Focus On Fashion

Split skirts and knickers are the fashion news for the fall season. Look for the swashbuckling pirate effect to lead the trend.

Roxanne Miller in a 3-pc. suit by P.S.I. Jacket is sky blue and bone herringbone with mauve and plum yarn sewn throughout and trimmed in the same yarn fringe.

Fall clothing excites me as no other season can! The wide range of opulent textures, such as butter soft angoras, leathers and suedes, deluxe tweeds and sporty corduroys add new dimensions to our visual image.

These fabrics look so sensual, that they beg to be touched. In times when everyone is trying to stretch a dollar, remember that being able to recognize and appreciate a quality garment will save you money in the long run.

Keep in mind that in clothing, as well as many other areas, "quality is better than quantity." If you're working on a tight budget, make up your mind to update your wardrobe with a few classic pieces, and perhaps one or two trendy new items.

This fall you may add a split skirt that looks great with one of last year's blazers. Don't worry about matching the two as far as color and texture are concerned. The most contemporary looks around don't match, although they do go together.

Consider investing in a silk shirt that can be worn with a suit as well as over jeans. Don't kid yourself into thinking that you can make a quality garment cheaper. Calculate the cost of materials and the value of your time, along with the quality of your work.

You'll probably decide that trying to make it yourself is not going to be too much cheaper. If you do decide to make it yourself, remember that a well pressed seam goes a long way toward making a garment look professional.

One of the hottest new trends around is an earthy, ethnic look, that is frequently translated into a swash-buckling pirate effect. Knickers abound, and you may want to try a pair that you can team with one of your favorite tunic tops.

Complete the look by wrapping your waist with a couple of colorful scarves. Or you may invest in one of the daring ethnic costumes such as the one featured here by India Imports. Both the quilted jacket and matching harem pants are hand painted in a robin's egg blue, soft purple and black Slavic print.

The split skirt continues to be one of the strongest trends for fall. They are showing up in every fabrication and length imaginable. They look especially well with textured hose or boots.

Top off the look with one of this season's most important accessories — the serape, or shawl. Not only do they add a dash of color and texture, but they are great for taking the chill off the air, when draped over a sweater or blazer, when you're not quite ready for that heavy coat.

Skirts are fuller this year, and the sharpest suits around feature a short jacket that compliments the wider-proportion of the skirt. Shown here is a suit by PSI, that we found irresistible. The cropped jacket is a blue and beige herringbone tweed, with strands of pink and mauve mohair woven throughout.

The jacket is edged in dusty rose and mauve, yarn fringe, and the cuffs receive the same treatment. It is matched with a dusty rose, crepe de chine, blouse with a ruffled collar.

The skirt is mauve, and softly pleated at the waist, for a slight dirndyl effect. A well made suit is practically priceless, as you are bound to look like a million dollars for years to come, just about anywhere you go in it.

For the junior set, pants with all kinds of innovative treatments are the rage this year. Zippers, pockets, and cuffed ankles are a must, and jumpsuits and overhauls continue as fashion favorites. Pant length varies from ankle, to mid-calf, knee-length, and above.

Quilting is showing up everywhere, and one of our favorites is a jaunty quilted bomber jacket, with matching straight leg pants. It is shown here in burgundy, and is perfect for the up-coming football season, or any outdoor activity.

By Paula Brooks

Roxanne in Esprit De Corp's quilted cotton pants suit. The bomber jacket and straight leg pants are available in blustery burgundy and khaki green.

Brenda Trusty in India Imports hand printed cotton pants suit. The jacket is quilted with matching harem pants featuring elasticized ankle treatment.

Brenda in a 2-pc. corduroy gaucho suit. An earthy rust color, it is chicly sporty, and features the stylishly comfortable split-skirt that is all the rage this season.

Kick up your heels in Sears Cling-alon Panty Hose. Irresistibly sheer! Lastingly lovely!

Whether you're workin' or playin', your Sears Cling-alon panty hose will hold their fit, because they're made to move with you. They've got bounce and stretch knit right in, so they move like your natural skin. In shades like Java, Dusk, Taupe and lots more, to complement you and whatever you wear.

And it's "Later!" for ugly pantyline bulge because most styles have the Nothing Else® panty knit right in. Plus many Sears Cling-alon panty hose styles feature a toe that's sheer enough for sandals yet reinforced for long wear. Slip into a pair and see. At your nearest Sears store and in the catalog.

You can count on

Sears

©Sears, Roebuck and Co., 1981