

# Tomorrow's wardrobe

## Wind shift in fashion brings glamour of past decades

**A** LOT of glamour and spirit was represented by the way we dressed for evening in the '60s. That glamorous glow, however, was extinguished during the more casual '70s.

Now, thanks to a wind shift in fashion, evening dress for the '80s has rekindled all the fun and glamour of past decades.

When a woman is serious about her career, and she dresses for a professional role all day, an opportunity to get dressed up for a party is truly an event. Such an occasion calls for as much attention to detail as she devotes to her profession.

Dressing up means rising to both the mood of the evening and the etiquette of the occasion. It is a time to look glamorous, but it is also a time to be aware of the degree of glamour that suits the occasion. However, this year

women are in luck with their choices. Whereas in the past several seasons, women have depended on understatement to guarantee an acceptable appearance, this year it is almost impossible to be overdone, allowing women the whole gamut of options for what they will wear out for a glamorous night on the town.

Anne Dino, manager of Birmingham's Adaria shop, says, "This season, gold lame and black velvet are the hottest things we are selling. Women seem to want a real cocktail dress rather than separates. And it has to be glamorous. There must be some fabulous parties happening, because the clothes we're selling are real statement makers."

**THE WOMAN** who wants to put together a party wardrobe that can be used over and over again should ob-

serve timeless, unwritten rules about what she should put in her closet. The color to begin with is black, simply because she can add any color to it.

An evening wardrobe should include, a day-length black skirt in a silky wool fabric, a pair of black dress pants, an evening length black skirt in taffeta, and several tops. A black camisole is a must.

Toppers might include a black sweater with some embroidery and a silky soft, collared black shirt. Also, a black evening jacket puts the party-bound woman in business. Mixing the pieces she has included in her party wardrobe gives her at least eight alternatives from which to choose.

Trial and error teaches most women to watch out for after-holiday markdown sales when dressy items are usually the first items to be reduced in price. Still, sale time can be a real find time if the pieces that are bought are of the best fabrics that will last for years to come.

Steve Chudik of Chudik's of Birmingham, one of the area's leading dispensers of glamour dressing, tells us, "This season the separates our store sells are really selling." Sequin tops have been particularly popular with women who planned to team them with party pants, he says.

**OF COURSE**, all of the above are wonderful to have in color. But, the point is that the woman who is just starting to put it all together should be looking for pieces that will work very well for a variety of events and occasions. By sticking to black in the beginning she is setting herself up for the long run, giving herself limitless options to which color can be added at a later date.

To complement all of this basic black, she will need what is referred to as the "little black shoe." Actually, there are three separate styles of the basic black shoe that will round out a wardrobe nicely.

First, there is the little black sandal, which is always satin because patent leather is not dressy enough. Then there is the great looking, classic black pump, which is always plain, always

beautiful and always appropriate.

For part dressing the little black flat pump can mean both comfort and another look. Add to these one pair of "zinger" shoes that will add pizzazz to a party collection. The zinger shoe can be brightly colored or still in black as long as it is glamorous with glittery stones or silver heels.

The basic handbag is another wardrobe basic. This is the type of handbag that replaces the day bag you carried all day but will never work at night no matter what the occasion. For dressy occasions, the rule of thumb is smaller is better. A little black satin or velvet envelope style bag with a jeweled clasp is a good basic for starters.

Once she has all her basics it's time to think about an evening wrap. At this point many women panic and therefore they make mistakes. Begin with the realization that this is a time when the zip-lined raincoat needs to join the business suit in the closet.

If she can afford it a woman's ultimate choice would be a glamorous fur. But she has to realize that she can look just as great without fur if she chooses wisely. One alternative is a velvet stole, which can be thrown about the shoulders for a simple, dramatic effect. A long cape can be worn for years and dressed up with a jeweled pin.

**JEWELRY** is another important wardrobe extender. The woman who is starting from scratch can add limitless alternatives by beginning a collection of pearls in lots of lengths. Pearls do wonders for a collection of basics. Rhinestone earrings will also keep making appearances year after year.

Karen Vendor, fashion coordinator at Bonwit Teller, told us, "This season, jewelry is just beautiful. The stones are big, glittery and very festive looking." Of course, the woman who has the real thing can still begin with basic pearls, then work her way up to fabulous diamonds.

One final touch, head to toe glamour dressing calls for a pair of beautiful gloves, perhaps in a shocking color or classic black with bead trim. Every one of these looks will provide their owner with glamour dressing she can bank on now, then year after year.



Wayne Clark's black strapless dress is fitted with a fan front and back of pleated sheer silk, \$400 at Adaria. After a decade of more casual dress, the rebirth of glamour is being welcomed with gusto.



The black satin gown with tulle front skirt and dramatic hot tush-chia bow is worn with a white tulle stroller, from Bonwit Teller. Earrings by Les Bernard from the Dynasty Collection.

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