

Get dressed



**Freepeople
point ribbon
dress, \$159
at Plenty**



**Kenzie Geo
halter dress,
\$102
at Plenty**



Priscilla dress, \$150 at Plenty



**Sweetees pink
eyelet dress,
\$175 at Plenty**



Echo geometric print, \$98 at Miss Coquette



**Billabong sunset print,
\$53 at Off the Wall**



**Song green strapless,
\$45 at Off the Wall**



**Mustard yellow with beaded
neckline, \$39 at Shine**



Floral empire waist, \$69 at Shine

Year of the dog, we beg to differ – it's the year of the dress!

Last summer it was all about the peasant skirt, but this season there's a new dress code in town. And lucky for us low maintenance types it's a one-stop style.

Forget fussing with tops and bottoms (and the horrors of matching without being too matchy-matchy), just slip on one of summer's fine frocks, a pair of flip-flops and go.

Touches of eyelet and floral prints are romancing the dress this summer, as well as bolder patterns such as polka dots, says Leanne Dunic, owner of The lovely little frock-filled shop, Miss Coquette (4372 W. 10th Ave.).

Empire waists and doll shapes are perfect for girls who prefer to do more than pick at a

salad at lunch. And while the former is a universal flatterer, says Dunic, some shy away from the latter because "it makes them look pregnant." Not so great if all you're "expecting" are compliments.

Carman Ho, owner of Shine (2970 W. Broadway), can't keep her too-cute Hong Kong and Korea imports on the rack this year. Partially because they're so affordable – and adorable – that people are buying in bulk. The dress is always big come warm weather, she admits, but this year "it's huge."

And while spaghetti straps are a summer staple, many are opting for cap sleeves or a wider strap, says Ho, for their "easier to wear a bra with appeal."

Pretty and practical – no wonder dresses are stealing the show.

- Carly Krug, 24 hours