

Before You Purchase a Gown for the Bride and Attire for the Ladies, Tips Page

- Set your priorities. Will price, style, a specific gown you have seen, a specific designer, color etc... clinch the sale? Browse magazines and the Internet and collect pictures of the gown and dress styles that you like best. Bring them along to the shops and salons you plan to visit or the seamstress who will sew for you. Attend Bridal Shows with your wedding attendants and view their Fashion Shows to see the latest in wedding gowns, bridesmaid dresses & handsome tuxedos.
- Consider your budget and decide up to how much you can, or are willing to spend. In general, your gown should not exceed 10 percent of the cost of the wedding reception.
- In order to get an accurate picture of how you look in a gown/dress you are trying, wear shoes that have a heel of the height of the shoes you will wear at the wedding. It is wise to also bring a necklace and if you plan to wear earrings.
- Decide whether you or your bridal attendants will pay for their dresses.
- Consider the style of your wedding: Formal, Semi-formal, casual, Traditional, Contemporary etc., the season, the time of day, your body shape and most importantly, that you should look good and be comfortable wearing it.
- Before you start shopping or contacting a seamstress, decide whether you prefer a gown or a dress and the color. In addition to white and ivory, two-tone, red, pastels and - or an accent of color are quite popular.
- Do not go alone! Bring along mother(s) and your bridesmaids, with a camera of course, for input on and pictures of the gowns/dresses you try. Have a small notebook and a pen handy too, to take notes about the styles and designers you like best for your gown and their dresses. Have a price range and do not hurry! Plan to spend at least an hour at each bridal shop or salon to allow for trying on many different gowns leisurely. Do not be shy! Try on as many gowns/dresses as you can, until you find that one perfect dress.
- When you think you found the perfect dress, do not order or purchase it immediately. Think about it and view the photos. Only if and when you are absolutely sure that this is the perfect gown/dress for you, check for it on the Internet or return to the store to order or buy it.
- Encourage your bridesmaids to try on dresses in your chosen color, fabric and length, as well. A swatch of fabric will help them find the right dress even if they purchase it on their own, or have it sewn for them. When they try on their dresses, they should wear shoes that have a heel of the height of the shoes they will wear at the wedding. The bridesmaids should wear the same height heel as the bride.
- Whether your gown is plain or heavily embellished, your attendants' dresses should be simple but very elegant, accented by jewelry such as a necklace and - or earrings and - or a bracelet.
- Look for styles that flatter your unique figure and curves and ask your consultant to suggest undergarment options to assist you in getting the perfect silhouette. Ask your bridesmaids to do the same.
- Be prepared to leave a deposit of as much as 50% of the cost of the gown at time of purchase. **PROTECT YOURSELF!** When you pay anything to any vendor, insist on a written and signed receipt. **IMPORTANT:** Neither a check nor your credit card statements are considered as legal receipts.
- Whether you buy your gown and – or bridesmaids' dresses off the rack or place a special order, allow several months (4-6) for alterations on all dresses to be completed. **IMPORTANT!** You don't have to have your gown altered at the particular store you purchase it from. You can often save a lot of money if you check with tailors and seamstresses who work for department stores that offer alteration. Many of them have been around for years, take on sewing on the side and do beautiful work for a great deal less than bridal salons would charge. Altering bridal gowns takes expertise. So take time to check out and get references about the people who you consider to hire to alter your gown.
- Many companies state in the fine print that deposits are nonrefundable. If you are uncomfortable with that, you may reconsider your options. Be sure to know, be familiar with and fully understand and agree with the alteration policies, procedures and regulations at the store where you will eventually purchase your gown/dress. Be sure to read the fine print and agree to all the term before you decide to work with them and sign a contract.
- Use the photos of yourself in your wedding gown/dress to pick out coordinating jewelry, shoes and other accessories.

Jewelry for the bride and for the Ladies, Tips Page.

