

# Adding WOW to Your Model A Era Fashions

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Do you have an era dress, suit, or sports outfit, but not sure how to complete it or what accessory would add that WOW factor? There is help for you. The MAFCA *Fashion Guidelines, 2D-1 and 3D-1* describe the use of accessories, either worn or carried, that will complement and complete your overall appearance. How do you decide which accessories to use?

Begin by reviewing literature documenting era fashion. The MAFCA *Fashion Guidelines*, the *Fashion Files*, *A Book of Fashion Facts*, *Stepping Out in Style* DVD, the *Quick Reference Guide for Daytime Wear*, and *Jewelry* DVD are available on the MAFCA website, [www.mafca.com](http://www.mafca.com) to guide you in the right direction. The *Restorer* magazine is also a great source of ideas and pictures for fashion.

First, decide where the major garment would have been worn. For example, a woman wearing a 1930 daytime dress for shopping would have considered accessories such as a purse with items such as a handkerchief, compact, lipstick, and coins.



Jewelry worn for daytime would be a simple pearl necklace and earrings or perhaps a necklace made of celluloid or Bakelite.



Eye wear could also be an accessory. The proper use of a few of these everyday accessories can make outfit go from ok to WOW!

Another example is a man's wearing a wool daytime suit. He could accessorize with a wrist or pocket watch, cuff links, tie clasp or tie pin, a briefcase, an umbrella or cane, wallet or coin purse, pen and pencil set, a pocket knife, or cigarette case or pipe. There are many options when it comes to even men's accessories.



Accessories for evening wear add sparkle to an "ensemble". For example, women's jewelry was made of gold, crystal beads, pearls, rhinestones, precious gems. Evening purses of beads, rhinestones, satin fabric, or soft leather add elegance to the overall appearance.

A man's tuxedo may be accessorized with a black cane with sterling silver and engraved handle, a silver cigarette case, and cuff links with stones. When the right accessories are chosen to complement the main garment your overall appearance looks natural.



For sporting outfits, either men's or women's can be accessorized with sporting equipment or items used in the game. For example, a tennis ensemble would have a tennis racket and perhaps a rack bag, a score card, a sports towel, or a tennis ball. A horse woman would have a riding crop, a saddle, a feed bag, or perhaps a horse blanket to add depth to the riding pants and tall boots. These accessories help to "sell" the image you are working to portray.



When deciding on accessories use the following helpful hints

- 1 Match accessories to time of day or evening for the main garment
- 2 Purses look best when coordinating in color, style, and materials of the hat and shoes.
3. If the main garment has patterns, large weave, or strong colors, the accessories should not complete with the garment features, but look best when they complement.
4. If your main garment is plain in color or style, consider accessories that will add texture, highlights, or accents.
5. Make the ensemble look complete with the accessories, i.e. a woman would usually carry a purse when leaving the home. A woman's ensemble without a purse would not look complete.
6. Accessories in good condition will add value to your overall appearance.
7. If you are entering fashion judging bring documentation of the originality of an accessory with you, unless the item is featured in the MAFCA *Fashion Guidelines*.
8. Unusual accessories will add curiosity to the ensemble. However ensure the accessory is appropriate. A man, carrying a piece of medical equipment with his wool suit, would look out of place and would detract from overall appearance. However, a man in a doctor's white office coat would look appropriate carrying a doctor's bag.

Accessories may be small or large, but used appropriately they can add that WOW factor to your overall appearance.

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