

HOW TO TIE THE LONDON CHOU

THE WHOLE SECRET LIES IN THE HARD KNOT & NOTES OF FASHION



How to Tie a Chou.

When you see the girl behind the ribbon counter toss a piece of ribbon into the air and bring it back in the form of a loop, and when you notice how she turns and twists it, pulls and manipulates it, and how, with a final yank, she draws it into a bow, you will perhaps think that the whole business is an easy one and that you can go home and do likewise. But, when you come to the actual tying of the ribbon with your own hands, you will find that it is not quite so easy. Your chou will have an "all but" look which characterizes so many home productions, and as though you put it on you will feel as though it were a blemish to your gown rather than an ornament.

Now to tie a chou right, begin right. Do not use old ribbon. If you were to give the girl behind the counter the old scrap out of your ribbon box and were to tell her to make a summer chou out of those old pieces she would laugh at you and explain to you how impossible it was to bring anything fresh out of your old ends. An amateur usually works with poor stuff. Like the chef in the kitchen who would achieve a finished dinner and who must have the best products of field and farm for his manipulations, she should have in her hands that which is capable of being made into something nice.

Wrinkled ribbons of uncertain lengths and still more uncertain hues, faded sections of lace and odd bits of flowers, queer looking passementeries and ragged insertions will never in the world become handsome just by being made up into choux.

The Bow Material.

While all the bow family require nice material, the rosette is especially sensitive, and unless the ribbon is good the rosette will never look nice. The ribbon rose is still more critical in its composition and its tone will be dark and disagreeable unless you have the best stuff to work with.

The sash bow will hang listlessly and lifelessly if made out of ribbon that has been ironed and sponged, and the new London chou will be no chou at all unless you have new material.

Now, understand that it is possible to rejuvenate old stuff, but it takes a practiced hand to do it. If you have ever studied under a cleaner, or have taken a course in a dyeing establishment, you can go through an old ribbon box and bring out marvels of newness and stiffness, but otherwise your work will have a lamentable look which is discouraging at the beginning and still more discouraging at the close.

Buy new. O amateur, before you begin, and then trust to your cleverness. That is the only way to gain hope to have home products look like those of the shops.

For the London chou take two yards of ribbon. If you want long ends for the back of your sash, take two more. If it is for the back of your neck, two yards

will be enough. If you want it for your hair one and a half yards will do, and if it is for your belt, you can get along with the same quantity.

How to Tie It.

Take the ribbon in the middle and hold it up in front of you. Pull out one nice long loop, twist the ribbon and make a bow knot, just as you have tied a bow all your life.

Do not pull it tightly, but, while the middle is open and loose, make another bow by pulling a loop of ribbon through the knot and still another.

You will now have four bows. Grab the two upper ones tightly, one in each hand, and pull. This will tighten your knot.

Gradually arrange the loops, pulling at the knot all the time and twisting it, and keep on doing this until you have four nice bows, with two hanging ends, and a hard knot in the middle holding them all.

The secret of bow-tying is this hard knot in the middle. It rules your ribbon, of course, and the ribbon can never be untied, you will understand, but must remain in just that fashion forever. But if you hope for anything that is smart-looking you must pull the ribbon hard and make this middle knot tight.

To quote the girl behind the ribbon counter, who is the professional bow-maker of the establishment, and whose busy fingers are at work from morn till night: "The knot is the whole thing; pull it tight, and you will understand it after you have watched her a few minutes and have gone home to tie a bow for yourself."

A woman who makes a business of arranging the small things of a dress declares that she depends upon the ribbon ornaments this year for the Summer touches of her costume.

Said she: "I buy ribbon by the bolt and make it up by the bow. There are as many bows as there are bands to tie them, and I have personally designed thousands for the framing of the gowns that pass through my hands."

"One of my latest devices with ribbon is to cover buttons with it. I tie a neat little bow, no bigger than a quarter, and into the knot I slip a button in such a way that the shank can be used. This makes a very neat ornament and the bow looks brighter and stays in place longer than if it were sewed on tight and flat."

Ribbon Devices.

Another way to use narrow ribbon is through lace. You thread a blunt needle with ribbon and you work lace with it. You work the lace by going around the pattern with the ribbon, and so you make a very durable trimming that is a little different from applique and much less work.

The dress of the late season threatens to become more ribbon-trimmed than that of the early year. There is a new fancy for taking a wide ribbon and running it through the fabric just as though you were taking long stitches. Five or six stitches of the ribbon will go all the way around the trim, and the whole is tied at the back in a bow, with ends that hang right down to the ankle.

The stock is treated similarly and one of

the new arrangements shows ribbon two inches wide threaded through the stock perfectly flat and tied at the back in a bow.

