

Wedding Planner

Created With The Groom In Mind

There are many important duties for the groom to remember as the big day approaches. The best man, ushers and groom's parents can also make many contributions. Keep this guide for reference, and you'll be sure to remember every little detail!

Groom:

- Buy an engagement ring.
- Choose your best man, groomsmen and ushers for the wedding.
- Have a list of people you want to invite to the wedding. Your family should make out their list as well.
- Choose a wedding present for the bride.
- Go with your fiancée to a formal wear shop to select outfits for you and the men in the wedding party.
- Select the wedding ring with your fiancée and allow time for sizing and engraving.
- Apply for a marriage license.
- If you're planning a traditional wedding, plan on paying for the bride's bouquet, going-away corsage, corsages for both mothers and other close female relatives on either side, and boutonnieres for yourself, groomsmen and ushers.
- Make insurance changes for yourself and your new spouse. Considerations should include life, personal property, household, medical and fire insurance.
- Be certain you and your fiancée have all necessary papers, blood tests, birth certificates, etc.
- Give the clergyman's fee to the best man the day of the wedding. He will then give it to the clergyman following the ceremony.
- Notify your attendants of the time and place of the wedding rehearsal.
- Plan your bachelor dinner several days before the wedding. The best man and ushers often prefer to host this.
- Be sure both you and your new spouse sign the wedding certificate before leaving on the honeymoon.
- Send a thank-you note or telegram to the bride's parents the day after the wedding.

Notes: _____

Best Man:

- Inform the ushers of any special seating arrangements during the rehearsal.
- Get the wedding ring the day of the ceremony.
- Check tickets, reservations, etc., for the honeymoon and be sure the groom has tickets when he leaves.
- Have marriage license and fee of clergyman ready the day of the wedding.
- Help the groom prepare for the ceremony. Make sure his bags are packed and his going-away clothes are ready.

Notes: _____

- Accompany the groom to the wedding. Make sure you are there at least 15 minutes before the ceremony.
- Be timekeeper and toastmaster at the reception. Help the couple make their getaway at the appropriate time.

Notes: _____

Ushers:

- Be at the site of the wedding one hour before the start of the ceremony. The groom should have boutonnieres ready for you.
- Have a typed list of guests occupying reserved pews. Stand at the door and ask each arriving female guest if she is a friend of the



Photograph courtesy of Bill Bortomps

- bride or groom. Offer your right arm to the woman and escort her to her seat.
- Head usher escorts groom's mother to the front right-hand pew.
- Ushers escort all women in the front pews to the door. The bride's mother is first, then the mother of the groom, etc.

Notes: _____



Photograph courtesy of Bill Deit

Today's Trends

Wedding Gowns

No matter what people say, a wedding is really for the bride.

A groom's participation in a wedding is essential, and attendants, family, flowers and food also play an important role. But on the day of the wedding, all eyes will be on the bride.

The bride's gown is the centerpiece of the wedding. The style, color and look of the wedding all stem from her gown.

So it's no surprise that some brides begin shopping for their gown at least a year before their wedding. Many hope to find the dress of their dreams.

Throughout the market there is a variety of styles for every taste. The current trend in dresses is a clean and

neat look. The simple elegance of dresses of the '60s are influencing many styles today. However, some brides still prefer lace and ruffles.

Off-the-shoulder, portrait necklines and strapless gowns have grown in popularity. In addition, the headpieces are simpler than ever before.

For a while, the fairy tale look of Princess Diana's dress was a big influence on the wedding gown industry. The romantic and soft look of her dress captured the imagination of many brides.

But even as the average age of a first time bride gets older, brides of every age want to wear a magical gown.

Anniversary Gift Guide

Many people know that we celebrate 25 years of marriage with silver and 50 with gold, but who knows what to give for the anniversaries in early married life? The following chart will help you pick the perfect gift for each anniversary.

First	Cotton
Second	Paper
Third	Leather
Fourth	Flower
Fifth	Wood
Sixth	Iron
Seventh	Woolen
Eighth	Bronze
Ninth	Copper
Tenth	Tin
Eleventh	Steel
Twelfth	Silk
Thirteenth	Lace
Fourteenth	Ivory
Fifteenth	Crystal
Twentieth	China