

# fashion update...

learn all the facts about fabrics, colors and trends.

## fabric guide

What is it? What does it feel like? Names can be confusing, so we've come up with a guide to help you get a feel for the fabrics you're seeing. Refer to it often as you browse through our catalog.

**Acetate.** Man-made fiber known for its lustrous appearance. Blended with other fibers it creates fabrics that drape well, resist wrinkles.

**Acrylic.** Man-made fiber, often combined with other fibers and knit into fine or bulky gauges. Usually machine or hand washable. Soften.

**Canvas.** Strong, firm, closely woven. Usually made of cotton it may be softly finished as stiff.

**Challis.** Soft and lightweight. Finished with a firm, smooth hand. Often printed in rich patterns.

**Chambray.** Combining colored and white yarns; most often seen in shades of blue.

**Chiffon.** Very light and filmy, it can dress up evening styles, be designed as a sheer overlay.

**Cotton.** Soft, comfortable. A natural that comes directly from the cotton plant.

**Cotton Voile.** Sheer and lightweight with a crisp weave. Adds a touch of femininity.

**Crepe.** Describes any fiber with a crinkled or puckered surface. Soft, it drapes beautifully.

**Crochet.** A continuous series of loops of yarn made by a single hook needle. Whether made by hand or machine, the look is airy and delicate.

**Denim.** Sturdy and rugged. Usually cotton, it has a twill-like weave; comes in lots of washes.

**Gabardine.** Tight twill-weave, ideal for "round."

**Georgette.** Fine-textured fabric, slightly sheer and airtight.

**Interlock.** Resilient knit that's soft with a little bit of stretch. Looks the same on both sides.

**Jersey.** A plain-knit, soft, fluid knit that's lighter than interlock. Perfect for sportswear.

**Loce.** Fine, open-weave fabric, used for delicate trims as well as the most feminine of tops.

**Linen.** Woven from strong, lustrous fibers of the flax plant. Known for its crisp, natural texture.

**Linen/cotton.** Crisp linen look, easy-care.

**Mesh.** Woven or knit fabric with an open, airy

texture made from evenly-spaced holes.

**Microfiber.** An ultra-light, silky blend of polyester fibers, that gives warmth-without-weight and is water-resistant.

**Nylon.** Synthetic fiber characterized by its high strength and elasticity.

**Ottoman.** Double-knit fabric with a distinctive ribbed texture.

**Piqué.** Waffle weave with ribs running crosswise, or woven smooth, it's most often in cotton.

**Pointelle.** Fabric knit with a pattern of openings, a combination of lace designs, stretch and ribbed effects that shape a unique sweater.

**Polyester.** The "miracle" synthetic that comes in a wide range of weaves. When blended with other fibers, wrinkle-resistance is built right in.

**Poplin.** A durable, plain-weave fabric weighty enough to be a good choice for outerwear.

**Ramie.** Very strong yarn, also known as "China grass", it adds strength and shape to blends.

**Rayon.** Lustrous, man-made fabric that drapes beautifully. Often blended with other fabrics.

**Sheeting.** Plain-weave cotton that's durable and very smooth. Lighter than cotton canvas.

**Slinky.** A blend of synthetic fibers and spandex that drapes your curves with shine.

**Spandex.** This man-made fiber adds stretch to both knit and woven fabrics. Lycra® is just one kind of spandex, made by Dupont.

**Stretch twill.** A favorite fabric woven with a little spandex so fashions have a body-hugging fit, while keeping their shape.

**Thermal.** A waffle-knit fabric, often in cotton, that provides good insulation, terrific texture.

**Trirot.** Plain-knit fabric with a smooth, silky feel. Often woven in nylon for ultimate appeal.

**Twill.** Durable, lightly woven on the diagonal.

We're so excited to share the big news for Spring. Our collections for men and women are better than ever, boast more designers than ever before. Sean John, Ecko Unlimited, Avirex, DKNY, Calvin Klein, Guess, Chaps Ralph Lauren, Fubu, Kenneth Cole Reaction, Skechers, Caterpillar and Dr. Martens lead the list of names you count on from sportswear to shoes, accessories, too. Our fine fragrance collection is proud to introduce many famous scents like Samsara, Candia's for men & women, Goodlife for men and Jaka by Lagerfeld alongside many other prestigious names.

As always, we've paid careful attention to our special size customers, so you get more fashion along with a perfectly flattering fit. Our new and improved Special Sizes collection combines trendy styles hand-in-hand with time-honored classics. We continue to offer Women's Petites sizes, as well as Petite and Tall offerings on many Misses' styles. Throughout the Men's Shop you'll discover styles available in Big and Long sizes, too. And, we haven't forgotten the kids: you'll find big names and styles from toddlers through teens.

Fabulous fashion. Lots of choices. Plus great values throughout. And with our weekly payment plan you can enjoy it all, starting now!

## trendsetting style

Spring 2000 will be the best season yet! Coming into soft focus: romantic peasant blouses, **SHIERS** dresses, light & breezy styles, in **DELICATE SHADES** and some of the prettiest patterns we've seen. **LINEN'S** the best way to be neutral and among our favorite ways to play up **RICH TEXTURE**. In sharp contrast, we've got plenty of sportswear to **BRIGHTEN YOUR OUTLOOK**. Breezes of lime, coral and turquoise, are popping up all over, even seeping into the workplace. Among your top choices: **3/4-LENGTH** sleeves from casual to dress-up; the **TWIN SET** in its infinite variations. Capsis, side-let skirts, bootleg pants with an element of **STRETCH** are the new bottom line. Everywhere there's a new **TROPICAL FLAIR** in color and pattern. What works for weekends: denim & twill, that take their new attitude from dresses to jackets. Get ready for a great new century, with us, because it's all right here!

## ring size measurement

Wrap string, transparent or adhesive tape approximately 1/2 in. wide fairly snugly over the largest part of your finger (finger joint or knuckle). Mark where it overlaps. Cut ends to meet exactly. Lay one end at "0"; stretch out straight. The number it stretches to is your ring size. If the measurement falls between whole sizes, order a half size (available in most styles) or the next larger size. (Chart below.)



## skirt length

In keeping with today's fashion, we offer a variety of skirt lengths. Just choose the ones that best suit you. All are "slight" to get an approximate length, measure from your natural waist to the length you want. Then look at our representative lengths. Diagrammed below. Approximate skirt lengths are stated in copy. Remember, the exact length on you will vary depending on your height, your weight and your body type.

