

Make Your Wedding Gown

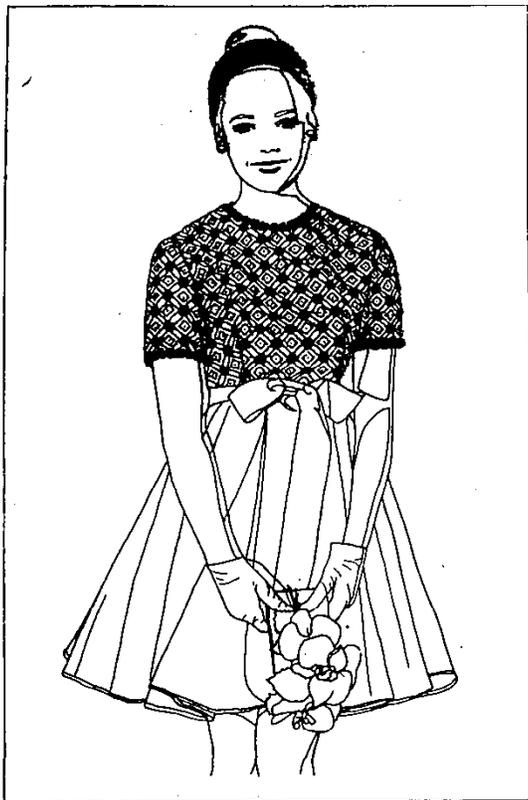
The urge to be creative and to make her wedding gown exclusively hers is what leads many girls to sew their own.

New, easy-care fabrics in white, ivory and color are used by the creative bride-to-be who not only sews her own, but designs her wedding gown. Patterns are only her starting point, because she more often than not combines elements of different ones and then adds modifications based on the fabrics and trims available, according to Irwin Lichtman of Livonia's Fabric-Go-Round.

Synthetics are usually less expensive than more traditional fabrics, but even when "real satin" is used, the cost of the fabric is usually far less than the cost of making up the gown. It is not unusual for a dressmaker's services to cost as much as, or more than the fabric. However, even a dressmaker sewn gown costs less than a comparable garment ready-made.

IDEAS IN FABRICS...A washable, wrinkle-proof polyester that looks like slubbed silk...Re-embroidered lace with an almost three-dimensional look. Buy a yard or two and cut out the main element. Applique this on sleeves, hem, neckline of gown. The technique also works with the pattern used for re-embroidered silk organza...

Use silk organza over white peau de soie. Use it for sheer sleeves. Silk organza without embroidery is used as lining, is perfect for an unconstructed, natural look...Cotton jacquard, thick and three-dimensional, makes an attractive bodice...



THIS UNUSUAL Vogue pattern (No. 2254) could itself be the inspiration for a totally different look. For example, the new vertically-patterned cotton venise bodice can be highlighted by a pastel color on the lining. (Think butterscotch, perhaps.) Sleeves can be made long and neckline can go high. For a more formal wedding, the dress should be long. Instead of the organza over taffeta used for the short skirt, use layers of organza.

Crepe is a new idea for bridesmaids' dresses. Try jacquard or brocades as bodices for the crepe dress. Apricot or peach is this year's new color....Instead of chiffon which can be slippery and difficult to sew, use georgette for gowns with a flowing, angel-like look...New, vertically-patterned lace looks more youthful than floral designs. is available in pastel as well as white...Crochet-look lace is very different, very stiff. Use color underneath to show through....Try a crepe dress with a brocade or jacquard coat for the mothers of the bride and groom....

Don't buy inexpensive beaded or jeweled trim. Make up your mind that if you want it, it has to cost at least about \$10 a yard, or it will look chintzy....Do use an invisible zipper....Applique lace on to an illusion veil for the total look to coordinate with your gown.



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