

jewelry from sarah coventry and emmons with price guide

jewelry from sarah coventry and emmons with price guide offers a fascinating journey into collectible and vintage adornments. These iconic brands, Sarah Coventry and Emmons, have left an indelible mark on the history of costume jewelry, appealing to collectors and fashion enthusiasts alike. This comprehensive guide delves into the allure of Sarah Coventry and Emmons pieces, exploring their history, distinguishing features, and, crucially, providing a detailed price guide to help you navigate the world of buying and selling. Whether you are a seasoned collector or just beginning your exploration into these charming pieces, understanding their value and characteristics is key. We will uncover the factors that influence the worth of these vintage treasures and offer insights into identifying genuine pieces.

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Understanding Sarah Coventry Jewelry

Sarah Coventry jewelry, a name synonymous with quality and style in the mid-20th century, was initially sold through home parties, a direct-selling model that fostered a personal connection between the brand and its customers. Founded by Charles H. Stuart in 1949, the company aimed to provide fashionable, well-made costume jewelry accessible to a wide audience. The pieces are often characterized by their intricate designs, use of faux gemstones, and durable metal finishes, frequently gold-tone or silver-tone. Many Sarah Coventry pieces are signed with the brand's name, a crucial detail for authentication.

The appeal of Sarah Coventry jewelry lies in its timeless aesthetic and the nostalgia it evokes. Collections were often themed, released seasonally, and designed to complement popular fashion trends of the era. This thoughtful design approach resulted in a diverse range of pieces, from delicate earrings and necklaces to bold statement brooches and bracelets. Identifying a genuine Sarah Coventry piece involves looking for the signature mark, examining the craftsmanship, and understanding the typical materials used. Many collectors are drawn to specific designer lines or the unique artistic flair present in individual pieces.

Distinctive Features of Sarah Coventry Pieces

Several characteristics help in identifying Sarah Coventry jewelry. The signature "Sarah Coventry" or "SC" is a primary identifier, often found on the clasp, pendant, or earring back. The metal plating is generally of high quality, showing minimal wear even on vintage items, and often features an antiqued finish to enhance the detail. The faux stones used are typically vibrant and well-set, mimicking precious gems with impressive accuracy. Many pieces also feature a distinctive weight

and feel, indicating substantial construction.

Beyond the signature, the design itself is a strong indicator. Sarah Coventry pieces often showcase floral motifs, geometric patterns, and intricate filigree work. Sets, meaning matching necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and sometimes rings, were very popular and are highly sought after by collectors. The brand also produced a limited number of "limited edition" or "special occasion" pieces, which can command higher values due to their rarity.

The Sarah Coventry Selling Model and Its Impact

The direct selling model employed by Sarah Coventry had a significant impact on its distribution and collectibility. Sales representatives, often referred to as "Coventry Coordinators," held parties in their homes, allowing potential customers to see and try on the jewelry in a relaxed setting. This personal touch contributed to the brand's loyal following and meant that many pieces were sold and cherished within families. The discontinuation of the Sarah Coventry brand in the early 1980s, after a brief revival, has only added to the collectibility of its vintage offerings.

Exploring Emmons Jewelry

Emmons jewelry shares a similar history with Sarah Coventry, originating from the Emmons Home Jewelry company, also established by Charles H. Stuart. Launched in 1945, Emmons also utilized the home party sales method. The brand's jewelry is known for its elegant designs, often featuring rhinestones, colorful enamel work, and substantial metal settings. Like Sarah Coventry, Emmons pieces are frequently signed, though sometimes the signature can be simply "Emmons" or "Kendall" (another brand from the same parent company). The quality and craftsmanship are hallmarks of the Emmons brand.

Emmons jewelry offers a wide spectrum of styles, from classic and understated to bold and glamorous. The company was particularly known for its intricate rhinestone creations and its use of colorful simulated stones and enamels. Many pieces were designed as sets, allowing for coordinated accessorizing. The enduring popularity of Emmons stems from its attractive designs that remain fashionable even today and the inherent value associated with well-made vintage costume jewelry. Identifying genuine Emmons pieces involves careful examination of signatures, construction, and design elements typical of the era.

