

## Putting Organdies to the Test

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**S**UCH a wilderness of organdies! How is one to know which to select for that frivolous summer frock? Merchants in the larger cities have predicted that during the summer months of 1921, organdy will be even more popular than last year.

Happily, manufacturers have not confined themselves to the production of only the plain organdies such as have been on the market for some time, but have turned out a collection of attractive and unusual figured and embroidered designs. This gives the buyer a choice of materials and greater chance for individuality in dress. The plain materials are beautiful in themselves but do not lend themselves to such designs in the making that they are more than mediocre when finished.

The two main classes of organdies on the market are the imported varieties, most of which come from France and the domestic brands manufactured in the United States. Both have their selling points. Probably the biggest argument for the imported material is the fact that it retains its crispness much longer than the domestic brand of supposedly the same quality. Since this is the quality so much desired in organdy it is of vital importance. Due to this superiority the imported organdies are higher in price but find a ready market among discriminating buyers.

Classes in textile buying at Iowa State College conducted a number of tests upon the various kinds and grades of organdies and governed themselves accordingly when they bought material to be used in the garment construction classes.

Samples were cut from the material, the tests run and comparisons made with the new material. For crispness after

washing a sample was washed thoroughly in soap suds, rinsed and allowed to dry. To determine the fastness of the colors a small piece of colored organdy was allowed to lay in the sun for a day or two and then compared with the original. The perspiration test is one of the most important for no one wants a dress which discolors from perspiration. This was made by dipping a sample in acetic acid and drying between parchment papers without rinsing. To know whether or not to combine white or another color with a certain grade of organdy a combination color test was made. A small piece of white material was sewed to the colored organdy and the whole washed very carefully with Ivory soap and dried in the shade. Some grades showed colors running while others were fast.

Tests upon the figured and flowered materials were the same except that the lasting qualities of the decorations were tried. This included washing in very hot water and close inspection to see whether or not the design had been woven in with the warp and woof, embroidered on afterward or merely stamped on under great pressure. The last process is not desirable since the design may crack off with wear or melt or dissolve when the garment is laundered.

After all the tests were made the qualities of the domestic and foreign organdies were summed up. It was found that the domestic organdies were much cheaper in price but also much poorer in quality than the imported goods. The domestic organdies faded more easily and lost more crispness during laundering. The imported grades proved to be of finer quality since they held their

color better, retained more crispness after laundering, and were of finer texture. They could also be obtained in a greater variety of designs and colors but they were noticeably higher in price than the domestic grades.

Organdies may be obtained in an almost endless variety of colors and designs. The plain material may be had in bright or dainty shades of all the new colors which fashion has decreed for the summer months. Some stores carry pieces in which the design is worked out in the self color in a shadow effect. These are beautiful.

Barred organdies come in checks, stripes and plaid effects shown by a heavy cord woven thru the plain material either in the same or a contrasting color. Embroidered organdies may mean plain fabric with colored dots worked on it or fancy designs are sometimes worked on plain colors in self tone or contrasting colors.

Designing of textiles bears directly upon the price. Plain organdies vary in price from 55 cents to \$1.75 per yard while the figured materials range from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per yard. Upon examination the \$2.50 figured piece proved to be no more crisp nor of any finer quality than the \$1.75 plain. It is evident that if one wishes a summer frock of one of the strictly new figured or embroidered organdies of 1921 she will have to pay for it.

The possibilities for organdy are legion. The classes in costume design and garment construction at Iowa State College have worked out charming combinations of colors and fabrics in exceptional designs. Some of the favorite alliances of colors have been pale lavender and pale green, American beauty and pale blue, purple and lavender, dark brown with tan or orange, dark blue and vermillion, jade with dark blue or peach, flame and Egyptian blue, salmon and blue green, flesh and flame, lavender and orange, and yellow with deep rose or pale green.

Organdies never enjoyed such close association with other fabrics as they do this season. Charming frocks have been created from combinations of organdy with taffeta, dotted swiss, gingham, French sateen, English print, calico and percale. Sometimes a great deal of organdy is used, sometimes only an overskirt or a collar and sash.

It is almost impossible to set limitations or designs. Short full skirts hold sway but they may be covered with an overskirt or carry inserts of tucked bands. The bottom may be pointed or scalloped.

The blouse will probably be either quite plain with a fluffy sash, which is just as apt to be knotted jauntily over one hip as to be tied in a modest bow in the back, or a semi-tight fitting basque.

The basques may be very plain or they may lace across an attractive lace vest with colored ribbon or cord. Some are finished with a rippling peplum.

Necks are sometimes finished plain, especially for the girl with a short neck but cape collars and fichus are very good, if planned carefully.



Crispness is at a Premium for an Organdy Frock