

For Every Woman According to Her Needs

Separable Separate Skirts



One of The Many New Pleated Models

A Pretty Model for White Taffeta or Broadcloth



Taffeta Trimmed With Velvet Ribbon

THIS is a season when a separate skirt, to be worn with her lace or lingerie blouses and her stiffer tailored shirtwaists, is a necessary part of the well-dressed woman's wardrobe.

Time and experience have taught her that the skirt which must do duty for street occasions soon loses its freshness and style if worn in the house; and constantly recurring tailor's bills for sponging and pressing have convinced her that she is better dressed, wiser and happier if she invests their lumped sum in a pretty separate skirt for home wear at the beginning of the season.

Models direct from the other side show that the plain nine-gored skirt is very much liked with suits, but the separate skirt for the most part is pleated, ruffled, trimmed and strapped—anything but plain.

One very attractive skirt comes in one of the gray English mixtures that are both durable and, as their English makers would say, "smart." This particular model just clears the ground, and is laid all round in double box pleats. The inner pleat is stitched as far down as the knee and flares gracefully from there down. It also boasts of a tiny flap pocket on each of the two front box pleats.

This skirt looks exceedingly well with the popular Scotch plaid shirtwaists, or with the stiff white collared ones, of which some women never weary. Tan pumps and stockings are to be worn all winter, and the woman who affects them will find that they and her mixed gray skirt are very much in harmony.

BLACK TAFFETA EFFECTIVE

Black taffeta is a very satisfactory material for separate skirts, and several very pretty styles are shown this year. One, a bit elaborate, but none the less useful and appropriate, is built of three large ruffles. Each of these ruffles is box pleated in front and side pleated all around, and is finished around the bottom with three rows of black velvet ribbon. The skirt is of round length, just touching the floor, and the whole effect is dainty and charming.

Another black taffeta skirt is made of nine gorse, a narrow pleat being laid on either side of each seam, with black applique overlapping the two pleats. These skirts look well on many occasions, and may be worn with a number of the different fancy blouses.

Some women think the contrast between all-white waists and black skirts

rather too decided for good taste. For them come the black net waists—all black or the black lace or net over white, which is distinctly a this year's feature, and the black and white plaid silk waists, which are promised a certain vogue this winter.

When a woman wears her black taffeta skirt over a fluffy white petticoat and in combination with one of these black net waists over white, and in addition dons a pair of black patent leather slippers adorned with tulle rosettes, she has achieved a very attractive costume for home wear.

Most charming of all the separate skirts, however, are the white ones—in voiles, albatross, cashmere and broadcloth. White, especially the soft, creamy white of those woolen materials, is becoming to most women, and there are very few home occasions when an all-white costume does not look well.

WHITE BROADCLOTH A LUXURY

A white broadcloth model shown this year has fine pleats in front and box pleats on the sides. These box pleats being finished with crosswise strapping, a silk skirt barely touches all around when the wearer has a chance to display her buckskin pumps and white stockings all winter. It is beautiful worn with white lace, net or silk blouse, but it is unfortunately an expensive beauty.

Every flock of flying dust, every chance bit of dirt or stain, even the cough of a finger smudges and marks the broadcloth, and then it must go to a professional cleaner. To be sure, mangle will soften down a spot that has not been ground in, and there are numerous systems of dry cleaning cropping up every day, but such matters in the hands of amateurs were ever of doubtful result.

So for the women who have not unlimited wealth at their command, voiles, cashmere or laidownes is a far better investment. All three materials are pretty, graceful and by no means as expensive in the beginning as broadcloth, and then they will wash, really wash in soap and water, and this is no mean item.

When one of these white skirts is to be made at home, either by the wearer herself or by an ordinary home seamstress, it is best to stick to the simpler styles of making. Too many box pleats are hard for the amateur to handle; moreover, their destruction is assured since they are turned over to the ordinary laundress.

The pattern used for the second of the taffeta skirts mentioned is a good one.

for the soft white skirt that is to be made at home. A nine-gored skirt is easy of construction and usually hangs well; the narrow pleats are not so troublesome to launder and the applique is by no means necessary, although it gives a pretty finish and may be bought in washable materials.

It goes without saying that these skirts are unlined. They look extremely well over a white taffeta petticoat, but if you are not so fortunate as to possess one, an elaborate affair of white ruffles and lawn, well supplied with ruffles of lace or embroidery, is really just as pretty.

One very important item for the home dressmaker to consider is the place where her skirt is to be fastened. Many women prefer a front opening for all their skirts, hiding the buttons under the box pleat or strapped seam, as the skirt may happen to be pleated or plain. Of course, this mode of fastening has its advantages, chief among them being that there is no risk of a sagging open placket unbecomingly showing when the woman who wears it is sitting down.

