

****INEXPENSIVE WAYS TO CREATE A DICKENS COSTUME ****

FOR THE GENTLEMEN

- **HATS are a must!!** Top hats; pork pie caps; flat, wide brimmed hat; round top hat with curved brim; etc.
NO BASEBALL CAPS
- **SHIRTS** - Plain white shirts with collar turned up or in with ribbon, scarf or cravat tied in a knot at the neck.
- **VEST** - in brocade** or silk with or without jacket. Long tailed jacket and even a cape.
- **Suspenders**
- **PANTS** Roll up wool, corduroy, cotton, etc. pants in black, tan, burgundy or gray color with rubber band in the last roll below the knee to give the knickers effect. Wear knickers if you have them.
- Wear long dark socks and pull up to tuck under pants.
- Black dress shoes. (**NO TENNIS SHOES OR HIKING BOOTS**)
- Walking stick/cane

FOR THE LADIES

- **Every woman of every class, wore HATS.** But if you aren't able to get or put a hat together, a **HAIR SNOOD** is nice (hair net). Also, if your hair is long enough pull it up in a bun and curl the stray hairs or tie it back with a ribbon. To throw together a hat, you can cover a straw or felt like hat with lace, flowers, feathers, ribbon and bows. Also, the domestic servants wore mop caps.
- **DRESSES** - The floor length taffeta, satin, brocade**, silk and the like bridesmaid dress you think you will never use again – Some are perfect as is, but some nice add-ons are – lace, ribbon, flowers and ruffles at the neck, waist and cuffs shawl around shoulders, bib or waist apron, and/or brooch at the neck is a nice touch. The lace and ruffles at the neck and cuffs can be accomplished in many different ways – wear a shirt that already has these accessories under the dress; also, you could pin, iron-on, sew or Velcro on lace, ribbons, flowers and ruffles.
- **BLOUSES/TOPS** - Plain white or solid color ladies dress shirt with lace, ruffle, ribbon and flowers as an accessory is nice. You can tie a thin piece of ribbon in a bow and pin or tie it at the neck with a brooch. Also, instead of a brooch, an artificial flower at the neck is pretty.
- **SKIRT** - Floor or ankle length skirt in a silk, brocade**, velvet, satin or even cotton is an ok material. You can use most any color and some designs are nice, such as paisley. Black or dark colors are a safe choice. If the skirt is full, you can add a petticoat or hoop skirt under it. Another attractive addition is wide ribbon or matching material tied around the waist in a bow in the back with strand hanging long from the bow to give the look of a cummerbund. The cummerbund look is nice on a one-piece dress, too. If you have one of those moon shape neck pillows, sew ribbon on and tie it or pin it on under your skirt/dress and bunch the skirt/dress around it and add flowers and ribbons if desired. This gives a nice bustle look.
- **SHOES** – If you have a floor length gown, and your shoes are not going to show, wear a comfortable walking shoe. If your shoes will show, the pointy toe with square heel type will work – granny style boots are also period looking. Of course, you don't want to be uncomfortable, by wearing dark, black tights or the same color tights as the color shoes you're wearing, it blends in without noticing your style of shoes you're wearing.
- **GLOVES** – lace, crocheted, satin and even lightweight cotton ones will work. If you have an old pair you don't mind cutting on, cut off the fingers to make fingerless gloves. **NO LEATHER GLOVES.**

**** Brocade – a rich, heavy cloth interwoven with a raised design.**