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THE WESTMOUNT  
**Examiner**

**WEEKLY POST**  
TOWN OF MOUNT ROYAL / VILLE MONT-ROYAL

February 15, 1990

**MONITOR**

February 20, 1990

# Tradition, lavishness trends spotted by experts

We all know what a traditional wedding looks like: bride in white with a long flowing train; groom in tuxedo; flowers at the altar and bouquets of roses and carnations.

But not all weddings fit the same mold. Remember the '60s, with bare-foot brides and grooms in blue jeans? Despite the fact that certain aspects of a wedding are nearly

always the same, trends definitely come and go.

We asked bridal consultants and experts what they're seeing "out there on the front lines," and their responses, in general, indicated:

- A return to tradition and romance — but at the same time, a strong tendency to personalize the ceremony.
- Bigger, more lavish weddings — and longer engagements because of time needed for planning.
- More mature brides making the decisions (instead of moms).
- More second weddings and reaffirmations.
- Shared expenses. Since brides and grooms are often working professionals, they are more likely to pay for the event — or share expenses with parents.
- Although white and ivory are still most preferred for bridal wear, colors are popping up in profusion — particularly in attendants' wear and decorations. Vivid brights and black-and-white are common.

While your wedding is still in the dreaming and planning stages, consider these "trendy" ideas — you may find them perfect or reject them. In any case, they are not requirements, only suggestions.

### FOOD

Caterers report that clients want lighter fare — chicken, veal or lamb instead of roast beef — as a first course at the reception.

Cucumber sandwiches and itty

bitty hors d'oeuvres are passé. The demand is more for "comfort food, recognizable foods," according to a *Bride's* magazine article quoting New York caterer Abigail Kirsch. "They want a meal everyone can enjoy, real food, not cute food."

The way people eat at receptions is changing, too. Instead of seating guests at tables where they chat with only a few others, the trend is toward mingling while you munch.

"Instead of one long buffet table with one long line, there are several smaller tables each with a different course or fare," says *Modern Bride* magazine. "It provides variety and eliminates the waiting."

"Groom's cakes are really big," says Washington, D.C., bridal consultant Regan Botts. "The groom's cake is usually chocolate or the favorite flavor of the groom. It looks like a smaller version of the wedding cake, and pieces of it are boxed so guests can take them home."

### ROMANCE

"I'm doing a lot of storybook weddings, fantasy weddings," says bridal consultant Lynn Jeter of Beverly Hills, California. "I've never arranged for so many horsedrawn carriages as I have this past year."

"Elegance is making a dramatic comeback," agrees Barbara Tober, editor-in-chief of *Bride's* magazine. "Couples are rediscovering big-band music and dancing cheek-to-cheek."

Reception halls are dressed up in style, in white with touches of green and gold; guests are pampered with champagne while they wait in the receiving line; strolling violinists play classical melodies. Wedding cake by candlelight brings the evening to a close.

Unusual sites create romance. Hotels, family homes, country barns and colleges all have potential, but gaining in popularity are luxury yachts and dream estates.

These last are large homes available for rent, and they're perfect for parties. Most are owner-occupied; the owners vacate the premises during your special event. The settings can be stunning; mansions in Victorian, art deco, Southwest and other styles, with gorgeous grounds. Many larger cities have businesses that specialize in estates for special-occasion rental; if not, your Chamber of Commerce may have information.

### REAFFIRMATION

Remember when Blake and Krystal Carrington reaffirmed their marriage vows on *Dynasty*? They reflected a new trend.

Most reaffirmations coincide with a milestone occasion or anniversary, says *Bride's* magazine. (Krystal's preceded a risky operation.)

The ceremony is often performed in a backyard or hotel, by a judge or clergy member.

"People feel there's a story to be told," Ms Jeter explained to *Bride's*. "They usually write their own vows, and may have their children escort them; their grandchildren tell anecdotes."

Krystal walked down a hallway lined with guests who each held a white rose and a candle. As she collected her bouquet, she also received their blessings. "I want tonight to be a celebration of all the shared moments of our lives... a marriage of all of us," she said.

A currently popular way for brides and grooms to express their individuality is in the selection of flowers for their weddings.

"Floral arrangements are becoming more exotic, bolder," says Ms Botts. "For example, a bride may carry long calla lilies wrapped in satin ribbons instead of the traditional bouquet."

As an alternative to corsages for the wedding party, each member may hold a long-stemmed rose combined with baby's breath. It's a nice change from "wearing something on the chest," says Ms Botts. "It's not expensive at all — and it's very elegant."

## "A la carte" WEDDINGS



by Steve Virok

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## A little preparation a good substitute for a fairy godmother

You can spend an entire year planning your wedding day down to the letter, but unless you have a fairy godmother, there is no way to guarantee that the day will be perfect.

According to *Bride's* magazine, a little preparation goes a long way toward ensuring that wedding day mishaps don't get out of hand. If you organize an "emergency kit," and keep it stashed nearby at the ceremony and the reception, coping with certain last-minute dilemmas will be a breeze.

*Bride's* suggests you start with a pretty basket, decorated to match your wedding theme, then include the following:

- Needle, thread, buttons and safety pins.
- Extra stockings for you and your wedding party.
- Spot remover.
- Nail polish — color to match your fingernails, and clear to keep stocking runs from spreading.
- Extra lipstick, powder, blushers, eye shadow, fragrance.
- Comb, brush and hairspray or gel.
- Extra pairs of glasses or contact lenses.
- Tissues and cotton balls.
- Aspirin, adhesive bandages, allergy pills, and any prescription medicines you or your groom might need.
- Personal care items.
- Pen and note paper.
- Extra copies of all passages that are being read during the ceremony.
- Telephone numbers for your caterer, clergy member, organist, photographer, florist, bandleader, car service and each member of the wedding party.

Keep in mind the most important ingredients of all: patience and a sense of humor. They turn any mishap "mountains" back into molehills.

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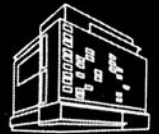
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# Personal and high-tech items top gift registries

When it comes to wedding gifts, brides and grooms want to both embrace and buck tradition, sweet tradition.