- **About wedding jewelry.** Wedding jewelry does not have to be expensive. It does have to enhance your total look, be comfortable to wear, be appropriate to the degree of formality of your wedding, and coordinate well with your gown – dress. Most importantly, choose jewelry that you enjoy wearing. The same goes for your ladies. Your jewelry and theirs should reflect the theme, formality and style of your wedding.
- **Family Heirlooms.** Your wedding is emotional. Add nostalgia and sentimental value to it by asking family and friends to borrow jewelry that you admire and that will complement your gown - dress. This will not only give you the jewelry you feel is right for your wedding, but fulfill the “something borrowed” category for your wedding day.
- **Diamonds and Pearls.** Diamonds are very expensive and diamond studded tiaras and jewelry may be above your wedding budget. Do not worry! Artificial diamonds, CZ and Crystal jewelry simulate diamonds perfectly well. Cultured pearls or farm raised pearls are much more affordable than natural pearls and imitations are less expensive yet. This affords you various pieces of jewelry and a sparkling classic look. Pearls are the traditional classic look for wedding. Diamonds (manufactured, CZ even crystal) have become very popular, adding sparkle and shine.
- **Platinum, Silver or gold?** Platinum and or silver go with a white gown – dress. Platinum, silver or gold go with an off-white gown – dress. Gold is the perfect accompaniment for ivory gown – dress.
- **Keep it Simple and Classy.** You want all eyes on you and your gown, not on your jewelry and accessories. So, wear your chosen matching jewelry ensemble with your gown and with the hairstyle you plan to wear on your wedding day often enough so you are comfortable with how it feels and looks. Enlist your mother(s) and bridesmaids and ask for their input. After all you want your jewelry and that of your ladies to show good taste, make a fashion statement and not be gaudy. If you are not sure that the jewelry coordinates perfectly well with the gown, look for more suitable pieces. As to your ladies, their jewelry and accessories should match the look and color(s) of their dresses as well as the style of your wedding. It is important that their jewelry and accessories coordinate well with each other and with the bride. For this reason it has become very popular for the bride to gift her ladies with jewelry that will serve them not only at the wedding but on other occasions as well.
- **Jewelry and your gown-dress.** Here are a few suggestions to help you choose your wedding jewelry.
 - **1.** The more embellished and or detailed your gown – dress, the simpler the jewelry.
 - **2.** A strapless or low neckline gown – dress is a perfect showcase for a necklace. A gown – dress with a high neckline or collar suggests doing away with a necklace and calls for earrings and possibly a bracelet.
 - **3.** If you have a piece of jewelry or a specific style that you always wear, you should wear it at your wedding.
 - **4.** You do not have to wear a diamond or diamond like jewelry and you do not have to wear pearls. Currently, as colors begin to dominate wedding attire and accessories, more and more brides add colored stones, gems or crystals to their jewelry pieces. Consider this option, as such jewelry will enhance your look with color. You may even choose to wear jewelry representative of your wedding colors.
- **What jewelry is appropriate?** Any or all of the following are appropriate. Tiara or other jeweled headpiece, a necklace, earrings, and a bracelet are appropriate. Do not wear rings so your fingers will boast only your just received wedding ring. Do not wear a watch unless it is a family heirloom or something borrowed. If you do not have pierced ears, do not wear earrings unless you are sure that your clip on earring will be comfortable throughout and not leave you with itchy or hurting ear lobes.

Notes and Comments:

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Wedding Attendants' Attire Choices for Our Wedding Style

We plan our wedding to be:

Very Formal

Bridesmaids

Required: Floor length dresses with matching shoes, some Jewelry (at least a necklace).

Optional items: gloves, hair jewelry, hair accessories.

Groomsmen

Formal tuxedos, dress shirts and cufflinks, bow-ties and vests or cummerbunds.

Formal

Bridesmaids

Required: Knee length, calf length or Floor length dresses with matching shoes, some Jewelry (at least a necklace).

Optional items: gloves, hair jewelry, hair accessories.

Groomsmen

Formal tuxedos, dress shirts and cufflinks, bow-ties and vests or cummerbunds.

Semi-Formal

Bridesmaids

Required: Any length dresses with matching shoes, some Jewelry (at least a necklace).

Optional items: gloves, hair jewelry, hair accessories.

Groomsmen

Suits or slacks with dinner jackets, dress shirts and cufflinks, bow-ties and vests or cummerbunds.

Casual

Bridesmaids

Required: Knee length dresses or suits with matching shoes, some Jewelry (at least a necklace).

Optional items: hair accessories.

Groomsmen

Suits or slacks with dinner jackets, dress shirts, ties or bow-ties.

Very Casual

Bridesmaids

There is no specific dress code other than to dress for the occasion.

Appropriate: party or business attire and shoes, some accent jewelry.

Inappropriate: jeans, tee shirts, mid-driffs, flip-flops etc... Sneakers and sandals are ok only if the bride and groom allow them for a beach, a park or a home garden wedding).

Groomsmen

There is no specific dress code other than to dress for the occasion. Slacks and dress shirts.

Optional items: ties or bow ties, cufflinks.

Inappropriate: jeans, tee shirts, etc... Sneakers and sandals are ok only if the bride and groom allow them for a beach, a park or a home garden wedding).

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Things to Consider About Choosing My Wedding Gown – Dress

| Factors to consider | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Other |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Image I Want to Create | Classy | Romantic | Casual | Fairytale | |
| Style of Gown Dress | Classy | Vintage | Time Period | My Heritage | |
| My Body Shape | Small Busted | Large Busted | Curvy Figure | Large bottom | |
| Gown – Dress Color I Want | White | Ivory | White with Accents in other Colors | Ivory with Accents in other Colors | |
| My Skin Tone | Pale | Medium | Dark | | |
| My Height | Short | Tall | Short with High Heels | Tall with High Heels | |
| Features I Want to Hide | Big Hips | Big Backside | Big Belly | Large Frame | |
| Features I Want to Show | Slim and Proportionate | pretty neckline | Nice Bust Line | delicate arms | |
| Length of the Dress for | Outdoors | Casual Wedding | Formal Wedding | Remarriage Wedding | |
| My Hair | Hair Down | Hair Down with Tiara | Hair up | Hair up with Tiara | |
| My Shoes | Flat | Sandals | Pumps | High Heels | |
| Location of our Wedding | Outdoors | Private Home | Reception Hall | Ballroom | |
| Time of Day of our Wedding | daytime | Teatime | Early Evening | Nighttime | |
| I will Travel to the Wedding | By Limo | By Car | By Airplane Flight | By Carriage | |
| Season of our Wedding | Spring | Summer | Winter | Fall | |
| My Gown Dress Must | Make Me Look Great | Keep Me Comfortable | Look Good in Photos | Go Well with My Jewelry | |
| My budget is: \$ _____ | I can use a designer | I need to Buy Off the Rack | I Must Look for Sales | I shall have it Sewn By a Seamstress | |