Identifying Authentic Emmons Jewelry

Authenticating Emmons jewelry involves several key steps. The presence of an "Emmons" signature is the most direct confirmation. This mark can be found on clasps, ear clasps, pendant backings, or directly on the metal of the piece. The quality of the metal finish, often gold-tone or silver-tone, is usually robust and shows good wear resistance for its age. Rhinestones and simulated stones should be securely set and possess a good sparkle, while enamel work should be smooth and free from significant chips or imperfections.

Emmons jewelry often features a substantial weight, indicating the use of quality base metals in their construction. Many pieces are designed with a level of detail and artistry that distinguishes them from lesser-quality costume jewelry. Collectors often look for specific design elements, such as ornate filigree, stylized floral patterns, or the use of specific colored stones that were popular during the Emmons era of production.

Emmons' Connection to Kendall and Other Brands

It's important to note that Emmons Jewelry was part of a larger company that also produced jewelry under different brand names, most notably Kendall. Sometimes, pieces that are unsigned might be attributed to Emmons or Kendall based on their design and construction, especially if they closely resemble known signed pieces. Understanding these brand relationships can be beneficial for collectors looking to identify and value their finds. The parent company aimed to cater to different market segments with these various brands, yet maintained a consistent standard of quality across them.

Factors Influencing Sarah Coventry and Emmons Jewelry Value

The value of Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry, like any collectible, is determined by a combination of factors. Rarity plays a significant role; pieces that were produced in limited quantities or are harder to find will generally be more valuable. Condition is paramount; jewelry in excellent, near-mint condition with all original stones, no missing parts, and intact plating will always command a higher price than damaged or heavily worn items. The presence and clarity of the maker's mark are also crucial for authenticity and value.

Design and aesthetics are subjective but vital. Pieces with unique, intricate, or particularly attractive designs tend to be more desirable among collectors. The historical significance or association with a particular era or trend can also increase value. For example, statement pieces or elaborate parures (matching jewelry sets) from peak production periods might be more sought after. Finally, the materials used, even if faux, contribute to the perceived quality and value; the brilliance of simulated stones and the quality of metal plating are key considerations.

Rarity and Condition: The Cornerstones of Value

When assessing Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry, rarity and condition are the primary determinants of value. Rare pieces, such as limited edition designs, early production items, or those with particularly unique motifs, are inherently more valuable than mass-produced items. Collectors often search for these elusive finds to complete their collections. Equally important is the condition of the jewelry. Pristine pieces with vibrant stones, unblemished plating, and secure clasps are significantly more valuable than those with tarnished metal, missing stones, or signs of repair.

The term "mint condition" implies that the jewelry appears as if it were never used, while "excellent condition" suggests minimal signs of wear. Even minor scratches on the metal or slight fading of plating can impact the value. For rhinestones, the original sparkle and absence of cloudiness are important. Understanding these nuances of condition is essential for both buyers and sellers to establish fair market value.

Design, Materials, and Signatures

Beyond rarity and condition, the design and materials used in Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry significantly influence their desirability and price. Intricate craftsmanship, unique artistic elements, and aesthetically pleasing designs will naturally attract more attention from collectors and command

higher prices. The quality of the simulated gemstones, such as the clarity and sparkle of faux diamonds or the richness of colored stones, also plays a role. Similarly, the quality and finish of the base metal, whether it's a bright gold-tone, a soft silver-tone, or an antiqued patina, contribute to the overall perception of value.

The maker's signature is not just an indicator of authenticity but also a key piece of information for pricing. Signed pieces are generally more valuable because their origin is confirmed. The type of signature and its placement can also provide clues about the piece's age and authenticity. For example, a clearly marked "Sarah Coventry" on a clasp is more definitive than an ambiguous or worn mark. Unsigned pieces can still hold value if their design and construction are clearly consistent with the brand's known output, but they often sell for less due to the lack of definitive provenance.

Sarah Coventry Jewelry Price Guide

The price range for Sarah Coventry jewelry is quite broad, reflecting the diversity of designs, conditions, and rarity. In general, you can find pieces starting from as low as \$10-\$20 for common items in fair to good condition. These might include simple earrings, basic necklaces, or bracelets that were widely produced. However, rarer items, particularly statement pieces, well-preserved sets, or those from special collections, can range from \$50 to \$200 or even upwards of \$300-\$500 for exceptionally rare or designer pieces in pristine condition. Limited edition brooches, elaborate necklaces, or complete parures in mint condition are the most valuable.

