

Long Torso Look For Sportswear Is Spring Style

Sportswear and separates get together with the long torso look this spring. They've dropped their waistlines through hipline bands or seams, which are straight-cut, with either slim knife-pleated or unpressed pleated skirts below.

Or, the skirts are yoked, either V-cut or scalloped, to give the elongated illusion. A third method of dropping the waist is by means of a flat panel front with pleats confined to the sides of the hip, falling from a hipline seam. Many long torso separates are seen with optional belts.

The long overblouse also produces a low torso effect—snugly fitted, semi-fitted or loose.

The Covered-Up Look

As the hiplines drop, the necklines go up. High square necks are cut just under the collarbone. Many necklines are asymmetrical or jagged, and even halter tops are quite a bit higher than last year.

Pants, ranging from short shorts through full length trousers include a great variety of Bermuda shorts, below-the-knee pants and pedal pushers. Most are tight-fitting, although culottes are making a strong comeback.

The Bermuda skirt, a fall favorite, is here for spring in cotton. They appear with blouses, as part of one-piece play dresses or over one-piece bloomer playsuits.

The Bermuda rage is also apparent in swimsuits, which are also frequently seen as water-going culottes.

Cotton Is Queen

Cotton is still queen of the sportswear field, showing up in high polish or very rough weaves. Linen-look cotton is still popular, while rough homespun is a new spring favorite. This homespun is often contrasted with smooth cottons in separate ensembles.

New things have been done with linen too, which shows up as itself or disguised as tweed or jersey.

Lightweight worsteds, tweeds in all fabrics and wool jacquards are big spring fabric news.

Color-wise, spring sportswear and separates favor the pale blues through purple, shocking and sun colors. Abstract prints of all sizes and shapes are seen frequently, while tone-on-tone blends are increasingly popular.

Restraint Lack Marks Colors

A glorious lack of restraint marks the colors of Spring. Since, in the main, trimmings are underplayed, gay colors play a double part in both flattery and magnetism. This spring women will wear colors that were previously limited to more frivolous accessories such as ascots and hankies.

Tweed colors are myriad in clear randoms that include the entire spectrum. Many of the popular slubbed and novelty fabrics feature metallic threads. Woven, overlaid, embroidered and printed stripes often show a second color. Cross weaves offer great color interest.

The newest color group around is the entire range of mauves, from pink through mulberry tones. Blue takes a purple cast for a hydrangea hue which promises to be a favorite in both pale and deep shades. Navy, of course, retains a strong position in the 1955 picture; but will have to share its dominance with many rival blues.

Yellow is newly important, looking pale and fresh in daffodil-pineapple tints. Gold contributes strongly to the print and brocade line-up, and many yellows make pleasing grounds for printed fashions.

Crisp, clean greens achieve a feeling of spring in many categories of styles from cocktail cottons to active sportswear. Although green hues appear mostly as prints on related backgrounds or as specks in random tweeds, there is enough all-green to be worth notice.

Bees for Pollinating Farm Crops Declining

Trenton, N. J. (U.P.)—Bees have not been doing their utmost lately on one of their best-known chores—pollination.

Dr. E. J. Dyce, professor of agriculture at Cornell University, told the New Jersey Beekeepers' annual convention that the number of bees for pollinating farm crops is declining because honey prices have not kept pace with beekeeping costs.

"One of our greatest problems in our over-all agriculture economy is to maintain enough insects to pollinate our agricultural crops," he said. "During recent years there has been a definite and progressive decline in the number of colonies of honey bees."

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.



'ENSEMBLED' FEELING—Topped by a matching box jacket, the slim sheath is newer than ever. This one, carrying out the "ensemble" feeling, is a tissue-weight, striped gray and white British Woolen designed by Nettie Rosenstein.

Ensemble Importance Grows To Cover More Fashions

Gaining in popularity, the costume has embraced many striking innovations for a Spring '55 go-together trend.

Suits with blouses have gone one better: not only do the blouses match jacket linings, but there are matching hem linings on the underside of fuller skirts, matching scarves and cummerbunds and matching pocket and collar trims.

The suit with its own coat or topper has largely given way to dress-plus-coat combinations. Practically every fabric combination imaginable turns up in a dress-plus-something else ensemble.

New Method Slated In Choosing Queen Of Blossom Festival

A new method of selecting the queen of the Rogue Valley Pear Blossom festival was set up this week at a meeting of the festival general committee, according to members of the group.

The festival will be held in Medford on April 23.

The queen contest will be open to youngsters six years of age and younger. Under the procedure, residents of the area will cast ballots. A group of judges will choose the winner from the five little girls receiving the most ballots.