Notes and Comments:

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Bridal Attire Budget Worksheet

| Description | Will Borrow From | Will Purchase At: | Estimated | Actual Cost |
|--|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Gown or Dress | | | | |
| Veil and Headpiece | | | | |
| Shoes | | | | |
| Comfy Shoes | | | | |
| Purse | | | | |
| Jewelry | | | | |
| Gloves | | | | |
| Foundation Garments Bra Petticoat Body Shaper Panties Stockings Garter | | | | |
| Total Estimated Cost | | | | |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL ACTUAL COST | | | | |

Notes and Comments:

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Dress Shop – Salon or Dressmaker Worksheets

We plan to interview the following Bridal Shop, Salon or Dressmaker

Based on recommendations, meeting in bridal shows, and searching the Internet and the Yellow Pages we contacted various wedding shops and Bridal Salons.

We screened them and chose those that greeted us cordially, provided the information we requested in a timely manner, the people we spoke with were helpful but not too eager, and followed up.

We also judged them by their web sites. We liked:

- ✓ The look and feel,
- ✓ The gowns and dresses and the presentation we saw on the site, or
- ✓ The Tuxedos and men's accessories offered and their presentation on the site.
- ✓ That the information we were looking for was right there,
- ✓ That the site was helpful and not over selling,
- ✓ That they included clearly posted name, address, phone and Email contact on their web site.

We plan to interview the following Dress Shops and Salons:

Company Name: _____ Person in charge: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Web Site: _____ Appointment Date / Time: _____

Designers they carry: _____

Company Name: _____ Person in charge: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Web Site: _____ Appointment Date / Time: _____

Designers they carry: _____

Company Name: _____ Person in charge: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Web Site: _____ Appointment Date / Time: _____

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

My Wedding Gown Choices - I plan to:

Purchase a readymade wedding gown – dress. From: _____

Rent or borrow a ready-made wedding gown – dress. Alterations if needed by: _____

Have a wedding gown – dress sewn for me according to my design and specifications by: _____

Wear a family heirloom gown – Dress. Alterations if needed by: _____

Have a period wedding gown/dress for my period theme wedding designed and sewn by: _____

Buy a gown – dress by one of the following designers: _____

Purchased from:* _____ **Phone:** _____ **Email:** _____

Sales Person

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Rented or borrowed from: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Original design, sewn for me by: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Period wedding gown/dress Designed and sewn By: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Other Options: _____

Contact: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Alterations if needed will be done by: _____

Contact: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

About Gowns and Dresses Specifications

Shapes & Sizes

The body shape and size of every bride, every bridesmaid and every mother is unique.

A woman with a **small waist but full bust and hips** should choose simple classic lines without too much detailing, puffed, full or ruffled skirts and – or sleeves

A woman who is **small on top and larger on the bottom** should choose a gown/dress with a slightly scooped neck and a full or semi-full skirt. Elongated bodice, textured with lace, appliques and beadwork will emphasize the slim waist and conceal the heavy hips. She should stay away from a low-cut bodice or a gown/dress that is fitted at the hips.

A woman whose body shape is **large on top and equally large at the hip, with no defined waistline** should choose a very full skirt and either a jewel or bateau neckline or a wide collar. She should stay away from soft silky or clingy fabrics and from clingy silhouette dresses.

A woman who is **large on top and small at the hip**, should choose full or semi-full skirted ball gown, minimal shoulder details and no shoulder padding under un-puffed, straight line sleeves. The bodice should be plain so it does not draw attention to the heavy top.

A bride who is **Short, or Petite** should consider an A-Line and Sheath gown/dress and should stay away from bouffant and - or ruffled skirts. Have attractive detailing at the neckline to draw the eye to her face.

A bride who is **Tall and - or Thin** will look good just about any style in any fabric.

A bride who is **Full-figured and – or pregnant** should consider Light weight satins, chiffons, crepes or silk and stay away from bulky and shiny fabrics. She may do well with Empire waists or A-lines, V-necks, or scoop necklines that help de-emphasize the bust-line. The gown/dress should also have fitted sleeves. Go for beautiful jewelry a pretty headpiece and a simple veil. Carry a small bouquet of flowers.

Pale Skinned should consider warmer, natural and ivory colors rather than white.

A bride who is **Darker Skinned** should look good in most fabric colors.

