

It is a cute little number. Cobalt blue is always a fashionable color; and the dress fits so well with an even hemline. The design, however, would put a grimace on the face of the 101 Garment Sewing professors, earning a big fat F.

The dress is worn by a television model expounding the benefits of a commercial item. Don't know the item since my eyes keep sweeping to the bodice of the sleeveless dress. Facing the model we notice that the left shoulder strap is almost okay even though it is short and wide. The high neckline leads to the right shoulder strap which is uneven. It gives the appearance of being crooked plus being a mistake. And the darts in the front are far to the right side causing a gathering like feature with three large pleats. It's a mess. No points meet. She has a nice hairdo, though.

The garment could have been made by me. Having no sewing knowledge I would have been graded a larger than life "F" for my endeavors. Even though I missed sewing classes the difference between an "A" garment and an "F" graded garment is easy to note.

Perhaps the garment was made by the model. Perhaps her agent had informed her that there is good news and bad news about the gig. The good news is that she would be hired; the bad news is that she has to make her own dress and she needs it the next morning. The dress is the best she could do since she didn't know that to sew you gather your thoughts, read the pattern, make sure all points meet.

"We have to start somewhere," a quilt instructor once instructed. Starting from the bottom gives large room for growth. Points taken: this model's dress is the beginning of the beginning. Sometimes fashion has nowhere to grow except upward. Remember slouch socks a decade or two ago. It was the phase to wear socks that sagged from the top and zeroed down to the top of the shoe. I was way ahead of the fade. When in grade school my socks had been washed and worn so often that they sagged. It was a real pity. We didn't think of marketing socks while in the third grade. It would have been a good way to learn mathematics, public relations and art design, though.

And don't forget an "I Love Lucy" episode when her hair was frizzy and looked like an egg beater was used to beat it into submission. The studio audience gasped. Decades later that look became the fashion. Big hair was the craze. Now it is old school. No point to it.

Perhaps undignified dress tops may be on the horizon. Is this the "modern look" in fashion? It is a kin to the jagged hem line. I wore a "mother of the groom" dress with a jagged hem line three years ago. The daughter of my niece was sad when she saw my photo. "I feel sorry for her," she told her mom. "She must be poor." Imagine an outfit with a crooked bodice, a jagged hem line worn with slouch socks and topped off with a big wild hairdo. Point taken: Make sure all points meet; all darts are in the correct place and have more than an evening to create a fashion statement. Oh, and be sure your hairdresser plays a part in your fashionable look.

But not to worry, we all have to start somewhere.

Lana Russ

