

UNDERWEAR

SELECTION and CONSTRUCTION



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UNDERWEAR

Selection and Construction

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The choice of the right kind of underwear is extremely important. To have undergarments that do not fit, very often ruins the entire effect of a dress or suit. To have an outer garment look its best, care must be taken as to the material, the color, the construction, and especially the style and fit of the underclothing.

FOUNDATION GARMENTS

It is very evident that a foundation garment—girdle, corset or corselette—will improve the appearance of everyone. Girls and women of firm perfect figures often can go without them and not seriously mar the effect of their dresses, but perfect figures are few. There are so many types of foundation garments on the market that everyone may be satisfied. Regardless of how slight a girdle is worn, it is always wisest to be fitted at a reliable place.

SLIPS

Materials—The materials for slips should be chosen both for serviceability and effect under the dress with which it is to be worn. Cotton is the most practical for everyday work slips. Slip sheen, sateen, non cling, nainsook, longcloth and muslin, as well as some sacks, are a few of the many cottons suitable. Both satin and flat crepe are excellent silk materials for slips, but choose a firm heavy fabric so that there is less chance of it splitting or pulling out. The choice of a good desirable material, as well as an attractive one, applies as much to ready-mades as to those made at home.

Colors—White is most suitable for cotton work slips and for general use when the dress demands a white slip.

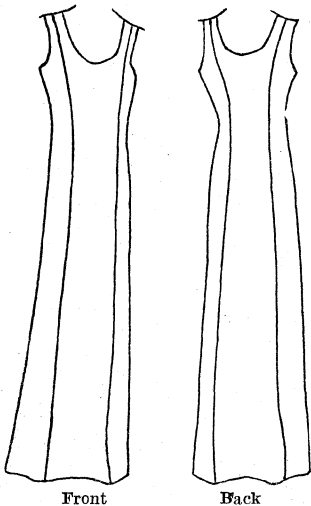
Flesh and light peach—the best general all purpose colors now being shown.

Dark colors—to be worn under dark materials of the same color—especially when the material is porous or open work. A dark eyelet dress looks much richer when worn over a slip of the same color than over a light slip.

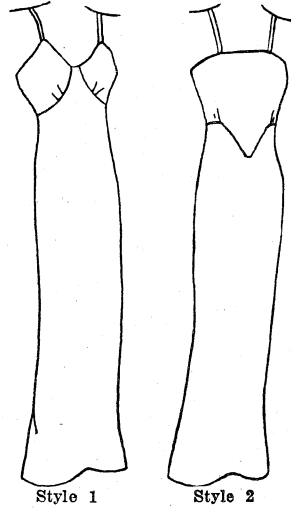
Styles—The smoother the slip fits the body, the better the effect will be. Straight hanging slips have little place in our wardrobe of today. No slip should be so full that it is bunglesome beneath a dress. However, they should fit easily enough so as not to draw or pull out at seams. A more comfortable, neater appearing one is with built up shoulders—especially for work slips.

Many prefer those with brassiere tops and with the lower portion either cut on the bias or on the straight of the material.

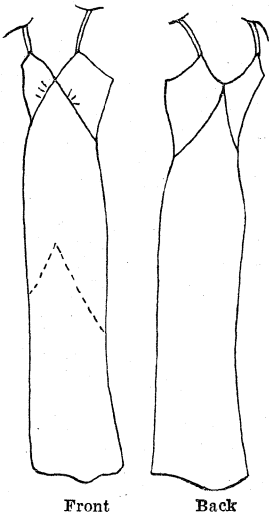
The styles given are merely suggestions and similar patterns may be purchased at almost any pattern counter.



Front Back
Fig. 1—A slip cut on princess lines
 —top may be built up or straight



Style 1 Style 2
Fig. 2—Two brassiere top slips
 that fit



Front Back
Fig. 3—May be cut either on
 the bias or the straight of
 the material

Summer-time slips should be shadow-proof. If gored, the extra thickness may be sewed in the front panel, but if the front is all in one piece, the under section, coming to a V at the top and stitched down, is caught in at the side seams.

