



Stepping Out in Style:

How to Achieve the WWI "Look"



Introduction: What we will cover

- Elements of “Edwardian” style (1900 – 1916)
 - Men’s
 - Women’s
- Elements of WWI style (1916 – 1919)
 - Men’s
 - Women’s
- Elements of Post WWI style (1919-1925)
 - Men’s
 - Women’s
- Resources for Those Who Can Sew
- “Ready Made”: Purchase online
- Getting the “Look” through a Thrift Store



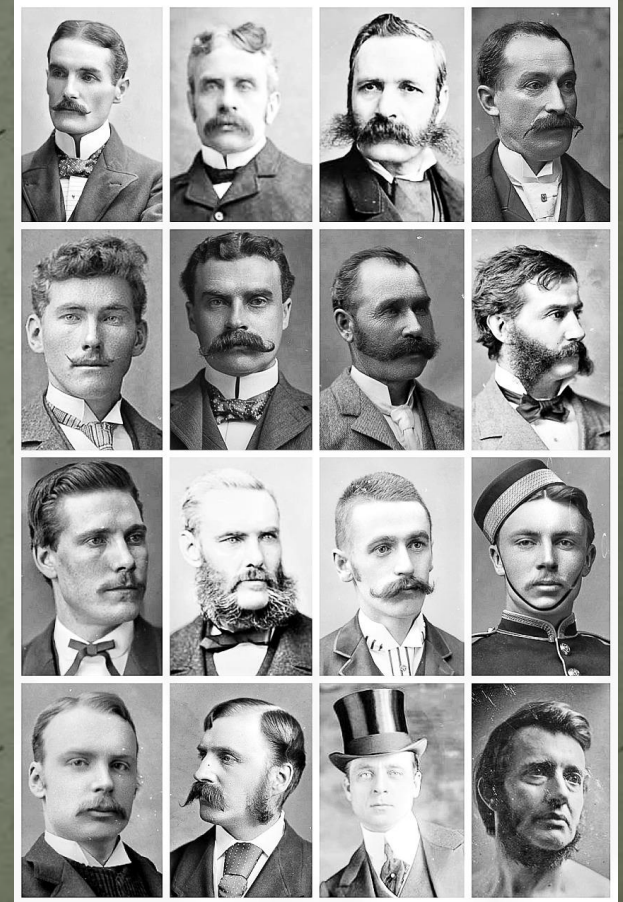
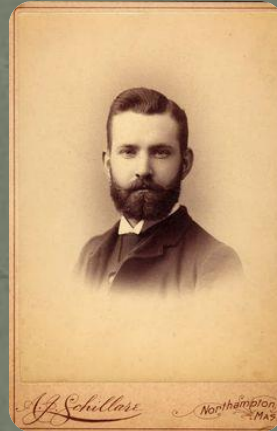
Elements of “Edwardian” style (1900 – 1916)

- Men's Clothing Styles



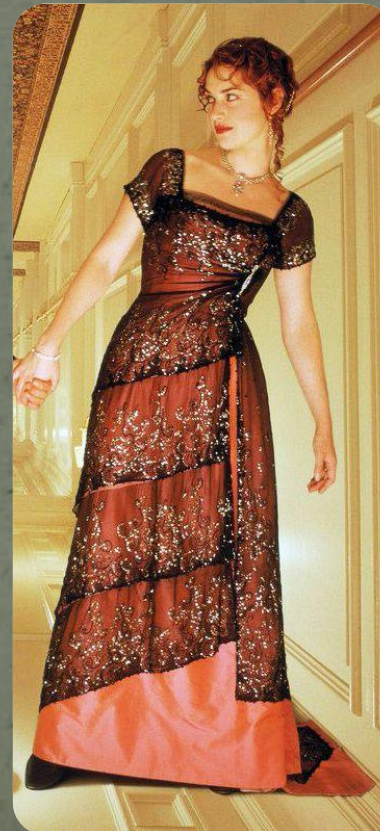
Elements of “Edwardian” style (1900 – 1916)

- Men’s Hair



Elements of “Edwardian” style (1900 – 1916)

