

**SCARVES**  
**FLIRTY AND DEBONAIRE**  
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*“Maybe the phases of the moon change the styles in women’s apparel. Maybe the women’s caprice does it. Whatever the reason behind the fact, every few weeks sees a swinging to and fro of details if not silhouette. And it’s the details, after all, that make a woman well-dressed when she pays attention to them.”* Anne Rittenhouse. *McCall’s*, February, 1928

Ah, the devil is in the details! For a flattering finishing touch, a scarf or muffler can add a level of sophistication and flair to your ensemble. Scarves, classified as Coordinated Apparel in the *MAFCA Fashion Guidelines*, 2015 Edition, are appropriate for both day and evening wear.

For women, scarves *“were usually of multicolored georgette, chiffon or silk crepe. Triangular scarves were worn knotted in the front or to one side, with the point draped over a shoulder, and were considered very sporty. Larger triangular shawls were usually fringed, and were a bit less casual for wear in the cool of the evening. Long rectangular scarves were worn draped over the shoulders and down the front...”* *MAFCA Fashion Guidelines*

In the July 1931 issue of *McCall’s* magazine May Piper Spear offers the following:

*“While there is no question about the indulgent disposition of fashions, there are, however, certain trends that run through the mode like a theme through a story... It is the collar that swings to one side . . . in spiral flounces . . . in the surplice bodice . . . in the scarf that knots on one shoulder and falls free on the other. Everywhere is the effort to keep from one side what the other is doing.”* May Piper Spear, *McCall’s*, July 1931

As you can see from the following magazine excerpts, scarves were extremely versatile and varied in design. Look for era image scarves at antique malls, consignment stores, or thrift shops; or check out your own closet for possibilities.

As shown is this design, draping a plaid scarf under the dress collar and over the “coatee” adds a touch of whimsy to this stunning ensemble. *McCall’s*, May 1931





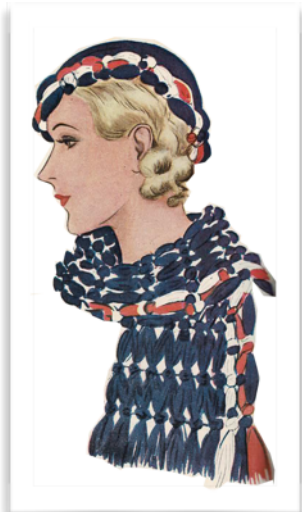
The polka dot scarf of this ensemble compliments the hip length jacket, picking up the small polka dot pattern of the blouse. *McCall's*, February 1928



Scarves were sometimes made of the same fabric as the blouse, as shown in this Parisian design from *Creations de Paris*, Summer 1930.



For a very novel look, this scarf is incorporated into the neckline of the dress, tying on the shoulder. The matching trim of the hat completes the look. *Pictorial Review*, June 1929

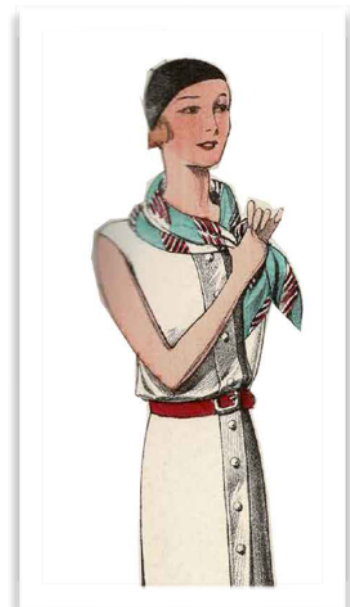


This chic hat and scarf set is made of knotted wool, setting off the stitched bands of the dress. *McCall's* October & November 1931



A large checked scarf is used to enhance and soften the simplicity of the dress. *Pictorial Review*, June 1929

The scarf of this tailored summer dress picks up the color of the belt, making this dress a smart choice for the summer season. *Creations de Paris*, Summer 1930



For men, “scarves or mufflers were made of washable silk crepe, rayon, or wool. Sizes varied. Some found were 17”x 53,” 13”x 48,” and 33” squares, some with fringe. Evening scarves came in square or long and narrow styles. Some came in white brocade, some plain or patterned white silk. Monograms were popular on scarves.” *MAFCA Fashion Guidelines*

The 1930 Christmas edition of *The Observer, Gifts for Gentlemen*, offered a wide selection of mufflers and reefers, however none of their offerings were labeled as scarves. In researching the term “reefer” the *Meriam Webster* dictionary’s second definition is “a close-fitting usually double-breasted jacket or coat of thick cloth.” This is definitely a new term for me. The prices ranged from \$3.50 to \$10. In today’s money, \$3.50 equals \$62.42 and \$10 equals \$178.34. Clearly not an inexpensive gift.



The muffer on the left was imported and offered in an “unusual warp print design with self fringe and a wide border of rich satin.” \$10



To the right is a slightly less expensive imported silk muffer featuring an “all over brocaded swirl figure on satin ground. Wide satin border; self fringe.” \$7.50



“A rich paisley design is employed in the silk pique crepe muffer with self satin jacquard figures overall.” \$5



“Bright and attractive colorings in solid color self jacquard, tubular crepe reefer with heavy fringe.” \$3.50

“Solid color cashmere reefers imported from Scotland; give warmth without weight. Worn Ascoted.” \$5.00



Sources:

*McCall's*, February 1928, May 1931, October and November 1931

*Pictorial Review*, June 1929

*Creations de Paris*, Summer 1930

*The Observer, Gifts for Gentlemen*, Christmas 1930

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