

Back to Basics

Excerpts from *Paris Frocks at Home*

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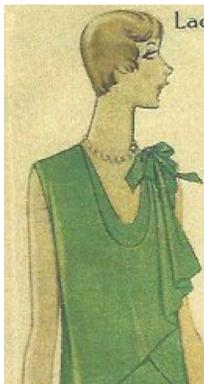
This delightful book gives great hints that worked in the Model A era and still apply today. In addition to sewing techniques, it has valuable insights into how to select the style of dress best suited to your body type. The three patterns used to represent the following suggestions from the book are available for purchase from the Model A Ford Club of America.

Getting Started

“You must have a long mirror and use it unsparingly in the best possible light. Unflattering daylight is essential.” (Yes, it really says unflattering daylight!) Examine your contours and proportions with a critical eye and plan accordingly.

The Neck and Neckline

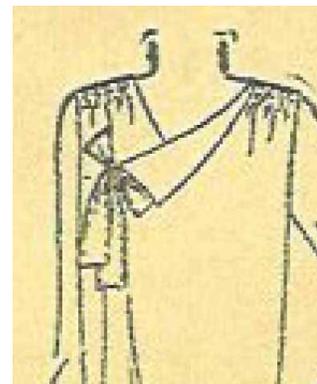
Necks are short, long, thick and thin. “Short necks must be given space. Don’t choke them or muffle them or put strings of large pearl beads around them. Give them air. Deep V necklines add inches to short necks, both front and back...” Rolled and frilled collars, draped blouses and asymmetric necklines flatter long necks.



McCall 5710, 1930



Pictorial Review 4638, 1930



Vogue 9923, 1929

Minimize the Hips and Legs

“Circular skirts with low flaring lines make both hips and legs appear smaller. Discreet exposure of legs by means of uneven hemlines or semi sheer materials is much more flattering to them than exposing them against a background of a skirt which is long in back and somewhat shorter in front.”

Did your gaze in the mirror reveal broad hips and narrow shoulders? Then choose a pattern with a V bodice construction, making sure the V is “standing right side up, with two of its points somewhere near the shoulders and its third point centered somewhere below the waistline. Do not draw material tightly around any of your round rear contours, nor for that matter, over a

round tummy. Boleros, cape backs and jackets have a little swing that distracts attention from rounded contours below the waist. Soft blousing over a judiciously placed waistline often produces the desired effect. Place bows discreetly: on flat places - yes, if you wish; on contours - never.”



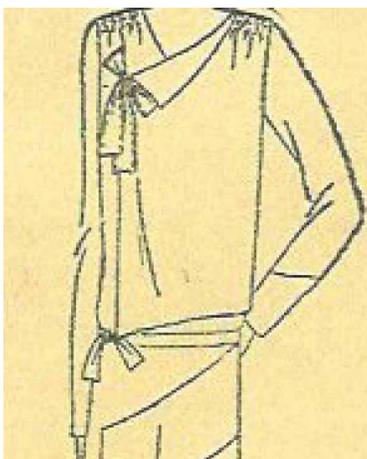
Pictorial Review 4683, 1929



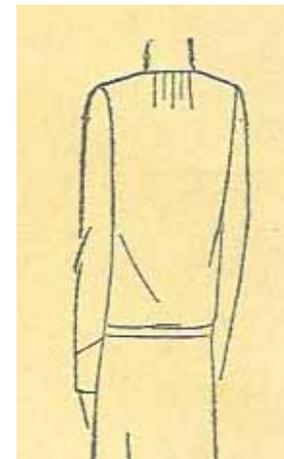
McCall 5710, 1930

The Waistline

If your waistline is larger than you might like, *Paris Frocks at Home* has suggestions for you. If your frock is belted, the belt must be placed appropriately and not bound tightly. “A suggestion of a waistline obtained by some molded fitting somewhere near the waistline or groups of tucks front, back or sides, skillfully shapes a frock without defining the waist. Diagonal seaming or set-in pieces in a dress may often suggest waistlines and produce “slimming” effects as well, when they extend from a point slightly above the waistline and descend gradually into the skirt regions.”



Vogue 9923, 1929



Shoulders, Hands and Arms

Broad shoulders generally make the hips appear smaller, thus, no adjustment is needed.

“Unusual breadth and squareness may be reduced by setting sleeves into a high armhole or by using raglan sleeves. This lady does not wear cap sleeves or patches of embroidery on her upper arm. Narrow shoulders, require sleeves set as far out on the tip of the shoulder as is consistent with a good fitting armhole. Capes are very acceptable. Shoulder epaulette yokes increase the apparent width of the shoulder.”

“Hands and arms cause real fits of depression at times, possibly because we can see them so plainly even when we are not studying the effects in the mirror.” Small hands and short fingers will look both larger and longer by wearing tight cuffs and sheath-like sleeves. “If you hate yourself in a sleeveless evening dress, try fluttering squares of chiffon hanging from the shoulder at the back or a short cape sleeve reaching a little above the elbow.”



McCall 5710, 1930

This article reflects only a few of the many tips contained in this book. For anyone interested in reading more of this book, a check of the internet revealed that used copies of *Paris Frocks at Home* are still available for purchase.

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