

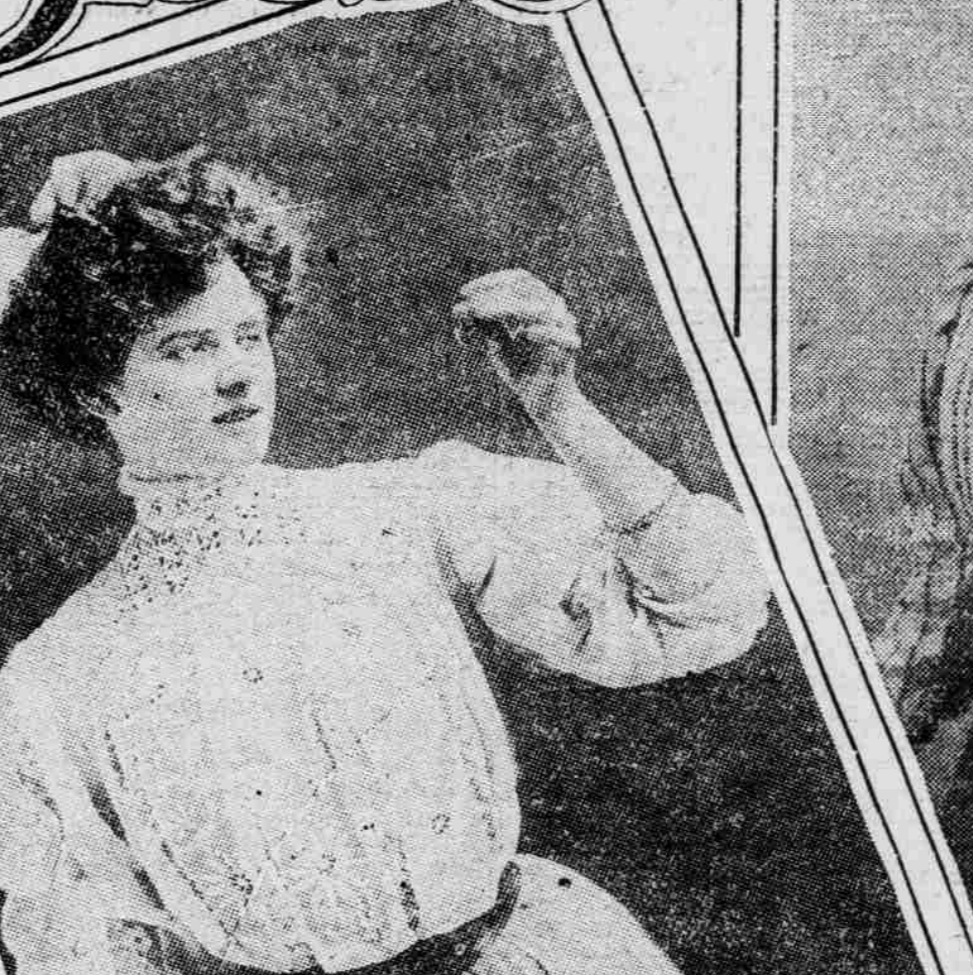
# Various Phases of the Separate Blouse



BY LACE MELANGE



PLAIDS MAKE POPULAR TRIMMINGS



THE TAILORED STYLE



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The Plain Tailored Shirt is Prominent—Men's Shirts Much in Vogue—Clever Touches of Novelty—Dressy Examples Become More and More Extravagant—Fine Net Blouses Be Extravagant—Fine Net Blouses With Colored Slips Beneath—Stiff Collars and Cuffs Are Back Again—The Matter of Neck Dressings—The Centure a Vexed Question.

With the return of the severely plain tailor-made for autumn wear the equally plain and severe tailored shirtwaist—the smart dressers refer to it as a short, and have it made by a masculine shirtmaker—is thrusting itself quite into the fore-front of things.

It is not very different, this plain and severe shirtwaist, from what it has been in the past. Pretty much the same lines and the same materials appear, although the search for some welcome little novelty in the produce by way of relief goes on unabated.

One sees the perfectly plain cut, with no more fullness to it than a man's shirt, upon which it is modeled. Others again, equally "tailor-made" in appearance, present a number of pleats as a relief, and yokes are relied upon to break the monotony of style.

Linens in high favor for such purposes, both the heavy German weave and the fine round-thread linens of Irish manufacture. The old reliable standbys, the cotton chevrons—now there is introduced a cotton serge as well as some of the delectable damasés gingham and the usual imported Scotch shirtings, are all on view, as well as some of the delectable damasés effects in either white or delicate tints, with a tiny figure in a contracting color printed on the surface at far intervals.