Wedding Gown / Dress Colors

Since the Victorian era, the traditional bride wore a long white or cream colored gown. Today, the choices are aplenty as the latest wedding gown styles include **color!**

The most popular are pink, pale blue, gold, silver, chocolate brown, burgundy, mint, purple and red.

Two color combinations whether within the dress or a single color gown/dress with a different color sash and or embroidery are also very popular. So if your heart is not set on white or ivory, you have plenty of options.

Bridal Shoes

- Be sure you buy your shoes well in advance and wear them before your wedding day to break them in.
- Wear the shoes you purchased for the wedding, when you are fitted for your wedding dress, so it will be the correct length.
- High heeled shoes are very elegant. If you plan to wear high heeled shoes for the wedding and pictures and then change to flats or comfy shoes for the reception and dance, take into consideration that if you wear a long gown that was fitted to high heels, and you take them off, your dress will now be too long for flat shoes. This will not affect shorter dresses.
- You may choose to wear flats under your wedding gown for the entire day and have the dress fitted accordingly.

Glossary of Wedding Gowns and Dresses

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Gown – dress Silhouettes:

- **Ball gown** – the most traditional, fairytale style gown may have off-the-shoulder yoke, or fitted bodice. It usually has a natural, fitted waist with lavish, full skirt. May require a petticoat.
- **Basque** – natural waist with V-front and a full skirt. May require a petticoat.
- **Empire** – a small, scooped bodice gathering right under the bust line and a full skirt. May require a petticoat.
- **A-line or Princess** – a slim-fitting style, in which the waistline is not specifically defined. It has vertical seams that are flowing from the shoulders, to the hem of a flared skirt.
- **Sheath** – a narrow, body-hugging style without a defined waist.

Fabrics

Following are a few of the most popular Wedding gown/dress fabrics.

- **Brocade** – a heavy fabric with interwoven, raised design that has a contrasting white-on-white or ivory-on-ivory look.
- **Charmeuse** – a lightweight version of satin that is softer and has the clingy look common to silk or rayon, fabrics but with less body.
- **Chiffon** – Sheer and delicate, thin soft fabric perfect for spring and summer.
- **Crepe** – a thin, light fabric with a delicately crinkled surface.
- **Damask** - similar to but lighter weight than brocade.
- **Duchess Satin** - a silk-faced satin that weighs less and is less expensive than traditional silk.
- **Gazar** – a variation of Organza that has a sheer effect and a stiff or starched feel.
- **Moire** – a silk taffeta that, when illuminated, glistens like water.
- **Organdy** – a crisp and transparent fabric.
- **Organza** - a transparent, simply woven fabric with a reflective, crystal-like appearance.
- **Satin** – An expensive and elegant fabric.
- **Shantung** – a fabric that has a rough, nubby appearance yet is soft and light weight.
- **Silk-faced Satin** – brimming with body, with a dusty sheen.
- **Taffeta** – delicately textured, a glossy fabric with body.
- **Tulle** – an open weave fabric that is used for fairytale ball gowns, as an overlay, also used for veils Twill - fibers woven with a diagonal pattern.
- **Velvet** – a thick napped weave. Crushed velvet has a high and low nap that gives it a shimmering look.

Lace:

- **Alencon** – a pretty, delicate, yet durable design, outlined with thread on net back. It may be pre-beaded or have beads added to it after it has been sewn on a dress.
- **Chantilly** – graceful, floral sprays on fine lace background, outlined with silk threads or delicate cording.
- **Dotted Swiss** - small circles of flocked fabric over a background of netting.
- **Eyelet** – open-weave embroidery with holes.
- **Guipure** – a series of motifs, like flowers or ovals that are connected by a few threads.
- **Ribbon** – a random pattern of ribbon that is sewn over a net background.
- **Schiffli** – delicate floral embroidery.

Glossary of Wedding Gowns and Dresses

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Lengths of Dresses

- **Street Length** – The hem just covers the knees.
- **Intermission Length** – the hem falls just below the knee or halfway between the knee and ankle.
- **Ballet Length** – the hem is at the ankles. This is the longest gown/dress you should wear if you plan to replace your high heel with comfy or low heel shoes.
- **Floor Length** – the hem fully skims the floor.

Trains

Trains come in various lengths. Some are permanently attached as a part of the wedding gown/dress, while others are detachable. The length of the train is the length from the waist to the hem in the BACK of the gown/dress. However, trains are not mandatory. Note that If you plan on holding an outdoor ceremony you should not have a train. A train trailing behind you out doors will be stained by grass and maybe mud too even before the ceremony. Additionally you may find sand, dead leaves or twigs swept under your gown or train.

- **Sweeping Train** – The shortest attached train. Usually, it is only a few inches lower than the front hem of the gown
- **Court Train** – Its length is 3 feet from the waistline down.
- **Chapel Length Train** – currently the most popular train. Its length is 4 feet from the waistline down.
- **Semi - Cathedral Length Train** - half way between a chapel and cathedral 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 feet from the waist down.
- **Cathedral Length Train** - is popular for formal and fairy-tale weddings. Its length is 7.5 feet from the waistline.
- **Royal Train** –used only in very formal weddings. Its length is 9 feet from the waistline down.

