

your LOOK HOLIDAY SEPARATES

Q I'm not a toothpick. How can I work a shorter length?

A "It's all about balance to pull off this hemline," says Tadashi Shoji, whose elegant cocktail dresses come in plus sizes (shop.tadashishoji.com). Showing some leg with a shorter length works best if you cover up arms with long or three-quarter sleeves. A style that's open at the neck will elongate the figure and draw the eye up (so will a jumbo sparkler against something like a turtleneck). And don't rule out a flirty full skirt, says Derek Guillemette of Rent the Runway, which now offers plus sizes. "Pick one with a slight flare" to minimize thighs. A dark top, tights, and pumps keep the silhouette sleek.

**THE COAT**

Belt it, and the clean lines and modern metallic graphic can work over most evening separates.

Coat Polyester-cotton jacquard, Lafayette 148 New York, \$1,128 (1X-3X); lafayette148ny.com. **Top** Polyester-rayon, Rock Steady, \$45 (1X-3X); modcloth.com. **Skirt** Sequined polyester blend, Maurices, \$34 (14-18); maurices.com. **Necklace** Swarovski crystal and antiqued silver plate, Sorrelli, \$250; sorrelli.com. **Belt** Embossed calfskin, W. Kleinberg, \$160; at W. Kleinberg, 404-B14-1990. **Pumps** Suede, Vince, \$350; at Neiman Marcus.

THE SKIRT With its A-line shape, this pleated piece is flattering and easy to wear.

Turtleneck Cotton, Jessica London, \$30 (12-22/24) and \$35 (24/26-30/32); onestopplus.com. **Skirt** Polyester, Forever 21+, \$28 (XL-3X); at select Forever 21 stores. **Necklace** Glass, acrylic, polyester, and gold tone, Lydell NYC, \$98; lydellnyc.com. **Cuff** Lucite and gold tone, Alexis Bittar, \$395; alexisbittar.com. **Hosiery** Wolford, \$55; wolford.com. **Ankle boots** Suede, Cole Haan, \$398; colehaan.com.



COMES IN SIZES 1X-4X

What can I wear with my...
PEPLUM TOP

A pencil skirt in a stretch crêpe fabric with a hemline that falls right below the knee "beautifully complements the peplum shape," says Guillemette. Shoji alternatively suggests wearing black neoprene straight-leg pants with a fit-and-flare top (a look he showed for Fall).

Polyester wool, Moon Collection, \$55; modcloth.com.

Q I know nude heels can give the illusion of longer legs, but could you suggest a more festive option?

A Metallic or embellished pumps in base colors such as champagne, gold, or bronze will, like basic nude, create an unbroken line that elongates legs, says Cameron Silver, co-owner of Decades in Los Angeles. To keep the long and lean effect going, avoid the visual interruption of ankle- or T-straps.

Glittered nylon pumps, Badgley Mischka, \$215; badgleymischka.com.