They want laptop computers along with lead crystal, lawn chairs alongside lacy bed linens, and fax machines with their fine china. They want barbecues and stoneware, speaker phones and answering machines, cappuccino makers and Cuisinarts. They even want Nintendo and gumball machines.

In short, they want it all. And now more than ever, they're taking their wishes public through wedding reg-

istries — running lists of gifts that steer perplexed shower and wedding guests clear of white elephants and duplicates — and into the realm of the perfect present.

## REGISTRIES

To accommodate the whims and fantasies of today's couples, an estimated 5,000 registries have sprouted up all over the country. Once found only in department stores, registries are now *de rigueur* in many specialty shops. Some offer toll-free numbers so out-of-towners can let their fin-

gers do the walking.

Gone are the days when the bride ventured out alone to make some monumental material decisions. More than 70 percent of all registrations are couple-active, according to *Modern Bride* magazine.

The simple checklist, meanwhile, has evolved into a high-tech registry system in many emporiums. Computers keep track of the couple's wants and wishes and purchases made there, or in any of its sister stores. An up-to-the-minute printout of the haves and have-nots awaits eager gift-seekers.

Some stores will even keep listings on file for a year or more, so couples can keep adding to their crystal, silver or china collections.

For merchants, offering registry service is well worth the trouble; a registry can help bring them their fair share of huge volume in sales of home furnishings and household equipment that's generated each year by first-time marriages.

Couples, meanwhile, quickly fall in love with wedding registries. Not only do the listings tactfully suggest gift ideas to friends and relatives, but they happily eliminate the postnuptial hassle of returning gifts.

Registries also help market analysts track the big trends in wedding gift-giving and profile the typical wedding couple.

## GIFTS MOST WANTED

Several years ago, deep-fat fryers, chafing dishes, electric woks and fondue pots were all the rage with marrying couples, according to *Bride's*. But this year, the best gifts lean toward the high-tech and highly personal.

That's because brides and grooms are older and more established than those of past generations. Chances are they already have salt and pepper shakers. What they really want and need is something beyond the conventional — a smoke detector, for instance, or a security alarm, tools, compact disc player, mini television, VCR or luggage.

Couples might even request gifts that complement a much-loved sport or hobby, such as a lawn mower and imported bulbs for gardeners, or a stair-climbing machine and plush, king-size towels for fitness fanatics.

Furnishings for the kitchen, bed and bath also rank high, such as muffin tins, down comforters, juicers, photo-filled cookbooks, cutlery, showerhead massagers, bed trays, hand-held blenders, humidifiers and copper cookware.

But, in spite of their eccentric tastes, most members of the cam-corder generation also want all the traditional trappings of the well-dressed table: Sunday-best china, silver cutlery (down to the forks for



Items for the gift registry range from practical, everyday appliances to china and crystal for special occasions. Shown here: La Maison des Must china.

shrimp cocktail) and a variety of goblets.

Nearly 700 of 1,000 brides-to-be that comprise *Modern Bride's* Consumer Council recently said they planned to register for fine crystal, china and sterling, and that they intended to purchase the items they did not receive.

In most cases, couples want eight- or 12-place settings, and select a pattern for everyday dinnerware as well as fine china. The fun lies in choosing between all the themes, textures, motifs, cuts and colors available.

For instance, the plate's a spherical easel for fruit in Royal Worcester's "Evesham" (Princess Di's choice when she was a bride) or simple lines and translucent color in Rosenthal's artsy "New Wave."

And, for better or for worse, some couples are bending the rules of the table setting game as they make their selections, mixing silver with gold, ultramodern flatware with traditional china patterns and bold with beautiful.

Some couples want to add to their family's heirloom china, and china matching services, such as Replacements Ltd, help find additional hard-to-get pieces.

Mixing and matching is just one more example of how marriage couples of the 1990s are merging what's customary and revolutionary for a home that's uniquely their own.

## Heart talk

For those who want to say their vows with love, look into *You Don't Have to Be a Poet to Put Your Love Into Words*, by James D. Donovan, a timely, common-sense approach to communicating love sincerely.

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# From invitations to thank-yous, wedding communication is vital

With scrolls unfurled and trumpets blaring, mounted messengers proclaimed the good news for medieval maidens and men united in matrimony.

But in the 20th century, brides and grooms must rely on the subtle powers of the written word to tell the world of their impending nuptials.

That's not to say couples of the 1990s are in any way at a disadvantage, for paper can be far more expressive than a loudmouth messenger in terms of both information and personal style. And, quite likely, the written word will be cherished long after the vows are recited.

So what will it be — a black-and-white engraved invitation for a black-tie gala, or a calligraphied message on handmade paper that's embedded with confetti?

Through your wedding announcements and invitations, you can speak formally and elegantly, sparkle and giggle or forward to your friends a mood that's somewhere in-between. Following are tips on how to select, prepare and mail these most personal papers.

## STYLES

It once was written in stone that a wedding invitation had to be folded and printed in black ink on ecru or white parchment. Period.

Oh, how times have changed. But for many brides — mainly those planning lavish, formal celebrations — such traditional styles are still the way to go. Large-size "embassy" invitations are especially popular right now, say wedding experts.

## Balloon festoons

Balloons are becoming as popular a decoration as flowers. Bridal hues include hot pink, peach and teal, and the balloons are tied to chairs, hung from the ceiling and cascaded upon the newlyweds during their first dance. Other ideas are balloon archways, columns, floor bouquets or heart sculptures.

Meanwhile, freer spirits can chase after braver, bolder papers — such as those embossed with lace or fans, or ones that echo the wedding colors.

Some couples add whimsy by pouring bits of confetti or glitter into the invitation folds; others include a photo of themselves on the invitation or tucked inside the envelope.

There are delicate handmade papers flecked with gold leaves or butterflies, invitations with designs on the front and flashy vellum styles.

One of the hottest trends turns the tables on a formerly taboo hue: Black is now a much sought-after color for mountings, trims, laces and ribbons.

## PRINTING

Once you've selected your paper, take a mini course in printing methods, typefaces and inks to determine which best suits your invitation style, be it traditional or trendy.