When considering the price of Sarah Coventry jewelry, always factor in the condition. A stunning brooch with all its original rhinestones and intact plating will fetch considerably more than a similar piece with missing stones or significant wear. The presence of the original box or paperwork can also add a small premium. The market for vintage jewelry is dynamic, so prices can fluctuate based on current trends and collector demand. It's advisable to research completed sales on auction sites or consult with experienced vintage jewelry dealers for the most accurate current valuations.

Entry-Level Sarah Coventry Finds

For collectors on a budget or those just starting their Sarah Coventry journey, entry-level finds can be incredibly rewarding. These typically include single earrings, simple pendant necklaces, or basic bracelets that were part of the brand's more common lines. You can often find these pieces in good condition for between \$10 and \$30. They are a great way to begin understanding the craftsmanship and style of Sarah Coventry without a significant financial commitment. Look for pieces with clear signatures and minimal visible wear.

These more accessible pieces are perfect for everyday wear or for getting a feel for the brand's aesthetic. They might not be considered rare or highly valuable, but they offer a glimpse into the widespread popularity and accessibility of Sarah Coventry jewelry during its peak production years. Don't overlook these foundational pieces; they are an essential part of the Sarah Coventry story.

Mid-Range and Collectible Sarah Coventry Pieces

Moving into the mid-range, you'll find more elaborate designs, matching sets, and pieces with higher quality faux gemstones. Prices for these collectible Sarah Coventry items typically range from \$40 to \$100. This category includes more intricate brooches, necklaces with multiple pendants or decorative elements, and matching earring and bracelet combinations. Pieces from specific

collections or those known for their unique artistry fall into this bracket.

The key here is condition and design. A mid-range piece in excellent condition with all its original stones and clear plating will be at the higher end of this range. These items represent excellent value for collectors looking for stylish, well-made vintage jewelry that still holds significant appeal. They offer a good balance between affordability and desirability.

High-Value and Rare Sarah Coventry Treasures

The highest value Sarah Coventry pieces are reserved for the truly rare, unique, or historically significant items. These can include limited edition runs, designer collaborations (though less common for Sarah Coventry), exceptionally intricate statement pieces, or complete parures in mint condition. Prices for these treasures can range from \$150 to \$500 and beyond. Finding these pieces often requires dedicated searching through estate sales, specialized vintage dealers, and online auctions.

Key indicators of high value include unique designs that stand out from the typical Sarah Coventry offerings, the use of particularly high-quality or large faux stones, and pieces that are documented as being part of a limited or special release. The condition must be exceptional – often described as "mint" or "near-mint" – to command these premium prices. These are the crown jewels for serious Sarah Coventry collectors.

Emmons Jewelry Price Guide

Emmons jewelry often falls into a similar price bracket as Sarah Coventry, with variations based on rarity, condition, and design complexity. Common Emmons pieces, such as simple earrings or basic necklaces in good condition, can be found for \$15 to \$40. More desirable items, including elaborate rhinestone pieces, colorful enamel designs, or matching sets in excellent condition, might range from \$50 to \$150. Very rare or exceptionally well-crafted Emmons pieces, particularly those with unique stone arrangements or elaborate metalwork, can reach \$200 to \$400 or more.

As with Sarah Coventry, the condition of Emmons jewelry is a critical factor. A piece that is tarnished, has missing stones, or shows significant wear on the plating will be worth considerably less. The signature "Emmons" or "Kendall" is important for authentication and value. Understanding the typical materials and design motifs of Emmons jewelry will help you identify pieces that are likely to hold their value or appreciate over time. Always consider the dynamic nature of the vintage jewelry market when evaluating prices.

Affordable Emmons Pieces for Beginners

For those new to Emmons jewelry, there are plenty of attractive and affordable options to start collecting. Simple earrings, single pendants, or basic bracelets that were mass-produced can often be purchased for between \$15 and \$40. These pieces are great for individuals who appreciate the vintage aesthetic and quality of Emmons but are not yet looking to invest in rarer items. They offer a tangible connection to the brand's heritage and are perfect for adding a touch of vintage flair to everyday outfits.

