

Back to fashion basics possible on a budget



Dove grey is the color and basic is the theme for this gabardine classic suit with matching grey and black print blouse.

Staff photos
by
Stephen Cantrell

Can you master continued economic forecasts of inflation and recession, achieve successful fashion signature dressing and still do it on a budget?

To find out, we set out with \$500 and young career woman Cindy Szczeny to see if it is possible.

Our destination was Pace Setter Fashions in Lathrup Village, where we not only dressed her for success for the fall-winter season, but we did it for under \$500. If we had not added the once-every-three-year purchase of a winter coat, our total expenditure would not have exceeded \$300.

Because building a basic wardrobe for fall '79 begins with a suit, Ms. Szczeny chose a pearl grey all-wool gabardine classic suit as a basic neutral background on which to build her dress-for-success wardrobe. A matching grey and black print rayon, acetate crepe business blouse came with the suit.

At \$127.20 for the three-piece suit, our young career woman adds business authority to her image at a price she can afford.

The suit's versatility was evident when Ms. Szczeny exchanged the tailored blouse for a matching print camisole top and a bright red snake belt. Then she added a black velvet blazer and the grey suit skirt, and she was dressed for dinner.

Later the jacket comes off for dancing and the snake belt changes from a

cummerbund to a wrap that ties in front.

The versatile velvet jacket teams just as well with a stock tie shirt and tweed pant from last year's wardrobe while adding a new dimension to fall sportswear.

THE SAME black velvet jacket easily tops a wool plaid skirt for day or silk trousers for evening. And the grey suit jacket also mixes with wardrobe components from her own closet.

Knowing how quickly cold winter days will follow falling autumn leaves, Ms. Szczeny added a top layer winter coat in black all-wool melton. She chose the simple double-breasted narrowed-down coat for its versatility, then added a perky red beret, warm red gloves and a briefcase and she was successfully dressed for the day.

For an evening look, she can add a fur box or muff or muffle the throat with a silk scarf, and suddenly, the basic black coat has glamour.

This is the year to dress in basics while your imagination and your spirits soar with creative accessorizing.

Pace Setter Fashions in Lathrup Village easily met our \$500 budget for the young career woman's basic fall-winter wardrobe. Adding up the tab, we found we had spent \$419.80, leaving us \$81.20 to spend on a pair of black calf pumps and a briefcase.

— Rustle Shand



Versatile is the word for the black velvet jacket (above left) which can complement a wool plaid skirt by day and top silk trousers for evening. The same jacket (above right) can team up with the grey suit skirt, camisole top and a waist-cinching belt to go to dinner. At far right, another wardrobe basic is a good black all-wool melton coat, double-breasted and warm enough to ward against winter chills.



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AMPLE FREE PARKING

The United Foundation Torch Drive provides services to 137 health and community agencies in the tri-county area. These include the Handicapped-Goodwill Industries and its Human Services Division.

Fashion Calendar

Monday, Aug. 27

Saks Fifth Ave. — Kasper for J. L. Sport will present vibrant, versatile sportswear during informal modeling from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Designer Sportswear on the first floor of the Somerset Mall.

Alfred's Restaurant — Bonwit Teller provides fashions during the luncheon hour from 12:30-2:30 p.m. each Monday at the Somerset Mall restaurant. Informal modeling by Jaeger is on the menu each Tuesday. Don Thomas sportswear each Wednesday, more of Bonwit Teller's fashion wear each Thursday, Rodier fashions each Friday, and Tennis Lady each Saturday. For information call 643-8865.

Hatties Inc. — Holly Luaders believes in dressing from the inside out. Her Shu-Ba line of lingerie has been expanded to include soft basic dress shapes wrapped and tied, and frequently using similar fragile fabrics to her sensuous lingerie. Fluid, soft, easy and feminine shapes for after five will be featured during a trunk showing on Monday and Tuesday at the Birmingham store in the 555 Bldg., and at the Renaissance World of shops on Wednesday.

