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Trimmings and Accessories



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TRIMMINGS AND ACCESSORIES

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The success of a costume depends largely upon a wise and careful use of trimmings and accessories. This requires a study and application of the principles of design applied to dress. The dullest frock may be made smart and chic by a skillfully placed motif or an embroidered band. Add to it the correct accessories and the effect is charming.

TRIMMINGS

In planning a costume, it is not a question of "where can I put trimming," but should be, "Where do I need trimming." There must always be some reason for using it, (fig. 1). Trimming should be used only to add to the beauty of a garment. When for the sake of economy it is used to "cover up," it should be selected and applied with unusual care to avoid calling attention to its real purpose.

Meaningless and over-elaborate design is a mistake often made by the amateur dressmaker, (fig. 1, A). Trimmings which show the utmost refinement and elegance are those which are worked out carefully in both color and design, fig. 1, B.

CHOICE OF TRIMMINGS

The application of trimming often determines the lines in a dress. Hence we must consider the type of face and figure and becoming colors for the individual, fig. 2, A and B.

The unlimited possibilities presented by the great variety of trimming now available, permit freer expression of individuality.

TYPES OF TRIMMINGS

Numerous kinds of trimmings may be purchased by the yard which add beauty and lessen labor. Organdy with gay colored wool embroidery for collars, hand made laces and variations of frilling in net and organdy can be secured in almost any trimming department.

Novelty braids, rick rack and bias tape come in a variety of colors and sizes. These are easy to use and may serve as a finishing as well as a trimming. (See fig. 2, A).

To secure the most pleasing effects novelty braids, rick rack, checked and striped bias tape should be used only on plain material. Plain bias tape is equally pleasing on either figured or plain material.

When a dress is trimmed in material like the dress we call it self trim, fig. 2, B. This is always in good taste and when well planned gives a rich pleasing effect. This may be applied in bands, bindings, pipings, folds, loops, tubing and flowers.

Simple embroidered bands and designs are an effective way of adding interesting color and of bringing out line. Care must be taken to avoid over-elaborateness and spotty effects. A few simple bands or motifs skillfully placed are attractive.

Various types of hemstitching have been increasingly popular. This does not include the intricate drawn work designs so popular a few years ago, but does include the simple line designs, such as simple Italian hemstitching and Swedish drawn work.

Since trimming is often in contrasting color, we must bear in mind the color rule. "The larger the area, the more greyed the color should be;

the smaller the area the more intense or brighter it may be." To apply this to trimming we would say, "The brighter or more contrasting the trimming, the smaller the amount that should be used."

Then as to the placing of trimming, choose the line that is to be accented with trimming and apply it accordingly. There will be many other places trimming could be placed, but to do so would be confusing. An observer would find himself looking to see if there were any spot left untrimmed.

