



**TURBAN** – Ruth & Mildred

# THE HEADWEAR STYLE OF

# Amber Butchart

BY  
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Amber Butchart is a writer and broadcaster who specialises in the cultural and political history of textiles and dress. A graduate from London College of Fashion with a master's degree in History and Culture of Fashion, she has written many books on the history of fashion including 'The Fashion of Film', 'Fashion Illustration in Britain' (for the British Library) and 'Nautical Chic', which explores the influence of the sea on our wardrobes.

As the host of the six-part series 'A Stitch in Time' (BBC Four) Amber shared her knowledge across many platforms. This series fused biography, art and the history of fashion. The series explored the lives of historical figures through the clothes they wore, including reconstructions by historical tailor Ninya Mikhaila and her team. Many of the outfits

that Amber wore while presenting this BBC series featured her signature style, which includes a turban or headwrap.

Amber's inspiration for her striking hair style stems from the time she was part of the Broken Hearts DJ duo with Nisha Stevens, a fellow creative and interior designer. Their style was influenced by the Dolly Sisters and inspired by writer Marguerite Radclyffe, who had a distinctively shaped fringe. The sharp cut

and shaped fringe lent itself well to a headwrap, a key accessory in Amber's wardrobe along with other pieces of headwear and hats.

Amber's style is a modern tribute to historical dress and textile. She is an excellent advocate who likes to include headwear from designers across the globe, always showcasing how headwear can be incorporated into your everyday style.

**More information**

[www.amberbutchart.com](http://www.amberbutchart.com)



Photo: Lorna Milburn

**TURBAN** – Akhu Designs

Print and texture combinations play a large role in Amber's headwear. She wears printed cotton styles from Akhu Designs and frequently highlights the colours of African textiles in her choice of clothing. A style named after Amber has been created by Lorene Rhoomes, a designer based in Manchester. "My inspiration for creating these beautiful turbans comes from the wonderfully elegant style of fashion historian Amber Jane Butchart. My young daughter set me the challenge of recreating a version of this head candy for her to wear with successful results. I then decided to create a range in Amber Jane's name, thankfully with her full support!"

**FASCINATOR** – Piers Atkinson

A contemporary style worn by Amber is a version of the Hyper Cherries Headband by Piers Atkinson. This style has become iconic for Piers and one of his creations was acquired by the Fashion Museum in Bath in 2015. It features in their 'A History of Fashion in 100 Objects'.



**BARET – Beyond Retro**

One of Amber’s favourites is a black vintage beret she found when she was head buyer at Beyond Retro. Founded in London in 2002, the company retails vintage fashion clothing. They have an eclectic range of vintage sourced items from around the globe, including an upcycle range of clothing. Amber describes the combination of soft felt and beret shape as “one I could never find again, it is perfect”. Lorna Milburn’s image of Amber wearing this accessory was inspired by Edward Steichen’s photo ‘Portrait Of Gloria Swanson Behind Lace’, taken for Vanity Fair in 1928.



Photo: Lorna Milburn

**TURBAN – Sarah Dunn**

The turban styles have their origins in the Ottoman Empire, including its Persian, Arabic and other influences: “Headgear signified gender, ethnicity, religion and status and was a feature of Turkish dress even before the Islamic period saw the adoption of the turban.” Amber has a variety of different turbans which she wears, including creations from Sarah Dunn of Sarah’s Doo-Wop Dos in Bedford (UK) and the Turkish company Ruth & Mildred.



**TURBAN – Chemo Headwear**

Throughout history, turbans and headwraps have always proved popular. These days, they also offer a functional purpose for women suffering from hair loss. Amber has worked with Chemo Headwear by Claire Featherstone and chooses to wear fashion pieces created by the brand. Initially designed for chemotherapy, alopecia or other hair loss conditions, the range has expanded to include a variety of styles, and Claire approached Amber to share her work, including the Lucy Liberty Jersey style.



**GLORIA TURBAN – Alice Edgeley**

Amber frequently wears turbans finished in velvet with large front knot features created by Edgeley, including a striking mustard yellow version. The padded knots create a structured shape and presence on the head. Edgeley is a Melbourne-based fashion and accessory label based in the fashionable suburb of Fitzroy. Created by designer and maker Alice Edgeley, the accessories are worn across the globe by DJs, cabaret artists, musicians and circus stars.



Photo: Jo Bridges