Engraving, which produces elegantly raised letters, is by far the most popular method — but you should also look into the options of thermography, which resembles engraving, and offset printing, which produces an informal look.

Next consider your scripts, serifs and sans serifs; the typeface you select — whether cursive or block letters, for example — will largely determine the mood of the invitation.

Some couples go so far as to have each invitation hand-lettered, perhaps in colored or metallic ink, or they have a master invitation prepared in calligraphy and then print from that.

Calligraphers often take on the chore of addressing the outer and inner envelopes, transforming each into a work of art. The bride, meanwhile, saves loads of time and is spared the agony of writer's cramp.

You also can have the return address printed, engraved or embossed on your outer envelopes.

To locate the best stationers, printers and calligraphers, ask friends and relatives for suggestions

and discuss the matter with your wedding consultant or banquet manager.

Frills and froufrous are fine, but the heart of an invitation lies in the message itself.

The message rules are firm if you're going traditional. Thus, it's a good idea to consult a wedding professional, book or planner to make sure you're in line with invitation etiquette, especially when there are special circumstances surrounding the ceremony, such as divorced or deceased parents.

If you're selecting less traditional invitations, follow suit with the message. Borrow a poem, compose your own message or verse, or modify an old standard.

No matter how eloquent or well-written, your invitation can only say so much. Provide additional information through enclosures.

Reception cards, for instance, are appropriate when not all wedding guests are invited to the festivities afterward. Reply cards are popular because they make RSVPing so easy. You even can give your guests a map or directions via enclosure.

Tradition dictates how both inner and outer envelopes should be addressed, so make sure the correct courtesy titles and names are used. The inner envelope is always left unsealed.

Invitations should hit the mailboxes four to six weeks prior to the wedding date. If you're marrying around Christmastime or during any holiday week, mail two months ahead to compensate for slower delivery.

Even the postage stamp can

enhance your wedding invitation. Rather than settling for what's offered over the counter at the post office, ask to see what else is available and select one that echoes the style of your invitation.

What's the ultimate faux pas in wedding etiquette? Forgetting to say thank you.

A notebook, computer or file box can help you keep tabs on who gave what. That way, you'll have no problem tracking the seven couples who gave you the seven identical salad bowls.

With thank-you notes, tradition rules, according to etiquette gurus. Select white, ivory, pale blue or yellow, tan or gray paper, either plain or embossed with your monogram or name. Order some cards with your maiden name if you'll be issuing thank-yous before the big day.

Remember, thank-you notes should be handwritten in either black or blue ink.

And, it's best to take pen in hand shortly after your honeymoon; wedding experts say you have only a month to respond.



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# Brides of any shape can find a gown to flatter

Whether you're a first-time bride or second, want a traditional wedding or plan on being avant-garde, today's bridal fashions will flatter you. The first step is to select a style

that suits you, advises *Bride's* magazine, "to show off your impeccable taste, creative personality, or dramatic fashion sense."

Brides of the '90s have many choices — from elaborate to simple, from city sophisticated to country casual.

Worried about your figure? Don't be. There's a gown out there that will make you look great. And if you want to sew your own or restore a dress that is a family heirloom, you also have plenty of options.

## STYLE TRENDS

Always dreamed of a full white gown with a cascading train plus yards of filmy veil? Go ahead — indulge yourself.

Even second-time brides can wear floor-length gowns of lace and satin — after all, these symbolize the joy and hope of marriage. (But forgo the veil; it's an age-old symbol of virginity.)

For a traditional look that is understated yet elegant, consider a taffeta gown with a long hem, simple portrait neckline and small sweep train.

A country-style wedding dress should enhance your feminine and romantic qualities, says Sarah Callender of Laura Ashley. Capture the image and mood of the country with all-natural fabrics and pastoral prints.

Or create romance by wearing a soft, lacy Victorian dress with a blouson bodice and full gored skirt.

A word of caution: Ruffles and frills can age an older bride. If you're



Timeless, traditional gowns take centre stage this year. Shown here: Dress by Jessica McClintock for Simplicity patterns.

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over 30, go with attire that is elegant, sophisticated and more sexy than sweet.

Your wedding is a perfect time to show off your fashion confidence and make a dramatic statement. Wear a sculptured gown that plays up your figure; a back-baring draped cowl; perhaps a chic, off-the-shoulder neckline.

If the look you desire (good for a second wedding) is simple and tailored, consider a wedding suit. New York designer Carolina Herrera, creator of Caroline Kennedy's wedding gown, described this look to *Bride's*: "Keep all the elements soft, from color to cut to fabric." Wear a dress-plus-jacket or a simple jacket and skirt, complemented with gloves and a small hat.

A can't-go-wrong classic is the chemise, ideal for an informal wedding. The straight skirt is knee-length, often worn with a fitted, slightly boxy jacket to give a balanced silhouette.

One of the most unusual trends in wedding fashions is for the bride and maids to wear black. "Actually, it's an old tradition from Italy," says Washington, D.C., bridal consultant Ragan Botts. "It's currently popular for evening weddings and not just for fall and winter; in summer they're wearing black on top with a white taffeta or organza skirt."

Do the mothers object? "Sometimes. But I act as a mediator and make sure the bride gets what she wants."

If the idea of sashaying down the aisle in a body-hugging sheath horrifies you, chances are you'd prefer a gown that minimizes figure flaws.

A big skirt will camouflage ample hips and derriere. If you want a slimmer gown, consider one with a peplum.

Don't cover up your bodice, neck and shoulders if you have a large bosom. Showing some lovely smooth skin will help frame your face and pull attention away from a heavy chest. If you're small-busted, choose a gown with plenty of bodice detail.

A small-shouldered bride is better off with full sleeves; those who are broad-shouldered look great in off-the-shoulder gowns.

Do you wear a petite or large size? Good news: These are now available through most bridal shops — and the styles are designed to flatter special body types.

Speaking of gowns found at bridal

boutiques and departments, most have a lot of built-in figure helpers, such as shoulder pads and underskirts. In most cases, your body will conform to the shape of the dress, not the opposite.

Naturally you don't want to spend your last dime on your dress, but be sure you get a good one. A cheaply made gown will show its inferior design and materials.

