

LATEST PARIS FASHIONS

PRACTICAL AND PICTURESQUE GOWNS FOR THE SPRING OUTFIT



Black and White Check Cloth Wrap
Photo by Reutlinger—Maison Riva



Aubergine Gown with Soutache Braiding
Photo by Reutlinger Maison Riva



Silk Crepe Dinner Gown
Photo by Reutlinger
Maison Bechoff



Gray Satin Gown with Silver and Jet Embroidery
Photo by Reutlinger
Maison Redfern



Black Silk Voile Dinner Gown
Photo by Reutlinger
Maison Bechoff



Blue Cheviot Street Gown
Photo by Reutlinger
Maison Bernard



Blue Cheviot Street Gown
Photo by Reutlinger
Maison Bernard



Blue Silk Costume Trimmed with Gold and Green
Photo by Reutlinger—Maison Riva



Gray Cloth Wrap Embroidered with Gold
Maison Bechoff

lacks style and smartness. This season there are two or three designs that are bound to be generally popular, for they combine coat and cloak, and while large enough to completely cover the gown are not too heavy or cumbersome. The black and white check designs in medium size are for the moment fashionable and are effective when trimmed only with plain black satin.

The evening gown at this time of year must also receive careful consideration. To be sure, there may be several of the evening gowns of the winter that are still fresh enough to pass muster, and most emphatic is the law that rules not to keep gowns from one season to another, but to wear them out, yet where the same gown has been worn many times it always needs some careful freshening and renovating, and that means the spending of time and money, and so why not instead have a dainty new gown made, one that will be on the more simple order and better suited for the less formal entertainments of Lent and summer? Consequently just at this season are to be seen many of the daintiest and smartest

Of all times of the year the early spring is the most bewildering as regards the dress problem. If the summer plans are definitely settled then the question of what to provide for the summer outfit is not nearly so puzzling as when there are many opinions as to whether seashore or inland shall be chosen; whether the trip abroad shall be taken early or late or whether the season shall be spent at some gay watering place or places; or whether there shall be a comparatively quiet time in one's country place.

Fashion demands so many different changes of dress for the woman who is devoted to society and to whom society is so devoted that invitations are showered upon her. She must look smartly gowned at all times, and to fulfil that requirement necessitates keeping constantly well ahead of the times. Just at the moment the winter wardrobe, generally speaking, needs replenishing. This has been a long season, as is always the case when Ash Wednesday falls on so late a date. Even the most complete of outfits has felt the long strain. It is not considered smart to put on spring gowns too early—only the Southern trip permits of that—and yet the winter street gowns, for instance, are quite too old friends.

This is the season when the plainer tailor made gown is planned, and no matter how many gowns are required there is always room for it. Later the more elaborate styles will take its place, but now the serge or cheviot, simply made, is in great demand, and there is much rivalry over the different models. Both plain and figured chevots are fashionable, and there was never known such a variety of colors and patterns. Black, dark blue and dark purple, in quite a new shade, are all smart, and there are several new weaves that give a two tone effect, but so cleverly blended that at first glance it seems to be all the one color.

Braid and Buttons Still Popular.

Braid, buttons and satin folds and facings are still the favorite trimmings, but too much trimming is considered most undesirable, and the smartest gowns rely entirely upon the perfection of their cut and finish for the individuality which makes them so noticeable. They are not exaggerated in design. The waist line is placed, or indicated, in a more rational position, and while every effort is made to make the wearer appear as slight as possible there is enough material used in the skirts to prevent the hideous appearance of scantiness of material and too tight fitting a garment. All the new street skirts are wider around the hem, and while they cannot be correctly termed wide they give enough room to walk comfortably. There are among the newest models several that have pleats, but these pleats are inserted well below the hips, for there is still the preference in favor of the long, narrow and as nearly flat figure as possible.

Last autumn some few of the leading dressmakers in Paris exhibited among their smartest designs a tailor gown with coat so long that it entirely covered the gown over which it was worn. This coat was tight fitting at the back and sides and gave a narrow straight front effect. It recalled to memory the polonaise of olden days and was in its first appearance not greeted with much enthusiasm, as it was almost too severe and too striking to be becoming to any but the favored few. The same style appears this spring, but with such modifications as will be in favor of its popularity. A woman with a good figure looks well in such a costume, and consequently it behooves every woman to become possessed of a good figure—not so difficult a task in these days, when such wonders in figure building are being achieved. Serge rather than cloth is chosen for these long coats, and they are invariably made most simply, trimmed only with braid—and not too much braid—and buttons. A white tie or jabot may soften what to many would be the too masculine severity, but the beauty and style of the garment are shown in perfect workmanship. It is a fashion that, while apparently easy to copy, requires most careful treatment. If rightly rendered it is extremely smart and becoming, but badly carried out it is too much like a loose house gown.

