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Put Spring in a Winter Wardrobe

by Margret Wallace

January is Vicky's dangerous month. She gets temperamental, tired of winter, tired of classes, tired of staying inside and most of all—tired of her clothes.

By the middle of winter, she's ready to discard every sweater, skirt and wool dress she owns. She feels that she's worn them so long she couldn't possibly fool anyone.

New clothes would be fun but impossible. Coeds just don't live like that. So Vicky, who was ready to turn over a new leaf, had to plan her attack frugally.

She made a list of every single article in her winter wardrobe, right down to her sweater-dickies. She remembered what a kick she got out of wearing crisp clean dresses in the summer time. Why not apply the same principles in the winter, Vicky thought.

She sent her woolens to the dry-cleaners in easy-on-her-allowance installments, and started on a campaign to keep her skirts pressed. She made extra sure her collars were spotless and invested in a few more hangers so she wouldn't have to double up.

Clean Out the Closet

Vicky found a few old skirts, inches too short, hanging limply in a corner of her closet. She packed them home to mother with a mental reminder to see what could be done about them next vacation. Behold, there was more room in her closet than ever before, and she found that her dresses didn't need as much pressing.

She got out the dress she made last year in sewing class and added a flying panel. The change was so amazing that she decided to try some more touches: collar and cuffs for her old red plaid, deep velvet cuffs on her best coat, a new quilted collar on her pet blouse.

In her spare minutes, she's knitting bright pairs of mittens. She admits she doesn't really need them, but they add sparkle to her winter coat and every time she changes color she feels like she's wearing something new.

Beautiful, bright silk scarves are Vicky's weakness. She likes them extravagantly unusual and will look long and hard for just what she wants. She just recently settled on one with lots of color in it and a design you can't quite put your finger on, paid her money and started experimenting.

Invent Scarf Tricks

There are ways and ways to wear scarves. Vicky tried her new one twisted around a narrow belt and found that it adds a bright note to a dull day. She tried it hung over her belt at one side, hanging sash-like half way down her party skirt. Once, she even draped it into a bustle in the back for a gay, chic evening.

Next she took inventory of all her old jewelry. She found a forgotten medallion, big and round of antique looking silver, that completely transforms her basic black dress when she wears it at her waist, just off center. She remembered her several scatter pins and put one on the brim of her Sunday-school cloche, the other gathering up the wrist of her black glove. She has a little round pin which she has been wearing like a lavaliere on her choker. Sometimes she strings lots of them on her chain bracelet, for a glittering wrist at a Saturday dance.

Big gilded safety pins caught Vicky's fancy. She wears one at the neck of her coat, at the waist of her wool dress, on the shoulder of her tweed suit. "So what if they are a fad," she figures, "they're fun." Vicky likes to indulge in a fad once in a while.

One of Vicky's New Year's resolutions is to save a special sweater fund, not to be touched until January 31. She will buy a bright, bright sweater, or maybe a leather or felt jerkin, or a little velveteen jacket—something to have just because she doesn't really need it.