Those latter goods have attracted the most favorable attention in spite of their price—they are some \$2 a yard in the 30-inch widths. Orders have been given to one smart shirtmaker—he makes for men chiefly, but does not score the orders of feminine patrons by any means—for half-dozen of these, in different tints, and the monogram of the owner to be wrought in cotton threads the color of the figure that appears in the design. For example, a pale pink is damasé in a moire surface, and at far intervals there is a tiny fleur-de-lis, conventionalized, of course, in a soft almond green. The monogram is worked on the little watch pocket in a green cotton the same tints as the damasé, contrasting prettily with the delicate pink that makes the background. With such shirts there are stocks and belts made up to match, although the use of white linen stocks and belts, embroidered in silk, is countenanced by clever dressers.

The colored blouses that are undeniably giving the white waists a taste for premier place in fashionable ranks. Passing to the more elaborate style of blouse, where that much overworked word "lingerie" is used descriptively, if not expressively, it is to be noted that recent importations in these are invariably fashioned with a full-length sleeve and a most elaborate finish, that hangs far down over the hand, reaching well to the knuckles at least. On this side we are clinging to the comfortable, if not always slightly, elbow sleeves, and manufacturers are going on gaily putting in this abbreviated arm-covering in all but the plainest of shirtwaists. The moment that even a hint of lace or elaboration gets on a blouse the sleeve gets chopped off short and it joins the procession of lingerie waists.

Just at this writing, in the lull that comes between the close of one season and the opening of the other, one can find exquisite examples of embroideries of all sorts wherewith to manufacture charming little blouses. There are pattern waists, one on the finest of hankiechief linen, on both cotton and linen batiste and some on sheer nainsook. Technically they are known as French embroideries, but the most of them are of Irish origin, where the peasantry are skilled, in needlework of more kinds than the tourist ever sees or the summer "trippier" discovers. Just now these may be purchased for a fraction of what was demanded for them a few short weeks ago, and with an illustration to work from even a seamstress of moderate skill can make them up in short order. Odd lengths, too, of embroideries and laces are being offered at the most tempting prices. One woman whose taste is as boundless as her purse is slender takes her seamstress along when bound on a bargain tour. The little needlewoman discovers possibilities in many a piece that her employer would pass unnoticed, and the result is that the woman is envied by her acquaintances for the number, style and originality of her possessions in the separate waist line.



THE DAINY GIPSY WAIST

The big shops, and the little ones, too, for that matter, are showing the new waists as yet, except to a few favored customers. The stockrooms, however, are piled up with pieces of prettiness that will appeal tremendously later on. For one thing, there are some few little points in the construction of the new models that differ from what the summer season saw. Collars are higher, as though to emphasize the fact that the St. Cecilia, or Dutch neck has been laid away with the summer kums and sunburn and freckles. Sleeves, as already noted, are noticeable long in the imported models, and there is quite a marked difference in cut. The underarm seam is made to slope towards the front, and there is not nearly so much material at the waistline as the maker put into the summer models. The effect is one that conforms far better to the new figure, wherein the bust line is accentuated, the waist made to seem smaller and rounder than it did in the preceding corset lines.

And speaking of the waist brings up the subject of belts. It is to be noted that all the best makers are furnishing their patrons with belts to match the blouse. The order has gone forth that a long and slender waist is to be the thing, and the centure to match the waist aids in creating the effect. Where the belt matches the skirt—a fashion that we have followed for quite sometime—the figure is inevitable foreshortened, on matter how much sloped and pointed or how cleverly the belt may be cut. But with the belt matching the waist, in color if not in material, just the opposite result is achieved, and the figure made

to look just so much taller and more slender. In those dainty little blouses that are intended to express some degree of dressiness in their wear extravagance seems to run riot. Many of the most attractive ones are merely a melange of lace, real where the purse will afford it, or as goodly imitations, as may be where economy is an object. No; that machine-made laces are always inexpensive, there are some of them that are quite as costly as many real laces. Two, three and even four kinds of lace, if well selected, may enter into the construction of a simple little blouse, and, in addition, an effective scrap or two of embroidery will not be amiss to accentuate the design.

Handwork, wherever possible, is to be preferred, although there are machines and attachments nowadays that make the work of embroideries seem slow and costly by comparison, and oftentimes it is well nigh impossible to tell the one from the other. Transparent, or at the most semitransparent, materials are the preferred ones, and there are some charming little slips in delicate colorings to be worn beneath. One can purchase ready-made slips in China silk for a mere trifle, but the fastidious will much prefer to have such made from the chiffon double- or chiffon cloth, as it is called—and just as carefully fitted to the figure as a skilled dressmaker can manage.

