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EC67-447 Accessories Express Individuality

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ACCESSORIES

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Accessories Express Individuality

By Jane Munson
Area Extension Agent (Home Economics)

Mirror, mirror, on the wall!
Tell me, tell me, tell me all!

Accessories express the personality and taste of each individual, so every woman needs to carefully select accessories that will label her attractively and appropriately dressed.

Accessories can add life and interest to an otherwise dull costume. A woman should desire accessories, understand them -- and take action!

DESIRING TO BE WELL ACCESSORIZED

Accessories worn with an outfit are among the most important elements of a woman's appearance.

If on a limited clothing budget, accessories can do much toward dressing up a wardrobe.

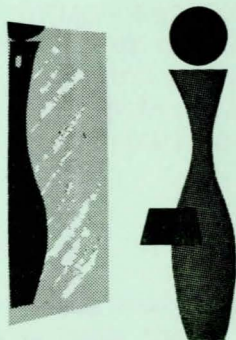
UNDERSTANDING ACCESSORIES AND YOU

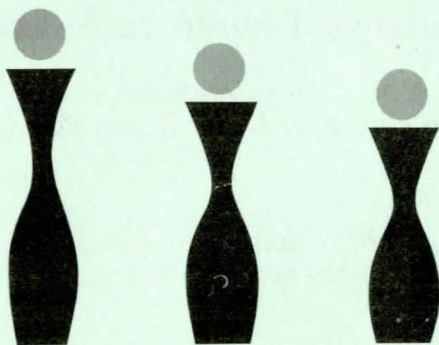
Analysis of Self

Size and Shape

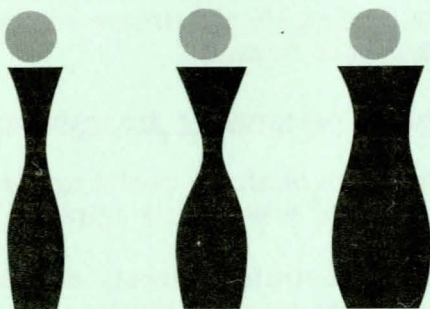
The well-dressed woman selects accessories in scale with her size. She also selects those that will highlight the good points of her figure.

Stand in front of a full-length mirror to analyze your size, shape and proportion.

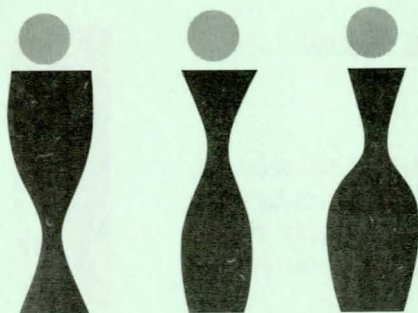




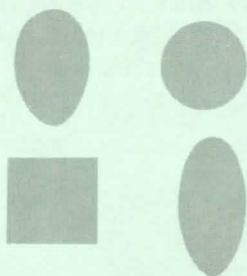
*Are you tall, average or short?



*Are you slender, average or stout?



*Are you top heavy, bottom heavy or
about equal in proportion?



*Is your face oval, round, square or long?

Very few figures are perfect so accept your faults and plan to minimize them by wearing the right clothes and by using the right accessories. Remember—everyone has some good features.

Activities



Since women are active in many roles, such as wife, mother and friend—attending dinner parties, sport events, church meetings and shopping—accessories should vary so they will be appropriate for each outfit and each occasion. Other guiding factors will be the people with whom you associate and the community in which you live.

Analysis of Quality

Purchasing better quality accessories will repay you in the satisfaction you receive as you wear them. Price does not always determine good design or lasting beauty, however, but low quality accessories will tend to cheapen your appearance and may spoil an otherwise lovely outfit.

Faddish accessories are fun to buy and to wear, and since they last only a short time in the fashion cycle, they can be inexpensively purchased.

Analysis of Accessories

Purses ... should be functional as well as decorative. A handbag of simple basic design, scaled to your size, will be appropriate and serviceable the year round.

Consider the width, thickness and length of each purse and how you will carry it.

