The style lines for women’s dress at the beginning of the crinoline period were like those of the late Romantic Period.
The innovation of the cage crinoline or hoopskirt c. 1857 contributed to the continuing popularity of very wide skirts.

Hoops to support skirts were not a new idea. They had been used in the 16th and 18th Centuries.

Cartoonists found hoopskirts a rich subject for humor.
Before the adoption of the cage crinoline, women’s rights advocates had attempted to reform women’s dress proposing the bloomer dress. The support provided by hoops helped to make women’s skirts lighter, therefore less encumbering, and the bloomer costume faded away.

Women’s under drawers were made of cotton.

Over the under drawers, they placed a chemise.
Over the chemise, went a corset.

Over the corset went a camisole or corset cover.

Next, the hoop was added.
And then a single petticoat over the hoop. In winter, it might be made of flannel.

Dresses were usually two piece, had a full gathered or pleated skirt, and a dropped shoulder line.

To go outdoors any of several garments might be worn.

- A shawl, perhaps one of the Kashmir shawls popular since the beginning of the century
- A short jacket
- A mantle
A man’s undergarments included under drawers and, in cold weather, perhaps an undershirt.

Over which he placed a shirt, worn with a tie or cravat.
And over that trousers, held up by suspenders.

Next, a vest.

Men could choose from several different jacket types.

- Dress or tailcoat for formal, evening wear
- Frock coat for daytime
- Sack jacket for less formal occasions
For outdoors, a variety of cloaks, capes, overcoats.

Accessories of Note

Suspenders or Braces

Hats

Pocket Watch and Fob

Ties

Although both boy and girl toddlers wore skirts, older children were dressed much as adults.
With the opening of the House of Worth in Paris, British-born Charles Worth began the high fashion dressmaking that became known as the haute couture. His clients were rich, famous and royal women from all over the world.

Military conflicts inspired some fashionable styles.
- The Garibaldi Blouse from the red shirts worn by the soldiers fighting under General Giuseppe Garibaldi for the liberation of Italy.
- Zouave jackets worn by Algerian soldiers and adopted by American Civil War soldiers.

Though sports for women were limited, they did have costumes specifically for bathing and riding horseback.
By the end of the decade of the 1860’s, the fashionable silhouette had changed. It featured:

- Skirt fullness moved more to the back.
- A higher waistline

For Further Study

**Museum And Collection Web Sites With Photographs Of Period Clothing**

- Bata Shoe Museum [http://www.batashoemuseum.ca/collectindex.html](http://www.batashoemuseum.ca/collectindex.html)
- Bath Museum [http://www.museumofcostume.co.uk](http://www.museumofcostume.co.uk)
- Pictures from Beverly Berks Couture Collection which has extensive collection of images of garments and accessories, [http://www.camrax.com](http://www.camrax.com)
- Museum of the City of New York: Images from several exhibits. [www.mcny.org/collections](http://www.mcny.org/collections)
- Drexel University Costume Gallery [http://digiware.wd.drexel.edu/home.html](http://digiware.wd.drexel.edu/home.html)

**Paisley Shawls**

- [http://dept.kent.edu/museum/exhibit/paisley/paisleyex2.html](http://dept.kent.edu/museum/exhibit/paisley/paisleyex2.html)
- [http://www.izaak.unh.edu/museum/shawls/dp_index.htm](http://www.izaak.unh.edu/museum/shawls/dp_index.htm)

**Hoopskirts**

- [http://www.greenlightwrite.com/hoopskirt.htm](http://www.greenlightwrite.com/hoopskirt.htm)
- [http://www.philamuseum.org/exhibitions/installations/hoopskirts.shtml](http://www.philamuseum.org/exhibitions/installations/hoopskirts.shtml)

**Charles F. Worth, Couturier**

- [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/wrth/hd_wrth.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/wrth/hd_wrth.htm)

**Books With Drawings Showing Construction Of Historic Clothing**

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

THE CRINOLINE PERIOD

C. 1850 - 1869

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