Ads

Paid Search Ads

Social Media

Blogs/Content

NON-CATALOG SUPPORT MATERIALS

Follow Brand Voice Guidelines

Follow Creative Guidelines

Support materials need to work harder to support brand positioning

- Kickers
- Bind-Ins
- Blow-Ins
- NTF Letters
- Statements
- IVR
- Package Inserts

MUST INCLUDE:

Logo

Tagline

Credit message

URL

Phone number

Use brand color when possible

MIDNIGHT VELVET®

OUR CREATIVE: Testimonials, Comments, Reviews & Quotes

FORMAT

Suggested: First name, last initial, and abbreviated state.

CATALOGS

- Every Rockstar should have a quote (maximum of I per spread).
- Every hotspot should have a quote to reinforce positioning (or credit, or message)
- Spreads of Signature categories may have a quote

WEB

- Homepage, if featuring a Rockstar, should have a quote if it makes sense with the story
- · Credit landing page should have a quote
- Product quotes should be picked up in web copy
- Social Media should make efforts to collect customer quotes and share quotes when appropriate

EMAIL

• Quotes should be included with emails if they make sense with the theme of the email

INTERNAL

- Each Colony Contact employee newsletter should contain a customer story
- Each month an email with a customer story should go to all employees (from Customer Centricity)
- Each month multiple new customer stories should be posted in bathrooms
- Customer stories should be accessible via Customer Centricity webpage

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

She says it best! Use customers' own words as headlines, subheads and callouts!

OUR CREATIVE: Cover Concept #1





OUR CREATIVE: Cover Concept #2



OUR CREATIVE: Inside Front Cover & Credit Page





OUR CREATIVE: Stopper Spreads





OUR CREATIVE: Stopper Spreads









OUR CREATIVE: Opening Spread



OUR CREATIVE: Center Of Book





OUR CREATIVE: Inside Back Cover



OUR CREATIVE: Outside Back Cover





OUR CREATIVE: Outside Back Cover



OUR CREATIVE: Print Typography

CUSTOMER REVIEW FORMAT

Our Customer
Review Icon is the
MIDNIGHT STAR.

MIDNIGHT STAR:

II/I2 Gill Sans Regular,.75 rule, track 460

QUOTE: 14/15 Gill Sans Regular Italic ULC

CUSTOMER NAME:

first name, last initial, State abbreviation. II/15 Gill Sans Regular Italic ULC

Regular

"I love the way the fringe moves. Fabulous buy!" ~Evelyn B., TX

MIDNIGHT STAR

"I love the way the fringe moves. Fabulous buy!" ~Evelyn B., TX

Reverse

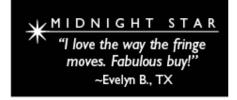




Regular

"I love the way the fringe moves. Fabulous buy!"
~Evelyn B., TX

Reverse



MIDNIGHT
STAR

"I love the way
the fringe moves.
Fabulous buy!"
~Evelyn B., TX





OUR CREATIVE: Print Typography

BODY COPY & TYPE ON TONE

COPY LEAD-IN:

10/10 Gill Sans Reg ULC 8.5/9.5 Body copy: Gill Sans Light ULC

8.5/9.5 Pack #, Price: Gill Sans Regular UC

8.5/9.5 Misses/Plus: Gill Sans

Light ULC

KEY LETTERS:

10/10 Gill Sans Regular UC

COLORS & CALLOUTS:

9.5/10 Gill Sans Regular ULC

SAVE STORIES:

Save: 15.5/10 Kepler Caps Product name: 9/9.5 Gill Sans

Regular ULC

Price: 20 pt Gill Sans Regular Superscript: 12 pt Gill Sans

Regular

FOLIOS:

9.5 pt Gill Sans Bold Condensed ULC Bodycopy including: product copy, key letters, callouts, prices, save stories, etc.—are in Lago Component Templates and can be pulled into spreads and resized if necessary.



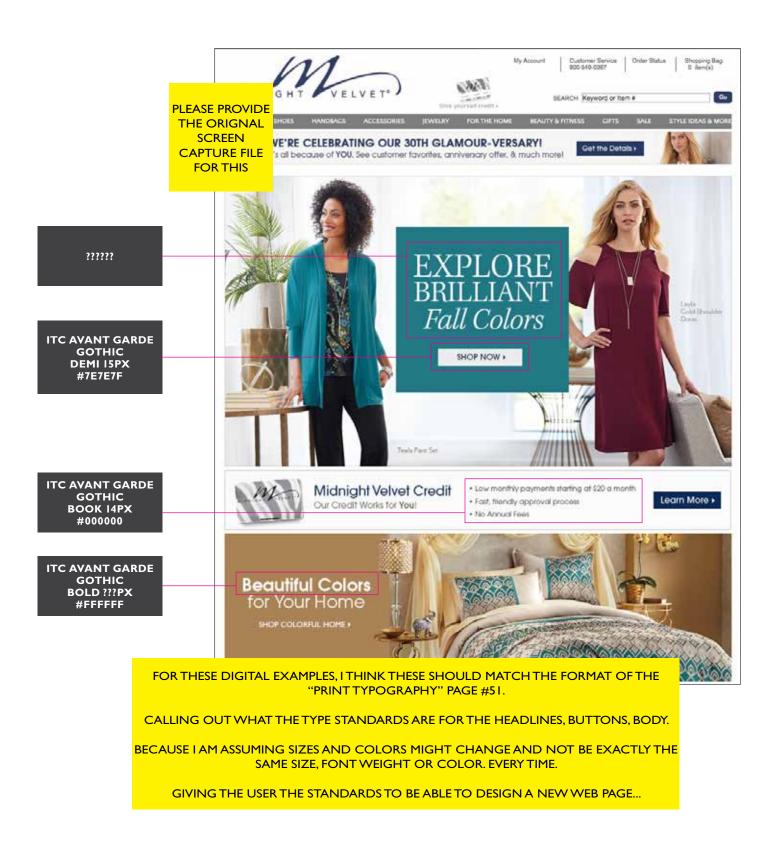
OUR CREATIVE: Our Guarantee

- Needs to be sprinkled throughout the book.
- Not as critical because we charge return shipping.
- More prominent in promos
- Can be included in digital design

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO COME FOR THIS PAGE.



OUR DIGITAL CREATIVE - Homepage Template



OUR DIGITAL CREATIVE - Email Template

NEED ORIGINAL SCREEN SHOT FOR THIS PAGE

FOR THESE DIGITAL EXAMPLES, I THINK THESE SHOULD MATCH THE FORMAT OF THE "PRINT TYPOGRAPHY" PAGE #51.

CALLING OUT WHAT THE TYPE STANDARDS ARE FOR THE HEADLINES, BUTTONS, BODY.

BECAUSE I AM
ASSUMING SIZES
AND COLORS
MIGHT CHANGE
AND NOT BE
EXACTLY THE SAME
SIZE, FONT WEIGHT
OR COLOR EVERY
TIME.

GIVING THE USER THE STANDARDS TO BE ABLE TO DESIGN A NEW EMAIL..





OUR DIGITAL CREATIVE: Blog Header Template

NEED ORIGINAL SCREEN SHOT FOR THIS PAGE

I NEED THE TYPOGRAPHY STANDARDS FOR THE BLOG HEADER.

FONT OPTIONS SIZE OPTIONS COLOR OPTIONS



OUR DIGITAL CREATIVE – Social Media Post Template





OUR DIGITAL CREATIVE – Display Ads Post Template



