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Faking It

Knock-off designer wares such as handbags, watches, jewelry and even clothes can be found everywhere from the trunks of cars to parties at your neighbor's house. We look at the pros and cons of the counterfeit designer goods market.

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When it comes to knockoffs and the controversy that inevitably surrounds them, who should really knock it off? Those who buy them or those who oppose them? The answer usually depends on which side of the retail counter you stand on.

Even after numerous "counterfeit crackdowns" on sellers of these goods, the popularity of these products -- whether they are handbags, timepieces, jewelry or dresses -- doesn't seem to be deteriorating. The most in-demand product of the bunch is undoubtedly fake designer handbags. These knockoffs come with prestige, power and a tiny price.

We checked in with a few people who hold firm opinions on knockoffs to get a better impression of the climate. What we found were two very convincing arguments for and against buying and selling fakes. Who's right and who's wrong is up to you to decide. Advertisement

THE CONS OF COUNTERFEITS

Sometimes a bag isn't just a bag

After days of surfing the Internet for that perfect Prada Daino hobo handbag, you finally found one, and at a price well below the \$1,280 price tag at Saks Fifth Avenue. At last the day has come for your new statement handbag to arrive. One problem: your perfect, discounted Prada in reality is a not-so-perfect no-name. For the seasoned counterfeit buyer willing to compromise quality for price, this wouldn't be a problem. For the novice, however, someone has some explaining to do.

"Now (foreign counterfeit sellers) are finding ways to get the products over the border," said Rob Holmes, owner of [IPCyberCrime.com](#). Szkiba attributes it to image. "Some design houses don't want Mrs. Smith in Kansas City to have their bag," she said. "They only want Mrs. Trump in New York City carrying it."

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