- Women's Clothing





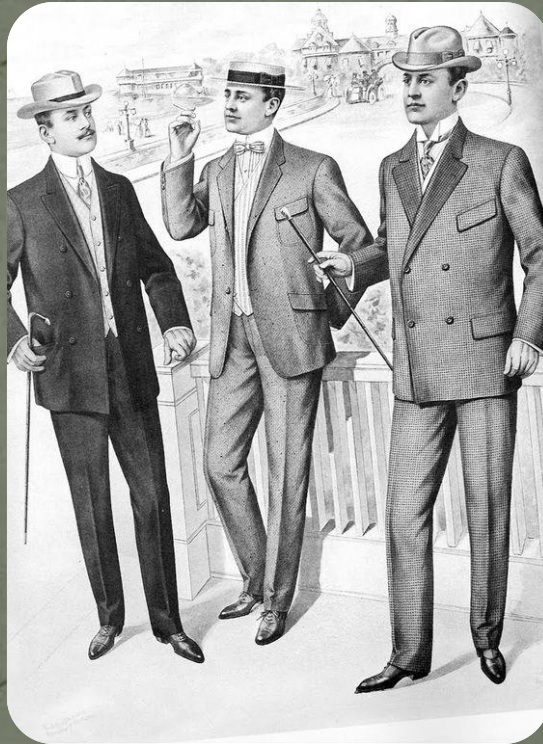
Elements of “Edwardian” style (1900 – 1916)

- Women’s Hair Style



Elements of WWI style (1916 – 1919)

- Men's Clothing styles

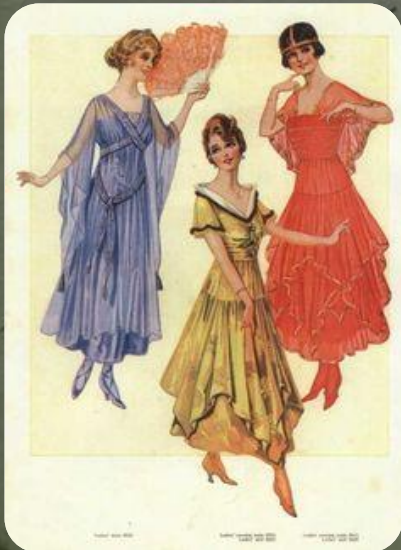
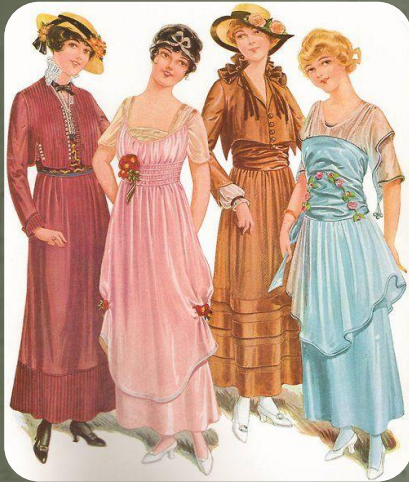


American Women's fashions between 1914-1919 were increasingly impacted by British influence (Edwardian), World War I (the Great War) as well as the women's suffrage movement of the era.



Elements of WWI style (1916 – 1919)

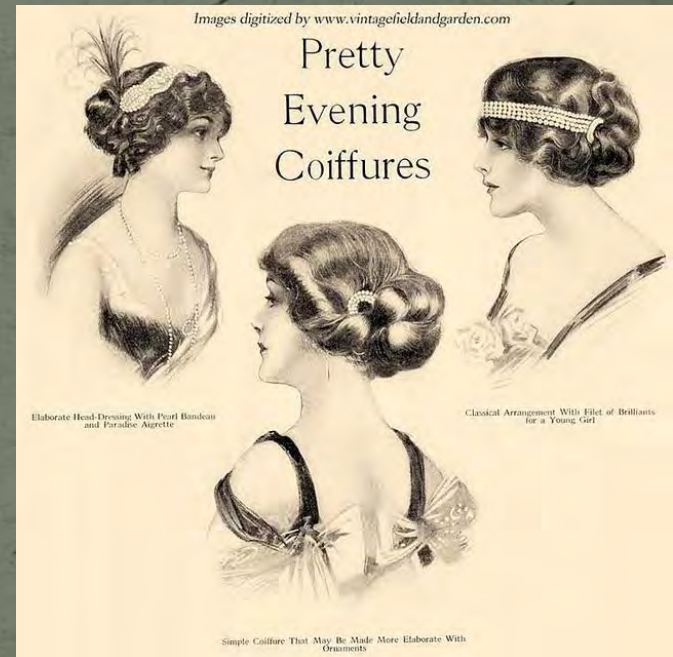
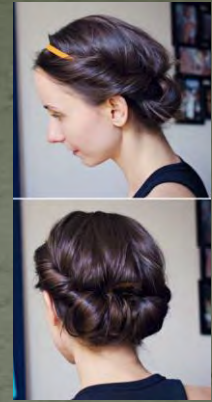
- Women's styles: Clothing



