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THE ST. JOHN STAR



For the Home Dressmaker

SOME EASILY COPIED BATHING SUITS



SALT or fresh water bathing forms so important a part of the summer life, that the question of bathing suits is of decided interest. There was a time when a woman was content to make a guy of herself when in the water, but that day is long past. Now she knows that no costume better repays time and thought spent upon it than the one in which she takes her daily dip.

The bathing suit may be the most becoming thing a woman can wear, or it can be absolutely the reverse. It is, however, her own fault if it is the latter. Given suitable materials cut on good lines, and there are comparatively few women who do not look well when ready to enter ocean, lake or river. Her after-appearance naturally is another affair, and a cloak or cape should, if possible, be in readiness for the decomposing run to the bath-house.

Few women care to wear a renewed bathing suit; quite apart from the unpleasantness of the idea, they are usually far from beautiful. Therefore a suit must either be bought

when a vacation is in prospect, or one must be made at home. The latter is usually much more satisfactory, though surprisingly nice-looking suits are to be found ready-made if one is willing to pay for them.

Any one who has spent many seasons at watering places realizes how radically we have changed our ideas of the correct costume for bathing. Heavy serges, flannels and gilets, with all they meant of unbearable weight in swimming, have almost entirely given place to mohair, brilliantine and silk, which shed the water easily, and at the same time retain their color.

The freak suits of painful obtrusiveness have also lost their prestige, and nowadays the best-dressed women wear the quietest and most inconspicuous bathing costumes. While color is undoubtedly attractive in the water, that color is now furnished in trimmings rather than in garish whole suits of red, yellow, blue, lavender, pink or the broad stripes once so popular. Sometimes the color touch is given by cuffs, belt and collar; more often by

trimming, stitching or braiding. Black and dark blue are distinctly the first choice for a bathing suit, the former strongly in the lead as far as silk is concerned. In fact, the black suit, unrelieved even by a touch of color, is in great favor. One of the smartest seen this season was of heavy black taffeta, cut with a widely flaring skirt with a few side pleats, and a full blouse with a slightly square neck braided with narrow black soutache braid on neck, sleeves and belt. A tiny piping of light blue to outline the neck was the only bit of color to be seen.

There is undoubtedly a growing fancy for the silk bathing suit, despite its unserviceableness and cost. Certainly nothing looks better in the water, or, more to the point, on coming out of it, than taffeta, and if expense is not an object, there can be no better choice. True, doctors will tell you the danger of shock and cold is greater in silk than in woolen fabrics, but that consideration has apparently little weight where fashion is concerned.

Second to taffeta—indeed, in point

of wear quite superior to it—is brilliantine. It is so wiry as to shed the water easily, and not cling, and retains its color almost as well as the silk. The finer weaves of mohair are also liked, or a very fine serge is almost as good.

Dark blue is a popular color for woolen fabrics, while particularly smart are the mohairs and serges in a tiny pin stripe. One very modish striped suit seen recently was in black brilliantine with a white hair-line, braided in narrow black silk braid, with collar and turn-back cuffs of pale blue.

In cut there is no special difference this year from last, though a very flaring and full circular skirt is quite new. The gored skirt, however, pulls less, and when cut with a decided flare and made with a stitched box pleat in front and one or two side pleats, has little more weight than a circular model. Skirts come just to the knees.

Sleeves are almost invariably short, unfortunately for the thin-skinned woman whose arms freckle, and necks are usually slightly low,

either on square or surplice lines, though now and then a woman, with the thought of décolleté gowns ahead, insists upon a standing collar.

The sailor collar is still in evidence, but is scarcely as popular as a yoke or a collar simulated with braids. These latter, moreover, cannot float in the annoying way the broad collar does. Braiding is quite a feature of the new suits, several widths of a soft silk braid being used.

Skirt and blouse are usually made in one, stitched together at the belt. The bloomers should be buttoned to straps attached to the waist underneath.

The woman who wishes to make her bathing suit early can find no more attractive designs than these charming French models of Jeanette Hope.

Suitable for a young girl who can venture on novelties would be the brown and white checked mohair, trimmed with a dark brown mohair braid a half-inch wide in a striking yet simple design. Both

blouse and skirt have a broad box-pleat with short side pleats. A light blue silk handkerchief is tied around the head in a stylish manner, while tan stockings complete a very smart costume.

The second model is good either for black taffeta or for white serge, though the white bathing suit is not to be recommended for this country. The skirt is circular and quite flaring, while the blouse is full and plain, with a shaped yoke, cuff and girdle trimmed in two widths of black silk braid.

The woman who values a white neck will fancy the next model of black taffeta, with its yoke and high collar of black and white taffeta. This striped trimming is both novel and easily applied. Stitched side pleats give the necessary fullness to both skirt and blouse.

Dark blue mohair, with a simple trimming of dark and light blue braid, forms the last model. The skirt is circular, and the blouse is plain, save for a few pleats on the shoulders in front. A light blue handkerchief with large dots covers

the hair.

Though the expert swimmer wears a hat, those worn are usually large turn-down panamas or rough straw hats, tied with gay ribbons.

Notes

EVENING coats of dyed lace are very lovely, though sometimes it seems like rank extravagance to color so handsome a lace as Irish point to meet what must be at best a passing fancy. A handsome long Empire coat of Irish lace, seen not long ago, was of that rich wine color called mulberry, trimmed with chiffon to match.

A smart sailor hat has clusters of moss rosebuds in the form of floral sigrettes, high on either side of the front, and a wreath of white hyacinths around the crown.

Many ostrich feathers are seen dyed in shaded colorings from the deepest, darkest tones down to the palest and most delicate tints.