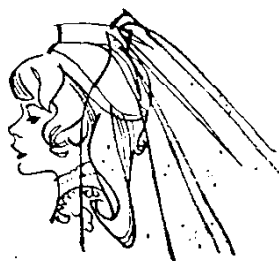


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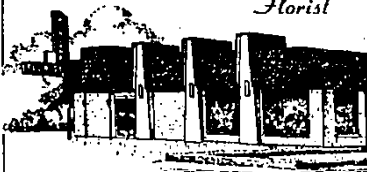


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## The Bride's Timetable

For every bride, the period just before her wedding is the time when she has to be more organized than she has ever been in her life. The biggest problems arise when the bride cuts things too close and does not give manufacturers enough time.

**FOR EXAMPLE,** shop for your bridal gown early. In this area, delivery is eight to 10 weeks, although one manufacturer needs 14 weeks.

This is because bridal manufacturers don't make a dress until they receive the order. You should allow for emergencies, including time to send things back if the order is wrong, so the wise bride tries to order her gown at least four months before the wedding.

Completion of your gown must be coordinated with the photographer who is to take your formal portrait. You will want to select your favorite pose in time to send it to the newspaper for your wedding announcement.

Other must-dos may not be as complicated, but it is important to do things in sequence, with some leeway. A beautiful formal wedding takes a minimum of six months to arrange. Here are some suggestions for getting to the church with enough time to enjoy it.

**SIX MONTHS BEFORE:** Set wedding date. Discuss your overall wedding budget with your parents. Select the size, style and site of your ceremony. Make arrangements to visit the clergyman with your fiancé. Plan your reception, and make the necessary reservations. Choose and order your wedding gown, veil and accessories. Select and register china, silver, crystal and other choices. Begin your guest list, and have your fiancé begin his. Choose the friends you'd like as your attendants. Plan your new home and begin your household shopping. Begin shopping for your trousseau.

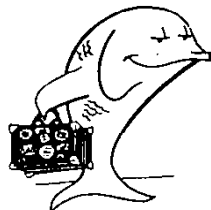
**THREE MONTHS BEFORE:** Complete your guest list. Order invitations, announcements and personal stationery. Address envelopes for invitations and announcements. Invite your attendants and order their gowns, etc. Engage a photographer and arrange to have your bridal portrait taken at the time of your last fitting. Make an appointment for a physical examination. Arrange all the reception details with the caterer. Discuss ceremony details with proper church authorities. Discuss color scheme with mothers so they can order gowns.

**ONE MONTH BEFORE:** Buy the groom's wedding gift. Mail your invitations. Choose and order flowers for wedding and reception. Have the final fitting of your gown and headpiece. Have portrait taken and order glossies. Choose and order the gifts for your attendants. Order the groom's wedding ring (if you're giving him one). Arrange lodging for out-of-town guests and attendants. Make arrangements for your bridesmaids' luncheon. Plan rehearsal dinner (unless groom's family is giving it). Order your wedding cake (if it's not included in catering). Write thank-you notes for all gifts as they arrive. Check the newspapers on wedding announcement details.

**TWO WEEKS BEFORE:** Complete your trousseau. Go with your fiancé to get the wedding license. Arrange for transportation of the bridal party to the church.

**ONE WEEK BEFORE:** Begin your honeymoon packing. Give the final estimate of reception guests to the caterer. Be sure announcements are ready to mail after ceremony. Give and/or attend your bridesmaids' luncheon. Deliver wedding announcements and picture to newspapers. Arrange the rehearsal, and inform the wedding party. Make an appointment with your hairdresser. Check on final details with florist, photographer, etc. Arrange for personal effects to be moved to your new home. Keep up with your gift acknowledgements.

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