

Planning a Wedding??

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Bridal collections of 1992 offer style and tradition

Brides this season can have it all — the understated elegance of pure lines, luxe fabrics, and discreet details; the fantasy of a garden neckline of colorful silk flowers; the insouciance of a short, flared skirt. Color emerges like never before with all-over pastels; tinted overlays and underlays; head-to-toe embroidery; and flecks of gold, silver, and platinum. Yet, every new design captures the ageless romance and charm of the bride. *Bride's* magazine presents the hottest trends and most alluring looks for brides, maids, mothers, grooms, ushers and more.

Fabulous fabrics

- Crisp transparencies — organza, silk gazar, a profusion of tulle layers, point d'esprit.
- Frosted effects — iridescent hues, pearlized fabric.
- Matte mixed with shiny, such as satin with lightweight taffeta.
- Fluid, two-ply crepe.
- Rich textures — floral jacquard, ottoman, silk shantung, faille, silk dupioni, panne velvet.
- Laces — guipure, reembroidered, Alençon, Venetian, Chantilly, eyelet.
- Dimensional surfaces — pique, quilted fabrics.
- Sheer shades — whitened pastels (mint, pink, yellow, lavender) add a pearlized look to white or ivory.
- Metallics — gold or silver threads, beads, plain or crepe.
- Embellishments — dimensional flowers of silk or self-fabrics blooming around the neckline, strewed about the skirt, hem border, and train; colored embroidery; pastel beading; trelis ribboning; jewelery and/or pearls concentrated on collar, cuffs, hemline; a soft bow gracing the neckline, waist, bustle.

Shapely silhouettes

- Pure lines — elongated bell-shaped skirts gathered at the hips; A-lines.
- Necklines — open, rounded

square; scoop; bateau; fichu collars; high wedding-band collars.

- The waist as a focal point — nipped and cinched with a sash.
- Silk columns with narrow fishtail bottoms or flyaway trains sweeping down from the back of the shoulders.
- Trains — the extra-long monarch

length; a soft, oversized bustle bow.

A short story

Short dresses are a growing option for the sophisticated bride or an encore wedding. Shapes are borrowed from the most elegant evening wear, reinterpreted with a bridal influence. New lengths:

- Above-the-knee and flared; short bell shapes.
- A short dress with a detachable ball-gown overskirt that can be removed after the ceremony.
- The high-low hemline — above-the-knee length in front, flowing to a dramatic sweep train in back.
- A play on separates — a short slip dress paired with a matching coat; tunic top over a short, slim skirt.
- The softly tailored above-the-knee coatdress; buttons, lapels, and cuffs are embellished with pearls, jewels or lace.

Necessary accessories

Accessories are uncluttered, dimensional, and designed to complement the sculpted floral detailing and color accents of the new gowns. The hottest headpieces:

- Embellished headbands — with silk flowers, allover pearls, silk cording, accents that mimic dress details.
- Soft bows worn at the back of the head.
- Tiaras made of crystals or pearls — sized small enough to wear with hair up or large enough to sit on the crown of the head.
- Veils — circular veils with pearl, crystal, or metallic embellishments; heirloom lace made into a veil.
- Hoods with long, flowing attached

trains.
• Softly tailored, raised pillboxes wrapped with tulle that trails down in back.

Shoe shapes

High heels are still high on the list, but new shapes offer sophisticated style — and comfort, to boot. Stepping out on the scene:

- Elongated fronts with square toes and elaborate embellishment; chiseled, curved, or skinny heels.
- Ribbon treatment on ankles and shoe fronts.
- Jeweled satin shoes.

Luxe legs

- Colors — white, off-white, or ivory for the bride; pastels (matching dresses and shoes) for maids.
- High-heels and stockings with garters.

The bouquet today

This year's bouquet is small, tight, and refined — but decidedly special in its choice of blooms, textures.

- Biedermeiers, posies, and nosegays in a variety of shapes and styles.
- Wired and hand-tied blossoms in one bouquet.
- All-white bouquets of lilies of the valley, fleur d'amour, and serena roses for formal celebrations.
- Mixed tones and unusual textures for semiformal, informal, weddings.
- Out-of-season blooms (now available through imports and hotheouses) add unusual hues to the traditional palette.
- Bouquet alternatives — garlands; gowns trimmed with fresh or silk flowers; fresh-flower necklaces, hair ornaments; a cloche of fresh blossoms worn on the head.

Trendy party attire

For the wedding-party, dresses are short, flirty, splashed with playful prints or saturated in candy colors (shoes are dyed to match). Separates also swing into the season, states *Bride's* magazine, with romantic sheer blouses atop ballerina-length skirts. Best-dressed buys:

- Fabrics — organza, cotton, Lycra™, taffeta, reembroidered or stretch lace, tulle, chiffon, ottoman, faille, linen.
- Prints — polka dots, gingham, stripes, plaid, exotic flowers.
- Separates — Lycra™ or organza blouse with a sweeping skirt of taffeta or cotton with a self-sash or belt.
- Short dresses made in chiffon-like fabrics (in yellow, pink, lavender, mint, pale blue) that float down the aisle.
- Open backs with crisscross straps.
- Short dresses with detachable tulle overskirts.
- Iridescent taffetas in sherbet shades (mint, icy blue, yellow).
- Patriotic colors — solid blue, blue and white stripes, red jersey top with red taffeta bell skirt and blue sash.

Formal wear for the groom, best man and ushers go high fashion with lustrous fabrics and a variety of colored accessories. The fashion industry's focus:

- Fabrics — luxurious silky fibers.
- Black with subtle flecks of red, pink, green or burgundy.
- White and ivory dinner jackets remain strong.
- Lapels — peaked, shawl, notched.
- Tailcoats stay in the spotlight.
- Accessories — bold colors, stripes, and florals for ties, vests and cummerbunds.



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