#### OTHER OPTIONS

You don't have to buy your dress.

Why not wear your grandmother's antique gown? Or, if you have the skills or know a good seamstress, sew your own. You also can rent one.

If you own an heirloom wedding gown, it probably has never been washed and will need some restoration work. There are experts who specialize in creating fresh dresses from old; these restorers (or conservators) can repair, alter, mend or replace lace — and they also dye or tint repairs to match the original fabric. Check with your local historic society or a museum for recommendations.

If you decide to design your own dress, base your pattern size on the body measurements listed on the pattern envelope.

Experts at Simplicity pattern company recommend that you first make a sample gown in muslin, for fitting adjustments. Fitted bodices do not allow much room for error, for example, and you don't want to make too many adjustments once the dress is sewn. When working with fine and expensive fabrics, sewing a sample is the best way to double check your work.

Also, buy all the fabric you need at one time. Dye lots may differ slightly in color.

Why not rent a dress? After all, most wedding gowns are worn only once. It makes sense to avoid spending an astronomical sum on something destined to become a bulky souvenir of the event. Visit shops that rent formal wear to get an idea of the selection in your city; expect to pay a security deposit to cover unexpected damage to the clothes.

If you want to preserve your dress (perhaps someday for your granddaughter), take it to a dry cleaning company or similar clothing-care establishment after the wedding. These experts will clean it and package it for posterity.

## Hair and makeup are a vital part of bride's beauty

Your wedding pictures are so important. Now is the time to learn how to look your best for yourself, your groom and the camera.

According to *Bride's* magazine beauty editor Denise O'Donoghue, "Hair and makeup are the keys to a bride's beauty, and she should devote as much care and attention to them as she does to the selection of her dress."

Start early to get your hair in shape. If you're considering chemical changes such as coloring, highlighting or perming, do so well in advance to leave room for fine-tuning.

Also, make sure your style complements your headpiece. If your hair is short, try adding some pizzazz with gels, mousses or sculpting sprays.

Long hair can create dazzling effects, too. Try weaving it into a bow, braiding or twisting it into a bun, or tucking it into a chignon accented with jeweled hair combs.

Most brides plan a trip to their personal care consultant several weeks prior to the wedding to discuss and preview styling options; it helps to know what to expect on the morning of the big day.

If you're doing your hair yourself, dry and style it as planned, then add hairspray to smooth down flyaways. Make sure you do this before stepping into your gown; spray can stain delicate fabric, leaving spots that show up in pictures.

Makeup application and color selection also are crucial. Ms O'Donoghue explains: "Remember, you will be wearing white from head to toe. Since the only color will be on your face, your palette has to be just right."

Several weeks prior to the wedding, have your face done by a professional makeup artist, who will explain exactly what you should do to duplicate the effect. If all you need


are a few tips, a good salesperson will be happy to pass along the latest techniques.

Keep in mind that colors should be soft; avoid anything frosted or pearlized. Even the slightest iridescence can throw reflections over the face, making it look unnatural on film. You might want a friend to take a few test shots to see what the camera will pick up.

Most important: Make sure your mascara is waterproof. A bride with-

out tears is unusual. Right after the ceremony, remember to powder your nose and reapply your lipstick so it will be fresh for more photographs — and more kisses.

Your hands are in the spotlight, too. Prior to the wedding, have a professional manicure every three to four weeks, timing the last one for the day before. Resist the urge to wear red or fuchsia polish; instead, choose a pastel pink or peach shade that is consistent with your makeup.



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# Make wedding different the second time

In spite of loving intentions and best efforts, some people find themselves traipsing to the altar a second

time. In fact, in 43 percent of all marriages in the United States, one or both spouses have been married previously.

There is no reason why second marriages can't surpass first go-arounds in the quality of ceremony and happiness.

In terms of planning, you have the advantage of knowing what you're up against. But this time you may have to juggle sensitive subjects such as children (his and hers), former spouses, ex-in-laws, and what inelegantly might be termed "religious red tape."

First, agree with your fiancé about how best to handle these potentially sticky wickets.

You might want to ease your way by reviewing books such as *The Second Wedding Handbook* by Judith Slawson (Doubleday), *Emily Post's Complete Book of Wedding*

*Etiquette* (Harper & Row) and the classic *You and Your Wedding* by Winifred Gray (Bantam).

*Bride's* and *Modern Bride* magazines have frequent articles with tips on revisiting the altar.

Let your children be the first to know your plans. They will be justifiably concerned about how to get their fair share of your affection and attention with a new husband or wife in the picture. They also will want to be assured that your fiancé is not taking the place of their real father or mother. Emphasize that the marriage will be a new and different arrangement entirely.

Present the children with your news in a non-confrontational manner that leaves room for their reactions. Make the moment a private one, accompanied by some kind of celebration that enhances their importance to you.

## Include the children

Make every effort to include children in the marriage planning. Ask their opinion on the clothes, flowers, food and decoration. This will validate their sense of importance and muster family support for the event.

It's perfectly appropriate to announce your engagement to your family and friends in the same way you announced it for your first marriage. But be sure to wait until your divorce or that of your fiancé is final before wearing a ring and spreading the news.

Many couples tend to choose a less formal approach for second ceremonies, doing much of the inviting by telephone or mail, particularly if fewer than 50 guests will be invited.

Likely your ex-spouse will not be included in the festivities. However, if you have strong ties to his or her parents or siblings, you may include them. Be sure to introduce them as the grandparents of your children, or as friends rather than "ex's."

Friends may want to give you an engagement party or shower. Gifts are acceptable though certainly not required. It is a good idea to register at a favorite store, but you may not want to register for the china, glassware and silver opted for before.

Suggest that friends go in together on a special piece of furniture or sports equipment. They also could give season tickets to the theatre or symphony, museum memberships or weekend getaways.

If you are planning a religious ceremony, you may meet with some obstacles having to do with your divorce or that of your intended. Review the situation with your clergy person well in advance. This will ensure that you meet the requirements and have the proper dispensation to remarry.

## Less tradition

Many couples treat second weddings with more pizzazz and less tradition than their first. Having done things by the book and very often under the family thumb and/or social pressure the first time, a more casual or unique event may well be a merry relief.