Aug. 28

Saks Fifth Ave. — The Great Pretenders is the title of the informal showing of fabulous fake furs in unbelievable colors that will take place between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Somerset Mall store.

Wednesday, Aug. 29

Saks Fifth Ave. — The soft silhouettes, luxurious fabrics, and rich autumn colors of Geoffrey Beene will be the topic when Denise Hase presents the Beene collection during informal modeling between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Registry Room, on the Somerset Mall store. Through Thursday in conjunction with a view of the Albert Nipon Sportswear collection that will also be informally modeled on Thursday in Designer Sportswear on the first floor.

Where It's At



Basket case

Fall is a good time to spruce up your house as well as yourself and The Basket Shoppe has some nifty items that could do just that. For example, one or more of their African Fulania hats would look great hanging on a wall. The hats are made of natural-colored straw and are trimmed in leather which has been painted in interesting and colorful geometric designs. Another intriguing item is a caramel colored rice paper umbrella from Thailand. Delicately painted all over with black dragons and black lanterns, the umbrella could be stunning hanging from your ceiling as is or made into a hanging light fixture. The Basket Shoppe, 2666 Coolidge, Berkeley, 545-0505.



Table talk

When it comes to meals, it's easy to get into a rut. Chicken on Sunday, stew on Monday and one or two sets of placemats that you alternate night after night. Why not treat your family to a brand new menu and a brand new look for your table? Tivoli Ltd. has a sensational selection of placemats plus matching or coordinating napkins. You'll find all-washable solid colors and contemporary weaves plus traditional prints, modern geometric designs, polka dots, checks and plaids. Placemats range in price from \$3.50 to \$6.50 each and napkins are \$1.50 to \$3.50. Tivoli Ltd., 300 Hamilton Row, Birmingham, 642-6655.



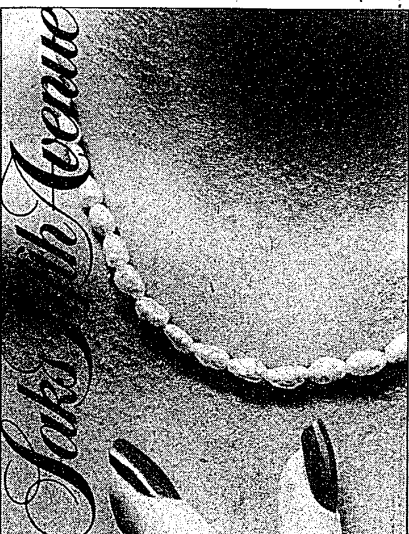
Initially

It's enough already with all those designers' initials running rampant over purses, blouses and what have you. By now you should be smart enough to realize that your very own initials (or name) add a genuine touch of class to the things you own. The Monogram Store can monogram just about anything you bring in in just one or two days time. You may choose from six different letter styles in several different sizes and in your choice of 30 colors. (Three letters cost \$5). The store also stocks an interesting selection of gift items that are suitable for monogramming and that range in price from \$10 to \$30. The Monogram Store, 1216 N. Woodward, Royal Oak, 548-6786.



Watching it

From velour tops to skinny jeans, narrow lapels and fitted suits, kids love to dress just like the big folks do. To complete their fashion picture (and keep them on time, too), you should consider this children's watch from Gould's. It's a copy of the Rolex watch that has become the rage for both men and women in the last couple of years and it's absolutely adorable. Featuring an adjustable stainless steel link band (with a gold colored stripe down the middle), the catenar watch also has a second hand and is priced at \$25. Gould's Bloomfield Commons, Maple at Lahser, 647-4808.



The precious lustre of pearls. Perfect! Our elegant 15" necklace of fresh water pearls, with a gleaming 14k gold clasp. What it does for basic black...is anything, but basic! By Carol for Eva Graham, '50. In Fashion Jewelry Collections where we are all the things you are.

Saks Fifth Avenue, Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 AM to 9 PM; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 AM to 6 PM; Sundays, Noon to 5 PM.