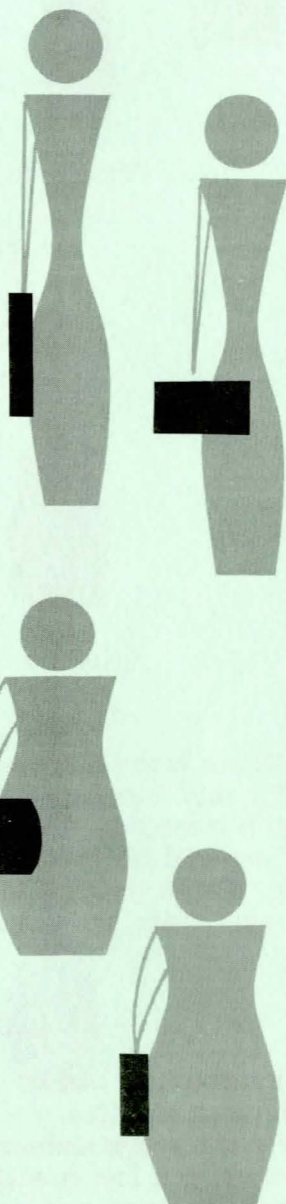
Horizontally-shaped bags will make the hips appear wider if carried down in this area.

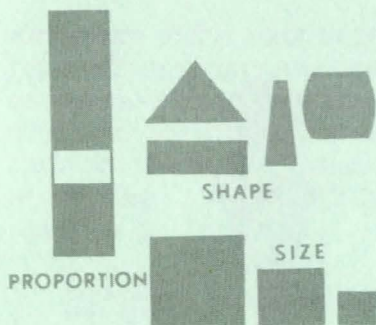
If you are slender, avoid tall slim and short broad bags as the first style emphasizes height through repetition and the second through direct contrast.

Avoid barrel or box shaped purses if you are short and stocky. Styles with up-and-down lines are a better choice.

Purses are available in a wide range of materials, colors, sizes and styles. Remember that smooth-textured leathers show wear more quickly than rough-textured ones.

Bags for dressy occasions may be softer in design and of more elegant material than those selected for daily use.





Your handbag is only a part of your total costume so look in a full-length mirror, holding the bag as you will carry it. Study its proportion, shape and color to see that it blends harmoniously with your complete ensemble before going out into the public eye.

Hats ... should be tried on in front of a mirror and looked at from all sides. Do not buy a hat unless it does something for you. Your hat can be the main focal point, the blending element, or the punctuation to your costume, so select the hat that gives you the appearance you wish to portray to others.

Use a hat to change the apparent shape of your face, if that is your desire.

For a round, full face, hats with brims turned up on one side or brims that tilt give a feeling of height.

If you have a long thin face, hats with wide, irregular brims would be an excellent choice.

A tiny sailor or pillbox type hat will look attractive on a small face.

Remember the rest of your figure size, also, as you select a hat. Large hats tend to weigh down and dominate a small person and small hats tend to make a large person appear larger.

According to custom, straw hats are worn from February through August; velvet from August to February; fur from October to March; and felt, tulle and veiling all year long.

White felt can be worn the year round and will harmonize with almost every type of ensemble, depending on its style. But nothing in fashion is stable, so be aware of current styles and trends!

Gloves ... are one of the most unnoticable accessories when you are wearing them but their absence is most apparent when you have left them at home or in your purse.

Gloves vary in length from the shorty-type to the long, formal type which extends to the elbow. The length you choose depends on the size of your hands and wrists, as well as the style of the sleeve of your costume and the occasion.

A two-button length glove rather than a very short style would be a better choice if the hands are large and chubby.