The earlier hobble skirts restricted movement but dance frocks often featured a split skirt to allow movement. Some of these illustrations show the inner skirt behind the split, sometimes a chiffon, lace or accordion-pleated petticoat under the split.

Elements of WWI style (1916 – 1919)

- Women's Hair Styles for Evening



A variety of feathers, caps and headbands were worn, while some of the women wore no headdress at all, to better feature their new shorter hairstyles.



Elements of Post WWI style (1919 – 1924)

- Women's Styles: Clothing



Resources for Those Who Can Sew

- Period Appropriate Patterns

- Simplicity Costume Pattern 1517 Misses Edwardian Style Dresses
- Butterick Pattern B6190-Empire-Waist Dress, Jacket and Headbands
- Butterick Patterns B5970 Misses' Top and Skirt Sewing Templates
- Laughing Moon #104, 1909-1913 Day or Evening Dress
- Sense and Sensibility 1910s Tea Gown Pattern
- Wingeo 1910 - 1915 Gown & Overdress Pattern
- Hint of History 1910's Lace Insertion Dress and Drawstring Slip Pattern
- Reconstructing History RH1052 – Ladies' 1910s Three Button Walking Suit
- Reconstructing History RH1090 – Ladies' 1910s Evening Gowns
- Reconstructing History RH1205 – 1918 Slip-on Blouse and Skirt
- Reconstructing History RH1083 – 1916 Royal Flying Corps Officer's Jackets and Coat
- Reconstructing History RH1068 – 1910s Gaiters or Spatterdashes
- Reconstructing History RH929 - 1850s-1900s Evening Dress Waistcoats Pattern



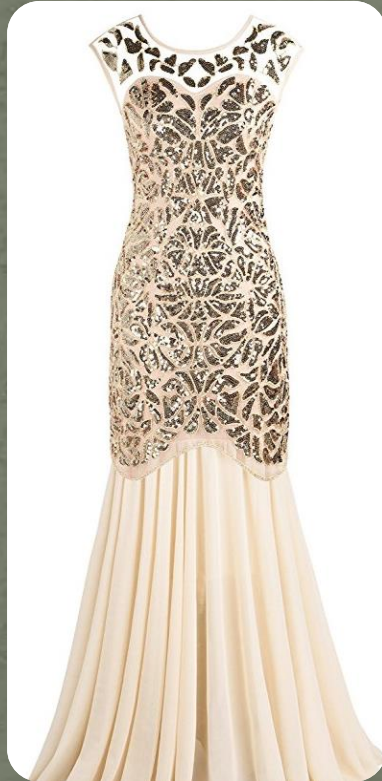
Ready Made Purchases Online

- Here are a few suggestions for finding remade era appropriate clothing



Wardrobe Shop or
Amazon

<http://wardrobeshop.com/>



Amazon
www.amazon.com
Keyword: Art Deco
Dresses



Unique Vintage
<http://www.unique-vintage.com/>



Recollections
<http://recollections.biz/clothing/downton-abbey.html>



Victorian Trading Company

<https://www.victoriantradingco.com/item/2526938/103101/elusive-gown>



Victorian Choice

<http://www.victorianchoice.com/shop/pc/Victorian-Edwardian-Downton-Abbey-Vintage-Ivory-Lace-Overlay-Wedding-Dress-Bridal-Gown-Reenactment-Clothing-21p4757.htm>



Amazon Keyword Search: Tuxedos



Amazon or Historical Emporium

Getting the “Look” Through a Thrift Store

- ❖ Start with a simple “princess” dress.
- ❖ Top it with a lace collar.
- ❖ Top it with a filmy nylon nighty
- ❖ You got it!



