

Finding the perfect Wedding Gown

Congratulations! Your getting married! Now, what will you wear? Finding the dress perfect for you will be pleasurable stressful. So many styles and fabrics, where does a bride begin? The first thing to do is consider the formality of your wedding. The more formal the wedding, the more formal the attire should be. Consider the time of year. If it's the middle of summer, you won't want a heavy fabric. Don't forget comfort. You should not only look good in your gown, but also feel good both physically and emotionally. Move around, feel for tightness, pinching, bunching. If you dance, will you trip? Is it so heavy with beading that it will exhaust you? Will it require a higher heel than you may be comfortable wearing?

Flattering your figure

The search for the perfect gown will be much easier and smoother if you know what styles flatter your figure. Look in the mirror and be honest with yourself. Pay close attention to your strong features. Wearing the right style dress will highlight your best features and downplay those features you are concerned with.

Determine your shape

Are you Pear shaped, petite, and hourglass? This guide will help you make that determination.

The Hourglass (small waist, full hips and bust)

If your waist and bust are about the same measurement and your waist is smaller by four inches, than you have the classic hourglass shape. The hourglass shape can wear about anything, but should stay away from ruffled skirts, highly detailed bodices or high necklines.

Pear or Triangle Shape (small on top, heavier bottom)

An a-line will be the most flattering, creating balanced appearance of the hourglass. The fullness of the skirt hides the bottom while emphasizing the waist.

Upside Down Pear or Inverted Triangle (fuller top, narrow hips)

The a-line also looks great on the upside down pear body. Look for gowns with minimum shoulder lines. Simple bodices with minimal accents will draw less attention to your top. A full skirt or a skirt with peplums, bustles, sashes and bows will create the look of more even proportions. Avoid straight skirts, empire waistlines and plunging necklines.

Round/Square or Rectangle (nearly equal bust and hips, minimal definition)

Create curves with fuller skirts or that gathers at the skirt and bust. Look for jewel or bateau necklines. This detailing will draw the eye across your body and combats vertical bodylines. A-line works well on this body type and offer the most options. Now to shop. Try on many dresses. Have your friends, bride maids and mom available to offer honest opinions on the styles. Once you have chosen the perfect gown, it will be ordered. Once it arrives at the shop, you will be fitted again for alterations (by the dress shop or a seamstress). This will form the perfect fit. Be sure to bring the lingerie and shoes that you plan to wear to your fitting. (If you are unsure of what undergarments, ask your seamstress, they can help choose what will work best with your gown.) This will allow you and your seamstress to see how everything will look together.

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!