

Reproduction of Era "Separates" Skirts and Blouses  
By Maxine Dust, MAFCA Era Fashion Committee



Figure 1

Woman's Home Companion October 1929 cover demonstrates that during Era times as is true today, women were using patterns and magazines for instruction and inspiration to create their own garments for themselves or others.

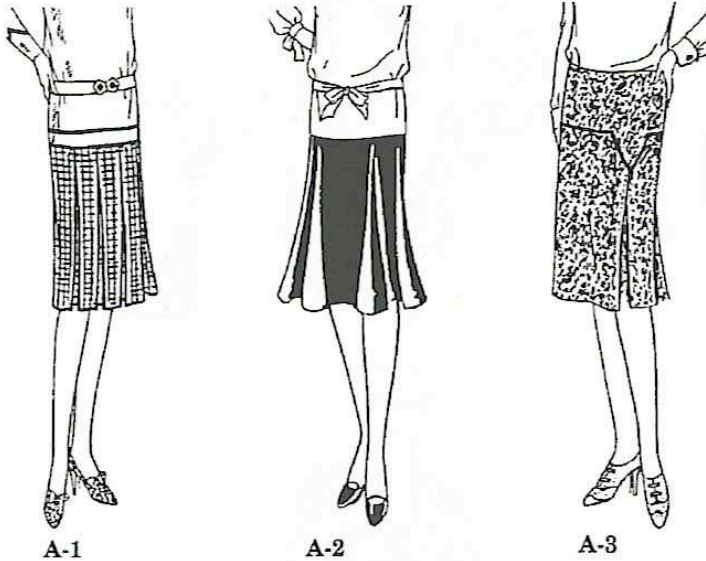
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### SKIRTS AND BLOUSES

During 1928-1929, skirts usually fastened near the natural waist or were attached to a slip or camisole top. Most blouses were overblouses and came down over the top of the skirt to produce the dropped-waist appearance which was the keynote of the times. A few blouses were seen tucked into

skirts whose waistbands rode low about the hips. With the advent of the natural waistline in 1930-1931, most skirts were designed for the waistband to show, and were fastened at or near the natural waist. Blouses were for the most part designed to be tucked into the skirt.



A. These are several typical styles of skirts from 1928-1929. Note the hem length compared to the 1931 examples below. *Butterick Quarterly*, Autumn, 1929, p. 56.

B. These three skirt designs show varied detailing. *Vogue Pattern Book*, Summer 1931, p. 57.

C. This separate skirt has a strap bodice made of rayon and was worn with an overblouse. This skirt is pleated and made of flat silk crepe. *Ward's*, F&W 1930, p. 134.

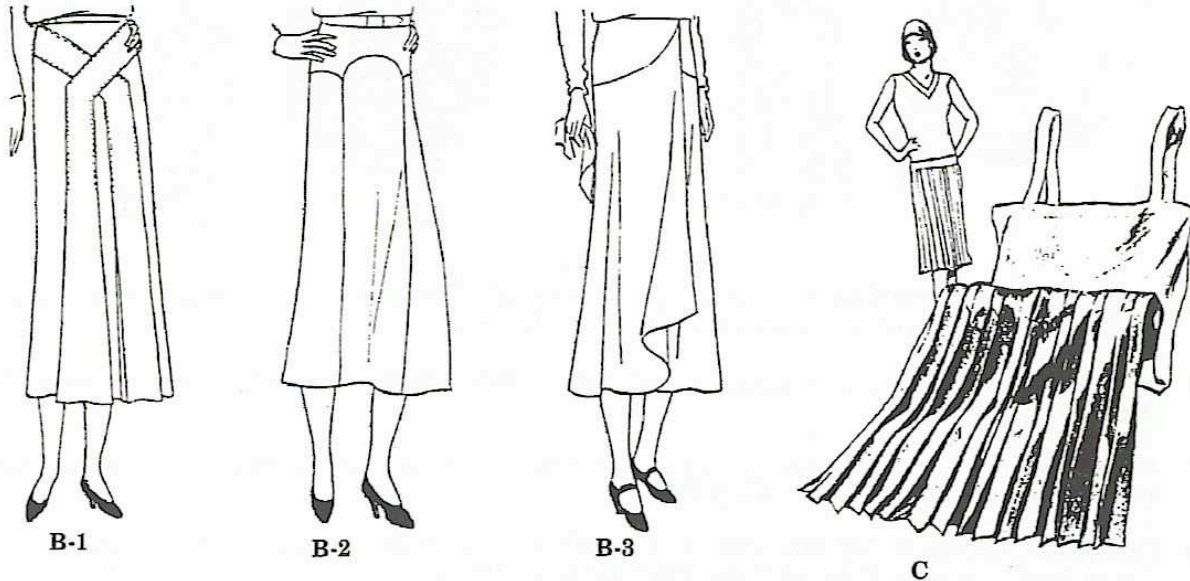


Figure 2

Skirts as depicted in "The Fashion Guidelines" available through MAFCA, 250 S. Cypress Street, La Habra, Ca. 90631-5515. This page also gives general information about Era skirts and blouses. Women at that time as well as today chose "separates" to achieve better fit, have greater versatility, and enlarge their wardrobe choices.



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Figure 3

Reproduction of era fashions requires some research. Original patterns such as shown here; Mc Calls – copyright 1929 – for 3 variations of a blouse can sometimes still be found in antique stores or swap meets. There are also a limited number of original patterns available for temporary use by contacting **Pat Watson, 20124 Beach Drive NW, Stanwood, WA 98292**. When sewing era garments, it is important to use fabrics, colors, and sewing methods used during 1928-31 in order to achieve the actual “era look”, refer to *“The Fashion Guidelines”* or newly published *“A Book on Fashion Facts”* available from MAFCA.

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Figure 4

Skirt and Blouse Ensembles - "Spring 1928 Pictorial Review" depicts examples of possible colors and fabric designs. This picture also shows hair styles, jewelry, and shoe choices. It is important to complete the total "era" picture.

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Figure 5

The same issue of "Pictorial Review" demonstrates more examples of skirts or when possible creation of a "jumper" affect. A variety of blouses or "tops" is shown.



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Figure 6

Jackets or vests gave a finished look to a skirt and blouse. These particular ensembles were suggested for use at sporting events. Again this picture comes from "Spring 1928 Pictorial Review".

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Figure 7

The 1930 Winter issue of "Butterick Quarterly" just featured patterns for men, women, and children. Shown here are skirts and blouses. Note: back detail on # 3446 shows uneven hemline which is currently fashionable. It may be possible to locate a similar 2006 pattern.



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Figure 8

Simplicity pattern #5914 could possibly be adjusted for a reproduction skirt. It would be necessary to use wider side seams in order to have a placket to accommodate snap closures instead of a zipper.