



## Round Dance Attire

A Fresh Look at an Old Concern.

(By Mary McGee - reprinted from the Dixie Round Dance Council Newsletter, April 1995.)

Quite a while back I was asked to do an article on Dress Attire for Round Dancing. I must admit I am not an expert on the subject. All I can do is explain what I have seen throughout my RDing years.

Pete & I have been teaching RDing since 1978. At that time, RD attire and SD attire were identical (i.e. full-skirted dresses, full petticoats, and flat shoes or shoes with Cuban-type heels). Shortly thereafter, the ballroom shoe with the higher heel started showing up at the dances and the dresses became a little dressier. Softer materials were replacing cotton dresses and Sari, a soft weight Indian material, became very popular among the ladies, especially the pieces which had gold and silver in them. Softer petticoats were also seen on the dance floor, but the fuller crinolines remained the most popular especially when the gold & silver metallic petticoats entered the picture. Longer skirts with the softer slips were seen every once-in-a-while at some of the RD weekends and in the past several years have been showing up more and more across the country. I'm sure the Country Western dancing might have had a little influence on this. Still one more new fad I have seen is the shorter dress with no petticoats, just tights.

When I was asked to write this article, the dancer wanted to know what was "acceptable" RD attire. I really don't know if I can answer that. All of the outfits I have mentioned looked very attractive on the women wearing them. Maybe RD attire has been going through a change similar to the kind of fashion change which exists in our everyday world. I suppose we, as RDers, can't expect to stay with one-type of outfit forever. Just as our dancing has become more varied and sophisticated over the years, maybe this is happening with our dance attire also ...?

I have worked at and attended weekends where all outfits mentioned were worn. It did not seem to detract from the weekend at all. The ladies all seemed to be very pleased & happy with the clothes they were wearing, and everyone was enjoying the dancing and social atmosphere; and after all, isn't this the whole idea of round dancing?

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