

COCO GOES RETRO

July 2007

Design Inspiration

This ensemble was created for the 2007 “Inspired by Threads” Challenge. The *Threads* article on manipulating sheer printed fabrics provided the inspiration for the skirt, which consists of alternating panels of a floral print and a tucked sheer stripe. Another article on shortcut methods for making a Chanel jacket, provided the starting point for the jacket, which is further embellished with ruffles made from the sheer stripe. The top and purse complement the retro look of the outfit.

Fabrics

Jacket: 100% wool boucle, 100% polyester satin/sheer stripe, 100% silk charmeuse lining.

Skirt and Top: 100% polyester satin/sheer stripe, 100% polyester crushed satin.

Purse: 100% wool boucle, 100% polyester crushed satin, 100% silk charmeuse.

Embellishments

Jacket: Ruffles on front and sleeve edges and lower back panel, detachable flower.

Skirt: alternating tucked gores.

Top: tucked, free-motion quilted center panel with applied crystals.

Purse: piping, quilted tabs and beaded fobs.

Patterns

Jacket: Vogue 8260 (modified).

Skirt: New Look 6248 (modified).

Top: Burda 8132.

Purse Vogue 7328 (modified).

Special Sewing Techniques

The jacket is constructed almost entirely by machine to achieve the look of a traditional hand-tailored Chanel jacket. The collar and ruffles have been incorporated by modifying the technique in the article to bag the lining of the jacket body before doing the quilting of the lining to the body. Only the lining of the sleeves is hand-stitched at the armscye. The

skirt gores made from the satin/sheer stripe are tucked above the level of the top of the leg. The tucks are tapered to reproduce the shape of the gore. This step required stitching to an accuracy of about 1 mm. The contrast tucked panel on the front of the top is free-motion quilted in a floral design and embellished with hot-fix crystals. The purse has small quilted tabs and handle holders and jumbo piping. The sewing, although straightforward in appearance, required precision and care owing to the small size of the purse and the thickness of the handles.

Exhibitions and Awards

Finalist, “Inspired by Threads” Challenge, September 28, 2007.