Veils:

Most veils are made of nylon material called illusion. Veil decorations often include small gathers of veiling on the crown of a headpiece.

- **Blusher** – loose veil worn forward over face or back over the headpiece, often attached to longer, three-tiered veil.
- **Flyaway** – multi-layered veil that brushes the shoulders. It is usually worn with an informal, ankle-length dress or a style with highly detailed dress back.
- **Birdcage** – a veil that falls just below chin, gently shirred at the sides. This veil is usually attached to a hat.
- **Chapel Length** – stretches 2 1/3 yards from the headpiece.
- **Cathedral Length** – cascading 3 1/2 yards from the headpiece. It is usually worn with cathedral train.
- **Ballet or Waltz Length** – Cascading from the headpiece to the ankles.
- **Fingertip** – The most popular length that gracefully touches the finger-tips.

Notes and Comments:

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Gowns and Dress Measurements Glossary

Wedding Gown Designer: _____ Style: _____ Ordered on: _____ Pick-up on: _____

Bridesmaids' Gowns Color: _____ Style: _____ Ordered on: _____ Pick-up on: _____

| US Size or Measurements Description | Bride: | Attendant: | Attendant: | Attendant: |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Size: _____ Measurements | Size: _____ Measurements | Size: _____ Measurements | Size: _____ Measurements |
| Bust: While Your arms are relaxed, and at your sides, have another person measure around your back, bringing the tape measure across your nipple line. | | | | |
| Waist: The measure of the smallest part of your waist. | | | | |
| Hip: Measure around the fullest point, of the hips, noting how many inches are between waist and the hips. | | | | |
| Shoulder to Shoulder: The width of your shoulder is needed for dresses with sleeves. | | | | |
| Nipple to Nipple: The distance between your two nipples. | | | | |
| Shoulder To Nipple: Start the tape at your shoulder and measure down to your nipple. | | | | |
| Shoulder To Waist: Start the tape at your shoulder and measure down to your waist line. Let the tape across your bust. | | | | |
| Arm girth: This measurement is for the size of the sleeve hole you are most comfortable wearing. | | | | |
| Bicep girth: The measurement of the fullest part of upper arm. | | | | |
| Waist to Hem: While barefoot, Measure from your Natural Waist to where you want the hem to be. | | | | |
| Full length: The length from your shoulder to your bare feet. | | | | |
| Heels height: The height of the heel on your wedding shoes | | | | |
| Height: Specify how tall you are without shoes. | | | | |

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Gown and Dress Size Chart at a Glance

| Size | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 24 | 26 | 28 |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|------|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Bust | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37.5 | 39 | 40.5 | 42.5 | 44.5 | 48.5 | 52.5 | 56.5 | 60.5 |
| Waist | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30.5 | 32 | 33.5 | 35.5 | 37.5 | 41.5 | 45.5 | 49.5 | 53.5 |
| Hips | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41.5 | 43 | 44.5 | 46.5 | 48.5 | 52.5 | 56.5 | 60.5 | 64.5 |

Wedding Gown Purchased at: _____ Date: _____ Pick-up on: _____

Bridesmaids' Dresses Color: _____ Purchased at: _____ Date: _____

Measurements

| Measurements for U S Sizes | Bride - Size | Alterations Needed | Name of Female Attendant | Her Size | Alterations Needed |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Height | | | | | |
| Bust | | | | | |
| Waist | | | | | |
| Hips | | | | | |
| Height | | | | | |
| Bust | | | | | |
| Waist | | | | | |
| Hip | | | | | |
| Height | | | | | |
| Bust | | | | | |
| Waist | | | | | |
| Hip | | | | | |
| Height | | | | | |
| Bust | | | | | |
| Waist | | | | | |
| Hip | | | | | |
| Height | | | | | |
| Bust | | | | | |
| Waist | | | | | |
| Hip | | | | | |

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

My Wedding Gown Worksheet – Theme and Style

Our wedding theme or historical time period is: _____

What I see when I picture myself as a bride: _____

Trend or styles I like: _____

My Gown Specifications:

Fabric or fabrics if a combination: _____

Color or colors: _____

Sleeves: _____

Neckline: _____

Bodice: _____

Skirt: _____

Embellishments: _____

Train: _____

Veil: _____

Tiara or Headpiece: _____

Gloves: _____

Accessorizing My Attire

Describing my Necklace: _____

Describing my Earrings: _____

Describing my Bracelet(s): _____

Describing my Rings: _____

I Will Have

Something Old _____ Something New _____

Something Borrowed _____ Something Blue _____

A Sixpence for my shoe: _____ Oh yes, a Garter too _____

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Shopping Checklist Specifications for My Wedding Gown/Dress

The Amount Budgeted for it is: \$ _____

I am using a separate worksheet for every gown I consider

I saw it at:

Name of Magazine: _____ Month and year issued: _____

Name of Shop or Salon: _____ Phone Number: _____

Internet Web Site: _____

Designer or Seamstress Information. Also Name or Style number of Gown/Dress:

Description including fabric(s), Color(s) and Embellishments

My Size Or measurements

Measurements: Bust: _____ Waist: _____ Hips: _____ Skirt Length: _____

Size: _____ Special notes: _____

Financial Considerations:

Price: _____ Alterations and Other Charges: _____ Shipping Charges: _____ Tax: _____

Total Cost: _____ Deposit Amount: _____ Balance Due on: _____

Fitting appointments, dates and times: _____

Estimated delivery or pickup date: _____ Estimated delivery or pickup time: _____

Other shops and other gowns I am looking at are on the following copies of this page.

