1942

Autumn Wardrobes Go Streamlined

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Autumn Wardrobes

Vicky, our mythical war-time heroine, models practical clothing, states Mary Lou Springer

The scissors of the government have slashed at fashion silhouettes. Pencil-slim lines now bid for favor. They're simple and unswerving as T-square architecture and built to endure all fads, seasons and WPB regulations.

No loose ends are flying; there are no superfluous frills nor unwanted pockets. Skirts have fewer pleats—and are, incidentally, easier to keep pressed. Jackets, like the cardigan, can be transferred from dress to dress.

Vicky will meet this new emergency with grace and resourcefulness. She will be both chic and patriotic in her limited silhouette, and will continue being her feminine self. She will wear clothing soothing in color as well as line.

Vicky will choose surface-embellished wool sport dresses with bright embroidery, contrasting color border or skirt yokes, encrustations of braid, jewel-studded belts, rich-looking buttons or nail head trims. Leather spangles are new and effective as trimming on woolens. School dresses avoid extremes and stress details. High shades and gay combinations of color are good, for though Vicky is practical, her tastes are young.

Hand detail enlivens casual frocks. Hand embroidery in yarn, appliques and inserts of gay color decorate simple dresses. Yokes, fronts of blouses or entire fronts are in combined colors. Pleatings, rufflings and bandings of lace, faille and velvet add dressy touches to simple blacks.

It's bright this year to do yourself in one beautiful, solid band of color—wild red or ice blue. It's smart to envelope yourself in a vivid blue topper.

It's new to punctuate your black dress with splashes of wild color. Have fun with harlequin sleeves in a black dress—one sleeve in shocking pink, the other in saffron-yellow.

Vicky chooses a neatly tailored wool coat to wear over date dresses this autumn and winter. Strictly patriotic, this coat renounces unnecessary frills.

For variety try trios of color, a fuchsia jacket, purple skirt, pink blouse. Or quadruplets of color, such as a red box coat lined with wheat-beige corduroy, worn with a yellow blouse and black skirt. It's better than ever to have a colorful surprise lining in your coat. Put a red corduroy one in a beige coat.

In spite of this deluge of color the new treatment of black on black is still top news. Black wool trimmed with black velvet, black satin or black faille give new importance to the ever-indispensable basic frocks.

The revival of fringe as a trim or accent illustrates the resourcefulness of the designers—so far fringe is not wanted by the armed services. We use it and the results are something to rate medals. The fringe is attached in tiers, in double rows, and a few models feature the entire length of skirt covered with a silken swing of fringe. Narrower bands decorate the blouse and bodice tops, as well as the brief sleeves. Fringe is due for a tremendous vogue. You see it on coats, sleeves, hats, scarves and gloves.

Swirls of pleats and folds result in a sculptured silhouette, the peg top or the barrel outline. Fluid lines that give an arresting impression is the general practice. There are many kinds of drapings, some so restrained that they are hardly recognizable, others have an abandoned swing.

Side closings have become important to break the straight up-and-down look. Buttons may be smack down the underarm seam. A new pattern features but...
tons which march up the side front and slant across the shoulder, serving as an amusing and useful feature.

Significant for the way they creep up in all the best showings are peplums. In a short-jacket season such as this they are inevitable. Peplums with inverted pleats to give them a flip in front or back have a perky air. Self-peplums in thickly ruched crepe to give one-piece dresses the two-piece effect will be seen.

Now that the bicycle fashion has turned attention to shorter trousers and longer shorts, knickers have come into their own. Slim and bloused just a little below the knee they are stressed in such fabrics as flannels, rayon suitings and patterned woolens.

This season, though fur trimmings go lavish, the furless coat takes a stand for stark simplicity. Slim, easy lines and a narrow shawl collar give this coat its character. The box coat is seen in many moods—fur lined, fur collared, quilted lined, in sports or dressy styles. Tweeds with contrast facings are newest for the college woman. These facings may be in a lighter tone than the coat or in direct contrast. Velvet may be used for fabric contrast.

The trench coat is the biggest seller, often seen in royal blue. Box or belted styles with or without fur are available.

As yet Washington has ignored hats. But law or no law Vicky’s hat will observe the universal order for simplicity. It renounces giddy frou-frou and pure line is its selling point. Crows are going up in high, irregular contours.

Vicky’s first autumn hat may be a Cossack Papahka or a fez. This may be in fur, felt, wool lace or velvet. She may choose a beret, a cuff-brim hat or a pokebonnet, rising to a peak on top. Whatever it is it will sit straight on her head in mood with the level-headed woman of today.

Vicky will want a short coat for campus wear of hard-wearing Nylon material. The coats are made of waste Nylon left over after war orders are filled.

Although Vicky will want bright corduroy and wool for sports wear, the good little black dress will be her pet for afternoon wear and dress-up dates. This fall the good black dress maintains its reputation for simplicity with fine details and a few added touches of bright color, narrower skirts and shorter jackets.

Above, serving as scorekeeper during intermission at a dance, Vicky wears a full-skirted evening gown with plain bodice. Below, she bowls a line in a shirtwaist dress boasting trim lines.