

A Guide to Proper Dressing

Since the bride is the star, it is not surprising that she decides how formal, or informal, a wedding she will have. The number of guests, the type of reception, if any, the time of day — all are her choices, and all this is reflected in the type of bridal gown she selects.

In turn, the type of gown determines what every other member of the wedding party will wear. While bridal fashion generally follows the latest trends, a bride can easily find a "traditional" gown — sweetheart neckline, long sleeves, nipped-in waist, and tiers and tiers of lace flowing into a sweep or cathedral train. Or she may follow the "nostalgic" trend, so in today.

The real change has come about in men's formalwear. The black and white or the gray and white "uniform" now also comes in a spectrum of muted and bright colors and a wide variety of shapes. The choice is up to the groom, who usually follows a cue from his bride-to-be.

For the couple who wishes to follow tradition in dress, here is a chart to use as a guide:

Daytime — Very Formal

Bride — An elaborate bridal gown with cathedral, chapel or no train. Long full veil. Long sleeves or long gloves. Shoes to match gown. Bouquet in keeping with gown or covered prayer book pinned with flowers and ribbons.

Groom* — Cutaway coat with gray striped trousers. Gray waistcoat. Formal white shirt with wing collar or a turned down collar. Striped ascot with wing collar or striped four-in-hand with turned down collar. Black shoes and hose. Gray gloves. Gray spats and black silk top hat are optional.

Bridesmaids — Floor-length dresses with complementary headpieces. Shoes dyed to match or harmonize. Gloves in keeping with the dresses. Bouquets or baskets in any style that adds to the overall effect.

Mothers — Floor-length gowns. Small hats and accessories to harmonize with the dresses.

**All the men in the wedding party.*

Daytime — Formal

Bride — Long, less elaborate gown with a shorter train, either chapel or sweep length. The veil, either finger tip, shorter, or to the floor. Same accessories as for very formal wedding.

Groom* — Oxford gray stroller or jacket with striped trousers. Gray waistcoat. White shirt with turned down collar and striped four-in-hand tie. Gray gloves. Black shoes and hose. Homburg is optional.

Bridesmaids — Dresses may be either floor-length or street length. Accessories match or harmonize.

Mothers — Street length, chic gowns with matching or harmonizing accessories.

**All the men in the wedding party.*

Daytime — Semiformal

Bride — White or pale pastel floor-length or shorter gown. Elbow-

length or shorter veil. Same accessories as for formal wedding. Bouquet would be less elaborate in keeping with the tone of the wedding.

Groom* — Black or Oxford gray sack coat. Gray waistcoat. White pleated shirt with turned down

collar. Four-in-hand tie. Gray gloves. Black shoes. Black or gray Homburg optional.

Bridesmaids — Floor-length or shorter dresses in keeping with the formality of what the bride wears. Harmonizing accessories. Small bouquets.

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