

## GIFTS AND DECORATIVE ACCESSORIES

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## Flowers, continued

usually has a corsage instead of a wedding bouquet. White orchids are popular with many brides, but you may wear any flowers you like as long as they complement your outfit. If you have a formal wedding, you will probably wear a corsage with your going-away costume. This may be the orchid or other flowers from the center of your bouquet, or you may have a corsage designed specifically for this purpose. Florists often recommend the latter because it allows you a wider choice of colors, and it eliminates the possibility of your flowers becoming crushed or wilted during your reception.

**THE MOTHERS** and grandmothers of the bride and groom are customarily presented with corsages to wear at the wedding. These may be made of any available flowers which harmonize with their dresses, but personal preferences should be taken into consideration. Some women, for example, like nothing better than roses, but a mother with a rose garden in her back yard might prefer a cluster of cymbidium orchids.

**PRAYER BOOK FLOWERS**

In a formal or semi-formal wedding, the bride may carry a flower-covered prayer book instead of a bouquet. This may be a new book purchased for the occasion, or an old family Bible or missal. Whether new or old, the book is usually covered in white silk or satin to harmonize with the bride's gown. Although white orchids are favored for bridal prayer books, you may choose other flowers if you wish. A cascade of small blossoms or ribbon streamers intertwined with stephanotis or lilies of the valley is usually attached to the prayer book when the bride wears a long gown.

**FLORAL HEADPIECES**  
 Although artificial flowers are much more common these days, headpieces made of real orange blossoms or other light flowers are still worn by some brides and bridesmaids. These are usually made in the form of a crescent which fits across the top of the head, or in a circle which sits on the crown. Such headpieces may be attached to a small comb or held in place with hairpins. A veil is usually attached to a bride's headpiece, but those worn by attendants often take the place of hats or veils.

**BOUTONNIERES**

It's traditional for the groom and every man in the wedding party including the best man, the ushers and the fathers to wear a boutonniere on his left lapel. White carnations are commonly worn by everyone except the groom and his best man. The groom's boutonniere is traditionally taken from the bride's bouquet and may be a white rose, a sprig of stephanotis, or a few lilies of the valley. The best man's boutonniere may match the groom's or it may be slightly different.

**FLORAL DECORATIONS**

Regardless of the size and style of your wedding, you'll want to have at least one vase of flowers on each side of the altar. You may also have a number of other arrangements scattered around the chancel, but that's a matter of personal taste.

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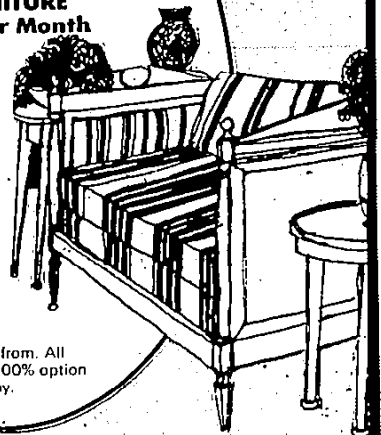
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