Habit backs are very broad but their effect is very much modified if you are careful to let the fulness of your skirt begin at precisely the same point when it is made with a habit back as it does when made with an inverted pleat. In any case, the joy of owning a pretty separate skirt that you can slip into as soon as you go into the house, is worth a little trouble.

BAGS" said a well-known actress tersely, when she was asked how she managed to arrive at the end of a long, dusty railroad journey with a fresh, uncrumpled wardrobe. "Bag! I use them for everything."

Now, there is also another tale of a man whose wife supplied him with bags of every sort and kind, which she insisted he should take with him when he went off on a short business trip. Being an accommodating husband, the man complied. His suit case was filled with bags—the collars, shirts, shoes and other trinkets of a like nature were left behind, because there was no room for them.

However, these are extreme cases. Unless you are a woman who spends two-thirds of her time in trains and hotels you do not need a multitude of bags, but if you want to keep your belongings in good order you must be the possessor of a few.

Laundry bags are an invention whose origin has been lost in obscurity; yet, despite this fact and their homely use, they are acceptable Christmas presents. Large ones for large pieces, built of blue or gray linen, simply embroidered; smaller ones in white or colored linen for handkerchiefs and collars—either has its place, but see to it that all your materials are washable.

Shopping bags are looked at askance by the younger generation, though they still find a place in the affections of women who were young a while ago, but their generous proportions suggest another use. A white linen suit is not a bit the worse for a white linen bag to cover it, and the flowered lawn affairs made in various sizes—to fit over a

blouse or over an entire party gown—should be highly prized by any woman.

A sponge bag is a necessity for traveling, and attractive ones may be made of linen or denim or crash, decorated as simply or elaborately as you please. A plain white rubber bag, whose cost is nominal, is used for the lining, of course.

A twin bag of soft gray or brown linen is very good as a Christmas gift. This bag has a deep heading and a casing, through which ribbon is run as a drawing string, the loops being used for hanging the bag. The bottom is gathered and sewed to a small ring, through which the twine is drawn out. This twine should be of a bright, contrasting color to complete the effect.

Every woman must have a work bag and some are glad to have two or three—for stockings, or fancy work, for the ordinary bit of sewing that she takes with her on the cozy afternoon she spends with a friend.

Purses makes an extremely pretty work bag. It may be embroidered in a contrasting color or the ribbons used as draw strings may be depended upon to give the relieving tints. Flowered silks are pretty, but not so durable. Crotonite makes an attractive darning bag.

Then there are white linen bags to hold the smaller pieces of soiled table linen; bags that are a little more than cases to hold handkerchiefs and veils for the unusual woman who always keeps her top drawer in order. There is the tiny envelope bag whose flap is supplied with a buttonhole and button to hold the woman who carries her money around her neck.

The Right Plates for Your Plate Racks

PLATE-RACKS tell many a sad tale of taste—or, rather, of the lack of it! One's collection, made by a series of Christmas contributions, may consist of many and varied pieces on the subject, but the plates displayed around a wall should be simple and dignified in style—anything that is garish or pretentious is to be avoided. The corner of a closet, or entrusted to the hands of a servant who has made herself famous for her "outbreaks in China."

Seriously, though, that plate-rack is either a bit of attractive decoration, or an inharmonious something which spoils the whole room, no matter how carefully every other part of the furnishings have been chosen.

So-called "handsome" pieces are to be avoided. They are usually conspicuous in every sense of the word—a confusion of color and design without a single really attractive feature about them. They are usually expensive—these monstrosities in the shape of gift-plates, for surely nobody ever went so far as to buy one to live with! Less expensive plates are passed over purposely, in spite of the fact that their dignity of style and an exquisite simplicity of coloring make for the prettiest sort of decoration.

Avoid those pieces which are gay with a profusion of highly colored roses, perhaps made still more striking (?) by a broad band of green—the strong, insistent shades of the fields and trees in midsummer—touching off (leave the marks) with irresponsible splashes of gilt. They cost, probably, a dollar and a half, and make, as one woman said, with unconscious irony, "Such a showing for your money." That plate went as a Christmas present to a woman whose dining room was a combination of soft tapestry green and rich, though dull, old red.

For fifty cents there was a pretty plate at which the purchaser had sniffed contemptuously—just a simple white around the edge with a small, graceful medallion of gold in the center to set it off.

There's one rule that is worth remembering in choosing such plates; and that is, to choose only simple designs and colorings, unless you do, as one woman did, make a hobby of collecting plates of a certain country or kind, and "went in" for Chinese plates, and used only the pretty variations of modulation and its kindred wares, with the result that her plate-rack was "interesting" in its Orientalism. Another woman, whose dining room—the whole house, in fact—was a copy of quaint old English styles, used only old pieces of English make on her rack, picking them up one at a time.

