

# the Bouys and Belles of SUMMER

By Bettina Marks



Along with the first buds and birds, Spring traditionally marks the time for most of us to firm up our bellies and butts in order to fit them fashionably into the newest looks for summer. For those of you who were stuck to the couch instead of the ski slopes this past winter, while you may have avoided breaking a bone, you might have added unwanted padding in some not-so-swimsuit-friendly spots. Don't fear. You can discard your heavy sweaters, coats and down jackets and take a plunge into the warming waters this spring/summer season still wearing the hottest swimwear fashions.

To help you shed those extra pounds, you can choose swim and activewear from Speedo's line of Active Swimwear that is both sexy and practical. These unique styles can be worn to firm up and exercise on land and in the sea. The trend toward creating a stronger, healthier image for women reflects our increasingly health-conscious culture. The newest fashions from Speedo this season celebrate strong, toned, muscular bodies in both men and women. The emaciated waif has become a thing of the past.

Without compromising femininity or sensuality, the Speedo Scuba Vest Set creates a unique look that combines both. Available in royal blue and made of 100% nylon. The trim is 82% antron nylon and 18% lycra spandex. The sexy

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mesh back is 84% nylon, 16% lycra spandex. (see A page 16). A sexy, athletic look that our men can watch for as they walk down the beach in their own striped snug-fitting Speedos made of 70% microfiber, 16% polyester and 14% lycra (see B page 16).

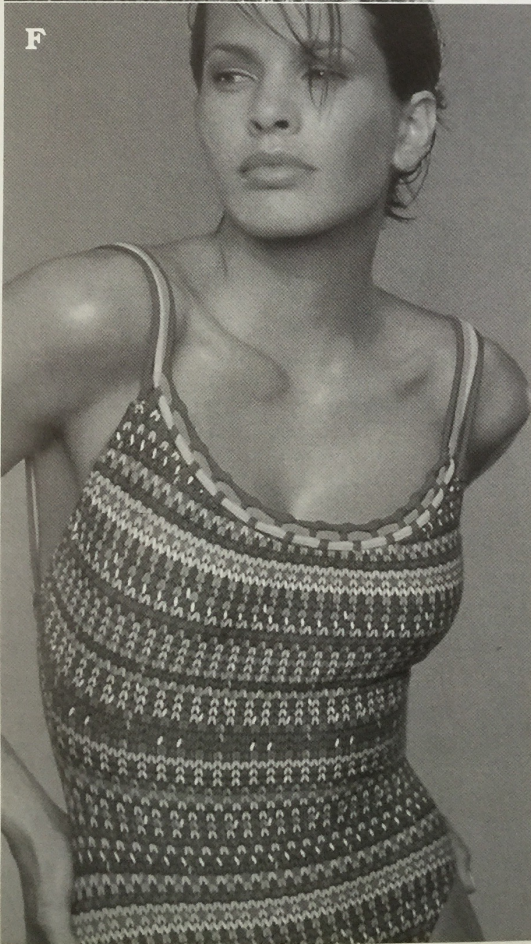
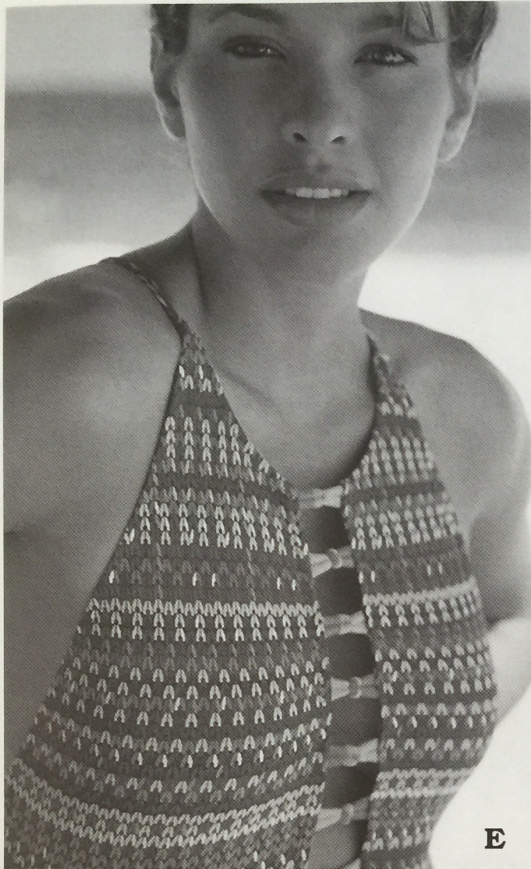
With all good reason to smile, they seem to like her scuba vest set, too.