I found exactly what I want and the best prices at:

Name of Shop or Salon: _____ Phone Number: _____

Internet Web Site: _____ Owner - Manager _____

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Shopping Checklist Specifications for My Wedding Attire and Accessories

Shoes:

Purchased at: _____ Phone Number: _____

Purchased on the Internet from: _____ Web site: _____

Designer Information: _____

Color: _____ As is: Yes _____ No _____ Need to be dyed: Yes _____ No _____

Other shoe services needed, if any: _____

Date Purchased or ordered: _____ Delivery date if other than purchase date: _____

Estimated cost: _____ Cost of dying and or other services: _____ Tax: _____ Actual cost: _____

Gloves:

Gloves Style and length: Fabric: _____ Fingerless: _____ Wrist: _____ Elbow: _____ Opera: _____

Purchased at: _____ Phone Number: _____

Purchased on the Internet from: _____ Web site: _____

Estimated cost: _____ Tax: _____ Shipping: _____ Actual cost: _____

Headpiece or tiara and Veil

Veil length: Short: _____ Elbow: _____ Fingertips: _____ Chapel: _____ Cathedral: _____ # of Layers: _____

Veil purchased at or from: _____ Phone Number: _____ Website: _____

Tiara or Headpiece purchased at or from: _____ Phone Number: _____ Website: _____

Estimated cost: _____ Tax: _____ Shipping: _____ Actual cost: _____

Undergarments

Bra: Designer: _____ Style: _____ Size: _____ Color: _____ Price: _____

Panties: Style: _____ Material: _____ Size: _____ Color: _____ Price: _____

Body Shaper: Size: _____ Color: _____ Price: _____ **Stockings:** Size: _____ Color: _____ Price: _____

Petticoat or Slip: Style: _____ Fabric: _____ Size: _____ Color: _____ Price: _____

Garter: Style: _____ Fabric(s): _____ Size: _____ Color: _____ Price: _____

Hosiery: Size: _____ Color: _____ Price: _____ Purchased extra pairs: Yes: _____ No: _____

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Female Attendants Attire Worksheet – Theme and Style

Newest Trend:

Women are built differently and there is never a one style fits all. It is becoming very popular to provide the maid of honor and bridesmaids with the color, and even a fabric swatch and have them choose their own style. It is also customary for the bride to adorn her ladies with jewelry and accessories that complements their attire

Our wedding theme or historical time period is: _____

Attendants Attire Specifications:

Dresses:

We purchase _____ Attendants purchase _____

Fabric or fabrics: _____

Color or colors: _____

Sleeves: _____

Neckline: _____

Bodice: _____

Embellishments: _____

We purchase: _____ Attendants purchase: _____

Headpiece: _____

Gloves: _____

Shoes: _____

Comfy Shoes to change to for comfort: _____

Jewelry

We purchase as gifts to attendants: _____ Attendants purchase: _____ Color or colors: _____

Necklace: _____ Earrings: _____ Bracelet(s): _____

Rings: _____ Other: _____

Notes and Comments:

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Shopping Checklist Specifications for The Attire of the Bridal Party

Bridesmaids Gowns - Dresses

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Bridesmaid: _____ | |
| Purchase From: | |
| Name of Shop or Salon: _____ | Phone Number: _____ |
| Internet Web Site: _____ | Phone Number: _____ |
| Seamstress: _____ | Phone Number: _____ |
| Designer: _____ Style #: _____ Name of Dress: _____ | |
| Fabric: _____ Color(s): _____ Other Specifics: _____ | |
| Date Ordered: _____ Fitting Date: _____ Delivery Date: _____ | |
| Financial Considerations: | |
| Price of each dress: _____ Alterations and Other Charges: _____ Shipping Charges: _____ | |
| Tax: _____ Who Pays for bridesmaids dresses? _____ | |
| Total Cost: _____ Deposit Amount: _____ Balance Due on: _____ Paid By: _____ | |

Jr. Bridesmaids and – or Flower girl(s) Dresses

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Girl: _____ | Parents: _____ |
| Purchase From: | |
| Name of Shop or Salon: _____ | Phone Number: _____ |
| Internet Web Site: _____ | Phone Number: _____ |
| Seamstress: _____ | Phone Number: _____ |
| Designer: _____ Style #: _____ Name of Dress: _____ | |
| Fabric: _____ Color(s): _____ Other Specifics: _____ | |
| Date Ordered: _____ Fitting Date: _____ Delivery Date: _____ | |
| Price of each dress: _____ Who Pays for dress(es)? _____ | |
| Total Cost: _____ Deposit Amount: _____ Balance Due on: _____ Paid By: _____ | |