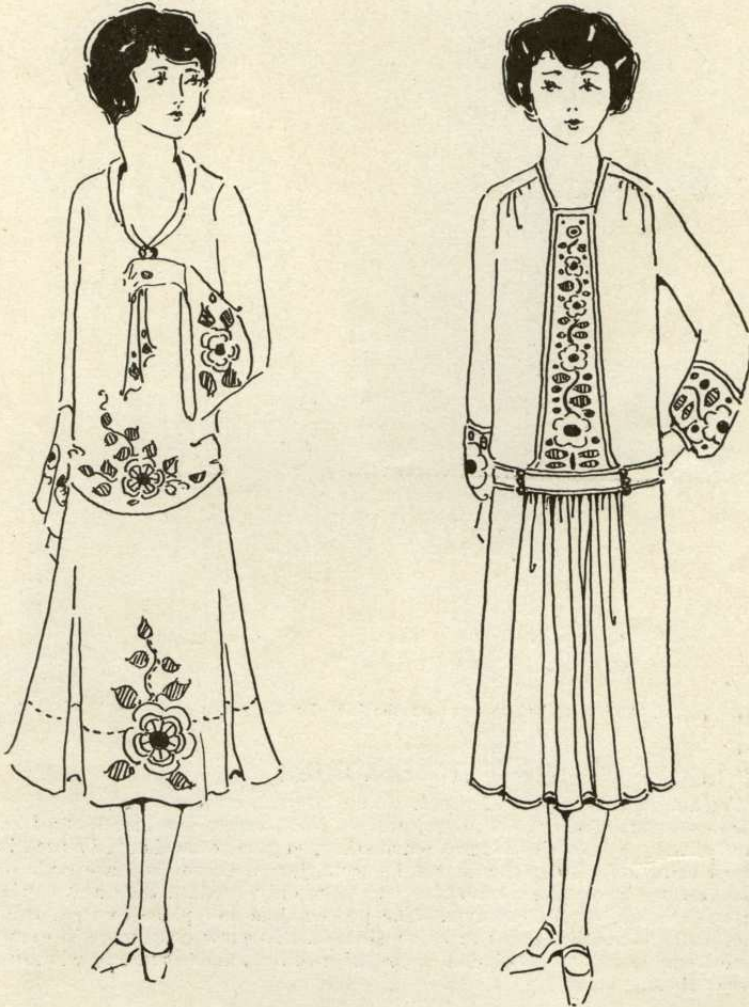


Fig. 1. On the left, A, meaningless, over elaborate design, while B, right, shows dignified, conventional design.

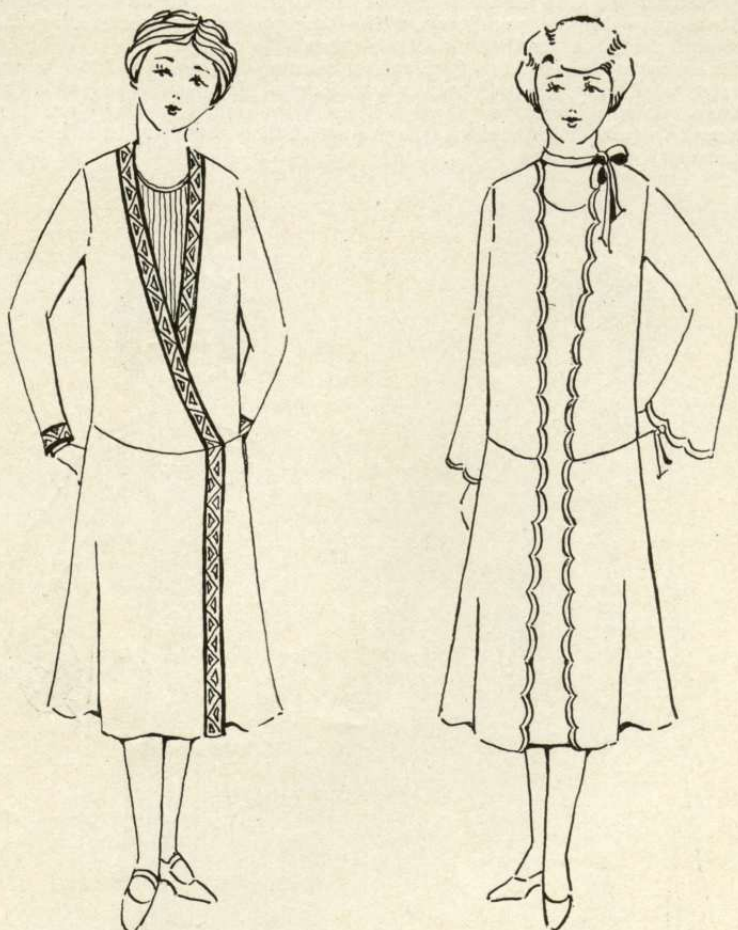


Fig. 2. Types of Trimmings; on the left—by the yard; right—self Trim.

ACCESSORIES

Trimmings are a part of the dress, but accessories are a part of the entire costume including the dress, collars, cuffs, beads, handkerchiefs, hose and shoes. Accessories express personality, so great care should be used in their selection. They should not be worn just because they are style or because we have them, but should be worn only because they add to the attractiveness of the costume. The proper time and place to wear each accessory is another point to be considered. To show good taste in dress, one needs to study the kind of accessories to buy, and when and where to wear them.

HAIR ORNAMENT

We will start with the hair ornament. A comb or large hairpin is so often misused. If it is jeweled in beautiful stones to match the color of

the hair, or of some contrasting color, it is beautiful in itself and needs a certain garment and the proper occasion to show it off well. The lights shining on the jewels at night give a most fascinating effect. The ornament attracts attention to the hair, so it should be combed carefully and attractively. Such accessories may be worn for formal social occasions, but they are not good for the office, street, business or every day occasions.

