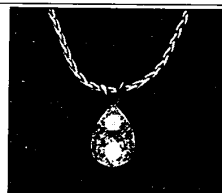


What to wear to your favorite disco is as simple as looking into your own closet for anything that is drop-dead elegant or beautiful. Otherwise, stores like Me & My Lady have hundreds of ideas,

including Enar's iridescent silk shirt and Carole Little's pleated straight leg trousers. Shoes are from Ciabattino. Fan was found in a Toronto flea market.

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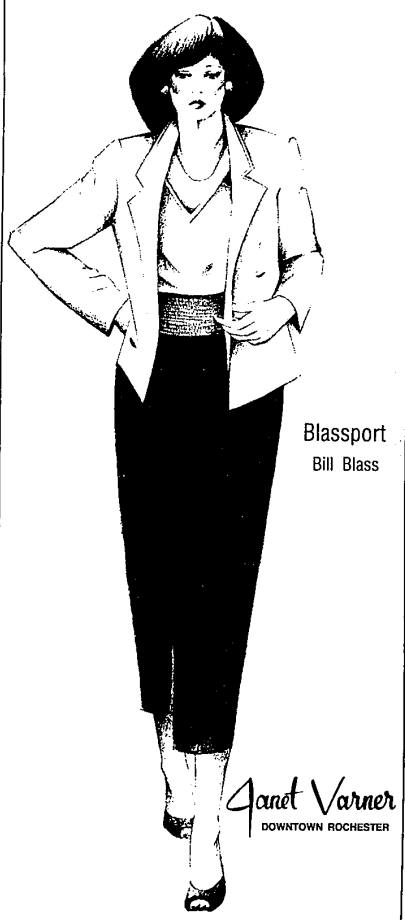
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Disco-treking? Anything goes, as long as it is beautiful

If you admit that you don't know whether women are slipping into pumps or spikes, whether feathers are for dusting or fans, and whether the Bee Gees are a rock group or a blasphemy, then it's time to straighten the seams in your hose, slit open the seams of your skirt, and disco.

Disco? Where? That depends. Someone who has already made the rounds, who has done the discotheque-trek, says that if you are over 30, have the seeming look of soft success and erudite star quality, Oscar's is the place. Located on Northwestern Highway, it is fun at its most luxurious.

Oscar's, should you be in need of an introduction, is the Studio 54 of Detroit. It's a disco of sophisticated ambience from its brown, beige and gold decor to the fresh flowers on every table.

Oscar habitués, like the place, are also sophisticated. On a Saturday night, Oscar's definitely attracts the jet-set types. It's obvious from the jammed parking lot that their only concession to a family car is a four-door Maserati.

If you go to Oscar's it is de rigueur to have a reservation. Also expect a cover charge. This serves two purposes — it keeps the beautiful folk from freezing their fans while waiting for a place to perch and it discourages the "craze-crew" from reducing the average age to 21.

Deciding what to wear is easy. Disco is fashion flexibility at its simplest — anything goes as long as it's beautiful. An evening at Oscar's is an evening on the town. Leave your faded jeans — regardless of their designer heritage — home with the mop. Don your most exquisite silk suit. The skirt should be slit, the blouse diaphanous. Then, when you shed the jacket after an hour of twirling, you'll still look sensational in the disco-light.

Another retro-style disco has exhumed the strapless evening dress. Perfectly sage, since after a few thousand spins around the dance floor, a wool sweater would surely wilt the wearer.

For the feet, slip off the rubber-soled pump and step into a four-inch spike. Hopefully your escort is tall or very secure. No matter, some femmes admit that after making an entrance, they go "barefoot."

An outfit without the proper accessories is half-done. Glitz, anything flirty, anything that picks up the light and sparkles is definitely disco. Fans are definitely in; they are both functional and fun. While the fan would seem affected used on the streets of Birmingham, it is, like everything else disco, exaggerated evening wear.

The disco-bag, that tiny little pocket usually worn across the bodice, is also the mad money with her at all times. You can also stash the gloves, especially

ly the crocheted ones, in it.

Do all these beautifully outfitted people spend a fortune on their appearances? Our source says, not the smart ones.

Never spend lots on anything trendy. Get the look by using the right accessories. Where do you buy that look? Flea markets offer old fans, rhinestones, lots of interesting bibelots, at very reasonable prices. If you are determined to avoid grandma's trunk, everything new is available at Di Fronte, especially fans that are available in their own holster.

Disco has elicited great ingenuity from the women who would be part of it. For the gal who can't afford everything, start with one basic black skirt. We are told every woman owns one. Add to it a fur, a new belt, a sequined top, an exciting scarf and the look is disco. Or, purchase some hose with seams.

Hair is part of the total picture. Braid it, wrap it or let it hang loose but definitely adorn it with something — ivory crochet looks, feathers or combs. Top it off with a hat. Tack on a pin, sew on a veil or stick a feather in your cap. Is it all sounding very exaggerated, very affected, very studied? This, says our source, is part of the fun.

If you intend to be a regular dancer at Oscar's, or any other disco, presenting a constantly new wardrobe can be a challenge. Prepare to have some of your old clothes made over. Anything

you are tired of, have it shortened, slit or decapitated. Yes, cut off the top and use it as a skirt.

The absolute last dash is make-up. Make-up that is hauntingly overdone for day wear is probably perfect for the thoughtfully low lighting at Oscar's. Should you truly lack the Picasso touch for detail and color, see Hanna at Bitonti. We are told she is a genius.

All dressed and now to dance. First you should know that it is the disc jockey at a disco who choreographs the evening's music. The true "Touche-treker" follows the DJ as the gourmet follows the chef. We hear that Larry Sanders is at Oscar's.

Secondly, we won't kid you. When you gravitate from the table to the terpsichore there will be those on the dance floor who sway to the music and those who were obviously Saturday Night Fever extras.

If you really can't dance, and care, take some lessons. Or, tune in to Detroit's new disco station, WLBS, 102.7 FM and practice at home.

When you finally feel comfortable with the disco-dolly in you, call for a reservation. Go at 9 p.m. if you want to watch the entrances or 10 if you want to make one of your own.

Either way, relax, enjoy the costume party and pretend your new look is effortless.

— SHEILA MCCARTHY DUNNELLS

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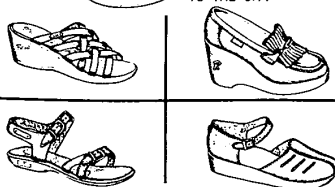


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