

Gray Silk Serge Adorns Itself with Bands of Orange White.

Uneven Hems for Spring Skirts

How the Increased Length Is Being Camouflaged by Ingenious Designers with Irregular Hems That Make Skirts Both Long and Short at the Same Time.



By ...
Mme. Frances

The Famous Creator of Fashions

Dark Blue Silk Serge Bound in Red-Violet Shows an Uneven Hem That Is Very Distracting.

Panels of Black Crepe Meteor, Alternating Dull and Shiny Are Made Into One Skirt by the Help of Black Hemstitching.

A Fabric of Another Generation—Black Ninon Is Revived for This Frock. It Is Embroidered in Red and Gold Beads and Girdled by a Gold Belt.

WHEN new fashions are presented the most vital question on the lips of every woman is, "What is the correct length for the skirt?" For so many seasons we have rejoiced in the very abbreviated modes that there is a tendency among certain creators to lengthen the skirt. But a great difficulty then arises, for the eyes have become accustomed to short skirts, and when longer skirts are shown women naturally feel a certain repugnance to them. They appear dowdy. These forerunners of a new mode are at first greeted with scorn, for women naturally forget that a few moons ago the short skirt was considered fit only for the woman who delighted in notoriety.

Yet eventually it was accepted by the best dressed women in America. Now when the longer skirt was presented a season ago it met with such rebuffs that the short skirt still triumphed. But in many of the new modes for spring longer skirts should be worn, otherwise the beauty of the gown will be greatly diminished. However, a different method is being adopted to achieve the transition from the very short to the more graceful long skirt. Instead of adding on two or three inches to the hem and insisting that the longer skirt show the correct length all around, the new frocks are designed with irregular-hems. Thus devotees of the long as well as the short skirt are appeased.

The Descending Hem

There are many fascinating ways to bridge the inches between the modes of yesterday and tomorrow. I have evolved quite a variety which I presented at my recent opening, and I am sure you will agree with me that this gradual, instead of abrupt, transition will attain the desired end far more quickly than by any arbitrary insistence on the addition of a specified number of inches to the hem.

As I know you are all interested in fashion changes, especially at this time when you are planning your spring ward-

robes, I have illustrated several types of the new irregular hem dress on this page.

One of the most effective ways is pictured in the dress of dark blue silk serge. The skirt shows generous fullness on the sides, which are cut somewhat shorter than the back and front. The straight bodice favors the low waistline, for this is a mode much beloved by distinctively dressed women. It is slashed down the front, which permits the use of violet blue binds.

These also outline the high standing collar, which is open in the front. Binds of the same material mark the junction of the sleeve and the bodice as well as outline the bell-shaped cuffs.

Another most interesting decoration appears on the dress. This is colorful embroidery wrought in coral and blue violet wool. Tassels of braid in the same bright colors dangle from the sleeves and the ends of the belt. More color is revealed in the heavy heads of the tassels, where strands of green and yellow are interestingly interwoven.

The small hat that accompanies this creation is developed in green satin with a facing of gray satin on the upturned brim. Although very simple in line, it is extremely smart when worn at the correct angle. This, of course, is most essential and unfortunately is often ignored even by women who are recognized as well-dressed. To assure yourself that your hat is correctly placed on your head you should study its relation to the lines of your face and head, for the matter of a tilt too far forward or to one side makes a tremendous difference to your appearance.

Another way of lengthening the skirt is by the use of panels that extend beyond the hem of the underskirt. This is very prettily revealed in the dress of black crepe meteor. As both sides of this silk

are exceptionally lovely I have used them to good advantage in this model.

What you call the wrong side of the silk is used for the waist because I prefer its dull finish. Very plain in design, the bodice is adorned with several short rows of hemstitching.

The skirt is made of panels of the meteor disposed so that the dull and shiny sides alternate. The longer panels are fashioned with the glossy side outwards, while those between are developed in the dull finished side. They are hemstitched together and through this tracery one may catch a glimpse of the white meteor underdress. Should you desire to have a less dashing looking frock you could of course substitute black underneath.

A girdle of dull cloth of gold defines the junction of blouse and skirt, while the black satin hat rejoices in clusters of white roses on its sides.

An Unusual Skirt

Another version of the irregular hem is presented in the dress of gray silk serge. A simple little frock, it is fashioned with a novel skirt. This is cut away in the front to reveal the short underskirt. But what is taken off in the front is added to the sides, which extend beyond its hem for several inches. The skirt is cut quite straight, with just a trifle of fullness about the waistline.

About its lower edges is an attractive trimming. This is made of white cotton material with a raised design in orange-colored cotton. Another band is set a few inches above and introduces some gay color on the frock.

The bodice of the serge at first glance suggests a trim eton jacket. However, the gay trimming is responsible for this effect as it is used quite lavishly on the waist. Another vivid touch is seen in the long narrow opening which extends a few

inches below the waistline, for it is hemstitched in orange thread.

The hat that I originated to accompany this creation is made of black straw and is set snugly on the coiffure. At one side Paradise is attached and sweeps around the face in the approved mode of the moment.

Should you desire to copy this model you could, of course, fashion it from any other material that you wished to use. The trimming, too, could be varied, but I would suggest that you use a wool trimming if you make your frock of silk, as one reason why my creations are so distinctive is that I vary the fabrics and their trimmings. When, for instance, I use a silk serge like the dress just described, I affect a cotton trimming. This season there are many fascinating novelties, while if you are handy with your needle and have some feeling for color I am sure that you may evolve most interesting decorations. Perhaps you know how to paint. In that case you might take pieces of silk or cotton and color them with novel motifs on which oriental figures or conventionalized flowers would look excellent. Then these could be applied to your dress in any manner that you care to use them. Bright

wool threads might be used for applying them or tiny beads.

The dress that completes the group is exceedingly beautiful and shows how cleverly different types of panels may be combined. It is evolved from black ninon over an underslip of black meteor. On each side of the skirt is a straightly cut panel of the ninon embroidered in red beads and gold leaves.

How Ninon Is Used

Their brilliancy, however, is partially concealed by the soft panels of the ninon that are set on the back and front of the dress. Falling in cascade-like style at the sides, they finish in long narrow points, and are curved out in the back and front so that the ends of the beaded panels may readily be seen.

The wide sleeves show rich beading and beautifully sewn leaves of gold. A novel touch is revealed in the back of the gown, which is open from the neck to the waistline. A black tulle hat with flyaway wings of tulle accentuates the dainty appeal of this gown which so cleverly heralds the coming of the longer skirt.

The Fashion Forecast

Composé suits with plaid skirt, pleated in front, back or sides, and plain coat bound with the plaid soon will be most fashionable.

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