We recently attended a Halloween wedding where all guests were asked to dress as famous romantic couples. And although it was a civil ceremony, the person officiating wore a monk's costume.

This kind of occasion may not be everyone's cup of tea. On the other hand it shows how to create a fun, memorable event. If you host your own wedding, your choices won't reflect on your parents' preferences.

The wedding can be as large or

small as you can manage. A small gathering of immediate family members is more intimate and less expensive. On the other hand, the event may provide the perfect opportunity for throwing a major bash.

It's appropriate, though not necessary, to have attendants for a remarriage ceremony. Children who are old enough to participate should be included as honor attendants of any variety — flower girls, ring bearers or readers. Couples can come down the aisle together. A bride's father can certainly escort her again. Or the bride's or groom's children can perform the honor. Enlist at least one usher for every 50 guests.

Wedding garb can be anything you desire. For the bride, white or ivory, representing celebration, can be worn again, but dispense with the veil and train, which symbolize vir-

ginity. A pastel frock, a softly tailored suit, a zany and extravagant evening gown — let your imagination express what is most special about your new relationship, not what is expected of you by others. Same goes for the groom who might wear anything from a new sports coat to tux and tails.

Instead of throwing the bouquet and garter, some second-time couples hand them to their most likely single friends with best wishes.

Celebrate your new life together with a honeymoon. Making sure the spot is new to you both will avoid possibly hurtful lapses down memory lane.

If you have children, make the trip brief, or plan on including them in the event after just a few days alone. This is a warm way to welcome and enjoy your new enlarged family.

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# Wedding photos versus videos: tough questions from new technology

Technology is a two-edged sword. It has wrought many wonderful things. Can you imagine a world without microwave ovens, pace-makers or CD players? But technology can cause problems as well as solve them. All one has to do is ask the bride-to-be who must choose between still photos or videotape.

In the old days, you hired a photographer who took several shots of the bride and groom, parents and attendants, disappeared, then had proofs ready once the happy couple returned from their honeymoon.

These days, it's not unheard of for the videographer to interrupt the vows because he wants to shoot from another angle or to treat the reception like a movie set with the guests being just so many extras in the production.

With today's hectic pace, the decision of whether to go with still photos or video or combine both has to be made early in the wedding preparations.

The best photographers are booked months, even years, in advance. Many shoot more than one wedding a day, and any last-minute scheduling conflicts can cause serious wedding-day migraines.

Also, it's important to know in advance whether the church where you are exchanging vows allows flash photography or video cameras during the service.

Some do and some don't. Some will let you tape, but only if the camera and its operator don't intrude on the service. Others have their own cam-

eras in discreet locations and allow you to buy a video of your wedding at a nominal fee.

Still photos capture that one moment and hold it fixed forever.

Videos, on the other hand, capture the movement and energy of the event in a way no other system devised by man can.

Both have their advantages and disadvantages, and many couples choose to use both. If you're on a tight budget, however, it's best to decide which is more important.

Would you rather see a beautiful album of professional photos and a grainy video of Grandma doing the frug with Uncle Roy? Or does the idea of a professionally edited video with credits, titles, background music and special effects and some photos shot by the best man's work buddy seem more appealing?

Whatever your choice, it's best to consider the pros and cons of each format before making your decision:

• **Permanence.** The most important consideration, besides price, is how long the photos or video will last. Color photos begin to fade after 10 to 15 years.

The negatives, however, can be used again (if you remember to get them from the photographer), and black-and-white photos can be made from color negatives to ensure that your photos last forever.

Videotape is in a state of flux as far as format. Videos taped now may be as obsolete in the future as 8-track tapes are today. Currently, the VHS system is slowly losing ground to the 8mm format. Who knows what technological advances will come in the next 10 years? Holographs?

Also, videotape deteriorates every time it is played. It may not be so noticeable at first, but after 100 plays the quality is seriously deficient. Another consideration — what happens if your recorder eats your master tape? What are you going to do? Reshoot the whole wedding?

• **Coverage.** Selecting who gets his picture taken and what events get documented is an important aspect of both video and still photography. Each has particular advantages.

Still photos, for example, are good for formal poses — such as groupings of the wedding party and families — and have the advantage that

individual shots can be ordered by the people involved.

Videos are better for telling a story. Many couples have their videos edited so that they begin with baby pictures of the bride and groom, following them through school and up to the engagement. Then the live-action footage begins with the rehearsal dinner and takes them through wedding preparations, ceremony and reception. Many even shoot footage of their honeymoon and have that edited in. So the possibilities of creating a document are many.

• **Convenience.** This category probably is the deciding factor for most couples as to which format takes precedence.

Still photos have the advantage here because it is easier to pull out an album and have guests ooh and ah rather than have them sit through an hours-long video.

Also, for those moments you just want to remind yourself, photos are easier. However, videos to have an advantage in that they offer multiple images to spark memories — and isn't memories what this is all about?

Most photographers get hired by word of mouth, and this is still the best way to find the perfect person to shoot your wedding.

You shouldn't, however, settle for the first shutterbug that comes along. There are a number of questions that need to be settled before you sign on the dotted line.

If you go to a large agency and they show you sample photos or a video, make sure you get the photographer whose works you were shown.

These agencies may say they offer a uniform quality no matter which person on their staff takes the picture, but the truth is that photography is a subjective craft and each photographer brings something individual to his work.

When you look at samples and get price quotes, check not just for quality but also for coverage. Find out beforehand what pictures are included in the package price quoted by the agency. Is there a set number of formal poses and candid? With the candid, do they focus solely on the bride or groom or on others at

the wedding?

In the case of videos, make sure there are no hidden costs for editing or dubbing music onto the final tape. Also, how many cameras will be utilized? How many copies will be

made?

Remember that once you settle on a package and price, you probably will end up spending more after you see the proofs or raw tape and have a hard time making up your mind.

