1942

Vicky, Dame Fashion... and You

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Vicky finds the two-tone sweater set, above, attractive protection against the chill spring breezes blowing across the campus.

Vicky has received orders to be feminine and patriotic this season, says Mary Lou Springer.

Fashion and Vicky are in cahoots and all because Vicky resolves to be patriotic by being pretty this spring. This is a spring when pretty as a picture isn’t just a phrase—but a command for Vicky.

This is a fashion season when you go suddenly feminine, combining imagination with sense.

- When suits are softer, slimmer, and more colorful.
- When ruffles and the drawstring add new possibilities for femininity and flattery.
- When boleros and a free-lance short jacket are taken-for-granted accessories.
- When the traditional navy of spring is iced with the traditional white—or with red, gold, pink, fuchsia and violet, stripes and printed calicoes.
- When lingerie trims are still perker-uppers.
- When a waistcoat influence is subtle in dresses and obvious in suits.
- When colors are daring but muted.

All this adds up to the new You, to the You in the spirit of ‘43. These fashion hints for spring show you how to reconcile the eternal triangle—the Wardrobe, the Man and You.

Vicky has resolved to be bright, brighter and brightest; to have a wardrobe full of gloom-dispelling colors, and Dame Fashion is doing her part to further Vicky’s resolve.

Purple was such a success in fall and winter that a spring version follows. Violet tones trace small checks or large novelty plaids. A new color slant to purple are pastel striped tweeds and twills of heliotrope or violet combined with another light shade such as aqua. Demure pastels reign and bright pinks that are a shade softer than shocking are good.

To return to solid colors, navy blue, black and brown spiced with some bright accent are always dependable. The brown is a new, alive brown—a burnished brown, or a red, bronzey tone. Soft neutrals—beige and gray, with a pattern in the fabric that is a whisper of the same neutral—continue their high ranking.

Vicky will combine two, three, and even four colors. One side of her skirt will contrast with the other side, matching opposite sides of the bodice. These must be in soft blending colors rather than sharp contrasts. A beige dress is perked up with one bright green sleeve and one russet sleeve. Dark or bright can be played against neutrals, such as a suit with the skirt and peplum of the jacket a matching brown and a wide, wide band of natural beige in the blouse.

As long as we have spring we will have navy and it usually is navy with frou-frou. It always seems so fresh, so crisp and spanking new. We must be practical and navy is practical. It goes everywhere and quickly changes mood with change of accessories. Ruffles and ruchings of lace and white eyelet pique are contrasts freshly crisp. Big perky plaid taffeta bows, fluffiest pink mouseline jabots and lacy undercollars, clusters of multi-colored bows, glittering rhinestone buttons, all add sparkle to navy.

Now that our men go into army clothes, women encroach even more on their fashion field. Collars and cuffs of men’s shirtings trim navy blue spring dresses as another change from pique accents. Bow ties and the pleated front in two piece dresses taken from his dress shirt are more examples of stolen plunder.

Every spring is a “suit spring” and this year is no exception. More bloused bodices, more tailor’s arrows, more checks—all sizes—more box-plated skirts, more high colors are fashion’s dictates this season. In other words, soft details replace severity. Tailored navy or black suits look new this season because of the wide satin binding—sometimes almost an inch wide—and a rounded lapel. The ever-popular Shetland suit is spruced up with multiple rows of fine stitching in a contrasting color. Wool fringe on revers of bright wool coats and suits is another whim.

Vicky’s suit may be angora herringbone with frog closings and long shawl revers edged with looped fringe. This is completed by a waistcoat of bright green faille. Or the suit may be trimmed in upholsterer’s braid and finished with a peg pocket effect.
Another style leader for Vicky to choose from is an off-white flannel skirt playing up the trouser pleats, topped by a short tweed jacket.

Suits with thin lapels called rag edge lapels are stressed as well as the V collarless necklines. Jackets often give the impression of cutaway effects because they dip slightly in back or are cut away at the hips to show the front fullness of the skirt.

Buttons are important in individualizing many of the suits. The “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” motif appears on one set. Large wooden buttons with raised leaf designs are popular. No matter what the details, Vicky discovers her suit must have that softly tailored air cut with the subtle know-how that makes a suit flatter.

There are ruffles for the demure and ruffles for the glamour girl. You wear them with play clothes and with dresses. They outline lapels; they billow down the front in single and double rows; they edge sleeves, cuffs and collars; they extend from the yoke down the full length of long sleeves. The ruffle idea is not confined to the ruffle itself—Vicky may have a print of it with beading used as a border at the shoulders or in an apron effect on her new wash frock.