



Etiquette mavens suggest acknowledging wedding gifts promptly, preferably with a personal note such as those penned with a sterling silver Montblanc fountain pen.

WHILE IT HAS been traditional for the bride to acknowledge all gifts, today it's also quite acceptable for the groom to share the responsibility by writing to those whom he knows best.

Etiquette requires the use of folded note paper in white, ivory or the shade of the wedding invitation. The stationery can be plain or embossed or printed with your name or initials. But the bride shouldn't send stationery imprinted with her married name until after she is

Same name status

For a woman, getting married traditionally has meant relinquishing her maiden name in favor of her husband's name. But nowadays that's just one of the options. Legally, she can choose to adopt a new name or keep her own.

A married woman doesn't have to take legal action to retain her own name. She can continue to use it simply by doing so. An increasingly popular option is to retain the maiden name at work and adopt the married name in private life. Both are legal.

married.

A note should mention the gift and refer specifically to something about it, such as its usefulness or style. If you are not quite sure what the gift is, compliment an unusual or unique feature such as color material. Mention your spouse's name in the note since, as a rule, only the writer will sign it. Conclude with a friendly closing sentence.

The timetable for thank-yous calls for a note within two weeks of the arrival of the gift. If the gift arrives on the wedding day or during the honeymoon, it should be sent within a month after the honeymoon, says Bride's.

A GOOD REASON for writing notes a few at a time is that it's easier to make the words of thanks spontaneous and sincere than if you juggle several dozen notes at once.

If you expect to receive more gifts than you think you can acknowledge right away, you can send printed cards to let donors know the gift arrived safely and follow up with a personal note as soon as possible.

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