

The Short Jacket Combines With the Full Flare Skirt

The Christmas spirit pervades the air. The shops are filled with toys and gifts of all descriptions and for the nonce fashion is forgotten, at least almost. But by gazing around among the shops one sees a few things displayed hoping to catch the eyes of the practical giver.

The one-piece frocks which are so smart this year are to be seen in various styles. The dress of serge is serviceable and stylish, and one I saw not long ago was made simply and in such good style that I shall describe it. The waist was very plain, close-fitting, but not tight, and buttoned from the top of the high collar to the waistline with round bone buttons concave in the center with four visible holes with which to sew it to the dress. The sleeves were set into a small armhole and were long and also close-fitting, the same kind of buttons only smaller being used on the sleeves from elbow to wrist. The skirt was close-fitting at the hips and flaring at the lower edge and buttoned down the center-front. Around the waist was worn a sash of the same colored satin, which wound around the waist once and tied loosely directly in the front.



The Plain Short Coat with Military Collar and Conservatively Full Skirt

In a selection of a suit the woman who will wear it, alone should be the judge of the style, but she should beware of the over-long or over-short coat and skirt, for extremes in fashion are never in good taste. The styles are new and smart—if the skirt were narrow, which they most certainly are not, the silhouette would be exactly as it has been for months, but the arbiters of fashion have widened the hems, taken width from the hips, eliminated drapery and given us straightlines from the nape of the neck to the turn of our heels, broken only by fulness below the knee. The very short walking skirt promises to be good; it is delightfully convenient and comfortable fashion, but it can be over-done in a most conspicuous way. A woman with large hips or a mature figure will not look well in the style, and the thin, angular woman will do well to carefully watch every eighth of an inch that is taken off or put on the hem of her dress.

The newest styles shown for the suit are the full skirts, with the short jackets. One suit which I have used as an illustration is made of dark-brown broadcloth. The jacket is short and made with a wide belt, which always helps to give it the fashionable boxed appearance. Except for the buttons the entire suit is made of the broadcloth alone without ornamentation.

Another version of the short coat and full skirt combined is shown in the second illustration which is of blue velour. The short jacket has a shaped belt on the lower edge which comes to a point on either hip. This is braided, but the cuffs and revers and collar are of the same material as the

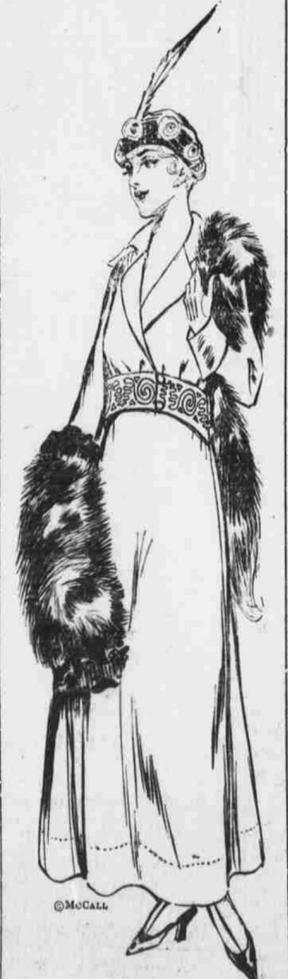
rest of the suit. The skirt is circular, plain-fitting around the waist and flaring at the bottom.

Blue serge and garbardine seem to be the most popular choice of all fabrics, and it is unquestioned that they are by far the most serviceable of all materials. In serge the fine small rib is first style. It is smartest for a dressy costume because it is fine and smooth and will lend itself readily to the more elaborate style of suit. Serges with a heavier rib or a wider wale are more suitable for the plainer and more severe types. Garbardine is a very strong favorite also, and is one of the smartest of materials. It is made of a novelty than a plain serge and promises to be tremendously popular for spring. Any style suit can be made of it, for the character of the material gives it a great deal of style. Then there is what is known as the garbardine voile, a finer weave of this same material, for those who prefer a lighter weight in cloth.

Fine Ottoman cords are quite a smart novelty in woolen fabrics and narrow faille weaves, the same as in the silk, and are very new and distinctive. A number of etamine cloths are shown. The weave of these cloths are shown of closer and finer quality than we have had in past years and it will doubtless be a big success.

For dressy frocks there is satin galore—some of it with wonderful high luster and some with a dull cire effect. Faille silk in both wide and narrow cords will be much worn for street costumes. There is a beautiful silk known as "pout de soie"; it is the same weave as faille, but is crisp to the touch, like taffeta silk. In diagonal weave these are very smart when combined with satin. Moire with a marking that is scarcely visible is also shown. Taffetas as soft as chiffon are used for three-piece costumes.

Trimming for the suit of course will depend upon the individual who wears it. There are flat silk Hercules braids in all widths and applied in almost every way. A smart finish for a suit is a binding of medium-width braid particularly one of the plainer type. For a dressy costume, black soutache braid in fancy design with hand-embroidery in heavy black floss is most effective. Buttons are stunning and are used in great profusion. Pockets play an important part this season and are to be found on all costumes from tailor made to evening gowns. Silk costumes are trimmed with con-There are only touches of hand work trasting materials mostly, and wonderfully smart combinations are seen, and a few exquisitely soft sashes. Buttons of every conceivable style and most unusual designs are worn.



Another Version of the Short Jacket And the Plain Flare Skirt

For evening and dance frocks the materials are exquisite and simply beggar description. The thinnest and softest of chiffon is trimmed with tulle and fine crystal beads, and there are whole frocks of fine silk net in the most beautiful shades. Liberty satin is greatly used and fine faille in

delicate colors is soft and easily draped. Frosty looking taffetas that are crisp, but very soft, are beautiful when combined with the filet laces that are outlined with delicate silver threads. Satins in two tones are very smart and are very new. Bands of paillette are used on net and fringes of crystal and silver beads are very new. Bodices of silver or metal thread materials are made with skirts of deep lace flouncing, and any other desirable material can be substituted.

Flowers, notably small pink roses and gardenias are worn as corsage ornaments and give quite a touch to the gown. Slippers are worn to match gowns, but white and flesh-pink are generally the most popular colors, for they combine well with all the evening shades. They are ornamented with small flat bows. A few of them have novelty buckles, but most of them are plain.

Chiffons in novelty designs with huge flowers strewn over the surface are worn as a scarf, the colors harmonizing with that of the gown. Tulle in soft colors makes an exquisite finish in a scarf for evening wear.

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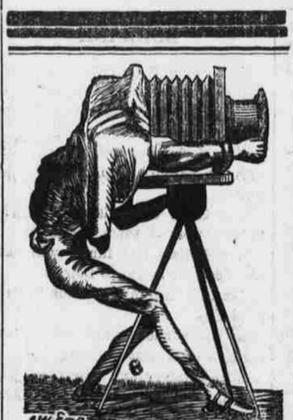
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