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Having a minimalist style usually means you have a small number of clothes in your wardrobe that you consider staple pieces. Often people affiliate minimal fashion styles as neutral colors or staple clothes but it's much more than that, it also doesn't always have to be associated with black or white color, it is made to adapt to the development of different eras and consider time in creating (Gubensek, 2019). There's a process behind the creation of minimalistic apparel and it is concentrating on the fabric and form than on the function of the clothing, yes minimalistic clothing colors are monochromatic and usually is not multi-colored which is the beauty of minimalist fashion, but lines and geometric shapes are often played as well to dress. Minimalism started to become popular in the nineties and fashion designers like avant-garde designers used minimalism in their designs. For example, designers like Calvin Klein with his ready-to-wear collections, Donna Karan, and Tom Ford incorporate practicality and comfort and targets modern working-class women and men, which is considered minimalist fashion. A lot of minimalist apparel silhouettes can be loose and others can have a lot of dimensions and drapes just to show what our bodies can achieve than how it looks like. Simplicity was the common theme in the 90s fashion sense and your apparel silhouette was most likely streamlined and straight, for example, slip dresses and skirts, cropped shirt, long fitted t-shirts, and straight-legged pants that you can throw on was the mainstream of minimalist pieces that created the effortlessly chic look.

The black jersey slip dress (see figure 1) was designed by Vivienne Tam and was made in the U.S in 1998. This dress is a perfect example of a minimalist piece, the slip dress was known for its simplicity and practicality you can wear it anywhere to any event like the red carpet where a

lot of celebrities wore it, you can wear it to the grocery store or mall, you can wear it anywhere and dress it up or down which makes it universal. The slip dress was an excellent backdrop for the decade's numerous trends and when clothes became more minimal, accessories were the key to making your minimalist garment from simple to glamorous. This jersey black slip dress is an inspiration and occurring fashion staple piece that was limitless back then and the original design was the little black dress by Coco Chanel, even though the little black dress never went out of style it became popular again in the nineties and streamlines, simple silhouettes were back. The significance of the color black in fashion is timeless and ageless, it's one of the most popular solid colors and is seasonless, black is versatile and known to be the easiest color to wear of all color combinations. Black comes off as mysterious, serious, prestigious, and most importantly powerful because it is a symbol of class, dominance, elegance, and business and can often be overbearing if it's a deep rich shade of black. The color psychology of black is a night, a vacuum, mystery, associated with sex, death, intrigue, often described as sleek and sophisticated also even considered to be depressing. Even though black is a dominant color it is historic when it is on a dress, since the style was more feminine in the mid-nineties, slip dresses epitomized the minimalist look during this period ( Reddy, 2020). The fabric of this garment dress ( see figure 1) is a soft material that looks like a blend of silk and cotton fabric.

Jersey slip dresses texture is often a soft and stretchy knit fabric that looks durable because of its natural blends of wool, cotton, and synthetic fibers ( see page 6) the synthetic blend of fibers can make the dress soft and look silky as well. Jersey fabric is a versatile fabric that is multi-functional and has many qualities that make it a great fabric for daily use. It is well structured and the significance of jersey fabric is that it can make the garment silhouette shape either well structured or a loose drape effect. It all depends on the fiber composition of the fabric

because if you incorporate silk the dress will have a much smoother drape and if you incorporate cotton jersey fabric it tends to have more structure ( MasterClass staff, 20201). Based on this specific dress ( see figure 1) it seems to have a more loose drapey effect, not tight-fitting and easy to put on and this is why it's named the slip-on dress. The history of the slip dress goes further back than just the 1990s and it was originally a play on vintage. The first term of the slip originated in the middle ages, it was called a smock in England and in France it was also called a chemise ( Bucci, 2019). It was described as a loose-fitting lightweight garment women wore beneath their dresses for comfort, throughout times evolving into the 90's that's when fashion began to have a nostalgia for the slip with its seductive look which had an impact on society. Designers started to create versions of the slip in the early 90s because of its dominant sex appeal and it was short dresses, evolving into the late 90's it started to become longer that can be worn any day and is a versatile staple piece every woman had in their closet, especially previously mentioned before, celebrities.

The nineties zeitgeist of the slip dress era was a reaction to the recession and an unwarranted nature of the 80s and grunge style which was popular. In response to grunge moving into high fashion, it was televised and popularized in the media and fashion insiders such as James Truman who was the editor of Details magazine during the time believed this style was effortless and stated “ grunge is not about making a statement”. By this statement he made, it is proven that grunge can also be categorized as minimalist and still very popularized without the syle being overbearing and that was the beauty of it. A lot of people had their opinions on the grudge style during this year from 1993-to 1998 and didn't think it was right to display grunge in high-end stores on seventh avenue. Designers proved them wrong and this style showed up on runways, designers like Marc Jacobs was the first designer to showcase grunge on the runway

and other designers followed. With collections being a lot of black and white colors, long skirts, long dresses, and long t-shirts with an oversized flowy look. The color black was the power color of the grunge aesthetic, look, and style overall (Majidi, 2012). Major fashion magazines like Vogue published articles promoting the grunge look and it was also about ethical sustainable fashion as well because grunge was all about recycling clothing, creating your DIY look, and self-expression. 90's movies fashion was a great inspiration source for fashion designers, some movie that had fashionable characters was the film Clueless in 1995. The women characters wore mini skirts and skinny tank dresses and sheer styles button-ups and many of these costumes came from malls and thrift shops. Previously mentioned designers like Michael Kors and Donatella Versace created their modern take on the film's fashion styles offering bright-colored plaid prints, slip dresses, mini skirts, and knee-high socks. In the film Matrix in the year 1999 was a perfect example of minimalist grunge fashion, there were a lot of monochromatic black outfits such as leather pants, black suits, and long leather coats. The matrix's and other 90's movies' themes and infamous all-black costumes remained a constant source of inspiration for designers, celebrities, and fashionable movie buffs alike. Cruel intentions released in 1999 is another film where you will see a lot of slip loose silhouette dresses worn by the women characters. All characters had the same style but wore different colors to express their personality and identity, which costume designers took into consideration. For example, more virtuous characters wore light colors, conservative cuts, and preppy upper east side cardigans that reflect their innocence and naivety, and by contrast, more reserved menacing characters wore mostly dark colors, sexy silhouettes, and power suits to showcase their rich-kid status (Maberry, 2021). This style of dress has influenced many people in the fashion industry and took its course over time to be talked about in different aspects of the entertainment industry and fashion industry.

Over time the slip dress was popularized and was a staple piece throughout the 1990s and was and still is a focus of fashion now and in the future.

## Images References



**Figure 1**

Black jersey slip dress

Jersey silk



Jersey cotton



Jersey wool



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