JEWELRY

Jewelry should be chosen with great care. It should be selected either to complete a costume, or to give the keynote upon which a costume is built. Anyone who has a string of beautiful jewels should plan a gown

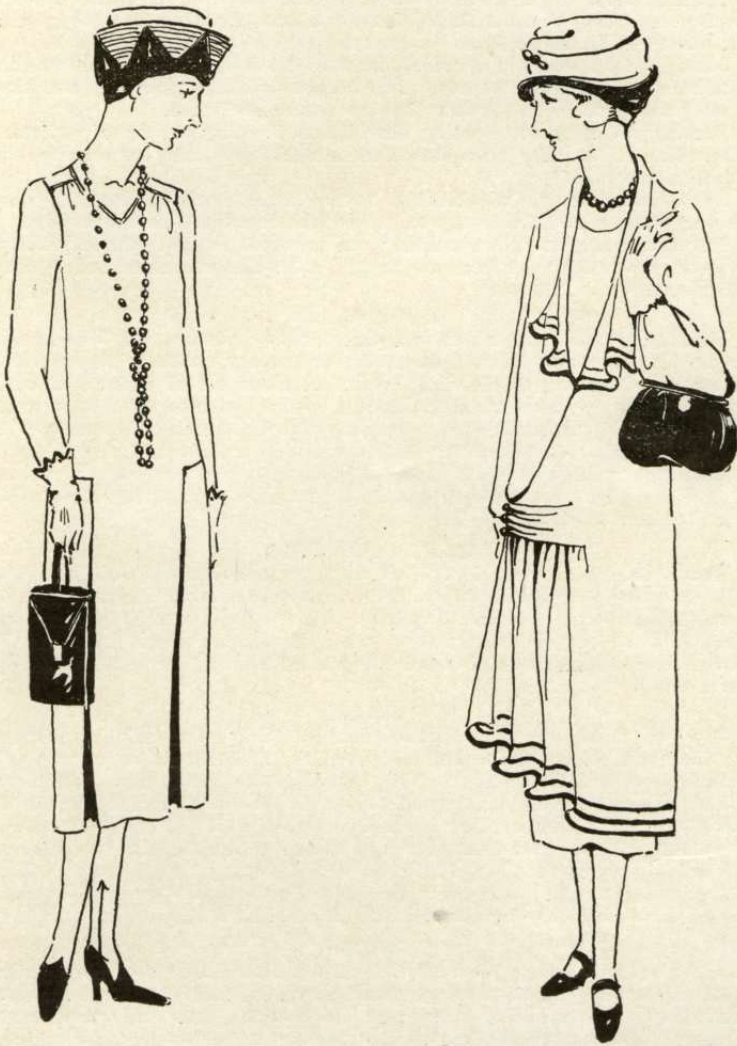


Fig. 3. Accessories and lines may emphasize sharp pointed features as in A, or soften the lines as in B.

with reference to them, rather than to wear them with a gown to which they add nothing. They must be a harmonious part of a carefully designed costume. The costume should serve as a background and should be planned with reference to making the beads count as the sole decoration. All kinds are available, so one should have no trouble in selecting them. The costume jewelry adds a touch of color to the dress. All beads or chains must be carefully chosen with reference to color and style. Beads should be worn to make lines continue, terminate, or to accentuate some good point in the costume. The length of the strand depends on the type of person. The tall slender person should avoid long strands of beads, fig. 3 A, while the short stout person will find fairly long small beads better for her figure, fig. 4 B. If these are held together, as by a knot, the effect is improved. Short strands fitting closely about the neck tend to give a broadened effect, fig. 4 A, and often improve slender necks, fig. 3 B.

Jewelry is valueless in a decorative way unless it is ornamental and an added attraction to the wearer. This cannot be if the pieces are not kept clean. Dirty, scratched jewelry has no decorative value.

Earrings, if worn for evening should help to carry out some particular color scheme. As they draw attention to themselves, they give a widened effect to the face.

Bracelets and rings call attention to the hands, so that means one must be very careful about keeping the nails manicured and hands in trim.

Imitations are not good unless worn as such, as in costume jewelry. Wearing imitation with the real thing lessens the value and takes away the distinction of the real.

NECKWEAR

Collars and cuffs mean much to a plain simple dress or suit. What could be prettier in a sport outfit than a sweater and skirt with collar and cuffs of some contrasting or blending color? A clean set of collar and cuffs adds not only to the attractiveness, but to the freshness of the garment. A collar of kid leather adds a most attractive bit to a sport dress of flannel. Jabots and frills are for the woman with a flat chest, fig. 3 B. A woman who is large thru the bust will do well to avoid wearing these accessories, fig. 4 A. A white or colored frill with a plain tailored suit adds a bit of smartness.