Trimming—Plain tailored slips are the most practical and are preferred by many people, while others like some trim. Lace is one of the prettiest trimmings that can be used. Hemstitching can be used around hems or facings.

Construction — Suggested seams for slips are: flat felled, plain seam overcast and lap seam either overcast or pinked. Use the pinked seam only on silks that do not ravel.

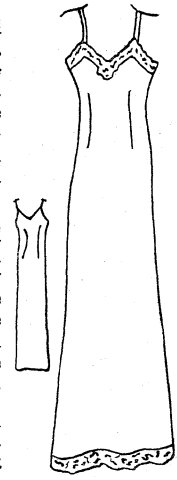


Fig. 4 — A plain
 two-piece slip with
 darts to make it
 fit. Lace is often
 used as trim.

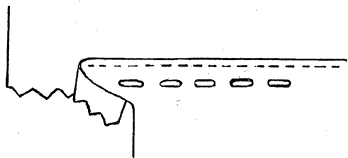


Fig. 5—Lap Seam

The hem varies in width from the "shirt tail" hem to the deeper $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inch ones. Slips with shadow panels, or ones with much gored fullness cannot take a very wide hem. An inch or two inches are very good widths for the average style.

The tops of built up slips are usually either faced or bound. The straight around tops may be hemmed. One-fourth to one-half inches are good widths for the straps whether made at home or ready made.

PANTIES, BLOOMERS AND BRASSIERES

Style—Regardless as to what type of pantie is worn it should be close enough fitting that the lines and fullness are not evident through



Fig. 6—Faced top and faced or bound edges of legs.



Fig. 7 — Yoke top
—lace trimmed
edges.

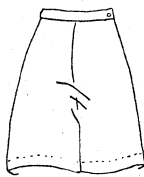


Fig. 8—A strictly tailored pantie or short. Top may also be faced or elastic webbing used.

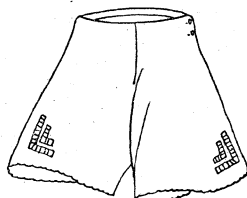


Fig. 9—A lovely hand-finished garment—scalloped edge and drawn work design.

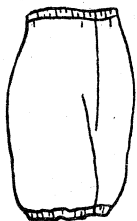


Fig. 10—Bloomers using either inserted elastic or the woven stitched on kind.

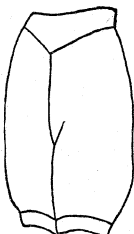


Fig. 11 — Some prefer bands instead of elastic on the legs.



Fig. 12 — A comfortable combination garment.

the dress, and at the same time be loose enough to be comfortable and wear well. For this reason the fitted pantie is the most satisfactory. This may have a narrow facing or yoke facing at the top and buttoned or hooked. Elastic may be used—either the woven elastic sewed to the top of the garment or the inserted elastic. Do not have the garment too full. It should fit smoothly with few or no gathers showing.

All types of bloomers should also fit closely so there will be no bulk to mar the lines of the dress.

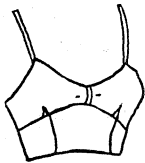


Fig. 13 — A good brassiere with a fitted abdomen section to take care of that ever present bulge.



Fig. 14—A perfect fitting brassiere

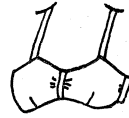


Fig. 15. — A fitted bandeau where just a little support is needed.

Materials—More than for any other garments, should the choice of durable materials be the first consideration when purchasing panties and brassieres. This applies both to those made at home and ready-mades. These garments get harder wear and are laundered more often, so for these reasons the materials should be chosen for lasting qualities.

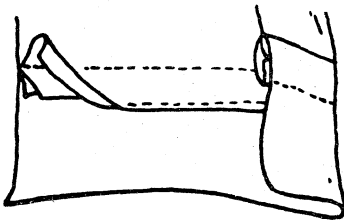
Cottons suitable for slips are also suitable for panties, bloomers and brassieres. Many excellent outfits have been made from flour sacks and from light weight feed sacks. These sacks, bleached and made up are as attractive as many of the materials bought.

