

considered far more elegant. Shawls were very versatile, and it was common for a woman to own several of these popular fashion accessories.

Purses, like shawls, were both popular and versatile. Women, as a result of the industrial revolution, became members of a consumer market previously dominated by men. Fashion most clearly represented this female consumerism through the conspicuous use of extravagant purses. Vivid color combinations, intricate designs, and metallic embellishments of gold and silver were common. Many of the pattern designs were provided in grid form which would be applied in multiple colors of single crochet in the body of the purse. Three purse shapes remained popular in the nineteenth century. One had a flat circular bottom worked in the round to form the sides. Another, rectangular, was folded with the sides slip-stitched to form a seam. The third was a purse worked in the round with one of the open ends closed with a slip stitch to form a seam. All three of these purse shapes are represented in the patterns which follow. Nearly all purses of these types were closed with a drawstring formed by a sequence of loops at the opening that a ribbon or braid could be drawn through. Tassels were also a common adornment upon completing a purse.

Hand-worked ornaments from patterns, although predominantly designed for women, did not exclude items for men. Caps, slippers, and scarves were common ornaments made for men, who often received them as gifts. Whether creations of thrift or gifts of love, crocheted or knitted ornaments of dress remained an integral part of fashion in the Victorian era.