

Don a little black dress TO IMPRESS

A modern woman's wardrobe needs a few smart essentials, which, if chosen well, will see her through every possible situation in style.

A little black dress is one closet staple that will stand by her side through thick and thin and high and low! One of the most versatile pieces a woman can own, the LBD (little black dress) can be dressed up or down as one desires and requires!

Coco Chanel was a genius is more ways than one. Having recognised the potential of the LBD she put it on the map and made it a wardrobe must-have for every woman out there. It may seem simple enough, picking a black dress, but there is so much more at work here than what meets the eye. Every woman out there has a distinct sense of style that sets her apart from everyone else.

Different personalities beget different kinds of black dresses for what may suit a Farzana will not flatter a Faria!

While choosing a dress understanding one's body is the key. Curvy women with broad shoulders look best in empire waist styles that accentuate their midriff. Ladies with a pear-shaped body can opt for A-line styles that will take attention away from a heavy bottom and focus on the slim waist.

Those with broad shoulders can go for

a halter-neck, and a fitted style will look best on those with straight, rectangular bodies. Lastly, women with hourglass shapes can go for a fitted style that is nipped at the waist.

Now let's talk about the details of the LBD. There are so many variations and styles that one is spoilt for choice. Those who want to be modest and demure can choose a dress with long sleeves or high neck.

Women wanting to show some skin can go for off-shoulder, halter or sleeveless styles. Experimental fashionistas can choose dresses with edgy, risqué necklines and backless styles. If you want a dress that will see you through mid-week wardrobe crisis situations choose a mid-length sheath with sleeves.

The length of the dress is also a factor to be considered. A mini is best reserved for parties and evening gatherings and a knee length works best during the day as well as the night.

In terms of embellishments, sparkles, sequins et al are fabulous and work really well for parties. However, be smart when choosing over the top trimmings; it's very easy to blur the line between classy and tacky. Look out for interesting details. Subtle embroidery, a scooped, cowl neck, a slit down the side or a ruffled sleeve will

make your dress stand out.

Lastly, there are so many ways an LBD can be dressed up or down. For the day channel your inner Audrey Hepburn and pair your black sheath with low heels or flats and throw on a pearl necklace and voila!

Nailing French girl chic has never been easier. After work dinner with friends? Switch out those flats for sensual high heels, put on some tassel earrings and you are ready for a night out in town!

So, go ahead and choose the LBD that's perfect for you and own the glam!



By Sabrina N Bhuiyan
Photo: Shahrear Kabir Heemel
Model: Gladys Laterme
Hair Styling: Sabikun Nahar,
Hair Bar Bangladesh

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