1) Get a lacy top



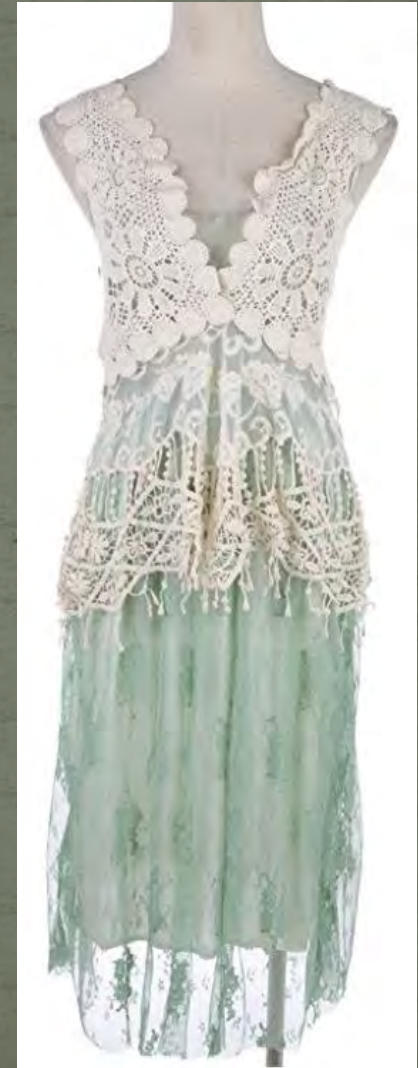
The top was made from remnant bits of lace from a tablecloth and curtains!

2) Pair it with a sheer dress and...



This was originally a nightgown with half slip sewn in.

Presto! Instant fancy
WWI dancing dress!





- Look for a long formal dress, maxi dress or basic slip dress with a straight shape to the skirt. You can choose whatever color you like- but avoid very bright colors
- The top of the dress should have an empire waist with a horizontal bust line that starts mid way between your chest and collarbone.
- Avoid V necklines or low scoop necklines at all cost. Modesty is very important in the Edwardian era.
- Sleeves can be any length. Traditionally sleeves were either long or short and snug to the skin. However since we'll be covering up the sleeves with a robe- it really doesn't matter what sleeves come with the dress. Sleeveless dresses are fine too.
- Chiffon, lace, rayon, or polyester blends are the best fabrics. If you find a fabric with a pattern or texture that is ok just be sure to choose a plain overcoat to avoid clashing patterns.
- Next, walk over to the nightgown/lingerie section of the store and look for an unlined silk or satin night robe. A light see through lace or see through chiffon robe is also a nice option. Robes can hang down to your thigh or be full length.
- The current trend for Kimono robes (a throwback to the more recent '70s) are perfect for 1910 to early 1920s styles. Silk, satin or chiffon type materials are best for this era. Beaded Kimono coats are late teens to early 20s style.
- You could also layer on another tea length dress. Find a modest solid or print dress that comes down to mid thigh or knee and layer it over your underdress.
- For the sash you use a long silk or satin scarf. Another option is to buy wide satin ribbon or a strip of fabric long enough to wrap around your body and tie. Ideal width is 4-6 inches or wider if you fold it 2-3 times.



Summary: If you want to capture the essence of era dance fashions...

- The most popular dance frocks had peplums, with a somewhat high (Empire or Greek style) waistline.
- The skirt was often split, to allow dancing, with an inner skirt or accordion-pleated petticoat under the split.
- Arms were often bare, or sleeves came down halfway, more or less to the elbows.
- Some frocks have trailing ribbons here and there.
- Some women are wearing wrist bracelets, but not much jewelry was worn. Simplicity was the "modern" reaction against the costume jewelry that their mothers and grandmothers had worn.
- Feathers were the most popular headdress for women, in a wide variety of styles, often held with a headband.
- Caps or a wide variety of small hats were also worn. The Dutch cap was Irene Castle's personal trademark.
- Some of the women above have no headdress at all, to better feature their new shorter hairstyle.
- Women's dance shoes had French (splayed) heels, and were often decorated or attached with "Grecian" ribbons.
- For dancing, men customarily wore a formal black tailcoat, even in the afternoon, with white bow tie and white vest.
- Only one-quarter of the men wore white gloves. Most are more "modern" with bare hands.
- For dancing shoes, some men did have special ones which are hard to find today. None are wearing spats.