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## **The Hows and Whys of Vintage Clothes Shopping**

**By Miranda Morgan**

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by: **Myranda Morgan**

Why Vintage?

Why would anyone want to wear vintage clothing? First of all, it's fun! When you wear vintage, you stand out from the crowd. The chances of someone else wearing the same exact outfit to that special event are slim to none. More and more high school girls are shopping vintage for dances and proms because it guarantees originality. Yasmine, a vintage clothing collector from Los Angeles, says, "I wear vintage so I can add a little something authentically retro to my clothing and not look the same as everyone else, which is difficult in style-conscious L.A.."

Vintage clothing is also nostalgic. Remember the good old days when there were party lines and soda shops? Me neither, but wearing vintage gives a girl the chance to experience a small part of history. In today's ambiguous world, it feels nice to pull on a crinoline and full feminine skirt once in a while. Let's face it: grown-up girls like to play dress up, too!

For the thrifty, the prices on vintage items should be incentive enough. Local thrift stores, flea markets, and yard sales are excellent sources of old clothing at unbelievable prices. Broke? Go volunteer to help clean out grandma's attic! I've gotten several vintage pieces handed down to me since I began collecting about two years ago.

## **Online Shopping**

The internet has made it easy for vintage clothing enthusiasts to comparison shop and buy items that may not be available in their area. Type "vintage clothing" into any search engine and you'll get hundreds of results. There are a few things you should know before purchasing vintage wear online, however.

## The Hows and Whys of Vintage Clothes Shopping

Carol, owner of Dandelion Vintage, a fun and inexpensive online Vintage Clothing shop based in New Jersey, recommends that first-time buyers be aware of what it means to buy and wear vintage clothing. "It's not like something new and fresh from Macy's, it's going to feel different and smell differently (there is no "new" clothing smell) and the items do need to be treated a little more carefully," she said, adding that customers should always ask questions up front about the garments, especially if they are unsure of the size or condition. When shopping vintage online, she says, be sure to read the site's terms of sales, ordering procedure, and return policy before ordering.

There are many different styles and eras to choose from. Items from the late 19th century on up through the 1980's are available. Whatever your style, you're sure to find something to suit you. Carol suggests customers buy what they like and avoid following trends, which is excellent advice when it comes to collecting of any type.

### Making it Work

Vintage clothing can be teamed up with modern apparel or mixed and matched with other vintage pieces. Back in L.A. Yasmine says, "I find that wearing head to toe vintage is just not practical in day to day life, but by adding a few pieces I can create a look that is uniquely my own. I often buy high-end designer shoes and team them with a \$1.00 vintage dress and a Gap cardigan. The look is pulled together and definitely mine."

There you have it: vintage clothes are fun, affordable, and enable the wearer to create and maintain an original look. So what are you waiting for? Go shopping!

Excellent vintage pieces at affordable prices can be found at

I am a homemaker and homeschooling mother of four who enjoys collecting and wearing vintage clothing. I live with my husband, two sons, two daughters, two flop-eared bunnies, and one sweet cat in southeastern Michigan.

## Understanding The Vintage Sewing Pattern

### By D Fraser

You have the ability to control your looks if you know how to enjoy sewing. A person who sews well doesn't worry about the fashion and its influences. They can find the right fit of clothe for themselves in the color of their choice. You need not worry that the color you like is not available in the market. Moreover there is no necessity to restrict yourself to a particular style. You should know that the clothes worn in the old movies are being revived by the youngsters and some of the clothes worn in these movies are evergreen and will not be out of date at any time. Can we say them as future-proof? Some of the modern movies like Dick Tracy and Titanic bring the old classics to this modern day.

With the help of the internet you can easily find the old patterns that are used in the classic clothes. It is easy to make vintage clothes using the vintage sewing patterns.

## The Hows and Whys of Vintage Clothes Shopping

Why you should go for the vintage?

You can use the vintage sewing pattern so that you are accurate in the time for that pattern. Some of the vintage designs include patterns that are modern like zippers. These patterns change the look of the old clothes. The attitudes and comments at the time of the styles are included in the vintage sewing pattern. For different styles and ages there are many be some accessories that are recommended. References to the Hollywood or Paris or the queen of society would be there that were popular at the time of the style that you adopt.

Using a vintage sewing pattern adds fun. This is one of the reasons for using that pattern. Find a vintage sewing pattern in original and good condition is very hard. However there are methods available to copy the vintage sewing pattern so that the vintage sewing pattern is available to you at affordable cost. By having a copy you have access to the same pattern, the instructions and the comments. With that you can add your modern touches to that pattern with confidence.

Problems with the vintage patterns

Of course nothing comes without a problem and so is the vintage sewing pattern. Changes to the pattern have to be made so that you can use the modern fabrics that are available in the market. You may need to alter the pattern to fit the modern figure. If the instructions are missing then it poses you a challenge to get the exact pattern needed. Due to these reasons the vintage sewing pattern should be reserved for the experienced people rather than the adventurous beginner in design. Sometimes adventures pay off. So you can give it a go even if you think it is a little bit difficult for you.

For more information on sewing and other arts and craft ideas take a moment to visit our website at

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