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Joan catches the sun in a magenta bikini with sarong-know on top and bottom. Suit is by Val-A-Ree.



Giant leaf pattern in tones of shocking pink and green give this spandex suit with matching sarong skirt a jungle spirit.



Black on white tiger print spandex maillot demonstrates that a one-piece suit has a certain flair.

Focus on Fashion

Getting Ready to Hit the Beaches

By Paula Brooks

Joy of joys! It's sunshine time, and pools and beaches are open for our enjoyment once again. Last one in is a rotten egg! What? You say you have nothing to wear? Have no fear — for this year there are swimsuits available to flatter your figure!

The first step is to decide realistically, what shape your body is in. Make an appraisal of your nude body, (front, rear, and side view), and to thine own self be true! Save those rose-tinted glasses for a more appropriate occasion!

Do you have short legs and-or heavy thighs? A suit with a French cut leg is what you need! Cut high on the hip, they will make legs look longer and leaner.

Full stomach? Tsk tsk! No bikini for you! Work out in a one piece, lycra spandex maillot. You'll find they are comfortable, yet capable of holding everything together. Stick to solid colors, perhaps high-lighted by a single, slenderizing diagonal stripe.

Are you blessed, or cursed (depending on how you look at it), with a Jayne Mansfield bosom? Let it all hang out does not apply to you! It can be enticing to show a little cleavage — however, if your cup runneth over, from the top and sides of a skimpy halter bikini, the look becomes common, rather than sophisticated and sexy.

Opt for a suit with a built in bra, that will offer you some support.

If you have heavy arms and broad shoulders, you don't need skinny tee-straps, or strapless styles that will only emphasize the problem. Stick with wide straps, and avoid a top that's too tight.

A top that cuts into your shoulders, will only make them appear larger, as well as being uncomfortable.

Speaking of too tight — please make sure your swimsuit bottom covers your bottom! There is no excuse for cheeks hanging out!

If you insist on appearing in public like this, you may be mistaken for a professional, so you should not be upset if you do not receive the lady-like treatment you feel you deserve! Self-respect encourages the same attitude from others.

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Joan Bannister wears a giraff print bikini with web-like strings on the hip. The suit is named The Spider.