Not specifically athletic, but still sleek and strong and making bold statements-- especially to male onlookers-- Twins newest collection reflects the spirit of modernity. The boy-cut leg in the two-piece leopard-skin print bikini makes an aggressive statement with its combination of tied-and-crushed bra-top with shorts. This silhouette is reminiscent of the 50's/70's retro homage that is popular in ready-to-wear and is inter-



preted in a sexy way in this fashionable swimwear look (see C). Guaranteed to make you happy because the boy-cut leg is a flattering style for all leg shapes! The guys are right behind you, and they're still smiling!! You've got them coming *and* going...

For those of you who prefer a one-piece look, a couple of the styles from Gideon Oberson offer silhouettes to compliment a range of body types, moods and occasions. Keeping an eye on the latest trends, they have produced one group called 'trend' which uses fabric cleverly printed to look like a 'Missoni' knit, the designer



whose knit collections are brightly colored with geometric patterning. This print appears in both a more conservative-styled tank-suit with a scoop neck and multi-color trim, a perfect way to be modest and fashionable with a little flair, and in a sexy updated high-neck halter with braiding across the plunging cleavage, a little riskier (see E and F). Both are sophisticated looks reflecting the elegance of Europe.

Once you have exercised away the last of the hot chocolates, you may prefer to go a little skimpier. In style today is what is being called the "hipster" bikini, which is a sort of retro-styled bikini inspired by the late 60's and early 70's.

A version of this type of bikini in their own inimitable way is  
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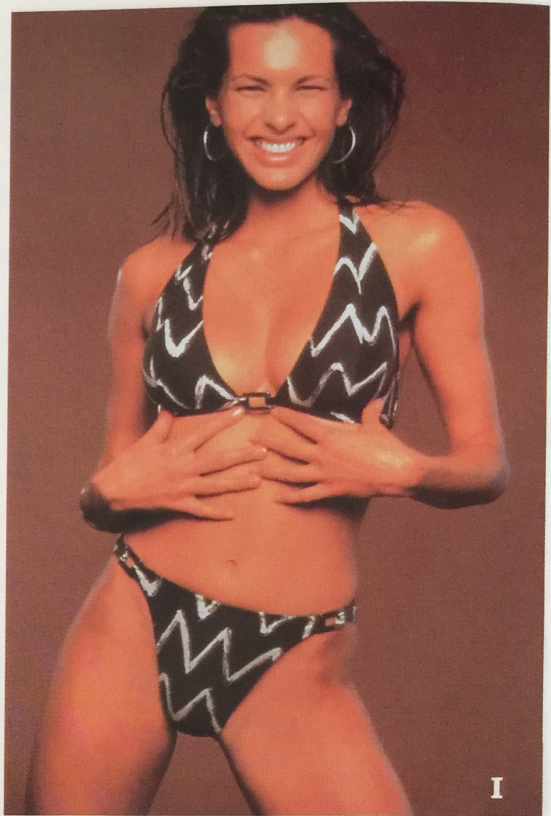
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available from Twins Swimwear Miami 1998 (see D). Available in a 'hot' pink, this bikini also comes with various other options from the bikini-cut to the more modest and less revealing boy leg. The virtue of the Twins catalog (see box) is its flexibility in designing your own style of suit, whether one-piece or two, daring or demure, it's up to you. A Seventies-esque look with a halter top in a very chic brown and white chevron print (see I this page) is held together with a hardware accessory at the cleavage and hip. The cut is a bit higher on the hip than Gottex's 'hipster' but reveals more leg. A must, for the young and young at heart and hip.

One of Gottex's most popular one-piece looks is the 'Pollyanna' suit, a high-neck tank with a low back in white with a beautiful large engineered poppy print gracing the front (see G page 19). This suit stylishly offers the modest woman an alternative to a plain tank. A touch of exoticism is felt with the 'Poppies Pareo' coverup in sheer with the poppy-print accessorizing the suit seductively hiding any excesses on the hips and legs in the latest prints.

In keeping up with the still ever-popular sheers, Gideon Ober-son styles his Neptune collection of modesty and sensuality combining the classic tank suit with cut-out sheers, one throughout the midriff (see J) and one accessorizing the collar and hip (see H). Just enough for a hint of more skin.

Whether you go skimpy or more modest, the newest looks for summer are guaranteed to inspire those days of sunning,



and funning in the great outdoors. Whether you are tanning at the pool, surfing the shores, partying on a boat...or just plain lying on the beach, these hot styles will accommodate your fun. ■



You like the swimsuit fabric, but not the style? Have no fear, TWINS is here! **Twins Swimwear Miami '98** offers fashionable patterns in a you-pick-'em style, from modest to eye-stopping! For their catalog, call **1-800-468-8990**, and create your own customized beach look.