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FOCUS:  
Skin Discolouration

# Shopping

Returns & Exchanges BY ROBIN HARVEY

## Where to get your Gidget fix

**Q** I'd really like to know where I can get a hold of some of those old Sandra Dee movies. I just loved them and they bring back great memories.

**A** Sandra Dee was the first of the virginal, peppy ingénues to play the infamous Gidget — short for girl gadget — who fills for the tall dark surfer guy Moon Doggie in the late '50s and '60s classics. Gidget: The Complete Collection featuring all three Gidget features (Dee stars only in the first, in 1969) has been released on a two-disc DVD set. It's available for \$24.99 at Stonetrack Entertainment, at Sherway Gardens (416-625-2743) and Scarborough Town Centre (416-296-1611).

Stonetrack also has Dee in two of three comedies she made with her then-hubby Bobby Darin. They starred in *I'll Marry Anyone* in 1962 and *The Party Feeling*, made in 1968 (both \$19.99). You can get Dee in 1969's *Revolution of Love* (\$19.99) and a two-movie set for \$24.99, which includes both Dee's 1969 and Claudette Colbert's 1934 versions of *I'll Marry Anyone* and the two-movie set of features of *Life* are available in similar price ranges from Chapters.

You can also get the Gidget complete collection for \$39.99 at Visage Video, 604 Markham St. (near Bathurst and Bloor, 436-538-9927). Whichever store you

go ahead to make sure they're in stock before making a trip. They can be ordered online by friends and I have been trying to find kitchen counter-top pads for hot-roast pots, cookie sheets, cake etc. We have searched everywhere. Any suggestions? I'm a self-confessed walking kitchen disaster zone. I long earned the value of finding pads in the kitchen to protect the walls, my counter and anyone else that might get in harm's way should I stray into that kitchen terrain. And there are two for good counter protection

— they have to be no-slip and can't conduct heat. You really don't have to spend a great deal to accomplish this. Wood, tempered glass and heat-resistant kitchen ceramic tiles all work well. I've made my own by getting heat-resistant tiles from the local hardware store and glazing round corners with a craft store on the corners with Krazy Glue.

If you want to keep it simple, a place like Top Phong Trading Company, 360 Spadina Ave. (416-977-6364) has a wide assortment made with wood, melamine and wire in prices from about \$1 for small ones, up to \$6 or so for large ones.

But one of the best sets around is the Kitchen Stuff Plus brand and is actually made as glass-cutting boards that double as counter protectors. The tempered glass is heat-resistant and it has silicone knobs on the ends to ease them up off the counter to act as a barrier to heat, stopping slipping, etc. They sell a set of three (a small, medium and large ones) at various locations in the GTA, including Clarendale Mall (Highway 427 and Dundas St. W., 416-256-5782).

**Q** A cousin who previously lived in the U.S. used to bring up a cream I used for brown spots on the side of my face. Is there anything I got locally?

**A** As we get older, we are all prone to develop skin discoloration. But, according to dermatologist Dr. Michael Davis, any skin discoloration should be examined by your family doctor before you decide to treat it — even if you have been doing so for years. If you get the go-ahead, there are many things you can do, depending on what you can afford. Over the counter, you can get hydroquinone creams, either 4 per cent or 4 per cent. You need to apply it twice a day for three to six months to see any effect. Two brands are Ultraquin, where a 15-grain tube with a 4 per cent solution sells for about \$25.99. Or Lustra, with a 4



The late actress Sandra Dee is perhaps best known for starring in the first of the Gidget flicks, released in 1965.

per cent solution in a 30-grain tube for about \$39.

But, Davis cautions, these creams can irritate your skin. He also says you could try cryotherapy, where a liquid nitrogen solution is sprayed on the spot and could remove it right away. The cost would vary depending on the doctor but it might be more cost-effective than using creams for an extended period, he says.

Davis, who works out of the Spadina clinic in Toronto, says a ruby laser or equivalent could also get rid of brown spots but would cost up to \$280.

Robyn Vandermoor, clinical aesthetician of Toronto's downtown Visage Clinic, says laser treatment is useful if there are many spots or discolorations on one's large area. IPL (intense pulse

light) is done in six to eight treatments scheduled two to four weeks apart. For the cheeks, it would cost about \$200.

Levulan + IPL is another option, she says. A topical FDA-approved medication, Levulan treats unevenness in skin and clears up acne, bacteria and brown spots. The medication stays on for about one hour; then it is activated with a Blu-U light for approximately six minutes or with IPL.

Typically, three treatments over three weeks apart for the full face would start at \$450. The procedure can significantly repair a sun-damaged blotchy complexion.

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