Mayors To Be Judges

Judges will be mayors of towns in this area, or their representatives.

The queen for the first annual festival, held last year, was selected on a basis of the largest number of votes.

Pictures of the contestants, who will be sponsored by local service clubs and other organizations, will be published in The Mail Tribune and other Jackson county newspapers, along with a ballot form.

The winner will be selected on April 21. Deadline for organizations to submit the names of their candidates is April 1. Those desiring to enter candidates are asked to notify the chamber of commerce.

A sample float for the festival parade is being prepared by the Medford fire department, and will go on display downtown in the near future. The parade will be open to youngsters 12 years of age and under.

Spring Bags Stand Away From Body Line

This spring's handbags are long and lean, tall and slim or downright huge. Many soft bags stand away from the body line rather than following it as did the tote.

Elongated barrel or cylinder shapes are the most popular of these "mind-of-their-own" handbags. Boxes, satchels and pouches, on the other hand, have been slenderized and stretched out—either horizontally or vertically.

The former is illustrated by a black patent leather box that reaches over a foot in length and is only two and one-half inches wide. It closes with a jeweled clasp on a flap that practically doubles around the bag.

Important texture-wise is shag, or reversed cowhide. These bags, usually casual in feeling, offer a surface more rugged than suede, yet with a pleasant hairy finish. Shag handbags come in brilliant colors, this season's most notable: a vivid tangerine bound in contrasting high-polish calf.

Slim, Light Coats Slated for Spring By Fashion Experts

The V silhouette, the pure perpendicular line and the dress coat are three strong signs that slim coats are "in" for spring. The typical slender coat is light as a dress, subtly textured, pale-colored and somewhat shaped.

Sheer weight wools, linen-weave wools, some blends of linen and wool, various synthetic mixtures provide coat fabrics of unusual lightness and superb shape-ability. More silks and cottons join the spring coat roster with tweed and jacquard weaves available in almost all fabrics.

Honeyed shades and muted pastels look new in soft-textured coats, and light-back-ground tweeds feature medleys of clear primary colors.

Low-Placed Details

The V-line silhouette contributes to the long, lean look by means of deep revers, low placed buttons that sometimes form their own modified V, low placed pockets and a somewhat tapered line from slightly padded shoulder to slim hemline.

Even the box coat takes a new shaping for spring. Here deep yoke effects combine with low pockets and waitline darts to present a slender illusion. One of the newest looks is that of the semi-fitted front and the bloused back, which combines a gently molded line with room for action. More loosely cut coats are shaped with half-belts or tabs.

Dress-Weight Fabrics

The fitted silhouette, a spring perennial, has lost none of its footing; rather it has gained a lean new look of its own. Now the fitted coat is pared down to dress proportions and is aptly called the dress coat. The most interesting, with long torso lines, can actually be worn as a dress!

The air-light fabric of the dress coat include a range of former dress-only weaves. Raw silks, baratheas, silk and cotton tweeds, ottomans, silk-and-worsted blends all appear, wonderfully well, in spring coats.

Set-In Sleeves Avoid Conflict

The current trend toward jumpers has stimulated a new look in blouses. The spring '55 blouse has, in general, set-in sleeves to avoid conflict with jumper armholes. The blouses have smooth fronts with neckline and sleeve interest.

To show to best advantage over bateau or high square necked jumpers, blouse necks are higher—and sleeves are fuller to balance slim jumper skirts.

A second major style trend in blouses is the long torso look, apparent in the increasing quantities of overblouses. These stop anywhere from just below the waist to the hipbone. Many are nipped in or belted at the waist, while others have darting or seaming that curves the figure gently.

The most popular hip-interest overblouses are the middies, with many buttoning down the back.

Sweaters have gone to two new lengths. A good many of them are, surprisingly, shorter. A whole group, however, follows the long lean look.

Cotton Newest Thing In Spring Lingerie

The newest thing in lingerie this spring is cotton, newly rediscovered as a miracle material in its own right. Cotton plisse, dacron-cotton blends and embossed patterns (light enough to be worn under sheers) tub beautifully and never need ironing.

This is not to say that the miracle synthetics are passe—nylons, dacrons and particularly nylon-dacron crepes are very much in the news.

All of these materials are seen frequently in short sleepwear. Many of the shorties team with matching dress-length sleepcoats, which can be worn over their short sisters as robes.

Many of the tailored shorties are also used for lounging. One sets shows up-to-the-minute fashion consciousness with a shirt-detailed top and Bermuda shorts!

The newest prints in lingerie are such Oriental motifs as butterflies and pagodas. Roses, too, are increasingly important, following the spring print line.

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