The more expensive the blouse, the better it clings to the figure. There is absolutely no puffing or sagging at the waist, no "pouch" above the belt, in the latest French productions. In many of them the pleats that are necessary to confine the fullness at the waist are made after the manner of darts and the material cut away beneath so that every unnecessary inch of bulk or bulkiness is done away with.

In all manner of waists the yoke is making itself quite conspicuous. It appears in linen, in lace, in chiffon, in silk, and usually it is of the shallowest in the front and back and so built as to extend well over the sleeve seam on the shoulders, and so aid in the broad-shoulder line that is so flattering to the seeming size of one's waist.

The real lace mitten will undoubtedly become an imperative part of the autumn and winter bride's wedding costume. Many of the most noted brides of the summertime followed this old-time fashion, much to the relief of the groom, the clergyman, the maid of honor and all generally concerned. That awkward pause while the bride surrenders her bouquet to the maid of honor and tugs at a glove that is nine times out of ten, a size or so too small for her while the officiating clergyman is waiting to put the almighty ring on her finger, is altogether obviated in the wearing of the lace mitten. With the short sleeve the lace arm covering is in better taste, especially when one can secure a lace to match that of the gown and the fingers are free to receive the ring without any preliminary fuss or confusion. Many of the summer's brides wore at their weddings—during the sixties and the early seventies, when real lace mittens, veil and parasol covers were a part of every genteel woman's trousseau, and those who have had to purchase them recently have had to pay a goodly price for similar ones.

The lingerie craze has extended even to linings and dress shields. These latter indispensables are shown in the shops with a frilling of narrow Valenciennes laces all around, the shopwoman, sometimes explaining that in pinning the shield into summer waists tiny safety pins caught through the lace avert the possibility of piercing, and thereby ruining the shield itself is avoided. Lingerie linings of the little coats, fashioned from silk of various kinds and enriched with hand embroideries, are offered. These are usually in a sheer lawn or batiste and are trimmed with lace edgings, pleatings, insertions and the like. They are supposed to cover the rich brocade which makes the lining for all the new wraps and to be taken out and laundered as often as may be deemed necessary. A tacking stitch at the neck and in the arm-size is all that is necessary to hold them in place when in wear. Jewetties are shown with little fanciful coverings of lawn and lace in place of the usual ribbon, and in many instances this covering is slipped on over the ribbon casing that covers the elastic and saves the rich satin ribbon from soil.

The little lingerie corset cover that just covers the corset and no more is back again, and many of the best corsetiers furnish some four or six of such with each client's corset. A fancy pin or two hold them in place, so that they may be instantly removed for the necessary visit to the laundry. Roman striped ribbons, in gay colorings, are being much used for sash, belt and cravat purposes. On some of the first crop of felt hats—most of the outing patterns—a scarf is made to match the cravat and centure, thus bringing the entire outdoor costume into harmony. Various shades of red for the ground color and vivid stripes, in which gold and pale blue are prominent, seem to take best, and it must be confessed that they make a pretty splash of color on the tennis ground, the golf links and in the brilliantly tinted autumn woods.

It is prophesied that the vogue of the pale pastel colors for tailor-made wear is to be renewed for winter wear. Last winter a few of the fashionable sported tailor-mades in pale blue, a taint terra cotta, favor being distributed in about the order named. The off-color whites, too, are to be received in good company, and the faintest shades of gray and of lilac and lavender are to remain standing. With furry accessories those delicately tinted costumes present an air of extravagance and dressiness in winter time, and with the short skirt that is worn for the street purposes they do not show soil as easily in their career as might be expected.

The setting was of platinum, the brilliant carefully cut and polished, and the mounting in every way above criticism. And for this the sum of 1,000 francs (roughly estimated, \$200) was asked.

Society leaders and residents of the most fashionable part of New York must be taking to quite a course of reading on household topics, if one is to judge from the display in the windows of the leading book shops. Books upon domestic science, the several departments of housekeeping, culinary hints and wrinkles, furniture, home decorations and like are persistently displayed, and the latest authorities on all of these and other kindred subjects are indicated by placards conspicuously. Gardening, too, seems to come in for a share of attention; but there seems to be no room for anything else. If it were but one shop that made such a display, one might pass it without comment; but when some half a dozen, well spaced, all seem actuated by the same idea, it affords food for thought.

