



Three different style gowns for bridal attendants are displayed by these models.

ing and decorated with wrist ruffles and tiny satin rosettes.

As a courtesy to the parents of your flower girl, select a dress for her that is lovely and lacy but not wedding-gown fancy. She should be able to wear it to one or two other dressy occasions, including church, before she outgrows it.

It's nice, (but not mandatory) to distinguish your maid or matron of honor. You can do this with flowers and accessories or with a different shade of dress — for example, light blue for the maid of honor, deeper blue for the other maids.

It used to be that the bride's mother selected her outfit for the big day first. Then she informed the mother of the groom so the latter could make a suitable selection as to the color and length.

Today the rules are more relaxed. Bridal experts advise the mothers should agree on the degree of formality, but each should have her own

prerogative as to style and color.

Besides, according to Joyce Cohen, fashion and beauty director of *Bride's Magazine*, matching isn't unthinkable anymore. She says she likes to see "an overall feeling of harmony in the colors of the wedding — say, the bridesmaids in pink, the mothers in dove gray."

In the 1950s, the typical mother of the bride wore a dress in a muddy pastel color or a print that looked like a combination of upholstery and window curtains. Dusty blue brocade seen through floaty panels of blue lace, for example. Or whooshy ashes-of-roses chiffon with butterfly sleeves and an underskirt of paler satin.

No more. Today's mothers of the bride refuse to dress like grandmas-in-waiting. They're not satisfied with less than something from Carolina Herrera, Oscar de la Renta or Bill Blass.

The key is elegance and mature beauty — as long as Mom doesn't steal the show from her daughter.

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