

Wardrobe Guide

The Rebel's Essentials

We have looked closely at the cornerstone garments of the rebel's wardrobe, examining their origins and their various manifestations. Versions of these garments can be found in department stores, Main Street retailers, and trendy menswear boutiques. Whatever your brand preference or budget, emulating the rebel styles showcased in this book is within reach.

In this section, we offer a few hand-picked recommendations for each of the pieces in the rebel's wardrobe. At the time of publication, all of our recommendations can be bought and worn today. On denimhunters.com/rebel, you'll find detailed buying guides with more information about the pieces and makers featured here. Happy hunting.

The A-2

This style ace, which first took flight in the 1930s, takes any outfit to new heights. You can pick up a faithful reproduction from **Eastman**, **Aero Leathers**, **Cockpit USA**, **Buzz Rickson's**, or **The Real McCoy's**.



The Aran Sweater

First produced on Ireland's Aran Islands, where time moves slowly, the Aran sweater has a touch of the rebel to it, with a heaping dose of easygoing grace. The **Aran Sweater Market** has original versions made in Ireland, but Scottish knitters **Inverallan** might make the best version out there.

Baseball Cap

Once reserved for ballparks, the baseball cap now goes absolutely everywhere. For true vintage style, **Ebbets Field's** selection of historic team caps is a base-clearing home run. While more often associated with cowboy hats, **Stetson** also have an excellent range of baseball caps in fitted and snap-back styles.



The Beret

Don't let cartoonish stereotypes of beret wearers fool you; this classic French headwear is more rebellious than most, and it's got a long and bloody-knuckled history. Get a good one from **Kangol**, **Laulhère**, **Berkeley Hat**, or Italy's **Borsalino**.

The Blanket Coat

Named for a northern stronghold, the Mackinaw jacket (aka blanket coat) offers relentless winter warmth and all-season cool. The original, in its characteristic red and black buffalo checks, usually has either a **Pendleton** or a **Filson** tag, but you can also check the versions by **Duluth Pack** and **Johnson Woolen Mills**.



The Breton

The sailor's classic makes the wearer visible against the backdrop of unfurled sails, and it draws eyes on the street as well. Most brands make striped shirts of some variety, but the true Breton pattern features 21 stripes of a prescribed thickness. If it's the original you want, look for Bretons by either **Saint James** or **Armor-Lux**.

The Café Racer

While the name of this jacket might be something of a misnomer, the high-octane racing classic looks great no matter what you call it. **Lewis Leathers** made the original, and they still produce a stellar version. **El Solitario**, **Schott NYC**, **Aero**, **Aether**, and **Himmel Brothers** also do the café racer justice.

The Cardigan

Whether formal or casual, a cardigan can really tie an outfit together. Wear it like the Dude in **Pendleton's** original Westerley Cowichan. **RRL** has a hand-knitted belted cardigan for those with deep pockets, and makers like **J.Crew** and **Todd Snyder** have some excellent options.

Cargo Pants

A popular choice among suburban survivalists, cargo pants were born battle ready. British heritage maker **Nigel Cabourn** lead the charge in this category, while Japan's **orslow** have several well-made more contemporary versions and fits. For meticulous reproductions of Vietnam-era cargo pants, try **The Real McCoy's**.

Chinos

Brush off the Ivy League associations (and the go-to-hell colors) in favor of classic military shades and your classic khakis will seem a little less aristocratic. **Ben Davis**, **Taylor Stitch**, **Runabout**, and **Percival** all make great contemporary chinos. For something with heritage bona fides, look up **Bryceland's**, **Buzz Rickson's**, and **Spellbound**.



The Chore Coat

Essential, elegant, blue. The chore coat, called "work blues" (*bleu de travail*) by its French innovators, is as hard-wearing as it is good looking. American and English brands have some great versions, but French makers like **Vetra**, **Le Laboureur**, **Le Mont Saint Michel**, and **Arpenteur** are the *crème de la crème*.

The Competition Sweater

Only briefly popular, the competition sweater doesn't get nearly as much love as it deserves in the heritage scene. With their half-zip versions, American heritage knitwear manufacturer **Dehen1920** leads this category by a mile.

The Denim Jacket

A good denim jacket is a cornerstone in the rebel's wardrobe. Many brands do it well (far too many to list them all here). You can't go wrong with an original from legacy makers like **Levi's**, **Lee**, or **Wrangler**, but the Japanese takes on the classics are in a category of their own. Put **The Real McCoy's**, **One Piece of Rock**, **Freenote**, **Mister Freedom**, and **Tanuki** at the top of your list.

The Denim Western

Perfected in the New West, where the cowboy played a starring role on the screen and in the rodeo ring, the denim Western shirt is a rugged show-stopper. You can still get one of the originals from **Rockmount Ranch Wear**, or one of the rodeo-ring champs from **Wrangler**, but if you're looking for something with a little less giddy-up and a little more go-for-long, check out **The Flat Head**, **Stevenson Overall Co.**, **Iron Heart**, and **Indigofera**.

The Duffle Coat

The duffle coat's rebellious edge might have softened when it became the signature garment of Paddington Bear, but make no mistake, this coat has won wars. **Gloverall** were the first to sell it to civilians, but **Original Montgomery** were supplying the Royal Navy in the nineteenth century. France's **Saint James** also make an impeccable version.

Engineer Boots

Sturdy and straight-shooting, few items in the rebel's wardrobe have as much throttle-twisting bravado as a pair of engineer boots. Look for **Wesco**, **John Lofgren**, **Clinch**, **Attractions**, **Addict**, or **Role Club**. If you're on a budget, **Chippewa** and **Red Wing Heritage** are solid options.



The Five-Pocket Jean

Five-pocket jeans are *the* rebel garment. If it's the original you're after, **Levi's Vintage Clothing** have a range of reproductions of the quintessential jean in different stages of its evolution (though they're no longer American-made). The world's best makers of the five-pocket jean are almost all operating in Japan. The list is a long one, but you can start your search with **Iron Heart**, **Full Count**, **Samurai**, **Oni**, **TCB**, and **Warehouse**.