

Designers Barclay Butera and Sara Bengur with tray tables by, from left, Casamidy, Chelsea House, and Julian Chichester. See Resources.



The Top 10 Tray Tables

Truth in Decorating: Designers Barclay Butera and Sara Bengur find these portable pieces lift style to a new level

Text by Laura Regensdorf · Photography by Joshua McHugh · Produced by Parker Bowie

In an era of multitasking, it's no surprise that people have come to expect versatility from the objects around them. Enter the tray table: Kin to the butler's stand, the fold-up dinner tray, and the low Moroccan tea table, this piece offers both a resting place and transportation for food and beverages.

"We live at a time when everything needs to be portable," says New York decorator Sara Bengur, who likes to use smaller tray tables in sitting areas or bedrooms with limited space. "They look like a

single unit but then come apart and serve other functions"—carrying drinks, say, and collapsing for storage. A pair by the sofa comes in handy for the occasional informal dinner, she adds.

A taller tray table can be a cocktail lover's best friend. "It's the perfect bar caddy and fits into any room," says Los Angeles designer Barclay Butera, who appreciates the piece's potential. "When I go into design mode for my next collection, you can bet I'll add some tray tables." >

THE EXPERTS

SARA BENGUR

A lively mix of patterns and colors defines the New York decorator's interiors and not-for-profit projects. She's currently working on a line of textiles that draws on her Turkish roots. sarabengur.com

BARCLAY BUTERA

The West Coast designer crafts interiors and furniture collections, including a line inspired by Hearst Castle. New outdoor fabrics by Kravet are due this spring. barclaybutera.com

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Trip wardrobe by Seletti; elementschicago.com



Bowlino Rouge standard sham and throw by Eastern Accents; easternaccents.com



Houndstooth cup and saucer by Marc Blackwell; michaelcflna.com



Westminster Houndstooth wool by Holland & Sherry; stickley.com



Chelsea cam-corder by DXG; dxgusa.com

#1053-2241 viscose blend by Zanna + Ronda; zannaronda.com

#32098* cotton-polyester by DuraLee; duraLee.com



Classic SD Houndstooth knife by Victorinox; swissarmy.com



PVC-and-leather houndstooth coat by Balenciaga by Nicolas Ghesquiere from spring 2011; balenciaga.com

Houndstooth

Check out the surprising new guises of this menswear classic. Now it's big, bold, and bright—and turning up in the most unexpected places

Produced by Parker Bowie



Houndstooth luggage by Heys; neiman-marcus.com

Bellino Basket Onyx Sunbrella acrylic by Sunbrella Textiles; summerclassics.com



Martin Houndstooth* cotton by Schumacher; schumacher.com

Dermott chair upholstered in Diora cotton blend by Barclay Butera Lifestyle; barclaybuteralifestyle.com

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