HANDKERCHIEFS

Handkerchiefs may be had in all colors. Beautiful colored linen and silk ones are available. The trouble with the colored handkerchiefs is that they are used too promiscuously. They must be used to carry out some color scheme, otherwise they lose their effectiveness. The purpose of the colored handkerchief is not for general utility, but merely to carry out a note of color.

VEILS

The veil should serve as a protection for the skin, and in some cases for the eyes. It keeps the hair neat and tidy. It should never be worn with a large hat. Large figured veils distort the appearance of the wearer. A heavily banded veil is not good because it makes a decided line across the face. When such a thing is fashionable, it would be better to be out of fashion. A very fine meshed veil of color in harmony with the color of the hat is very good.

Emily Burbank in her book, "Woman as Decoration," says "Give most careful attention to your extremities—shoes, hats and gloves."

SHOES

Shoes are quite a problem at the present time. One sees every kind from the heavy calf-skin to the finest satin. Colors galore! However, unless very wisely chosen, they mar the costume. As one writer says, "Shoes run from the sublime to the ridiculous." However, two things have come out of the great array. Women have learned that the shoe wardrobe is very essential to correct dress, and in the long run they are



Fig. 4. Accessories and trimmings may broaden the figure as in A or lengthen it as in B.

learning that there are only two sure guides to good shoe fashions, and those are comfort and appropriateness. The choice of shoes should be governed by suitability for the occasion. If one cannot have a pair of shoes which will harmonize with each dress, one is safer to get a pair of black or brown walking shoes for street wear and satin or patent leather for dress occasions. The satin shoe, because of the fine texture of the material, will not stand hard wear and should not be worn for street or office use.

Buckles and bows add width to the feet, so a short stout person should never wear them.

STOCKINGS

Contrasting hose have been very popular. However, care must be taken to avoid spotty effects. Hose should repeat some color note of the costume, if one is to be artistically as well as stylishly dressed. Other points to bear in mind are the type of figure and the size of the ankles of the wearer. Hose to match dress, in conservative colors such as black, white,



Fig. 5. Choice of shoes greatly affect the appearance of the feet. For the feet of stout folk, B is better than A. For the long slender foot, D is better than C.

brown, tan or gray, carry the line down to the heels. This is especially good for the shorter figure. Contrasting hose, be they light or dark, attract attention to the ankles. By watching these points one's hosiery can be becoming as well as stylish.

GLOVES

Gloves have the same effect on the hands as shoes on the feet. It is always best to have them match the suit or coat if one does not wish to call attention to the hands. It is far better to wear washable gloves than a pair of soiled kid gloves. The various lengths and styles in gloves lend a great variety from which to choose. The short slip-on glove, made of heavy but soft suede is good for a plain glove with a suit if one does not want the glove with the flare. The flare or gauntlet glove makes a nice type for a straight line suit, which needs something to take away from the plainness. The long kid glove is worn with the short sleeve dress. They are good in both the three-quarter and full length.

HATS

A hat serves as a frame for the face, so it should be chosen accordingly. It should bring out the best points of the face, which is the center of interest, fig. 4 B. Note how the hat in fig. 3 A emphasizes the sharp features.

SCARFS

Scarfs come in an assortment of colors, which lend a bit of interest to the more sombre costume. A scarf to match the hat is especially good to carry out a color scheme. Worn in long narrow lines, it gives length to the stout figure; thrown around the neck, it softens harsh lines about the neck and face.

HANDBAGS

Handbags, there are for all occasions. The beaded bag belongs to the social function, while the heavy leather purse goes better with a tailored suit for street wear, fig. 4 B. Then there is the vanity case, which is meant for that purpose only. The slender woman will like the soft pouch bag because it suggests softened lines, fig. 3 B, whereas the stout woman will select the flat narrow bag, fig. 4 B.

PARASOLS

A parasol is meant for the sun, while the umbrella is used for rain. Because the umbrella is for rain, does not necessarily mean that it has to be black. It might harmonize with the color of the suit or coat, thus carrying out some particular color scheme. The ring or strap handle on the umbrella makes it easier to carry. In carrying an umbrella under the arm, one should be very careful to hold it so that it will not be a menace to those near by.

Since accessories are the small details which make up the completeness of a costume, one's best judgment should be used in selecting them. There should be a real purpose for wearing hair ornaments, earrings, gloves, etc. The effect of the whole is often spoiled because of poor selection of one detail. A costume is viewed as a unit made up of subordinate parts. May these subordinate parts be such as will blend into one harmonious whole, instead of calling attention to themselves.