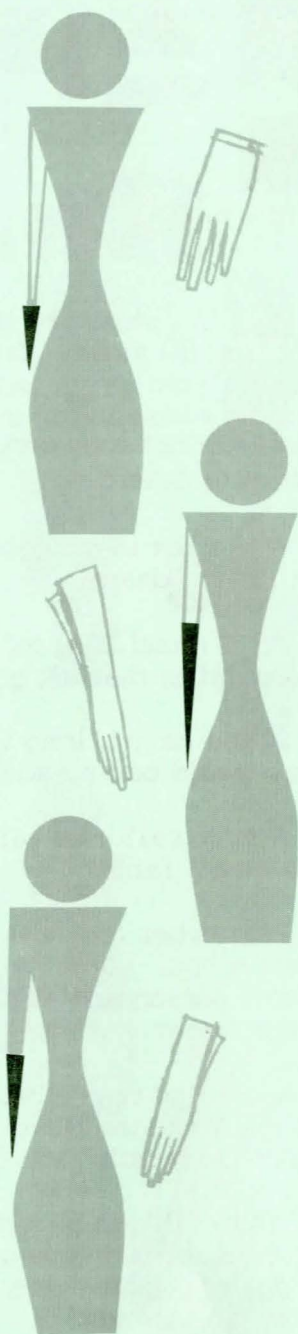
Basic rules to follow when deciding on glove length are:

- * with short sleeves or no sleeves: select very long or very short gloves.
- * with three-quarter length sleeves: select gloves long enough to meet the sleeve.

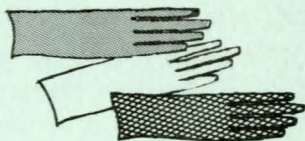
The overall rule of color choice is to match or contrast the gloves with the outfit to be worn but to never be conspicuous.

Black, white, light gray and beige are always in fashion and can be worn with almost any color.

If you are matching your gloves to a garment, select lighter or darker shades in the same color family or use the same color but contrast the textures. When you



are unsure of the color or texture, put a different color and texture on each hand with your outfit. Stand with one side to the mirror, then turn to study the other side. Select the glove that looks the best.



Shoes ... can add the pleasant, cheery smile or the grouchy voice and frown to an otherwise well-dressed look. Proper fit, good construction and appropriate style are important features.

Light and bright colored shoes call attention to the feet and make them appear larger. Crosswise straps tend to shorten and widen the foot. The most versatile shoe design, suited to most costumes and activities, is the plain pump in the mid or high heel.

Black patent pumps can be worn with almost any outfit except for the very casual and they harmonize with most colors, including white, navy and brown. Shoes made of lizard, alligator and similar skins are for more casual wear.



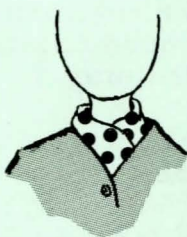
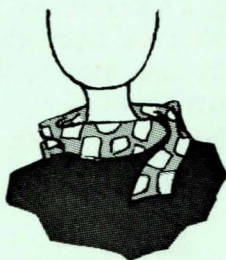
Jewelry ... when correctly chosen can give an air of elegance. When more than one piece of jewelry is worn, the pieces should be related in texture and style. For example, gold and silver, unless combined in the same design, would not be worn together.

Jewelry, as other accessories, should be in proportion to the figure. Pins worn toward the center and high on the figure, just below the neck, give the illusion of height; while those worn out on the shoulder tend to add width. Roundness in jewelry can make

the face or figure appear more round, while pieces with an up-and-down line will give the illusion of height.

Scarves ... must be carefully chosen to add beauty to one's costume. A perky scarf worn at the neck in some unusual way adds color and interest. A scarf can fill in the neck area of a suit, fall from the shoulder, either both ends in front or back or separated--one end on each side.

Scarf fashion as to size and how it can be worn changes from season to season, so watch magazines, advertisements and store displays for what is new.



TAKE ACTION

The compliment, "How nice you look," when given sincerely will raise anyone's spirits. You will earn this compliment if you work for it.

First, critically study your wardrobe. Garments not worn during their last season, those that are too large or too small, and those you do not like should be disposed of.

Second, study those remaining with the accessories you have. Either put on each complete outfit or group an outfit together on the bed. Then answer these questions: Do the accessories blend and harmonize with the dress, suit or coat? Do the accessories add that needed "touch?" Are they in proportion to your figure size and shape? Are the colors becoming to you?

Third, look at what you have left, then carefully select each new accessory purchased. Good leather bags, shoes and gloves are marks of a well-dressed person and should be considered as investments that not only outlast several cheaper ones but also look well while they are lasting.

The ability to select an attractive ensemble takes time and effort; it seldom comes naturally.