Focus on finding pieces with clear signatures and in reasonably good condition. Even minor imperfections can be acceptable at this price point, as the primary goal is to enjoy the style and

quality of Emmons craftsmanship. These entry-level finds are an excellent way to build a foundational collection and learn more about the brand.

Collectible Emmons Jewelry and Sets

The mid-range of Emmons jewelry includes more intricate designs, statement pieces, and matching sets (parures). Prices for these collectible items typically range from \$50 to \$150. This category encompasses eye-catching brooches with elaborate rhinestone patterns, necklaces featuring vibrant simulated stones or detailed enamel work, and coordinated sets of earrings, bracelets, and necklaces. These pieces showcase the higher level of artistry and craftsmanship that Emmons was known for.

The condition here becomes more critical. Pieces in excellent or near-mint condition, with all stones present and sparkling, and with intact, high-quality plating, will command prices at the higher end of this range. These are the pieces that truly represent the allure and value of Emmons as a collectible brand, offering both aesthetic appeal and potential for value retention.

Premium and Rare Emmons Finds

The most valuable Emmons jewelry consists of rare, unique, or exceptionally well-crafted pieces. These might be limited edition items, early designs with distinctive features, or particularly elaborate and large statement pieces. Prices for these premium finds can range from \$200 to \$400 and even higher for exceptionally rare examples. These pieces are often the target of serious collectors and can be found through dedicated searching at estate sales, antique shows, and specialized online platforms.

Key factors that elevate an Emmons piece to this premium category include exceptional design originality, the use of high-quality or unusual simulated stones, intricate metalwork, and confirmed rarity. The condition must be near-perfect to justify these higher prices. These pieces are not just jewelry; they are historical artifacts of the costume jewelry era.

Tips for Buying and Selling Sarah Coventry and Emmons Jewelry

When buying Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry, thorough research is your best friend. Familiarize yourself with the brands' signatures, common designs, and typical materials. Always inspect pieces carefully for condition – look for missing stones, damaged plating, and secure clasps. Purchasing from reputable sellers, whether online or in person, can provide a degree of assurance. Comparing prices from different sources can help you determine a fair market value. For selling, be honest about the condition of your items and provide clear, detailed photographs from multiple angles, highlighting any imperfections.

Pricing your items competitively is key to making a sale. Use online auction sites as a guide, looking at "sold" listings to see what similar items have actually fetched, not just what they were listed for. Be prepared to negotiate, especially if you are selling directly to collectors or through platforms that allow offers. For higher-value items, consider using a consignment service or a reputable vintage jewelry dealer who can help you achieve a better price, albeit with a commission.

Smart Shopping Strategies for Buyers

For buyers looking to acquire Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry, several smart strategies can lead to successful and satisfying purchases. Firstly, educate yourself on the hallmarks of each brand. Knowing what to look for in terms of signatures, metal finishes, and stone settings will prevent you from buying fakes or low-quality items. Secondly, always prioritize condition. A slightly more expensive piece in excellent condition will likely be a better long-term investment and more enjoyable to wear than a cheaper piece with significant flaws.

Thirdly, explore various buying avenues. Estate sales, antique shops, flea markets, and online auction sites all offer unique opportunities. However, be more cautious with online purchases; look for sellers with excellent feedback and detailed descriptions and high-quality photos. Don't be afraid to ask questions of the seller. Finally, be patient. The best finds often come to those who are willing to search and wait for the right piece to appear.

Effective Selling Techniques for Your Collection

When it comes time to sell your Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry, effective techniques can significantly impact your returns. Begin by accurately assessing the condition of each piece. Honesty is crucial; clearly document any damage, wear, or missing components. High-quality photographs are paramount. Take clear, well-lit pictures from various angles, showcasing the signature, the front and back of the piece, and any notable details or flaws. Accurate descriptions that include dimensions, materials (as far as can be determined), and condition are essential.

