

# Entering Fashion Competition at MAFCA Sanctioned Events

By Lynette Marcione

There are several opportunities each year to consider entering fashion competition. Why not make it your year to enter? Putting a Model A outfit together for fashion competition can be an enriching and rewarding experience. After you have decided to compete, remember three things: have a plan, do your research, and execute your plan with energy and enthusiasm. You are going to make several key decisions while you are engaged in this interesting process.

The question we ask ourselves everyday, “What shall I wear?” is an important choice. There are many more decisions, but don’t let that scare you. The MAFCA’s publications, *Fashion Guidelines*, *A Book of Fashion Facts*, and the *Fashion Judging Procedures Manual* are rich sources for the direction and guidance you will need. MAFCA’s *Fashion Guidelines*, and the *Fashion Judging Procedures Manual* provide a step by step set of instructions to enter the world of fashion judging. They cover everything from the entry form, what happens in the judging room, and finally, walking along the fashion show runway to receive your award.

## The Plan

Select your outfit. Decide your category, Original, Reproduction, or Model A Era Image. You will find the definitions of these areas in MAFCA’s *Fashion Guidelines*, and the *Fashion Judging Procedures Manual*. It is important to coordinate your outfit so you look “together”. Consider the fit of the garment, and is the outfit appropriate for you? You will need headgear, or an era styled hairdo. Coordinated apparel, accessories, and footgear are the other areas that are judged.

Sometimes an outfit may not be quite complete. Don’t let that stop you from showing your wonderful ensemble. Some outfits take years to finish. Don’t miss out on the fun while you are prowling the internet, antique shops, and swap meets looking for that perfect item. Complete and helpful details are provided in MAFCA’s fashion publications available for sale in every *Restorer* magazine.



## **Research**

MAFCA's *Fashion Guidelines*, *A Book of Fashion Facts*, the *Restorer* magazine, the *Model A Era Pattern Catalog*, and the Jewelry DVD will certainly assist you in this area. There are many variances in styling during the Model A era period. Not all styles are featured in these references, although contributors to these documented sources have done an outstanding job capturing the principal styling elements of the time. If your outfit does not closely represent the images seen in the variety of media offered by MAFCA, it's a good idea to further your research to find a close example of your item. Look for period magazines, and periodicals for additional documentation. You can find these types of publications on the internet, antique shops, and swap meets. Only authentic Model A era documentation is acceptable in the judging room. When submitting the fashion entry form it is always helpful to note the page number and illustration you used to reference your item when using a MAFCA reference. If you are using other material you obtained outside of the MAFCA references, it's a good idea to provide copies of the dated documentation with your entry form, or bring a copy with you to the competition for the judges to review. Remember, the chief reference the judges use is MAFCA's *Fashion Guidelines*.

## **Execute**

Pay attention to your overall appearance. This aspect of judging is particularly important in the Model A Era Image category. Additional points may be awarded for those individuals who go the "extra mile" as outlined in MAFCA's *Fashion Guidelines*. Fill out the forms in detail whenever possible. The judging team always appreciates additional information. MAFCA's website and the *Fashion Judging Procedures Manual* contains examples on how to prepare the entry form with complete details of your outfit. An article on the MAFCA website titled "Jazz it Up" by Harriet McNeill provides a wonderful description on how to fill out the form in an informative and exciting way (Era Fashions-Articles- Past Articles). A completed sample form is also available in MAFCA's *Fashion Judging Procedures Manual-Fashion Entrant Forms* section on the MAFCA website. This form can also be filled out by you while on-line, printed and then submitted as instructed.

Make sure your outfit is clean, pressed, and in good repair. A simple shoeshine can make the difference. Allow plenty of time to get yourself ready on judging day. Arrive at least 10 minutes before your judging appointment. Try to relax. You are being judged against the standards of styling of the era, and not against other participants. The fashion show is a wonderful event to showcase era fashions for the Model A enthusiast. Enjoy your walk down the runway and the applause of appreciation.

**A copy of MAFCA's *Fashion Guidelines*, *A Book of Fashion Facts*, the *Model A Era Fashion Pattern Catalog*, patterns, and the Jewelry DVD can be purchased from MAFCA Headquarters.**

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