



The Blushing Bride

Finding the perfect wedding gown, hairstyle and make-up
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AJPress

Photo courtesy of Cynthia de Castro

One of the most exciting events a woman would have in her entire life would be her wedding day. Every woman has dreamt of the day when she would walk down the aisle and marry the love of her life. "Congratulations!" is the most popular saying heard at a wedding but second to that would be a compliment for the bride "You look stunning!" Being at the center of attention, all brides would want to look radiantly beautiful on that special day. Having the perfect wedding gown, hairstyle and make-up would be on top of the list for every bride.

The Perfect Gown

Start looking for your dress as soon as you are engaged. The time frame in searching for that perfect gown is from six to nine months. This will give you ample time to make choices. It's fun to browse through catalogues and magazines but it's better to shop at bridal boutiques or department stores where you could choose and fit gowns from their wide array of samples and styles. Call the wedding gown shops that you know carry your favorite gown or that which has been recommended to you and ask for an appointment. Don't forget to bring pictures of the dresses you like from bridal magazines when you shop.

Know your body shape

Flatter your figure with a dress that suits you. According to Hellen McMaster, a successful wedding professional who helps bride pick the best dresses, one should take into account the body line & physical features. Choosing a style that flatters your shape can give you confidence and make a huge difference on how you look. Tall and thin brides look good on a strapless, fitter bodice gown. Set off height and leanness with some detailed embroidery. Bony shoulders suit dresses with higher neckline that are long and fitted. Short with full figure brides might opt for a long empire line dress that will flow and not cling to the body to give taller silhouette effect. Sleeves should also be long but not tight. Brides with thick waist can go for corset gowns and avoid ballerina styles. Those with full bust need to choose a dress with a cowl neck or long bodice. Avoid low necklines and pick plain bodice. Put emphasis on detailing the hem to balance the simplicity of your top. Brides with full or wide hips need to avoid tight styles around the area. Princess styles that are fitted on the top and flare slightly to the hem will help disguise larger hips. For brides with big bottom, avoid bows or back fastening ties. Consider a light train from the top of the bodice or waist. Wide straps will narrow the appearance of wide shouldered brides. Wear a v-neckline with sheer strap to soften the effect. Brides with short or heavy legs must opt for long dresses and sheath styles. Three-quarter length sleeves or sleeveless will be flattering to brides with short arms while long simple sleeves that are not too tight complement those with chubby arms.

Try one of each of the basic gown styles--princess, ball gown, empire waist etc--to see which flatters you most. Try on as many different styles as you like and look at them in many different angles as possible. Take a shoe sample similar in height to the one you might wear and fit on a veil to get the full effect on how you would look. For feedback, bring a trusted friend or relative who has your best interest at heart. Make sure that you are comfortable, can walk, turn, sit and bend, as well as lift your arms and hug loved ones without splitting a seam. Comfort and confidence are vital these days. Take your time to make a decision and don't feel pressured.

Choose a style appropriate for the ceremony

Determine what type of ceremony and theme you are looking into; whether your wedding will be in daytime or nighttime, traditional or relaxed and formal or informal. From here, you would know what style and feel is appropriate for your wedding ceremony. Ritajo, an eHow Wedding Editor says nighttime weddings are usually dressier than daytime. For a formal wedding, a floor-length gown is an elegant choice. This may include wedding gowns that are backless and sleeveless. Ball gowns with off-the-shoulder necklines create a princess effect, sheer chiffon sleeves add a feminine touch, low cut V-necklines in front or in back make a dramatic appearance as you enter and form-fitting satin gowns with beaded spaghetti straps turns heads too. The veil should also be long for formal or elegant weddings. For the bride who is sentimental and values tradition, a vintage wedding gown may just be right. It may have been passed on by your mom or a close relative but make sure that it suits you perfectly. Feel free to update a vintage bridal gown and give it a touch of your personality by changing the neckline or the shape of the skirt or even removing sleeves. Some brides add lace or beading, but brides more often choose to wear a vintage gown as is because they like the simplicity of the cut and the beauty of the fabric. Simply cut, unembellished vintage gowns can look just as elegant as bridal gowns by some of today's best known designers. Nowadays, a specialist can restore even a yellowed, badly stained vintage wedding gown to the true color, and a talented dressmaker can reshape almost any vintage bridal gown

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