Nearly all of the new trappings have ribbon, either for a foundation or ribbon in them; and it looks as though Autumn modes would be largely founded upon ribbon designs.

It is a pity that this material cannot be made cheaper, for really there is nothing much more expensive to buy and to use than ribbon itself. Those who are of an economical turn of mind and who do not mind a little work can buy taffeta silk and make their ribbon.

A yard of taffeta, cut on the bias and hemmed on each side, or doubled and neatly finished, will really make a great deal of ribbon. This is just a suggestion for the woman who wants to look nice and who does not want to pay the price.

Mrs. Fish's Spots.

The spotted vogue has been given a great impetus by the gowns which Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish brought from London. Mrs. Fish has several handsome dresses trimmed with chenille spots. They are thicker and heavier than velvet, and are put on as though they were woven in the silk, as, indeed, they may be.

Wonderful things are now done with silks in the looms. There may be beautiful velvet dots, and dots of chenille; and dots even of chiffon can be purchased, all in the piece goods, but such fabrics are among the high-priced; and if you want to get up something which has a similar effect, you can take chenille spots, obtained in any shape, and fasten them upon your silk by applique or by invisible stitches.

A very effective gown belonging to Mrs. Fish is in ecru silk lining; in groups of three there are very large chenille spots, one in scarlet, one in green and one in blue.

These groups are scattered all over the gown about one-half yard apart. And between these groups, which are really rather widely separated, there are enormous French knots—a perfect sprinkling of them done in black.

You must not hope to get up anything good in the dress line without calling upon black. This really is a foundation or backing for everything, and you have a little of it or you cannot be in the mode.

When Mrs. Belmont went abroad this Summer to join her daughter, the Duchess of Marlborough, she took with her half a dozen beautiful gowns which were made in this country. They were in the thin goods, with silk lining, and they showed the "spot."

A French Style.

This spot, which the French call the "rain drop," and which has been known for all time as the "polka dot," was carried out in lace, so velvet and in taffeta; in fact, all materials seemed to contribute to it.

One gown, which was a very beautiful thing in black taffeta, had big spots of turquoise and of a pure white, non-lustrous hue that is almost a mourning-lace. Its lining is dull crepe and it is cut off above the belt and the lining is box pleated front and back, while the rest is straight.

A little band of black crepe de chine outlines the neck or shoulder front and back and on each side of the front there are ribbon choux in bunches like little rosettes, with dozens of hanging ends about one finger long.

In Black and White.

Mrs. Hay, whose gowns are always so delightfully tasteful, and whose trousseau is being built on two continents, wears black and white, for she has not yet got off mourning, and her gowns are really a delightful study in these two contrasts.

black, very long, and over them fell a lower sleeve of chiffon lined with lace.

Her skirts, which are always very much trimmed with lace ruffles, boasted on this occasion fully four white lace flounces, growing wider in the back and extending half-way up the skirt in Spanish flounce fashion.

All the society world now turns to the races. In France this has ever been so, and on the days when the great races are run the President and his wife and all the fashionable race-tracks around their families go to the races and occupy favored seats on the grandstand.

In England the Derby has a social status and no one questions the right of His Majesty nor His Majesty's friends to adopt the course as an afternoon's amusement.

But in this country horseracing has never enjoyed a social standing. The New World was too busy to bother with sports, and it is only within the last 25 years, or more correctly still, the last five years, that horseracing has attained a social prominence.

Now all the people of wealth are going into it, and great stables are owned by the Mackays, Belmonts, Vanderbilts, Whitneys, Wilsons and other families who are in the business as well as the social world.

Harry Payne Whitney, who married Gertrude Vanderbilt, has recently run horses under the green and white, and in the fashionable race-tracks around New York and at the Saratoga track you see the wearing of the green and the flying of the horses with their green jockeys astride.

It may be that Dame Fashion will very kindly consent to adopt the fashionable racing colors as her own, and that we shall see in this country a taking up of the high-class stable colors, just as they do in London, and as they have always done in Paris. If you look closely you can detect them here now.

All the trend of dress is toward the picturesque and this is carried to an extent which might be called showy. Gowns are built, not on the quiet, neat, tailored, severe classic order, but on the frilled and fluffy style. Little extravaganzas are indulged in, and the women who never thought it good form to wear flowing ends are now tripping through the streets with their hands grasping flying scarfs. Long, cloaks have their great streamers dangling from the front and

from the back. Immense taffeta flyers hang from the neck and from between the shoulders, and the Watteau woman is seen on Fifth Avenue as well as in her native haunt, the meadow lawn.

