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Advertisement feature

It's important to co-ordinate colours and themes

# Accessorise!



**H**AVING found the wedding dress of your dreams, the fantasy can be completed with suitable bridal accessories such as veils, tiaras, flower pieces and jewellery. You may want to use any family heirlooms that have been passed down through the family. When considering what is suitable, always remember to make them co-ordinate and tie in with any colours or themes of your wedding day.

### Tiaras and floral headpieces

Tiaras are the crowning piece of an outfit and make you feel extra-special on your wedding day. Before buying one, it is best to think about your hairstyle first and ask your hairdresser for advice on how it can be included. Tiaras that have rhinestones set in them are popular, but you could also consider ones that incorporate pearls. Headpieces can be bought relatively cheaply on the High Street, but

there are specialist makers who can design individual tiaras. Florists can make floral pieces to meet your own needs and match your bouquet.

A headdress should frame your face shape and be a point of focus for the view behind as a lot of people will be looking at your back throughout the ceremony.

### Veils

A veil is a highly versatile bridal accessory, as they are available in different lengths to flatter your dress and are easy to customise. They can reach your shoulder, elbow or fingertips but for more romantic looks, the chapel and cathedral-style veils reach the floor and may need the assistance of bridesmaids to carry them like a train. As a general rule, the taller you are the longer your veil should be.

Veils are made from materials such as organza and chiffon and can incorporate rhinestones and beads as well as lace, ribbon and gold trim edgings. They are kept in place with a floral piece, grips or a comb. Veils can be up to three layers thick, but if the wedding dress is

detailed, keep the veil simple.

### Shoes

It is a rare bride who thinks about her wedding shoes before she actually becomes engaged.

But once you start assembling that perfect dress and veil ensemble, some brides can become panic-stricken at the prospect of never finding the right shoe to complement it.

When narrowing down your choices, remember that a good bridal shoe needs to be comfortable, non-slip and with a heel to complement both your height and the dress. The sooner you find your perfect pair the better. Put them on at home to wear them in and take them to dress fittings too. It is essential that they are broken in prior to the inevitable stresses and strains of your wedding. From taking those tentative steps down the aisle to your waiting groom, to setting the dance floor alight at your night do, you deserve to tread in comfort.

### Jewellery

The most suitable bridal jewellery tends to be silver and delicate with pearls, hearts and small crystals that look romantic and don't draw attention away from the dress. Jewellery needn't be all that expensive, as there are many stunning pieces available on the High Street. Antique jewellery is another option - and it's particularly special to use family heirlooms on the big day. You could also select individual pieces for your bridesmaids so that they don't look all the same.

They also make the perfect present to remember the special day.

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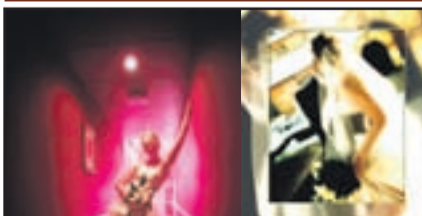
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Figure shape and height should be taken into account

# Choosing the dress of your dreams

**C**HOICE of skirt shape strongly influences the overall style and look of the bridal gown. Shapes such as the ball gown have a 'classical' feel, whilst the column has a modern 'sexier' appeal. Your decision should not only depend on what you like or what the latest fashion is, but what looks good on you. Figure shape and height is an important factor to consider. Beauty comes in all different shapes and sizes, and the best way to look your best is to focus on the real image of yourself. Think about what you would normally wear, your favourite colours, where the ceremony is taking place and the tone you are aiming for - such as traditional, avant-garde or relaxed. A High Street store off-the-peg dress bought in the sales can cost considerably less and of course, a couture dress will cost more. So whenever you set a budget for your dress, always try to stick to it. Although it is by no means a requirement, usually the style of your dress matches the style of the wedding and you'll probably want your bridesmaids to wear similar styles of dress. Once you have a clear idea of these elements in your mind you can start applying them to your wedding outfit, which could be:

**Ball gown:** The most traditional style of skirt for the bride who is after a classic elegant look. It is often combined with a fitted bodice suiting a wide range of figures - especially those with curves.

**Empire line:** For brides who don't want a figure-hugging gown. The skirt starts just below the bust and is not as full as the ball gown.

**A-line:** As the name suggests, A-line dresses are typically 'A' shaped with vertical seams running from the waist or shoulders to the bottom of the skirt.

**Column:** For brides who want a modern, chic look. The slim profile closely follows the body's curves and looks flattering on tall, slim or petite brides.

**Mermaid:** Similar to the column, but even more figure-hugging, the mermaid style flares out at the bottom.

**Fishtail:** Appearing like a column or mermaid style from the front, the fishtail has an extra panel in the back which fans out.

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