"Water without and within" was the sole prescription of a fashionable physician to a wealthy patient who came to him with a list of physical ills and ailments of ominous length. She could not sleep, she had no appetite, she was nervous and depressed, and on an infinitum. As a general thing, women do not appreciate plain water as much as they should. A sponge off in tepid—not cold—water when fatigued will prove more refreshing than anything else. A glass of cold water, not too cold, taken the last thing at night and another the first thing in the morning will overcome many a complex illness. When nervous, a glass of plain water, sipped slowly, will prove calming. By the way, this same physician says that water, when drunk cold and quickly, acts as a depressant on the heart and nerves; when sipped slowly, it acts as a gentle stimulant.

A gallon of water daily, taken in half-pint doses, is said to be absolutely necessary to health in warm countries, and three quarts in the same period is the prescription for these latitudes. The stout woman must plan to do her drinking between meals, taking no fluids for half an hour before or an hour after meals; and her skinny sister may follow the same rule, but take even more fluids. In washing the face with soap and water one is expected to rinse off in not less than four waters, making the last one as cold as possible and dashing it with both hands against the skin, so that a little shock of contact is in-

duced. This will tend to harden both skin and muscles of the face, prevent, or at least forestall, wrinkles by contracting the tiny pores on the surface and the nerves and muscles underneath.

Popularity of the Tailored Shirtwaist. The popularity of the tailored shirtwaist; for morning and outdoor wear is vastly on the increase, and the stock and the belt worn therewith are expected to be of the same plain and severe type. All sorts of wash materials, provided that they be of sufficient body and firmness of weave, are in vogue, and handwork, except in the buttonholes, is not expected. Three or four broad pleats are laid on either side of the front, coming well out on the shoulder, and making for that broad line which is the accepted thing just now. The fastening is usually effected with buttons and buttonholes posed in the center of a stitch box pleat, and stitched down side pleats serve to adjust the fullness at the waist. Most of the recent waists display a hidden yoke in this type, usually shallow, and with a point in the center. The sleeve follows the regulation shirt patterns except that it is fuller in the top than were those of a last season, and the stiff cuff is the inevitable finish in this type of blouse. Stock and belt are of linen and embroidered to match, a fad that has been extremely favored during the summer, and promises to maintain all of its hold during the winter season.

Plaids Make Popular Trimmings. The tailor shirt maintains all of its hold upon current fashions, despite the overwhelming popularity of the frilly and oftentimes too fussy lingerie blouse. Linens of a goodly firmness, madras, cotton serges and chevrons, and the new linen drill, are all favored, and a plain severity is their distinguished hall mark. The waist pictured is from a house well and favorably known for its shirts, and displays rather a novel innovation in the use of a bias strapping sewn flat to the linen between the broad box pleats that occupy the fronts. The back is similarly arranged, but with three instead of five pleats, and on the shoulders there is the same little strip of bias plaid inserted between the pleats. The collar is of the linen drill, with the plaid for trimming, and the smart little Windsor tie is a separate affair, though made from the shirt materials. The sleeve is comfortably full throughout, the shoulder seam broad, and the wrist finished with a stiff linked cuff. For wear with a walking skirt, this model is one that will be sure of a popular acceptance throughout the season.

In Lace Melange. There are so many inches in even the best-equipped wardrobes that the lace blouse alone can fill that the reason for its vogue is not far to seek. The fancy for a combination of two or more laces in the one design still continues, the genes being pretty well contracted. The laces, however, must be carefully chosen, else the result would be one suggestive of bargain-counter forays and remnant finds. Where at all possible, such little blouses are best fashioned by hand, and fagoting and fancy lace stitches used to join the different strips. In the picture the yoke is made of a sprigged Valenciennes joined with a Cluny beading, while broad Cluny is alternated with an appanaz for the body of the blouse. The short sleeve is of the same material, and has bands of white satin over-laid with a narrow edging serve to give a little touch of character between the strips of lace. A large V-shaped set piece in embroidery is posed effectively on the front, and the fastening is as usual, in the back.

Fine Flannels Again in Favor. After quite a period of neglect the shirt-maker is taking up those soft and fine flannels once more. Recent importations show those goods in all of the delectable tints and patterns imaginable, and so far from being at all thick and heavy late productions do not serve to be described as chiffon flannels. In many ways they are fully as light as an all-wool challis is wont to be. The model illustrated is in a very pale blue flannel, with printing in sapphire tints and a little spray showing a pale pink flower and green foliage. Deep seats occupy the shoulder seam affording sufficient width across the front. The underarm seams are deeply curved toward the waistline, and the pleats that adjust



FINE FLANNELS ONCE MORE IN FAVOR