For the woman who wants to dress in costume, this is a great season, for she can do so and be in the height of fashion. She can select whatever extremes are becoming to her and dress almost eccentrically, yet ever a la mode.

For women who have found the straight fashions not becoming to their own style of beauty, this wide variance is a pleasing one, and they dress in long, loose garments or in abbreviated designs, such as the bolero, the Eton, the short Newport jacket, the new blazer, the Norfolk and the straight front, without departing from the domains of direct fashion.

Hostelry is keeping pace with other fashions. White silk stockings are the latest, and they are embroidered in colors and inset with lace figures. To get up a pair of white silk stockings you can buy the same.

Choose a pair in cream—almost a flesh color—for they are more becoming to the skin. Do not get pink stockings, but those that are a little off the color of dead white. Let your embroidered designs be put on in such a way that they simulate a boot top.

Sew turquoise on the outside, to look like shoe buttons, around the calf of the leg set in lace designs, and around each lace design run an embroidery in blue.

Stockings of this kind must be cleaned, not tubbed, and you must learn how to renovate such parts of the stockings as are soiled without wetting the whole.

There are dainty ways of keeping silk stockings nice throughout the season, and really a white stocking is meant only for the piazza or for your own room; it is not for the street.

The gown, while it is important, plays a small part compared to the hat, the parasol, gloves, shoes, stock and small parts of dress; and it is upon these that the style of the woman depends, for they are the touches which determine not only the appearance of the gown, but its actual character.

By suitable trimmings you can transform a tailored gown into a picture dress, and you can work wonders by the addition of flowers, lace, winks and adjustable flounces.

AUGUSTA PRESCOTT.

Black Velvet upon Waist, Sleeves and Skirt.

She is a stylish girl, and wears the long coat a great deal, for it becomes her well.

The loose coat is made in three-quarter length and in half length, and is as fashionable as the other, although the half length is much more trying. A coat which is cut off above the belt, and which is loose, constructed on the automobile order, can never fit the figure, and unless you are slender and little you will find that it gives you a stout look.

The black lace coat, half length, is just the thing for wearing to automobile picnics, which are now the Gotham fad, and, under the black lace coat there is an elaborate lining in color, with a special inset of lace, and there may be an applique of flower petals. Linings are more and more gorgeous.

It is indeed a time when we look to our linings, and with a nice lining, your gown is elegant, even though the gown itself has not received very careful attention.

In the novelties there are the checked silk linings, which are worn under the veils and under the short outside of all kinds, and a very new wrinkle is to take the checked lining and applique it with rain drops of taffeta, and over this you can wear your thin gown.

The greatest attention is given to fancy linings, and professional dress designers are always at work upon them.

Mrs. Clarence Mackay, who comes to the fore as a leader in dress, wore to the races a gown in gray velveteen shot with turquoise blue put on in arrow shape, long, like a rain drop. The lining was turquoise and white checked silk, and on this checked silk there were black lozenges in taffeta, applique over the checks, and the whole used as a slip underneath this velveteen dress.

Turquoise and Black.

Mrs. Mackay's hat on this occasion was in turquoise blue felt, a very Summer affair, and on her hair at the right side there lay two long feathers, one in black and one in white. Her gloves were suede,

with a spoon take out all the yolks without breaking the whites. Beat two eggs until smooth, add to them one teaspoonful of salt, half a teaspoonful of pepper, one teaspoonful of dry mustard mixed with three tablespoonfuls of cream, two tablespoonfuls of olive oil and two of vinegar. Mix all together, and stir over the fire until the mixture takes the consistency of boiled custard. Remove from the fire, add the yolks of the hard-boiled eggs, mashed, and mix all thoroughly together. Fill the cavities of the cooked whites with the mixture, piping it up to form rounds resembling the entire yolk of an egg. Let stand on ice until cold, then arrange on a bed of lettuce leaves and serve with mayonnaise dressing.

Tomatoes With Cream Salad Dressing.

For the benefit of those people to whom oil is distasteful, it may be well to suggest that a very delicious salad dressing can be made with cream. To serve tomatoes most invitingly, remove the skins, make a hollow at each stem end, and stand on ice until thoroughly chilled. For the dressing, allow to the yolks of three hard-boiled eggs one raw yolk, one tablespoonful of vinegar, one gill of thick cream, half a teaspoonful of salt, and a quarter of a teaspoonful of pepper. Mash the boiled yolks until fine, then work them smooth with the raw yolk, using a palette knife for the purpose. Add the salt, pepper and melted butter, then, little by little, the cream, working and mixing all the while. Lastly, stir in the vinegar, blend thoroughly, and it is ready to serve. Drop a spoonful into the hollow made in every tomato and serve in a crisp leaf of Romaine salad.

