

# Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

## Victorian Era - Circa : 1870- 1890



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### Victorian 'Combination' Set

#### *History*

#### **What is a 'Combination'?**

A 'combination' is a Chemise and Drawers sewn together at the waist. Up until the 1870's, the Chemise and Drawers were two separate garments. However, Victorian women wanted less bulk in their undergarments, so the combination was created. The bodice and drawers are fitted, and the drawers gather to a cuff. The original combinations would have closed in the front with buttons.

#### *Fashion*

#### **What is a 'Petticoat'?**

A 'Petticoat' was a skirt worn under the dress. The purpose of a petticoat was to give a fashionable look and to provide warmth. It was also considered immodest during many periods to wear less than two petticoats. Sometimes a petticoat could be ruffled or decorated with lace and embroidery.

#### **What is a 'Bustle'?**

A bustle was a stuffed pad or steel wire cage. It was used to get the fashionable look of the dress fabric pulled to the back. The Victorian sense of propriety was so high during this period that the word 'bustle' was actually thought coarse. Most Victorians preferred the word 'Tournure' which is French for the same thing.

The bustle first arrived in 1869, but was popular from 1870-1875 and from 1883-1889. The prominent, square bustle as we know it today was only popular from 1884-1886. The bustle style in the 1870's is known as the 'soft bustle' shape because was not as prominent and often had a train. The bustle style in the 1880's is called the 'hard bustle' shape because of its crisp, straight lines.