

Almost anything goes



For the sophisticate, an ivory two-piece dress in matinee length can be worn after the wedding as well. (Staff photo by David Frank)

By KATHY PARRISH

Planning a wedding has never been easy. There used to be a lot more rules, though, to guide engaged couples.

In today's wedding almost anything goes. Not merely a blueprint, each one reflects — through music, vows or bridal wear — a very special event.

Spring 1981 brides will walk down the aisle wearing everything from high-neck Victorian styles to strapless and off-shoulder dresses. Some will surround themselves with heavy veiling, while others will simply arrange flowers in their hair or pop on a picture hat.

"There's much more choice today; less rights and wrongs," said Carol Loudon, bridal buyer for Saks Fifth Ave. nationally.

"Brides are using their imagination. Just about everything goes this year — as long as it's tasteful."

Fashion has relaxed generally over the past few years. But wedding styles have also changed with the brides. Bridal salons are seeing fewer 21-year-olds and more customers in their late 20s and early 30s.

"There aren't many young brides these days," said Sue Lepler, bridal consultant for Saks in Troy. "Career girls are taking the step later in life. They're more sophisticated and bringing more fashion to bridal."

"BRIDES TODAY want a more sophisticated look," said Marybelle Meyer, Troy manager for Kitty Kelly Bridal Salons.

Also changing the bridal industry is the growing number of second- and third-time brides. "There must be something good about marriage. They certainly remarry," said one bridal consultant.

"Second weddings have become a

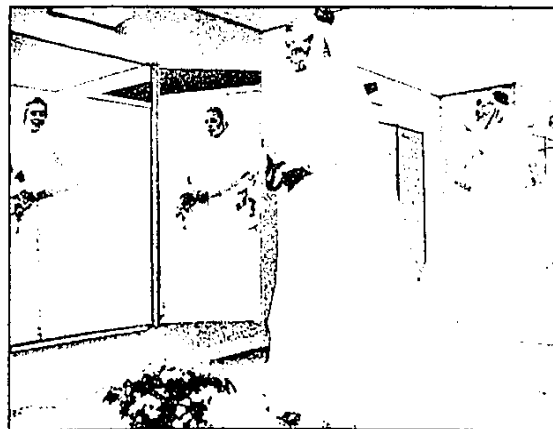
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For the second-time bride, New York designer Ron LoVece provides a two-piece organza gown with a jacket re-embroidered with Alencon lace. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)



A matching picture hat tops off a romantic look by Milady Bridals. The full-length gown features a re-embroidered Alencon lace bodice beaded with sequins and pearls. (Staff photo by John Stano)



A traditional gown like this delicately beaded Lyon lace gown by Phyllis of House of Bianchi can easily be handed down to a daughter someday. (Staff photo by David Frank)