

## Ladies Vintage suiting

I have always loved a good rummage in a charity or second hand shop and back when I was little you could still find some amazing vintage gems. In more recent years vintage has become so on trend that you can't go anywhere without finding yourself faced with a store professing to sell clothes from a bygone era. With this in mind people aren't dropping their seconds off at their local salvation army, they're selling them to vintage stores, and more recently ebay.

So where do you go if you want that vintage feel? Why! Get it handmade for you, somewhere where you can specify the design as well as the cloth. With our relaunch of our ladieswear back in October we expanded our choices for our female customers, with so many different designs you could pretty much dress from any era you fancy.

Here is a little run down of my favourites, bearing in mind that there are always lots of different styles from different periods in time. I have just included one style from each decade but if you have specific ideas in mind don't hesitate to drop in and discuss it with me.

### 1940's - Wartime Chic

Now this look it probably one of my outright faves, it so stylish but also very auster at the same time. It's not really a look that would suit my body shape but it looks asbsolutely fabulous on a slender less curvasous build.

The style is to have a high neckline with padded shoulders and pocket flaps placed on the hips. This type of jacket is then worn with a pleated skirt. This is all done to make the hips and shoulders look wider and the waist look small creating a very extreme hourglass with boxy shoulders. As I mentioned before this look is better on ladies without curves as the aggressive tailoring can make curvy ladies look too extreme and the shoulders too masculine.

A beautiful example of this kind of look is the outfits that Cate Blanchett wears in the film 'Charlotte Gray.' She looks absolutely stunning and her suits are oh so very wartime Chanel.

### 1950's - Hourglass suiting

For my 1950's styling I've taken inspiration from America. Rationing was still going on here in the UK but across the pond fashion returned to normal. Although the shoulder pads are still present they have begun to soften and the jacket looks less boxy with the seat of the jacket starting to kick out. The skirt has become more fitted and the whole outfit is a lot fresher and sultery than our austier ladies of the 1940's. This look would be great on someone of an hourglass figure but could work well on a less curvy person provided the waist was very nipped in.

Pencil skirts are great for all different size. Have them cut high on your natural waist if you are short. This shortens your torso gives the impression of longer legs. This style is also good for ladies who are conscious of their bellies. I like a very tight skirt and tend to go for an ultra fitted but a slim looks good too.

### 1960's - Swinging Suiting

For this decade I'm going to skip back over the water to the UK. The look of English suiting for ladies in the sixties was very adrodgenous. The boxy look of the jacket from the 1940s was still prevalent but the shoulder pads were softer and the waist less fitted. The look was a lot more casual than previous decades with smaller collars and more simplistic detailing.