

## **Dress like a Flapper from your wardrobe**

### **The Roaring Twenties and all that Jazz Festival**

The *Roaring Twenties and all that Jazz Festival* is a fabulous event, even more so if you dress as a stylish 1920's woman and stroll through the events and beautiful places in style. It just adds to the charm of the Festival.

It's easy to create this style from your wardrobe and second hand shop and this guide will show you how to create your 'IT' girl look.

The modern woman of the 20s wore makeup, rolled her stockings below her knees, drove her car way too fast, drank cocktails, smoked, danced all night and then went to breakfast in her evening gown. She was scandalous, outrageous and above all Modern!

The key to 1920s style is feminine grace, without accentuating your curves; a slender, flat chested, slim hiped silhouette is the objective for women.



To get started you will need a dress. The 20s were known for straight cut long dresses (hem below the knee). These made women seem "boyishly" flat chested and without hips. Summer day dresses were made of lightweight, chiffon, Georgette or silk materials. Colours were pale, pinks, cream, greens, blues. Black, scarlett and gold were the exceptions to these pale colours. Solid colors as well as geometrical, Egyptian and Asian patterns were all the rage as was beaded and embroidered fabric.

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Many modern long summer dresses can be easily adapted to look "20's." An easy and stylish way to make a straight line dress look art deco is to tie a thin fabric belt, scarf or loose sash a few inches below your hip bone. This creates the dropped low waist line that is very characteristic of the early to mid 20's.

Another option is to wear a long skirt and white blouse. Skirts could be plain and straight or pleated and a bit fuller. Avoid tapered "pencil" style or wide gathered skirts. These are symbolic of the 1940s and 1950s.



Adorn your outfit with accessories like mid length lace gloves, a shawl, beaded clutch purse and even a parasol. Long floaty and light scarves, tied around your hair, hung around your hips, or your neck 'a la' Isadora Duncan will complete the look.



For your jewelry, long necklaces of beads were very popular, the 'signature' jewelry style of the 20s. The discovery of King Tut's tomb in 1922 inspired geometrical shapes. Add long dangly earrings and rings that glitter.

Once your dress is sorted you need to add the crowning glory of the fashionable woman: the hat.



The cloche hat is what we think of when we think 20s. They were often made of wool, felt or crochet yarn which was ideal for winter but are too warm for summer months. Instead ladies adorned themselves with wide brimmed straw hats that were wrapped with a ribbon and accented with a flower and feathers on one side. A-symmetrical shapes were equally common with one side of the straw hat pinned up and decorated with a colorful flower. If you do nothing else to dress for the Festival you must at least wear an appropriate summer hat.



The next step is to stroll along in a comfortable pair of shoes. T-straps and Mary Jane's with 1-3 inch thick heels were ideal footwear for day or night. If you don't have a pair of these already, try your local dance supply shop for a pair of black "Character" shoes. Avoid ballet flats, thin heeled pumps, sandals and socks. Women wore stockings in dark solid color, fishnets or funky

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geometrical patterns. To emulate Flapper daring, roll your stockings down below your knees and use gold chains as garters.



Fashionable hairstyles were short bobs and finger curled hair. If you have short hair your cloche or straw hat will work well to cover your hair appropriately. If you have long hair you can gather it back to fit under your hat or place it in a flat bun at the nape of your neck.

Makeup was the 'bees knees', unlike her mother, the 20s woman piled on face powder, eye shadow and lipstick. Your face powder should be pale, red blush in a round circle on your cheeks, red, red lips and dark, smokey eye shadow. The idea is to look like you have been up all night drinking, smoking and dancing. The new invention, nail polish, made your nails glitter in bright, brash reds, but you only paint in the nail center. The half-moon and nail tip were left bare and white. It was considered 'not nice' to colour your entire nail.

It's not very difficult to pull together your outfit from items in your closet or local vintage and second hand shops. However, for those of you who have some sewing skills I highly recommend you come to my January 2012 workshops. We will look at all the above aspects and you will be turned into a 1920s Flapper and look like your great, great grandmother. Numbers are limited, so book early! For more information on these workshops, please contact me via email [enquiries@thetailorsapprentice.com](mailto:enquiries@thetailorsapprentice.com)

Now that your outfit is complete you can attend the Festival and stop to pose in front of Antique cars, dance to a Jazz Band, or savour a bite sized sandwich at the Afternoon Tea Dance at The Paragon Cafe.