



# How to create the dress of your dreams

**I**F YOU'RE planning for the most important day of your life, your wedding, you're not alone.

Industry statistics project 2.4 million marriages will take place in 1988, and 40 percent of wedding fashions will be sewn at home, or by professional dressmakers.

Many prospective brides are appalled at the sewing construction of some of the gowns found in shops. Not only were the gowns expensive but the alterations even more so, one bride-to-be said.

Many fabric stores cater to the bride and the bridal party by providing personalized service and special occasion departments within the shop.

"We're seeing a sophisticated lady in her late 20s or early 30s who wants a lovely gown, shops at better places and is working, used to spending money," said Jewel Barin of Levine's Fabrics in Pennsylvania.

"Our selection of fabric is important, the same that the bride sees in specialty store gowns, and we often can special order within a week if needed."

Dressmakers often are available to create designs for non-sewers.

**OPULENCE, LUXURY AND** glamour are the trends in wedding and

bridal fashions today, according to major pattern companies.

Back interest is the key, with plunging V-backs, ruffles, tiers and bows. The most popular dresses are modified Edwardian styles or those reminiscent of ball gowns, with cinched waists and very full skirts. Dramatic fit and flare gowns go all-out in lace and sequins.

Headpieces are an area where a bride can realize great savings.

**ACCORDING TO** Mady Berlin, a special-occasion fabric supplier, rose is the top-selling color.

Pastels sell year-round and the jewel tones become important in the fall and winter.

Berlin suggests that brides-to-be take their cues from the bridal magazines when designing their own wedding fashions.

She said that satin, once a winter bride's fabric, is now used year-round, and taffeta with its crisp rustle lends itself well to the full-skirted fashions.

And it seems that color is no longer used only for bridesmaids, as brides are starting to wear pastel-tinted gowns.

that the rose, in color and motif, is becoming a strong trend. Jacquard and lace fabrics as well as appliques, head-

pieces and floral bouquets, will be blooming with roses in the coming season.



**TOSS A PARTY**

**BRIDAL SHOWER**  
Don't Have One Without Us

• Custom Imprinting On Matches & Napkins  
• Table Decorations • Centerpieces  
• Balloons • Decorations

Ask Us About Our Party Planning Service

Southfield  
557-8152

Farmington  
855-3636

**EXPERTS IN** the industry concur

## Tips to cover what-ifs

Continued from Page 11

the one to do the honors if he brought you up.

Regardless of who gives the bride away, says Baldrige, "the father of the bride should always be there."

Because nearly 30 percent of all marriages today are second marriages, tact and good planning are essential for a smooth wedding.

Any children by a previous marriage should be invited and made a part of the festivities. Their involvement can mean anything from overseeing the guest book to acting as Mother's maid of honor or Dad's best man.

Baldrige also suggests that it's tactful to discuss a child's involvement in the upcoming wedding plans with your ex-spouse. And do something special to thank him or her for allowing the children to participate.

The ceremony itself, she says, "should not be a big circus" — just a simple affair involving close family and friends. The reception, on the other hand, can be as big and lavish as you like.

### WHAT IF:

What do you do if you've planned everything down to the last detail and disaster still strikes? The advice from

the experts is to make do and carry on with grace.

• Your beautiful white dress might seem like an accident waiting to happen. Bring a small sewing kit, spot remover, tailor's chalk (ideal for covering up smudges in a hurry), glue, safety pins, tape and a travel steamer with you.

• If a sudden death in the family or snow at the airport prevents a bridesmaid or usher from getting to the church on time, carry on without them. Let an unmatched attendant precede the maid or matron of honor in the processional, or allow an usher to march without a partner. It's too much to ask a friend to fill in at the last minute and it can create hard feelings.

• If the best man forgets or loses the ring, don't strangle him. Just borrow one from a parent or attendant and continue the ceremony.

• Bride's Magazine suggests forestalling such mishaps as a photographer who doesn't show or botched deliveries from the florist by getting delivery dates and details in writing. Also provide vendors with a map and instructions to the wedding and reception location, and confirm all arrangements both a week ahead and the day before the wedding.

## THE WEDDING OF YOUR DREAMS.



### AT THE SOMERSET INN.

With fine dining, beautiful ballrooms, comfortable rooms and suites for out-of-town guests.

Also, professional assistance provided for:

- Photography
- Music
- Decorations
- Video
- Flowers
- Entertainment
- Party Favors
- Invitations

From the Somerset Inn to you—complimentary room for your wedding night.

Call Judy Frankel, Banquet and Party Advisor, at 643-2286.



**Somerset Inn**

3601 W. Big Beaver Rd.  
(east of Coolidge) Troy, Michigan  
48063-1700