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# Attendants, not mothers, should suit bridal style

*Dear Abby: I am furious with my daughter. She is planning her wedding and just called to instruct me that I'm supposed to buy a mauve dress so I won't clash with the bridesmaids or the mother of the groom (who she is telling to wear gray).*

*I want a dress that makes me look wonderful, not like part of the window treatment. For heaven's sake, I'm only 43 years old!*

*Please tell me the best way to handle this. I'm not going in mauve anything.*

— Too Young to Be a Dowdy Dowager

Pity the poor bride. Not only does she have to look stunning on her wedding day, she has to attend to a myriad of details — not the least of which is advising the bridal party what to wear (think of the pictures!).

But in her book, *Dear Abby on Planning Your Wedding*, (Andrews and McMeel), Abigail Van Buren tells prospective brides: "Mothers have changed — they work, they work out, they have full lives, today they look younger at 45 than 45 looked in the '50s."

So what's a daughter to do?

Abby continues, "First, the only

style you should set is that of your wedding party — meaning the bridesmaids and groomsmen. The day of telling mothers what to wear is past. You should, instead, encourage them to select whatever they feel good in. Unlike wedding gowns, they will want dresses they can wear again and again."

With more mature brides making the decisions, common sense reigns in today's weddings. Maids aren't stuck wearing a mountain of peach satin that is unflattering, expensive and screams, "BRIDESMAIDS!!!"

Just as styles for bridal party mothers have gone from dowdy to elegant (beaded, rhinestone-studded or tapestry jackets worn with chiffon skirts; pastel satin fitted suits), bridesmaid styles have moved toward sophistication.

You'll see lush velvets with alluring lines, floral and metallic brocades, taffeta with water-color prints, and plenty of black (yes, black) — combined with white.

In fact, colors in general have changed, advises Los Angeles bridal consultant Lynn Jeter.

"It used to be soft pastels — pinks, lavender and light greens," she says. "There are no color boundaries any more. We're seeing everything, including fuchsia and red — the latter is popular in December and February (for Christmas and Valentine's Day weddings).

"Colors are more vibrant. I did a wedding in which the bride combined electric blue with ivory for the maid's dresses and the table coverings. It was absolutely beautiful!"

Bridesmaids certainly don't have to wear blue, but here's another letter from Abby's book that is bound to make any bride pause:

*Dear Abby: After seeing all the letters in your column from people who complain about the high cost of being a bride or bridesmaid — I want to report a beautiful scene I just witnessed.*

*The July wedding was formal — at least the bride and groom were formally attired. But the bridesmaids' dresses were outstanding in their design. They were street-length navy blue linen chemises with high V-necklines and a pleated flounce at the hem. The chemise line was elegant on the slender bridesmaids and flattering to the heavier ones. They all wore wide-brimmed straw hats, a simple strand of pearls, and short white gloves. Best of all — that dress will go to the office, to a dinner party, anywhere!*

*And the mother of the bride wore a dress of a similar design in beige. The groomsmen, unlike the groom in his "tails," wore dark business suits. They looked so tailored and classy.*

Abby notes that more brides and grooms are electing to have their groomsmen wear dark suits. "Not only does it save the cost of time and money for rentals, but the man's own suit is likely to fit much better since he would have had it altered specially for him."

#### TRY IT ON AGAIN

If you do use rented tuxedos, Abby suggests, "to prevent disaster on the wedding day, please instruct every one, from groom to groomsman, to try on the whole outfit once more before leaving the store. Too many guys have discovered that they made the pants too long — twenty minutes before the ceremony begins!"

Formalwear styles for men reflect new, rich fabrics and designs,



From the maid of honor to the flower girl, attendants look great in sweetly traditional dresses. Shown here: Flower girl's dress and bridal gown from *Simplicity patterns*.

observes *Bride's* magazine, which "harken back to a more lavish age — when a gentleman dressed with exquisite care and imagination for the great events of his life."

This translates into merino wool tuxedos with satin shawl collars; vests and waistcoats of silk jacquard in rich, vivid colors and gold-threaded tapestries; notched or peaked lapels; black wool gabardine pants with sleek black satin waistbands; imported voile shirts with prewoven pleats and French cuffs; black-on-black diamond (or window pane) patterned dinner jackets, paisley bow ties and cummerbunds you get

the idea.

When asked about attire for child attendants, *Bride's* magazine gives these suggestions from Pat Kerr, a bridal gown designer:

Children's fashions should reflect the overall tone of the wedding. For a semi-formal or formal wedding, a flower girl may wear a style similar to the bride's gown (with a higher back or neckline, of course), perhaps in silk or taffeta. A junior bridesmaid might wear a dress similar to your maids' in the same color but perhaps with a drop waist or other style suited to a younger figure.

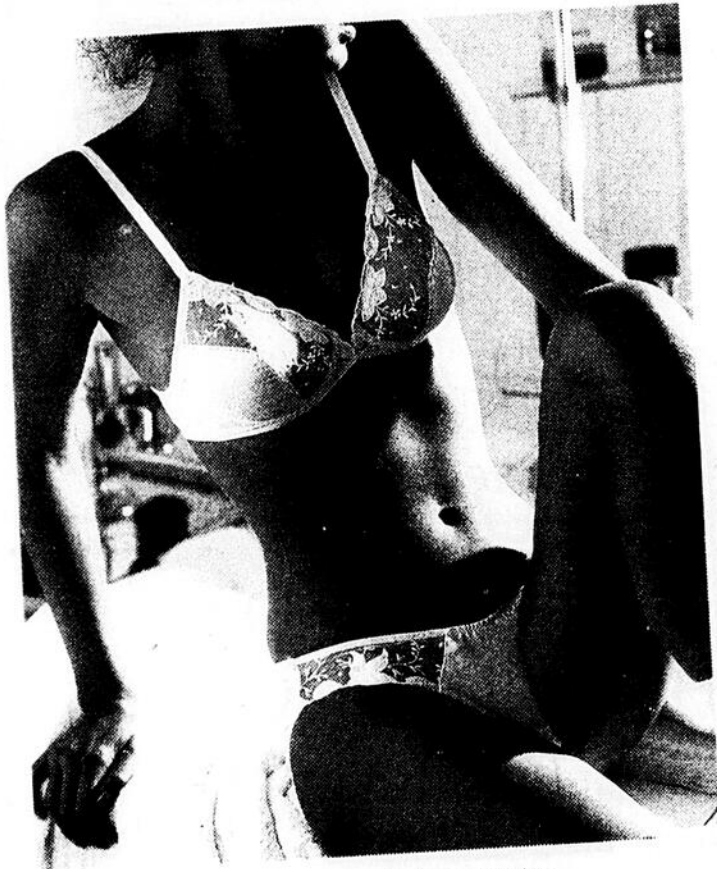
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# Emphasis on individuality in flowers

Weddings and flowers, like love and marriage, just seem to go together.

