

What you need to know in preparation for your shoot...

Wardrobe...

Please bring your own wardrobe pieces! Underwear, shoes, stockings, nightgowns, playsuits, jewelry, etc. Target and other discount stores have lot's of cute stuff on the shelves that will work really well for this type of photography. You can always contact us if you need help finding stuff! We have a tons of accessories at the studio that can be used to dress up or pull together any look you re going for.

Makeup and hair...

If you use special products, please bring them! We wouldn't want you breaking out because of something I put on your skin! Along those same lines, please bring the following to the shoot: Your clean and freshly moisturized beautiful face, foundation and concealer, powder, 1 pair of false eyelashes and/or your mascara of choice.

Additional information...

Ladies, please prepare for a photo shoot in the same manner in which you might prepare for a hot night out on the town. Tweeze those eyebrows, shave/wax those legs and your bikini area. Polish your fingernails! If you dye your hair, please get a touch up on those roots especially if you're like me and have a hair color that's much darker than your dyed hair. But don't get too daring though! If you've never tried a depilatory, don't try it the night before! Your skin might get all red and bumpy and red bumps a pinup do not make.

What's in a pinup's closet? (From an article by Lola Bel Aire, 'The Cheesecake Slice')

In a phrase, tons of stuff!

I get a lot of inquiries about wardrobe and accessories – where do I find my stuff? What are some of the main things a pinup model should have, etc.? For this edition of The Cheesecake Slice, I'm going to answer those burning questions and for the gentlemen out there with a desire to date a pinup model, consider this your forewarning about not having much closet space for yourself!

Before I begin, a quick note: remember that a good pinup photograph is mostly attributed to good styling (i.e. hair, makeup, lighting) and does not necessarily hinge on having the latest and greatest corset or dress. In fact, I just can't stand when I see photographs where the girl is cute, the set is cute, the dress is cute, but the hair is crap. Never underestimate the importance of good hair and makeup. If you're uncomfortable with

doing it yourself, you should definitely consider hiring a professional. Perhaps hair and makeup would be a good future article for Pinups 'n Pasties, yes?

The Essentials

Invest in a good bullet bra (I got mine from whatkatiedid.com, a great online source for retro reproduction lingerie). You should get a black one and a white one – black for when you want to be a badass, and white for when you want to evoke the sweet side of pinup.

I've found a lot of my retro-styled panties from Walgreen's believe it or not! Think granny panties ladies and you'll be good to go. Just make sure that the fabric type matches that of the bra you have! Again, black and white panties will get you to a great start!

Garter belts! One black and one white will do to start off your collection. Try to hunt down the ones with authentic style suspender grips – these have metal versus cheap plastic hardware and will be able to grip your nylons so much better! I generally avoid stores like Victoria's Secret and Frederick's simply because their garters are made of plastic! Whatkatiedid.com is a great online source for these or you can scour eBay or your local vintage store.

Rounding out your lingerie needs will be stockings. Now this depends on just how authentic you want to be. Nylon is the material of choice for those ladies looking to be authentic – wrinkled ankles included! Fully-fashioned stockings like this can be found by hunting through drawers at your local thrift and vintage stores. You can also find them online – vintage or reproduction. Bear in mind though, these stockings can be spendy. Now if it's just the style that you're going for, you can find all sorts of modern stretch stockings online, or even at (gasp) Wal-Mart. Whatever you decide (or can find), get nude, nude with a black back seam, and black to start. You can certainly get fancy with Cuban, French, or Manhattan heels as well – you can get anything for money! You may also find that you want fishnet stockings as well. There are a lot of these that are mass-produced for those short-skirted versions of fairytale Halloween costumes (eww). Chances are that these (and other stockings) are actually thigh-highs. I hate thigh-highs. They are those in-humane things that have a band of silicone around the tops and tend to be not very forgiving for those of us that have womanly and shapely thighs. Unless you like muffin-tops over your stockings, do not purchase thigh-highs! What I've done in the past for fishnet stockings is just to buy full cut fishnets and simply cut off the top part. Voila! Custom stockings in any color/design you want! If they fray, just use some fray check solution and you're all set!

The well-dressed pinup should also have a long nightgown and/or sheer robe. I've found plenty of these at thrift stores for super cheap. Happy hunting!

Get a retro apron. Trust me, you'll find many uses. If not on film, than I guarantee that your significant other will love to see you in nothing but an apron and heels.

As far as actual clothing goes, look for silhouettes first, and colors second. You're going to want a slim, high-waisted pencil skirt (or dress) and a full circle skirt (or dress). Given the current trends in fashion, finding these shouldn't be a problem. Also, if you're a seamstress, they are really easy to make. Go wild at the fabric store! Good tops to have are sheer button-down blouses, halter tops (again, really easy to make), and cropped or full peasant tops. Any of those options with a cincher belt is absolutely appropriate to the style.

Shoes and Accessories

For shoes, think platforms and peep toes, and you'll be one gorgeous pinup! Thanks to the current fashion trends, finding retro-styled shoes is really easy. I have my own secret website, and if you're nice I'll tell you! Get a pair in black, white and red at the very least. Patent leather photographs nicely and remember that you can always be-deck your shoes with flowers or other bling when you want to match your outfit without buying new shoes.

Hair stuff is a great way to bring what might be an otherwise simple outfit together. Sure you can certainly spring for those expensive, custom hair flowers and do dads on the internet, or you can make 'em yourself! Go to a craft store and buy a wire cutter, a couple barrettes and alligator clips and all the flowers you want. Cut the flowers off their stems and glue them to your hair clip of choice. Start a business like everyone else!

I mentioned a 'cincher belt' earlier in this article. You can find these wide belts almost anywhere now. They basically just give a nice finishing touch to an outfit but showing off the waist. Often times, a shirt that otherwise might not work with the retro-style turns instantly retro when a belt is added to it creating that hourglass silhouette modeled after Dior's 'new look' of the 50s. You may also wish to invest in corset-like waist-cincher for an even more dramatic look. Here a couple good examples of cincher belts and waist-cinchers:

Get yourself some gloves girl! Long and short, black and white.

I love hats and you should too! There are tons of styles out there. Make your own or have a blast finding something fabulous in vintage stores or on eBay.

One Final Note

The information above is meant to be guidelines only. Whatever you find, keep your personality in mind! Remember that the art of pinup is about bring your own personality and tastes to a photograph. If all the pinups looked alike and dressed alike, there probably wouldn't be as much of a demand for them! So happy shopping and keep those questions coming!

Best always,

Lola Bel Aire

