

# Picking the perfect wedding gift

It's not easy to choose the perfect wedding gift. Some couples are busy with two careers... others are just always on the go.

No matter who the special couple is, the wedding gifts that will be most appreciated are those that have been given thought... and chosen with care by the giver.

With a little detective work, any gift-giver can choose the perfect gift in no time. Find out about a special interest that the couple shares... or think about their lifestyles.

Does the couple love to throw a party? How about giving them a complete set of glassware (beer mugs, wine glasses, low ball and high ball glasses)? Throw in other barware such as corkscrews, a drink shaker and strainer and coasters.

If the entire office is pitching in, add of the basic bar liquors and a blender... there's a gift any party-giver will love!

Couples on the go might enjoy a household timesaver like a compact microwave oven. Or, how about a gift certificate to their favorite restaurant? Tickets to a play or concert are a hit with many newlyweds.

Couples who love to cook also love to learn to cook. Perhaps a gift certificate for two for an upcoming Chinese cooking class is the perfect gift.

Another great gift for cooking couples is an all-purpose appliance such as the Oster "Kitchen Center" appliance.

One spacesaving motor base provides the power for a stand mixer, a powerful doughmaker, a slicer/shredder/salad-maker, an Osterizer blender and a mini food processor. Busy working cooks love its versatility.

If you know a couple that prefers to give intimate dinner parties (sometimes just for two), the key is elegance. Look for pretty linen placemats with matching napkins and rings. Add coordinating candles, two classic candlesticks and a silk flower centerpiece, for a gift that will be used and appreciated often.

When choosing gifts for the special couple, remember to consider the tastes of the couple, not the tastes of the giver. If they have registered at the Gift Registry at a local department store, check their registry checklist to see what they would like.

And, if the "perfect" gift is too expen-

sive for one budget, don't hesitate to ask other guests if they would like to join in the gift-giving.

So, choosing the perfect wedding gift can be easy. If it reflects the thoughtfulness of the gift-giver and the tastes of the couple, it's the right choice.



CHOOSING THE PERFECT WEDDING GIFT can be a breeze once you consider the couple's special tastes and interests. For the couple that loves to cook (or just loves to eat), the Oster "Kitchen Center" appliance is a gift they'll love. With five basic appliances on one motor base, it's a spacesaver and a timesaver.

# Engagement rings feature dramatic new looks

Tradition... solid values, commitment, family. Linda Friberg, fashion consultant to the Jewelry Industry Council, notes that modern couples are embracing them anew.

More and more, their lives together begin in the classic tradition of a reverent ceremony followed by a lavish reception.

And, the engagement ring remains the first of a contemporary couple's intent. But, Friberg notes, there's a decidedly new twist to this ages-old symbol.

It all began when Lady Diana and Sarah Ferguson each marked their historic pairings with colored stone engagement rings accented with diamonds. Couples all over the world followed suit.

This blending of old-fashioned ritual and contemporary treasures has not gone unnoticed by jewelry designers.

In fact, the derring-do exhibited in new engagement rings has inspired a mini-revolution in ring design in general. New shapes, cuts, colors and settings create a glorious array of rings for any occasion.

Fancy or fantasy cut gems are giving an ultra-contemporary look to classic diamonds, amethysts and blue topaz, as well as newly popular stones like pink

kunzite and tourmaline.

Fantasy cut stones are often tunneled out, dispersing light and creating reflective patterns. Engraving or texturing the stones diffuses light and creates a patina of softened color. For added eye appeal, designers forsake highly polished settings, and experiment with texturing.

One designer has created a horn of plenty, using coils of gold to simulate the horn, from the inside of which diamonds spill forth.

The diamonds are held in place with cleverly placed prongs, artfully concealed to make the diamonds appear loose.

Another designer carves ridges in platinum and grooves a rhodolite stone for dazzling effects in refracted light. The stone is cut in a fantasy quarter-moon shape, polished on the top surface and grooved beneath.

This results in a dimensional effect as light passes through the gem, with patterns changing as the ring is turned.

In the more affordable price ranges, designers are using simpler shapes like pentagons and asymmetrical motifs for the much-in-demand "new rings."


**REMARRIAGE: A WHOLE NEW PROPOSAL**

Nearly 30 percent of all marriages today are remarriages. But, the number of remarriages isn't all that's growing, says *Bride's Magazine*. So is the spirit of celebration.

Some of *Bride's* suggestions for a remarrying couple:

- As the bride, be just a little bit selfish at this time. Wear an engagement ring. Indulge in a beauty day at the salon—complete with lavish haircare, facial and manicure. You deserve it all!
- Feel free to marry in the outfit of your choice. The traditionally simple, cream-colored suit is still lovely—but so is a romantically long and lacy gown, in white or your favorite color. The only accessory best omitted, suggests *Bride's*, is the veil—long a symbol of youth.
- If either of you has children, try to include them in as many plans as you can. As Barbara Tober, Editor-in-Chief of *Bride's* says, "If children will be part of your marriage, why not make them part of your wedding?" They'll feel especially important playing a role in your ceremony.
- Make your reception as extravagant a party as you wish, complete with all the wedding traditions—a receiving line, the "first dance," the ceremonial cutting of the cake, and a champagne toast. A warm way to welcome guests is to head up the receiving line yourselves, rather than leaving it up to your parents.
- Don't feel a honeymoon isn't necessary "this time around." Getting married is *tiring*, even if you've been through it before. How to fit in some rest and relaxation around children? If possible, plan a trip just for the two of you first, then a "group honeymoon" so you'll all feel like a family.

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