Brides in ancient times carried nuptial garlands and medieval brides wore wreaths of fresh blooms.

Bouquets and floral arrangements are an integral part of your wedding, and the florist should be one of the first people you contact. Flowers should be ordered at least three months before the nuptials.

## BLOSSOMING TRENDS

There are floral fashions just as there are trends in bridal fashions. Wildflower bouquets reflected the natural mood of the '70s. In the '80s, bouquets got more lavish and traditional. As we enter the '90s, the choice of blooms is entirely up to

you. "The philosophy is 'you are the bride,'" says florist Ryan Gaine. "The emphasis is on the bride's individuality."

"There is a loose, relaxed feel in bridal bouquets," says florist Jani Adair. "Bouquets are less stiff and flowers, such as roses, are open instead of the traditional closed look. The garden effect is very popular. You'll see natural styles with long stems and loose garden-gathered looking bouquets."

While many brides still opt for traditional nosegays of white, ivory and champagne blooms, more want a shot of color, ranging from soft pastels to vivid hues.

"This follows the garden look," notes florist Eve Davis.

If you have your heart set on

carrying daffodils in a December wedding, you probably can.

"In the past few years, there has been a dramatic increase in the year-round availability of flowers at florists across the country," floral designer Bobby Wiggins told *Bride's* magazine.

Nonetheless, florists encourage brides to use seasonal blossoms. Not only are they more abundant and healthy than hothouse flowers, they are more affordable.

Shapes for bouquets range from the traditional clusters to elegant cascades. Sweet nosegays are perfect for weddings with an Edwardian flair. Sophisticated brides can carry arm bouquets down the aisle.

Year-round flowers include orchids, freesia, iris and rhubarb lily. Asters, daffodils, dahlias, delphinium, jasmine, pansies and peonies are spring-summer specialties. For fall and winter weddings, try amaryllis, calla lilies, heather and holly.

## DECOR TIPS

Your floral needs don't stop with bouquets. Look for creative ways to use flowers.

Elaborately decorated wedding and reception sites may only need simple flower arrangements, whereas a spartan reception hall will look more festive with garlands of flowers, potted palms and bright centrepieces.

For church weddings, use flowers and greenery on pews and at the altar. For a Jewish wedding, request a festive chuppah festooned with flowers.

The florist can also come up with arrangements for buffet and serving tables. Flowers make a nice accent for serving platters and a fresh way to top a wedding cake.

Centrepieces can also create the right mood for your wedding. Baskets filled with black-eyed Susans and hydrangea are perfect for an outdoor wedding. For more formal affairs, use candles and all-white blooms, such as calla lilies and white freesia. (Arrangements should be no higher than 16 inches.)

Another idea is to have the flowers for your decor reflect the region: sultry magnolias for a Southern wedding or terra cotta bowls filled with exotic blossoms in the Southwest.

## FLORAL HOW-TOS

Start by looking for a florist through recommendations. Friends can give you some names and the people at the wedding site and reception hall can often recommend a

## Southern comfort

Add a custom from the U.S. Old South to your wedding celebration by serving a groom's cake — a one-layer cake, often chocolate, that is served to guests in little boxes to take home from the reception. The cake often depicts the groom's favorite hobby or occupation, and the tradition evolved from the customary European wedding cake. Another southern custom? The groom asks his father to be his best man.

## Vow wow

For those who want to write their own vows, consider Peg Kehret's book, *Wedding Vows* (Meriweather Publishing). It includes words of wisdom such as "I give you this ring as an emblem of my love. It signifies that our souls are joined in lifelong ties."

good florist.

Arrange for your first consultation to take place at the florist's shop, says *Bride's* magazine. The shop should be efficiently run and the salespeople courteous. And the flowers should look fresh.

Bring along photos of bouquet styles, centerpieces and arrangements you like, as well as fabric swatches from the bridal and attendants' dresses. Also bring a sketch or photo of your dress, if possible.

Let the florist know how many guests will attend, whether it's a sit-down meal or a buffet and how many tables will be set up.

You should also arrange for a consultation at the wedding and reception sites or at least give the florist the addresses for both if he or she is not already familiar with the sites.

After the florist has an idea of the look you want to achieve, set a budget. Cost-cutting tips include using seasonal locally grown blossoms, as well as mixing dried and silk flowers.

Don't forget to order boutonnieres for the groom, fathers and ushers, as well as corsages for the mothers.

When you have agreed on the floral arrangements, both of you should sign a written agreement. Include the date and time for the

flowers to be delivered, what types of flowers, bouquet size, number of corsages and boutonnieres. Also describe any vases, balloons or ribbons the florist promises to provide, as well as the name of the person who will set up the site.

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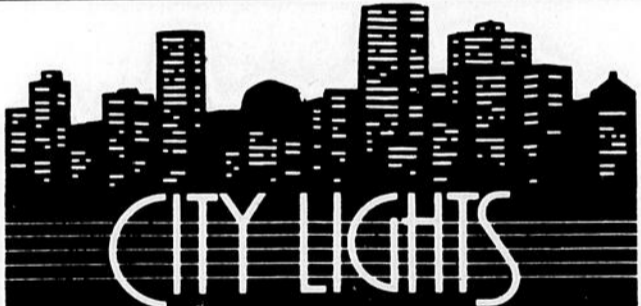
## The flowers you pick send special messages

Ever wonder why bridal bouquets often include roses? Why do few, if any, brides carry a bouquet of marigolds?

Perhaps it's because flowers have a language all their own. In Victorian England, lovers used bouquets to send private messages. Red roses and ivy declared love and promised a faithful heart. An arrangement of yellow roses and yellow tulips said, "I'm jealous and hopelessly in love." The marigolds brides rarely carry symbolized grief.