Wraps and coats are necessary to comfort in the cool days of early spring and in fact all summer are in use, for driving and motoring especially. A smart wrap is not easy to find, for as a rule a loose wrap

of simple evening gowns that are most attractive. Crêpe de Chine, silk voile and chiffon are popular materials and black is a popular color, generally made up, unless in mourning, over white or color. There is nothing heavy in the appearance of these gowns; filmy lace and embroidery take the place of the heavier and more costly trimmings that have been identified with more elaborate dress and there is every effort made to give individuality and distinction to the simplicity. Elbow and long sleeves both are in favor for these simple gowns, but the elbow sleeve tight fitting is as a rule more becoming. There is still the high waist line, but never an exaggerated line, in these most conservative and dignified little gowns.

New Lingerie Frocks.

CHARMING indeed are many of the new lingerie frocks which are being made for wear at the Southern resorts and which will also be useful when summer comes. A most fascinating costume of this sort which has just been imported has a high Empire skirt of very thin linen embroidered with a simple all-over design. Around the foot the skirt has a very deep band of elaborate embroidery which is finished in deep scallops. Beneath this there are two narrow ruffles of the material of the gown, which is more like linen batiste than linen proper. From the top of the skirt to the band of embroidery around the foot there are narrow panels of plain linen with rows of embroidery on either side.

The bodice of this gown is cut with a round neck, a little low. There is a simulated yoke formed of vertical tucks and trimmed with three bands of narrow embroidery carried around the yoke at equal intervals. Beneath this yoke the bodice is quite full.

A feature which makes it appear possible that the summer gowns will not all be so plain and tight about the figure as those of the present mode is the bretelles of horizontally tucked material, with a ruffle at the side and trimmed with two bands of embroidery. These are quite like the suspenders of by-gone fame in their effect.

The sleeves of this gown are fascinating. They are not very tight fitting, although they are without fineness. They are of a little more than elbow length, ending with three frills around the lower edge. They are trimmed with bands of embroidery tucking and tiny frills set on horizontally.

Another equally charming white linen gown is in a princess effect, but so much trimmed that the plainness usually connected with the princess idea is entirely lacking.

The front panel is made of fine tucked linen with horizontal bands of Valenciennes lace strapping the entire panel from neck to hem. There is a small square chemisette and high collar of the Valenciennes. Broad bands of heavy embroidery are brought from the shoulders down each side of the front panel. At the bottom of the skirt these bands are connected by a crosspiece of the embroidery.

The entire back of the gown is handsomely embroidered. From just below the armhole the back and side are panelled by delicate embroidered vines which extend to the cross trimming of the skirt. Heavy embroidery constitutes this cross trimming, which is carried from one front panel to the other around the back of the skirt just above the knees. The garment fastens under the side panel and is perfectly tight fitting down to this cross trimming. Beneath this there is a fuller skirt elaborately embroidered and extending into a fair sized train. The sleeves of this costume are long and close fitting. The upper part is made of fine tucked linen trimmed with bands of lace. Beneath this upper sleeve, which extends below the elbow, there is a tight undersleeve of Valenciennes, fastening at the side with a frill, and which reaches well over the hand.

Blouses for Tailored Skirts.

WITH the new tailor skirts which are made in one piece to come above the normal waist line or else have high fitted belts fancy blouses will be much worn, and these will match or harmonize with the rest of the costume, to give it the appearance of a whole dress. It is so much more satisfactory to wear something soft under one's tailor coat that the separate waist is practically indispensable.

A favorite design where tucked or dotted net is to form the foundation of the waist has an insertion about an inch in width laid on in three rows from shoulder to girdle top with an extra piece going down the centre. The top of the waist is cut out in a square with an edging of insertion, and a yoke of finely tucked, plain chiffon is inset. Tight little Directoire bows trim the front of the collar and bottom of the yoke. One could have at least two different styles of waists to go with a tailor suit, as this part of a costume is always the first to show wear and soil. Besides, an extra blouse helps to reconcile one to a suit which has to do long service.

Embroidered buttons edge the top of one tailor skirt which is made with a high waisted effect, and there is another row of the same buttons crossing the bust where the band joins a set of braces. Between the two rows of buttons the cloth is left slightly full and the lace underblouse can be seen at the sides as well as above. The design suggests an apron, yet when the combination is put together it makes an attractive gown. A part of the lace blouse worn with this cloth skirt and straps was covered solidly with a soutache pattern, while the sleeves were of the plain net laid in tucks.