

LSDS 1913 *Travesti Pour La Mi-Carême*
(Disguise for the Mid-Lent Festival)

This Thursday, the mid-Lent festival, there will be a children's ball for merriment and the wearing of fancy costumes and disguises. Here is one for Bleurette: a flower-seller in the time of Louis the 15th.

For this costume you have five pattern pieces, plus two for the shoes.

APRON: Cut on the straight of the grain, which runs down the center of the apron, of mouselline or organdy [batiste is a good substitute for mouselline]. If you observe the straight of the grain exactly, your apron will be very good.

You hem the apron all around. You could edge the apron with a small ruffle of the same fabric, either embroidered or plain. The pockets [add seam allowance to the pocket shape shown on the apron pattern] are hemmed at the top edge and top-stitched in place. Each pocket has a decorative bowknot of black velvet ribbon at the bottom edge. The bib of the apron has one, too, as shown in the sketch.

Gather the apron along the top edges indicated by the word "fronces." The apron is worn attached with pins.

CORSELET: Cut this from black velvet, panne velvet, or from dark blue cotton or another dark color, your choice. There are two pattern pieces, the front [on the left] and the back, which are both cut from doubled fabric with the eyelet hole edges lined up with the straight of the grain. Seam the sides, bind the edges, and make the eyelets in the center front and the center back [or you could add seam allowance to the back edges, seam and only lace up the front].

SKIRT: The skirt is a band of silk or light cotton printed with flowers. It is the length indicated and twice the width as the pattern piece—put the center front on the fold of the doubled fabric. Seam the back to the mark on the pattern and hem the opening. Hem the skirt [and set aside until you make the paniers]. If printed silk or cotton doesn't suit you, to make the skirt, use white linen with vertical stripes of sky blue alternating with petal pink, or cut the skirt of tarlatan or striped silk.

BLOUSE: [No fabric is suggested, but it could be made of the same fabric as for the apron.] The shoulders are placed on the fold of the fabric with the straight of the grain going down the center front. The center back is slit and hemmed. On the pattern, the back neckline is shown marked with small crosses; the front neckline is square. Turn the neckline under, clipping the corners, and make a small hem. Hem the sleeves the same way. Make a continuous under-arm seam from the bottom to the end of the sleeve, and hem the bottom. [Make closures down the back—hooks and loops or snaps or buttons and loops.] Add a small upturned ruffle to the neckline and the ends of the sleeves.

PANIER: The overskirt is cut like the skirt with a seam in the back and a back opening. Place the panier pattern on doubled fabric with the straight of the grain along the center back. Seam the back up to the mark on the pattern and hem the opening. Hem the bottom of the panier. Baste the panier to the skirt with the two ends just meeting at the

center front of the skirt [baste along the seam allowance of the top edges]. Cut a waistband to fit Bleurette [measure over the blouse and any undergarments] approximately 1" wide by 8" long or slightly longer. Gather the skirt/panier piece to fit and sew to the waistband, allowing for 1/4" of overlap and 1/8" of seam allowance at each end. Turn the raw edges to the inside on the ends and hem the waistband on the inside of the skirt. Apply a closure to the waistband ends.

SHOES: The shoes are cut from leather [make mock-up shoes of felt first to test the fit]; cut two soles and four shoe tops. The shoe tops have a center back seam on the straight and a center front seam that is angled. They are sewn to the soles once the seams have been made. The tops of the shoes can be decorated with ribbon or a rosette. You could also buttonhole stitch around the top opening.

The instructions conclude with a mini-advertisement for Cartier-Bresson sewing and embroidery threads—Whatever you choose to go with your fabric will be good, but only if you use C-B threads entirely.

Aunt Jacqueline

CAP: No cap pattern is given, but for the simple mob cap shown in the sketch, cut a circle approximately 6.5" to 7" across, hem the entire edge, or edge with lace. Run a line of gathering around the circle approximately 1" from the finished edge. Draw up, fit to the head of Bleurette, and secure the threads. Trim with a bowknot or rosette of black velvet ribbon, as used on the apron.