Mayonnaise of Flounder.

Select a fine, thick flounder and boil it in salted water until well cooked. When cold, carefully remove the meat from the large central bone and cut into nice pieces. Place on a bed of water-cresses and serve with mayonnaise dressing.

Orange Salad.

Select crisp young lettuce leaves and arrange them in the salad bowl. Peel and slice slightly tart oranges, cut the slices into quarters, spread over the lettuce bed, and serve with French dressing. Cut each egg into lengthwise and

dress over the whole, mix without breaking and on ice until very cold. At the moment of serving sprinkle with chopped parsley and garnish with pickled beets or slices of hard-boiled eggs.

Tartar Sauce.

Cut two ounces of beef's tongue into small pieces; add to it two cold-boiled potatoes, one small beet (also cold), half of a cooked carrot and half an apple (peeled), all cut into dice. Place these in a bowl and add one smoked herring which has been soaked in water for 12 hours, skinned and cut into bits. Mix with French dressing, sprinkle chopped parsley over the top and serve.

Salad of Stuffed Cucumbers.

Peel fresh, crisp cucumbers and cut them into halves lengthwise. With a teaspoon remove the seeds and soft part. Then throw the shells into ice water until they become crisp. For each three cucumbers allow two tomatoes, one slice of onion and a little parsley. Skin the tomatoes, chop the solid part fine with the onion and parsley, and season with salt and cayenne pepper. Wipe the cucumbers with a soft cloth, stand them on crisp lettuce leaves, and sprinkle over the top, with skinned and cut into bits. Mix with French dressing.

Salad of Cauliflower.

Boil the cauliflower after the usual method, then throw it into cold water until well chilled. Pick it apart carefully and dry each piece thoroughly with a soft napkin. Arrange on a bed of lettuce leaves and pour mayonnaise dressing over the whole and let stand on ice 15 minutes before serving.

Salad of Eggs.

Put 16 eggs in a saucepan and cover with cold water. Let them heat slowly until the water begins to simmer. Then cover tightly and let stand for 30 minutes without actually boiling. Throw the eggs into cold water and remove the shells. Cut each egg into lengthwise and

able in a quart vessel, a pitcher affording the best facilities. Add a pint of boiling water and stir until a strong lather is formed. Lift out the cake of soap, and if the hair is very oily, add a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda. Never use ammonia or powdered borax. Wash hair carefully with the lather, and then with white cold water, and rinse with warm water. Never yield to that very natural tendency in hot weather to use cold water for rinsing. The sudden change in temperature is bad for both hair and scalp. If the hair is exceptionally dry, a teaspoonful of sweet almond oil may be added to the final rinse water.

It is in drying her hair that the average Summer girl does the greatest mischief. She should beware the rough Turkish toweling, using, with as little energy as possible, an old, soft towel. Then let the sun complete the work, lifting the hair both to ventilate it and to let the sunlight penetrate to the scalp. This will in a measure ward off the formation of strata of hair in different shades.

An unforgivable custom is that of washing the hair just before retiring. There are girls so intent upon daytime pleasures that they wash their hair after dark, and with a half-hearted rubbing they retire, leaving the loose and still moist locks hanging over the edge of the pillow to dry out during the night.

Another evil habit for the hair is permitting salt water to dry on the scalp. Surf-bathers, especially those who Summer regularly by the sea, are apt to undervalue the effects of failure to shield the hair from salt water. If it penetrates round the edges of the bathing cap or kerchief, rinse the hair thoroughly in clear, fresh water. A shampoo is not necessary. Salt water drying in the hair means harsh locks and irritating scalp diseases.

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It is in drying her hair that the average Summer girl does the greatest mischief. She should beware the rough Turkish toweling, using, with as little energy as possible, an old, soft towel. Then let the sun complete the work, lifting the hair both to ventilate it and to let the sunlight penetrate to the scalp. This will in a measure ward off the formation of strata of hair in different shades.

An unforgivable custom is that of washing the hair just before retiring. There are girls so intent upon daytime pleasures that they wash their hair after dark, and with a half-hearted rubbing they retire, leaving the loose and still moist locks hanging over the edge of the pillow to dry out during the night.

Another evil habit for the hair is permitting salt water to dry on the scalp. Surf-bathers, especially those who Summer regularly by the sea, are apt to undervalue the effects of failure to shield the hair from salt water. If it penetrates round the edges of the bathing cap or kerchief, rinse the hair thoroughly in clear, fresh water. A shampoo is not necessary. Salt water drying in the hair means harsh locks and irritating scalp diseases.

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