



Justine Weir

Purchased Garments

Class #10442

Exhibitor's Name: Justine Weir

Exhibitor's 4-H Club: Independent

What was your goal(s)?

My goal was to find an outfit that meets my needs, that fits my style, worked with my skin tone, and didn't cost an arm and a leg!

How did you go about working toward your goal(s)?

Finding And Purchasing The Dress:

A while back, my mom and I were in a dress store that was closing. We had some time, so we decided to go take a look around, and maybe find a great deal. There were many very nice dresses that were selling for quite low prices. I tried many different dresses on, and pretty quickly narrowed it down to a few dresses.

After a bit more looking, I settled on a mostly dark, royal, and light blue, Calvin Klein, sheath style, sleeveless dress with princess seams, a jewel neckline, and a 21 inch gold zipper in the back. I chose this dress for a few reasons, 1) was that it looked good on me and fit me well, 2) because of its vast versatility in my wardrobe, and 3) Because of the low price. It ended up only being \$21.80 for a brand new designer dress! This was after it was 40% off and we used another 30% coupon on top of that.

Thanks to genetics, I ended up being 5'9, with long legs and "well endowed." Therefore, I can have a bit of trouble finding clothes as they can look or be too short or have to obviously stretch to fit my bust. This dress however, is a very nice length for me and doesn't need to stretch to fit.

I had been “in the market” for a semi-formal dress like this to wear to events such as: for my annual picture, Civic Center events, Christmas/Thanksgiving dinners, graduations, possibly for some of my duties as the 2020 Polk County, Iowa Teen Miss United States Agriculture, and other special occasions.

Also thanks to the fact that I have sewn some of my own clothing before, I knew I should check the garment construction to see that it was well made and that it had quality stitching with no threads hanging around. After closely inspecting the dress, I quickly realized that it was made with quality construction as the dress is sewn using a serged overcast stitch, which keeps the fabric from unraveling, is very sturdy, and will stretch if/when needed.

The Savings:

When I got home, I looked up what the dress retailed for and found that it was around \$200! Since I paid only \$21.80, that is a savings of about 89%, for a brand new, high end dress, which I loved and that fit me! I was (and still am) positively thrilled with my purchase.

If I wear the dress 5 times in one year, the cost per wear is only \$4.30 for the first year. I plan to wear this dress for at least several more years, which will only drive the cost per wear down. Say I wear it 5 times a year for 3 years, that’s only \$1.45 per wear! And as I said before, the more times/years I wear it, the further down the cost per wear will go. Even though I most likely won’t be wearing this dress weekly, adding a new designer dress that goes with many things I already own, for only \$21.80 is very reasonable.

Care:

The dress's tag states that it is dry clean only. However, an article from Martha Stewart, (found at this link - <https://www.marthastewart.com/270246/dry-cleaning-solutions>) states that quote: "Garments that are simply constructed, unlined, and made of natural fibers (cotton, silk, and linen) or of the synthetic workhorse polyester can probably be washed by hand or in cold water in a machine. (Slipping them into a mesh bag helps reduce wear.) Before washing reds and other deep colors, test for colorfastness by wetting an inconspicuous area of the item with several drops of water and pressing with a white cloth or a cotton swab. If the color bleeds, take it to a dry cleaner."

We have tested this dress for color bleeding. (It doesn't. Yay!) We also have a mesh bag and a hand wash setting on our washing machine. We have washed this dress this way with absolutely no problems. I plan to wash the dress this way as needed as long as I own it.

Accessories:**Sweater/Jacket:**

Although this dress style is generally considered more of a summer dress, it can be worn in the winter, or on a cool fall/spring day with either a cardigan or a blazer. I currently own a blue and a white cardigan, both of which look great with this dress. I also own both a black and a navy blue blazer which also look nice with the dress.

Shoes:

One of the great parts about his dress is its versatility in my wardrobe. I own multiple pairs of heels that work well with this dress. Some are peep toes, which I can wear in the summer. Others are closed toe pumps that can be worn year round depending on the look I'm going for that day.

Jewelry And Nail Polish:

The jewelry is also pretty easy. This dress can go with gold, silver, and cubic zirconia jewelry, (all of which I own). However, my personal favorite is a matching multi-colored blue chunky bracelet and a pair of earrings. The blues all work great together, and make the outfit pop.

No outfit would be complete without matching nail polish! This dress can be worn with dark, royal, or light blue, black, nude, or glitter nail polish. The nail polish adds color to my hands and helps to tie the outfit together. I found that white nail polish was a bit much, but could be worn in a pinch.

In Conclusion:

This dress gives me something to wear to events all year round. It can be worn with a vast variety of accessories. For me, the care for this dress is very easy and not at all a problem. I love anything blue, and needed a dress that fits me well. I also really like that this dress doesn't draw a lot of attention to my bust. This dress has all three, so that's a win in my book!

What were the most important things you learned as you worked toward your goal(s)?

I learned: 1) that shopping clearance sections can bring really great deals 2) what a big difference accessories can make in an outfit 3) I learned more about caring for dry clean only items 4) to remember to check garments for quality construction.

What would you like to do in this project area next year?

I might do a project on figure skating dresses.

Elements Of Design:

My favorite accessories to wear with this dress are the ones you see today. So, I will be discussing the elements of design with pictured accessories.

The princess seams create lines that draw the eye. The fabric of the dress has rhythm which also draws one's eye around the dress. The dress has a smooth texture and symmetrical balance. The color works well with my skin tone, and gives a calming effect. The gold zipper creates an accent, and a line. The black heels create unity, and add both a fuzzy and a smooth texture. The bracelet and earrings give color, unity, and smooth texture. The nail polish gives a bit of sparkle to my outfit.

Fit And Style Of The Dress:

The dress is a form fitting, sheath style dress with a pencil skirt. According to Vogue, form fitting and sheath style dresses are very popular right now. Regarding color, classic blue is Pantone's color of the year in 2020 as well as being a popular color in general. Abstract patterns are also very much in style right now.

I think this dress is appropriate for my previously listed activities because of the style, color and the basic fact that it is a dress. Since it is a very versatile dress within my wardrobe, it will get a lot of mileage!