Flowery meanings can help you select your bridal bouquet. Here are a few interpretations from *The Book of Fresh Flowers* by Malcolm Hillier (Simon & Schuster):

- Amaryllis: splendid beauty.
- Bluebell: constancy.
- Red chrysanthemum: I love you.
- Daffodil: regard.
- Daisy: innocence.
- Jonquil: return my affection.
- White rose: I am worthy.
- Water lily: My heart is pure.



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# Today's groom more than just prim penguin

Today's groom has more leeway, fashionwise, than the prim penguins of days past.

But certain rules are inviolable. Keep them in mind, then go for an outfit that makes you look — and feel — like king-for-a-day.

According to *Bride's* magazine, clothes for the groom follow a traditional pattern. You can update and personalize the look with new colors and fabrics, as long as they complement the style of the bride's wedding dress.

Here is what to keep in mind:

• **Very formal wedding.** The groom and groomsmen wear formal clothes, which they usually rent.

Neckwear and boutonnieres may distinguish the groom and the best man. Before 6, wear a black or oxford gray cutaway coat, gray and black striped trousers, gray waistcoat, and formal white shirt with a wing collar. Accessories include a striped silk ascot with pearl or gold stickpin, gray gloves, black shoes, black socks.

After 6, the correct groom's attire

for a very formal wedding is white tie: satin-trimmed trousers and a matching black tailcoat, white pique waistcoat and stiff-front shirt with French cuffs and wing collar. Accessories include white pique bow tie, studs, white gloves, black patent leather pumps and long black socks.

• **Formal wedding.** For a formal daytime wedding, the groom wears a black or oxford gray sack coat or stroller, gray waistcoat; striped trousers; white shirt with French cuffs and turned-down collar; a striped four-in-hand tie; black socks and shoes.

After 6, men wear black tie: a black, charcoal gray or navy tuxedo with matching trousers, white pleated-front shirt with French cuffs and a turned-down collar, cummerbund or vest. It's traditional to wear black shoes and socks.

In the summer, men may wear white dinner jackets and cummerbunds.

• **Semiformal wedding.** For a daytime wedding, the groom wears a solid dark suit with a white shirt,

four-in-hand tie, and black shoes with long socks.

If the wedding is during the summer, he may opt for a white linen jacket with oxford gray trousers or a dark blue jacket with gray or white flannel trousers. Or he may wear a dinner jacket or formal suit with dress shirt, bow tie, vest or cummerbund.

If the wedding is in the evening, he should consider wearing black tie appropriate for the season.

• **Informal wedding.** "Even when the wedding is non-traditional," advises *Bride's*, "jackets and neckwear dignify the occasion." The groom's choice might be a three-piece suit or, in winter, a maroon velvet jacket with necktie or ascot, in keeping with the bride's attire.

With romance and elegance on the menu for weddings of the '90s, most grooms complement bridal wear with elegant black tuxedos.

You may find it is more economical to own a tuxedo than to rent one — especially if you plan to wear it to many future occasions.



Groom's attire is classically elegant with ties and cummerbunds that feature subtle detailing. Shown here: Tuxedos from the Lord West Crown Collection.

Another advantage: when you own the tux, you control your own look and have an exact fit.

The cost of renting a tuxedo, for one occasion, ranges from \$50 to

\$100. Expect to pay from \$500 to \$750 for a suit under the labels of Chaps; Polo University Club by Ralph Lauren; Perry Ellis and Perry Ellis Portfolio; Lanvin; and Kilgour, French & Stanbury.

When buying a tuxedo, look for a high quality tropical worsted wool fabric, plus an impeccable fit.

As for fashion, "The biggest change in this season's tuxedos will be the fit," advises Norman Fryman, CEO of the Greif Companies. "They're getting much softer and less rigid, and you will be seeing more of an emphasis on the drape."

Other trends in men's formal wear this year include more accentuated shoulders, an increased demand for smoking jackets, and lapels that are slightly narrower.

Fabrics are sensuous, touchable, comfortable and elegant, with subtle patterns and weaves.

Color shows up in festive touches, usually coordinated with the bridal party — for example, satin cummerbunds and bow ties made of the same fabric as the bridesmaids' dresses.

## FLOWERS FOR THE GROOM

Boutonnieres should complement but not necessarily match the flowers the bride and her attendants are carrying, advises *Bride's* magazine. And the groom's should differ from his ushers' in color or type of flower.

More than ever, boutonnieres are becoming expressions of the groom's individuality and personality. The carnation, a popular boutonniere flower, is being replaced by more delicate blooms — including roses. Other options include freesia, corn flower, delphinium and orchids — usually a single flower combined with a sprig of ivy.

The groom, quite simply, must look fantastic.

You'd think it was obvious, but many grooms overlook the necessity of getting a good haircut a few days prior to the wedding — or trimming their sideburns the day before.

For hair that looks controlled, but not shiny, use a water-based setting gel, then brush through. For thin hair, mousse will add body as well as control.

A smart groom will leave shaving for the last possible minute, so a 5 o'clock shadow won't show up at the reception or in the wedding photos.

And even if the idea is foreign to him, a groom should have a manicure. Hands will be noticed, and photographed.

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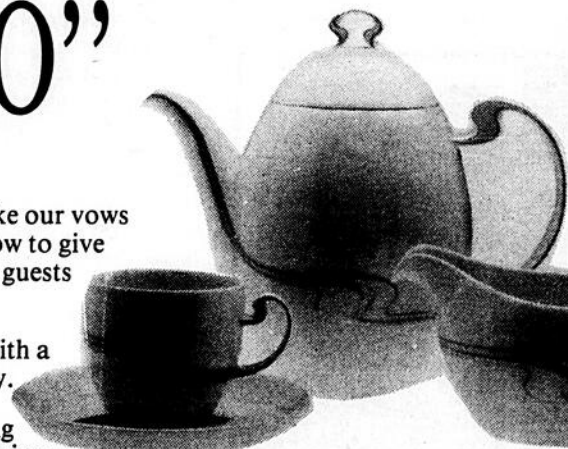
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