Endless possibilities suggest themselves as you study the subject, ever so little—possibilities which express so well the very character of the owners of a home. But don't use a plate-rack to show off "handsome" pieces. Make every plate, instead, harmonious with every other plate and with the general character of the room. That sort of choosing makes the difference between the right and wrong plates in a collection.

Novel Pincushions for Christmas

A PINCUSHION is a very necessary adjunct to the average woman's dressing table, and she is especially appreciative if the one before her is novel. Christmas is made in some novel form.

Brooches that are worn often are generally kept somewhere within easy reach, and they are preserved in better condition if their ordinary resting place is a wash leather cushion instead of a china or metal pin tray.

To make this novel pincushion, use a round cushion covered with wash leather for your centre and sew to it a four flap of velvet, heavy silk or any other material that you choose, lining each flap with the wash leather. Stick your brooches into the centre cushion and fold the flaps over. The two that fold on top are tied together with ribbon.

Bags for Christmas Holidays

MAKING ODD CORNERS ATTRACTIVE



Triangular Closets Built in the Corners

An Attractive Corner Bench

By Dorothy Tuke

CORNER corners are fast going out, as people are realizing that they are not sanitary. But though they had their faults, there was certainly a charm about them, and they well deserved to be arranged in an attractive little spot, at almost any sort, the corner is the best place to choose for it. There will always be cozy corners, but of a different sort to the old-fashioned, heavily draped ones.

The corners of every room should be made attractive. Given this can be done by putting pieces of furniture across the corner, for if the corner is broken in this way it gives a pleasing room effect to the room.

A very pretty corner seat is shown in the illustrations. This was made by a young bride of limited means. The wooden seat she painted white to match the rest of the woodwork in the room. She then fastened green denim behind the seat and finished it off at the top by nailing up a piece of white picture moulding. She made the cushion of cheap hat and covered it with the green denim. On the picture moulding she arranged little cups and saucers, which give a pretty little touch of color. She made a few cushions for the seat from remnants she picked up in the stores for a few cents. So she is now the proud possessor of a delightful corner seat which, owing to her capability, cost almost nothing.

Another odd little effect I have seen

is directly in the corner, a small home-made bookrack with a piece of pottery on top. Before this is a small oval home-made rug. This rug is made by plating three strips of denim together and then sewing the plaited round and round to form an oval. On the window sill is a plant which stands on a pretty and unique stand. It is just a pretty tile, with rich blue and green coloring which is framed with a plain black picture moulding. On the other side of the bookshelf hangs a clever little device for holding

newspapers. It is made from an oyster broiler. The broiler was glued, pieces of cardboard were covered with green linen and tacked to the broiler, while a bow of green ribbon holds the handles about three inches apart to allow room for the newspapers.

Attractive corners can always be made around an open fireplace. One of the illustrations shows a corner of this sort. The ironing table, which flanks the fireplace on one side, was picked up at an old junk shop for 75 cents. It was painted dark green. This seat finds its way to the porch in summer, but makes a drowsy seat in winter. The treatment of the corner was in two colors, green. The woodwork is black. The chairs for the most part are black, with green leather seat, while the desk and ironing chair are painted green. The effect of this room is decidedly bold and striking, without being in the least unattractive or gaudy.

This was a clever idea, for it not only greatly improved the room by taking away the sharp corners, but the reflection of the light from the window onto the hooded glass doors, lighted the room considerably.

Every home maker must think out how to arrange her corners for herself, for the more individual they are the better; the house that has odd little corners here and there will surely be cozy and comfortable, and one that is admired.

Home-Made Candy as Christmas Gifts

MANY persons prefer candy that is made at home to the most expensive that can be bought. If you know an individual of this sort and want to send him a timely present at Christmas and at the same time pay deference to his taste, a box of home-made candy attractively gotten up will exactly meet your requirements.

Save the boxes that come your way—for candy, and invest in some colored tissue paper and ribbon.

These boxes may be covered with the tissue paper (giving particular care to the lining, which would best be white), and decorated with paper flowers and foliage. If you are clever with your fingers, these last may be home-made also, otherwise they may be bought for

a small sum. The box thus constructed is filled with fudge, caramels or whatever the particular goodie may be and then tied up with ribbon.

A round box covered with violet paper and adorned with a bunch of violets is very attractive; a square one in red with a bunch of roses equally so. One box covered in the red paper by a spray full of ideas was finished with a girl of holly, which gave it the distinctive Christmas air.

If you are a devotee of the art of basket-making you can vary your Christmas boxes by weaving baskets in any desired shape, supplying them with covers and lining them with lace paper doilies in white or silver. These baskets are exceedingly pretty tied up with bright-colored ribbon, a spray of holly or mistletoe slipped through the loops of the bow.