In choosing ready mades, good knits are very practical. They wear well, are easily laundered, and fit smoothly. Select garments that are large enough so that they will not bind and will not pull out, but do not get them too large.

Colors—The most practical colors are white, flesh and peach. However, there are times when other colors are suitable. For general all purpose wear the three colors mentioned fit in best with our present day clothing scheme and are more easily obtainable in a greater number of materials, as well as being easily laundered.

CONSTRUCTION

1. Attaching Elastic—in attaching the woven elastic, divide top of garment into four parts and do the same with the elastic which should be measured to fit the waist. Turn



TOP SIDE

Fig. 16—Flat Felled Seams.

down a seam of garment to right side toward elastic and stitch, stretching the elastic to fit the fabric. When stitched, turn to right side and stitch on elastic close to the edge, again stretching.

2. Seams — any kind of fitted pantie, short or bloomer should have flat felled seams. They are also best for seams in most brassieres unless tape is used to cover them.

3. Hems and finishes—discussed under General Finishes.

GENERAL FINISHES

For instructions for making see "Appropriate Finishes" Circular No. 269.

1. Hand hems—always the neatest method of finishing wherever it is found—handwork gives any garment a softness of finish and a neater appearance—good for any type of garment. Use the hemming stitch or the slip stitch.

2. Lace trim—good durable laces that will stand successive washings. Laces are put on with the overhanding stitch. Garments with lace trim are not as practical as those without.

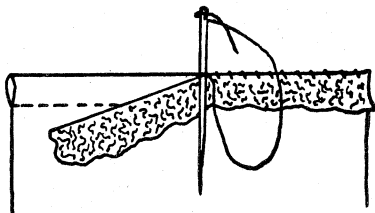


Fig. 17—Overhanding stitch.

3. Shell edge—a lovely hand finished edge for silks, fine linens and cottons. This is made by using the buttonhole stitch, keeping the thread inside the hem and spacing the stitches as far apart as the size of the scallop desired.

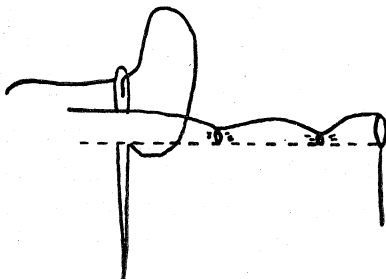


Fig. 19—Shell edge.

4. Machine stitched hems, facings and bindings—good for shorts, tailored underwear and underwear for work or everyday. Also used when the stitching serves as trimming.

5. Facings—facings are often used on tops of slips and around armholes, on brassieres and at both top of panties and around legs. They will fit in many instances around curved edges where hems cannot be turned. Put down either by hand or the machine. Hand finishes are more attractive.

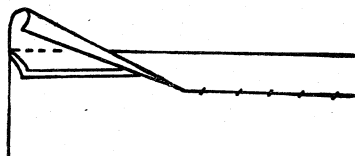
6. Bindings—another method of finishing the top of slips, brassieres and legs of panties. It is not quite as smooth and flat a finish as a facing.

7. Decorative stitches—many decorative stitches may be used, if desired, at hem or at facing edges on slips and panties. The undecorated underwear, however, is often more desirable and more attractive.

8. Fasteners—Buttons and buttonholes, and hooks and eyes prove very satisfactory. For methods of making buttonholes and of sewing on buttons, and hooks and eyes see *Appropriate Finishes*, pages 21, 22 and 23.



Fig. 18—Join lace along design using overhanding stitch.



Facing

Fig. 20. — A facing is one of the smoothest finishes for curved edges—best if cut on the bias.



Fig. 21—Binding

9. Plackets—use either the continuous bound and faced or the two piece bound and faced types.

