

# Overview of bridal fashions for spring/summer '88

## MARRYING THE NEW STEPFAMILY

Over 20 percent of 83.5 million U.S. households are now "blended" families, with more than 1,300 new stepfamilies being added every day. The Ozzie and Harriet nuclear family is branching out. Recent studies show that the "average" American family now includes as many as eight parents and countless children.

Complexities that arise with adaptation and adoption can make remarriage an emotional event for all family members. *Bride's* magazine offers these suggestions for smoothing over the transition from single parent to strong stepfamily.

**• Before the wedding:** Planning a life together is important for every couple but, for a stepfamily, it is essential. Topics that can create conflict in marriage—how time, money and energy will be spent—become exaggerated even further by the many family members whose opinions need to be considered.

### Dealing with conflicts

Other conflicts can result from differences in temperament, background and traditions. The best forum for working out such conflicts is the family meeting, where each member expresses his or her feelings and needs, while everyone contributes possible solutions.

Parents should also discuss before the marriage what role the stepparent will play in the child's upbringing. "Some of the most successful stepparents have seen their role as similar to that of a camp counselor, an adult who shows interest and affection yet provides leadership," says Carol Brady, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist in Houston, Texas.

**• During the wedding:** From the invitation, which can be issued with the children's names announcing the formation of a "new family," to the reception, where the children's favorite music can be played, there is one rule: When children are a part of your life together, include them in your wedding as much as possible.

### Let children participate

They can be your attendants or altar boys, ring bearer or flower girls. Your vows to each other might be followed by a family vow or a prayer of family unity with each member adding a phrase.

If your children feel uncomfortable with the idea of participating in the ceremony, include them in other ways. Assign them seats of honor, or mention their names in a special prayer.

The landscape for spring/summer '88 bridal fashion is shaping up to be purely feminine and romantic with a "less is more" approach that will substitute the ornamentation of past seasons, according to *Bride's* magazine.

This new clean-lined, sculpted attitude will feature details like open necklines, pleating, wasp waists and ballgown skirts. Picture a well-tended garden, carefully thought-out... controlled... always neatly groomed.

### Softer colors

The pastel story that emerged last spring continues for brides and wedding attendants—only, this season, the garden palette is in full bloom. Look for wispy pinks, along with classic whites.

**• Pale Floral Pastels**—Delicate, barely-there pinks such as Pink Carnation, Morning Glory Blue, Buttercup, Palest Peach and Silver Mint Green are cool-looking and soft.

**• Budding Brights**—Irresistibly delicious hues such as Yellow Freesia, Magnolia Peach, Seafoam Green, Peony Pink, Lilac, Cornflower Blue are vibrant, yet controlled.

**• Sun-Kissed Brights**—High-intensity hues such as Daffodil, Marigold, Tiger Lily, Poppy, Pansy, Plum, Violet, Sham-

rock, Delphinium, Hydrangea make a very rich, strong statement.

**• Striking Bi-Colors**—High contrast color combos such as navy paired with white or beige provide a fresh, clean look.

### Emphasis on textural interest

Texture is key, this coming spring. It's so important that the fabric itself becomes the story, its look and hand clearly influencing the resulting design.

Watch for last spring's move in the textural direction to really blossom.

Among the standouts: Fabric with puckers or crinkles, flocked fabric, ottoman, damask, cloqué, matelassé, brocade, jacquard, dupione, shantung, gazar, and crunchy paper silk.

Also watch for high-contrast fabrics played together—especially textures against sheers. The ultimate contrast is a textured sheer, employing texture to add newness to a traditional bridal fabric like organza.

Of sheer importance this season are organza, organdy, voile, georgette, chiffon, ribbon sheer, shadow-striped and coin-dotted sheer, placed sheer, point d'esprit, embroidered and flocked tulle, sheer with re-embroidered lace and tex-

ured cotton batiste.

Additional fabric trends to note:

- Laces with added texture—such as soutache or ribbon lace used as accents—on a bodice, a skirt panel, a train;
- Toned-down metallics—always with texture;
- Three-dimensional textures;
- Texture combined with stretch—the absolute newest combo-around.

### More refined silhouettes

Sprouting up this season are romantic, new soft silhouettes that go hand in hand with the new softened colors and lighter fabrics.

### Among the key trends are:

**• The Goddess**—Inspired by mythology, this classic, draped look couples simplicity with romance. Flowing lines and diaphanous fabrics reveal the figure in a tasteful way.

**• The Deb or Ingenue**—Feminine, with a naive but naughty sexiness, this '50s-inspired style features a wasp waist, exposed shoulders and a full skirt, complete with flirty crinolines.

### Key shapes and details include:

• An appealing new softness, characterized by the cinched waist, the trapeze back, the fit and flare of the princess sil-

houette, elongated peplums and body-wrapping styles.

• A focus on décolletage, evidenced by off-the-shoulder looks, straplessness, sweetheart and face-framing portrait necklines, and flyaway collars.

• Gentle skirting, in the form of full skirts with sweep trains, swingy A-lines; tulips, uneven hemlines; and updated sheaths with floaty, petal-shaped overskirts that reveal the body line underneath... perfect for the informal bride.

Style note: Cascades of soft tiers look fresher than ruffles for spring.

### A sense of whimsy

#### Among the continuing trends are:

• Bows, still cropping up at the shoulder, on a bustle. They're even newer in profusion—almost woven into a neckline or hem.

• Silk flowers as adornment on dress, blooming in pale pastels against white.

Fresh approaches to watch for include:  
• Fabric rosettes—saucy new touches for dresses, hair, shoes.

• Butterflies—especially for the truly adventurous—such as a sheer butterfly delicately poised upon a shoulderful of flowers.

## Romance is here to stay, in bridal fashions and jewelry

Whether it's the oversized bow in her hair, the low cut back of her wedding dress, or the exquisite gold jewelry she chooses, every bride wants to look and feel her romantic best.

This season, there's a marked return to pretty looks that are traditionally feminine but possess dramatic flair.

What's hot are romantic ball gowns cinched at the waist and overflowing with tiers of ruffles. Storybook charm is also evident with girlish pouf sleeves and high necklines, all in lace.

Some bridalwear designers are showing the empire style, nipped under the bustline as seen in the 1960s and in recent couture collections.

To measure up to the importance of her wedding day look, today's bride opts for the warm beauty of real gold jewelry in sumptuous all-gold designs or accented with semi-precious elements.

Both precious and sentimental, "real" jewelry is especially right for her once-in-a-lifetime day. Popular choices include necklaces of 14k gold fleur de lis charms

accented with seed pearls or a string of polished gold hearts.

Feminine earrings in swirl or floral patterns are the perfect accompaniment to the frilly pouf gowns of the season. As an extra plus, many earrings follow the line of the ear to create a dramatic effect.

Just right for the season's short sleeved dresses, a gold cuff that appears to be draped like fabric is a classic any woman will cherish for years to come.

To top it all, for the bride who wants to sparkle from head to toe, the right headpiece is very important. Floral and jeweled wreath versions are the perfect accents for more elaborate dresses. Simpler headpieces with detachable veils work best with formal gowns.

For every bride, the way she expresses her own femininity is sure to turn heads as she walks down the aisle. This season, the choice of clothes, accessories and jewelry—spanning from girlishly innocent to glamorous—guarantees that the final result will fall nothing short of beautiful.



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