Pricing your items requires research. Browse completed sales on platforms like eBay to understand the current market value for similar items in comparable condition. Avoid pricing solely based on asking prices, as these may not reflect actual selling prices. Consider selling pieces individually for maximum return, or group matching sets together. For rarer or more valuable items, you might consider selling through a specialized vintage jewelry dealer or an auction house, though be mindful of their commission fees.

The Importance of Documentation and Presentation

For both buyers and sellers, documentation and presentation play a critical role in the value and desirability of Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry. For sellers, including any original boxes, paperwork, or tags that may have come with the jewelry when it was purchased can significantly increase its perceived value and appeal to collectors. Clear, detailed descriptions, including the history of the piece if known, can also add to its allure. When presenting jewelry for sale, clean it gently and photograph it in good lighting to highlight its best features.

For buyers, meticulously documenting your purchases, including where and when you bought them and for how much, can be helpful for insurance purposes and for tracking your collection's value. Understanding the provenance and original presentation of a piece can also deepen your appreciation for its history and artistry. A well-presented piece, whether for sale or as part of a private collection, always makes a stronger impression.

Q: How can I tell if a piece of Sarah Coventry jewelry is authentic?

A: Authenticity of Sarah Coventry jewelry is primarily determined by the presence of the "Sarah Coventry" or "SC" signature mark. This mark is typically found on the clasp, pendant, or earring back. Additionally, examining the quality of the metal plating (often gold-tone or silver-tone), the setting of the faux gemstones, and the overall craftsmanship can help confirm its authenticity, as Sarah Coventry pieces are known for their good quality and detailed designs.

Q: What makes Emmons jewelry valuable?

A: The value of Emmons jewelry is derived from its design aesthetic, quality of materials, and rarity. Pieces with intricate rhinestone work, vibrant enamel, and unique settings are highly sought after. Like Sarah Coventry, Emmons jewelry is known for its substantial feel and good quality plating. Rare designs, limited edition pieces, and sets in excellent condition will command higher prices. The presence of the "Emmons" or "Kendall" signature is also crucial for value.

Q: Are Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry considered fine jewelry or costume jewelry?

A: Both Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry are classified as costume jewelry, also known as fashion jewelry or art jewelry. They were designed to be stylish and accessible accessories, often using base metals and faux gemstones, rather than precious metals and genuine stones. However, they are highly collectible due to their quality, design, and historical significance within the costume jewelry market.

Q: What is the typical price range for a Sarah Coventry necklace?

A: The price range for a Sarah Coventry necklace can vary significantly. Simpler, common designs in good condition might be found for \$20-\$50. More intricate or elaborate statement necklaces, especially those in excellent condition or from limited collections, can range from \$60 to \$200 or even higher for rare pieces.

Q: How does the condition of the stones affect the value of Emmons jewelry?

A: The condition of the stones is a major factor in the value of Emmons jewelry. If the faux gemstones (like rhinestones or simulated colored stones) are all present, sparkling brightly, and free from cloudiness or significant chips, the piece will be worth considerably more. Missing stones, dull stones, or stones with visible damage will significantly decrease the jewelry's value.

Q: Should I look for sets when buying Sarah Coventry or Emmons jewelry?

A: Looking for sets (parures) can be very rewarding when buying Sarah Coventry or Emmons jewelry. Complete sets, including necklaces, bracelets, and earrings, are often more valuable and desirable to collectors than individual pieces. However, they will also command a higher price. If you are on a budget, acquiring individual pieces and building your own coordinated look can also be a great strategy.

Q: Where is the best place to find Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry?

A: The best places to find Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry include estate sales, antique shops, vintage markets, flea markets, and online auction sites like eBay. Estate sales and antique shops often yield hidden gems, while online platforms offer a wider selection but require careful scrutiny of listings and seller reputations.

Q: How do I clean my Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry?

A: To clean Sarah Coventry and Emmons jewelry, use a soft, dry cloth to gently wipe away dust and tarnish. For more stubborn dirt, you can use a very mild soap and cool water, carefully rinsing and drying immediately with a soft cloth. Avoid harsh chemicals, abrasive cleaners, or ultrasonic cleaners, as these can damage the plating and faux stones. For intricate pieces with rhinestones, a soft brush, like a makeup brush, can be helpful for gentle cleaning.

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