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Attire Checklist for Bride and Female Attendants

| Need to order | For Bride | Name of female Attendant | For Attendant | Date ordered | Alterations needed | Date ready and pickup |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Bridal Gown | | | | | | |
| Petticoat or Slip | | | | | | |
| Body Shaper | | | | | | |
| Dresses | | | | | | |
| Shawl or Wrap (?) | | | | | | |
| Appropriate Bra(s) | | | | | | |
| Stockings (2sets) | | | | | | |
| Wedding Shoes | | | | | | |
| Comfy Shoes to change to | | | | | | |
| Veil (extra clips) | | | | | | |
| Lingerie | | | | | | |
| Tiara / Headpiece | | | | | | |
| Jewelry | | | | | | |
| Gloves | | | | | | |
| Wedding Shoes | | | | | | |
| Comfy Shoes | | | | | | |
| Shawl or Wrap | | | | | | |
| Garter | | | | | | |
| Purse | | | | | | |
| Something Old | | | | | | |
| Something New | | | | | | |
| Something Borrowed | | | | | | |
| Something Blue | | | | | | |
| A Sixpence | | | | | | |
| A Hankie | | | | | | |
| Makeup | | | | | | |
| Cologne | | | | | | |
| Going Away Outfit | | | | | | |
| Makeup | | | | | | |
| Cologne | | | | | | |
| Lingerie | | | | | | |

SCHEDULED FITTINGS:

For: _____ Date _____ Time: _____ For _____ Date _____ Time: _____

For: _____ Date _____ Time: _____ For _____ Date _____ Time: _____

For: _____ Date _____ Time: _____ For _____ Date _____ Time: _____

Questions for the Vendor of Wedding Gown and Attire

| Questions | Wedding Attire Vendor 1 | Wedding Attire Vendor 2 | Wedding Attire Vendor 3 |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| What are your hours of operation? | | | |
| Do we need appointments? | | | |
| What major bridal gown lines do you carry? | | | |
| What is the price range of your bridal gowns? | | | |
| Do you carry bridesmaids' gowns and dresses? | | | |
| What is the price range of your bridesmaids' dresses? | | | |
| How long before the wedding do we need to order the wedding gown and bridesmaids' dresses | | | |
| What is the estimated delivery date of my gown? That is, How long does it take from order date to delivery? | | | |
| Can we have our gown and – or dresses put on a layaway? | | | |
| Do you offer in-house alterations? | | | |
| What are your alteration fees? | | | |
| If you do not offer in house alterations, can you recommend a seamstress? | | | |
| How long before the wedding do we need to set an appointment for steaming the gown(s) | | | |
| Do you offer any discounts or special perks? | | | |
| Do you carry outfits for the young girls? For children in general? | | | |
| What is the price range of your outfits for children? | | | |
| Do you carry bridal veils of various lengths? | | | |
| What is the price range of your veils? | | | |
| Do you carry tiaras and other headpieces? | | | |
| What is the price range of your headpiece? | | | |
| Do you carry the necessary bridal undergarments? | | | |
| What is the price range of your undergarments? | | | |
| | | | |

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Attire Worksheet Review

Impressions Following the Interviews with the Bridal Shop Manager

On a scale of 1 – 5 with 1 being the best and 5 the least, they rated:

| Interview results | Bridal Shop 1 | Bridal Shop 2 | Bridal Shop 3 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Name: | | | |
| We were happy with the customer service we received. | | | |
| We checked out their reputation by contacting others and they merit good references. | | | |
| They offer us what we want on our terms. | | | |
| They guarantee that once we place our order, we'll receive the exact items we ordered in plenty of time before our wedding day. | | | |
| They were courteous. | | | |
| They were accommodating. | | | |
| They were helpful. | | | |
| We were happy with their attire selections. | | | |
| We liked the pictures in their portfolio. | | | |
| We liked the original, creative gowns and dresses. | | | |
| Their price ranges for the various attire items are reasonable. | | | |
| They offer SATISFACTION GUARANTEE and provisions for unsatisfactory products. | | | |
| We feel comfortable working with them. | | | |
| We are satisfied. | | | |
| OTHER | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Based on our interview

Our First choice is: _____

Our Second Choice is: _____

Our Third choice is: _____

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

Dress Shop / Salon Contract Checklist Worksheet

Prior to the contract we received a detailed bill for our order and agree with it: Yes _____ No _____

We received the contract on: Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

From: Full Name: _____ Title or Position in Company: _____

Contract is signed by: _____ Title or Position in Company: _____

The Contract includes the date: Yes _____ No _____ and appropriate signature(s): Yes _____ No _____

The Contract specifies total payment due: Yes _____ No _____ We agree: Yes _____ No _____

Total amount of deposits for gown and date made: Yes _____ No _____ for Attendants' dresses: Yes _____ No _____

Method of payment accepted Check: Yes _____ No _____ Credit card: Yes _____ No _____ Which credit card _____

Total amount of balances due Yes: _____ No _____ By when: Yes _____ No _____

The contract specifies the following dates:

- ✓ Schedule of dates and times of all fittings for bride's wedding gown/dress: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Schedule of dates and times of all fittings for Attendants' dresses: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Last date to add, or make changes: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Date the gown and dresses will be ready for last try out and pick-up Yes _____ No _____

The Contract includes:

- ✓ Full company name, owner or manager's name, complete address: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Complete contact information including phone number(s), fax, Email, Web Site: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Complete alteration procedures, and list of additional fees. We agree: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Full details about, and description of every item ordered: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Full details about the fabrics, colors, and embellishments, that will be used: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Names of all who are assigned to our wedding gown and dresses, and their responsibilities Yes ___ No ___
- ✓ A 3 days cancellation clause allowing us to cancel within 3 days with no penalties: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Full cancellation and refund policy should we cancel after the 3 days grace period: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Full cancellation policy and procedures if the shop cancels: Yes _____ No _____ We agree: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Full disclosure of the shop's guarantees: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Disclosure that they are insured and bonded: Yes _____ No _____

We agree with, signed and dated the contract on: Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Tuxedo Purchase or Rental Establishments Worksheets

We plan to interview the following Men's Attire Shops and Rental Establishments:

Company Name: _____ Person in charge: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Web Site: _____ Appointment Date / Time: _____

Company Name: _____ Person in charge: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Web Site: _____ Appointment Date / Time: _____

Company Name: _____ Person in charge: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Web Site: _____ Appointment Date / Time: _____

Notes and Comments:

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Attire Checklist for Groom and Male Attendants

We provided a fabric swatch of the bridesmaids dresses so groomsmen wear complementary shirts or vests
 Yes: ___ No: ___

We informed the shop/ Rental establishment, of the bridal gown color, to assure that my attire complements it.
 Yes: ___ No: ___

| U S Size or measurement | Groom's Size | Name of male Attendants | Attendant's size | Comments |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Height | | | | |
| Jacket | | | | |
| Sleeves | | | | |
| Neck | | | | |
| Waist | | | | |
| Inseam | | | | |
| Shoe | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Height | | | | |
| Jacket | | | | |
| Sleeves | | | | |
| Neck | | | | |
| Waist | | | | |
| Inseam | | | | |
| Shoe | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Height | | | | |
| Jacket | | | | |
| Sleeves | | | | |
| Neck | | | | |
| Waist | | | | |
| Inseam | | | | |
| Shoe | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Height | | | | |
| Jacket | | | | |
| Sleeves | | | | |
| Neck | | | | |
| Waist | | | | |
| Inseam | | | | |
| Shoe | | | | |

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

Jewelry Checklist for the Males - Groom, Family and Attendants

We purchase jewelry as gifts to our male attendants: Yes: _____ No: _____

Children: Tie Tack(s): _____ Cufflinks: _____ Family Unity ring: _____ Family Unity Pendant: _____ Other: _____

Fathers: Tie Tack(s): _____ Cufflinks: _____ Other: _____

Grandfathers: Tie Tack(s): _____ Cufflinks: _____ Other: _____

Attendants: Tie Tack(s): _____ Cufflinks: _____ Other: _____

Notes and Comments:

Bride's Name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____ **Wedding Date:** _____

Tuxedo Shop / Rental Establishment Contract Checklist Worksheet

Prior to the contract we received a detailed bill for our order and agree with it: Yes _____ No _____

We received the contract on: Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

From: Full Name: _____ Title or Position in Company: _____

Contract is signed by: _____ Title or Position in Company: _____

The Contract includes the date: Yes _____ No _____ and appropriate signature(s): Yes _____ No _____

The Contract specifies total payment due: Yes _____ No _____ We agree: Yes _____ No _____

Total amount of deposits for men's wear and date made: Yes _____ No _____ Groom's Special:* _____

Method of payment accepted Check: Yes _____ No _____ Credit card: Yes _____ No _____ Which credit card _____

Total amount of balances due Yes: _____ No _____ By when: Yes _____ No _____

The contract specifies the following dates:

- ✓ Date and time of first try-out by groom and attendants: Yes _____ No _____ Last try-out Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Last date to add, or make changes Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Date the men's attire will be ready for pick-up Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Date by which rented men's attire is due to be returned: Yes _____ No _____

The Contract includes:

- ✓ Full company name, owner or manager's name, complete address: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Complete contact information including phone number(s), fax, Email Web Site: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Full details about, and description of every item purchased or to be rented: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Full details about Tuxedos, shirts, shoes and accessories, that will be rented: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Names of all who are assigned to our men's attire and their responsibilities: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ A 3 days cancellation clause allowing us to cancel within 3 days with no penalties: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Full cancellation and refund policy should we cancel after the 3 days grace period: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Full cancellation policy and procedures if the shop cancels: Yes _____ No _____ We agree: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Full disclosure of the shop's guarantees: Yes _____ No _____
- ✓ Disclosure that they are insured and bonded: Yes _____ No _____

We agree with, signed and dated the contract on: Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

* Most tuxedo establishments offer the groom his wedding attire free when a minimum number of rentals is satisfied.