

## Five to Eight Frocks vs. Evening Dresses

By Patti Jones

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The dinner dress is hard to distinguish from an evening dress during the Model A era. The three dresses on the left are dinner frocks, and the three on the right are evening frocks. It appears at first glance that a dinner frock has sleeves and the dinner dress is basically sleeveless.

The three dinner dresses on the left are described for those who have little use of an evening dress and they can all be worn for a late afternoon function. These three dresses are made in lace, georgette, and netting. Note that the center one has a higher hemline, which would definitely make it more of a dinner dress. One of the new “rages” this year is the bolero jacket (center) and the shorter sleeved net dress.

The three evening dresses on the right are made of chiffon, taffeta, and netting. Note that the uneven hemline is still being used in early 1930 and a carryover from the 1929 styles, but are at the ankle.

Just by looking at these three dresses and comparing them to the dinner dresses on the left, it appears there is more detailing of the fabric than the dinner dresses. The shirring on the first one, the flower accents on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the different tiers and bow of the 3<sup>rd</sup> one show much more detailing and “finishing” of the evening dress.