

for grooms and the guys

single- or double-vent back. The collar, made of satin or faille (never of velvet) may be a shawl type, or have peaked or notched lapels.

The tuxedo shirt should be white, off-white or very pale pastel. While Baldrige approves of pleats, she points thumbs down at embroidered shirts and those with ruffles.

"The understated look is the right look for men's evening clothes," she writes. "A jacket made a non-traditional fabric, such as a colored brocade, really looks too theatrical and obvious."

Bob Kushmore of Gary's Tuxedo adds a few rules of his own. No member of the party should "out-dress" the groom.

THIS MEANS THAT if the groom is wearing navy blue or black, it would

be inappropriate for any of the other men, including the fathers, to wear ivory or white. The groom should be the most noticed person.

Color choices in suits should be limited to one or two, while the men's shirts can include a larger variety. Remember, however, he cautions, that too many colors can detract from the dignity of the ceremony.

Last year's wedding trend was the all-white wedding, with members of the party, including the groom and groomsmen, dressed in white. This year marks the rise of the black and white wedding — with honor attendants of both sexes dressed in crisp black and white. The look is clean and crisp and contemporary.

Accessories with men's formal wear are kept to a minimum. Evening shirts

have small pearl buttons or a man may wear his own studs. If the men in the wedding party are wearing pearl studs, the groom might choose understated diamond or ruby studs to set himself apart.

BLACK DRESS HOSE are worn with black patent leather shoes with laces or black patent leather "dancing pumps" with black grosgrain bows. Baldrige suggests these are the only shoe styles that are appropriate for public celebrations, relegating velvet or needlepoint lounging slippers to at-home wear.

"While many men wear black patent loafers with their dinner suits, it does not look right," she said.

Men's boutonnieres should be small but sturdy. Choose a flower that's not too large or overpowering, but stands

well by itself. Mini-carnations and stephanotis are popular choices.

It's always a nice touch to choose a boutonniere flower that's in the bridal bouquet.

Fathers usually follow the groomsmen in attire for formal affairs. Ring bearers and younger groomsmen can dress in miniature versions of the men's tuxedos.

Wedding consultants can help coordinate attire, or men can comb the bridal magazines looking for suggestions. Most of the formal wear collections offer free catalogs and color coordination, which you can take to your local merchant. (For Christian Dior Wedding Catalog, write G Street and Hunting Park Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19124. For swatches to color coordinate your wedding send 25 cents per swatch, specifying desired colors.)

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