

WEDDINGS

A romantic wedding portrait of a smiling couple. The groom, on the left, is wearing a black tuxedo with a white shirt and a black tie. He is looking down at the bride with a smile. The bride, on the right, is wearing a strapless white wedding dress and has her hair styled in soft waves. She is looking directly at the camera with a bright smile. Her left hand is resting on the groom's shoulder, and a large, ornate diamond wedding ring is visible on her finger. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

CopeJewellers
Est. 1845

WEDDINGS

WELCOME TO WEDDINGS - OUR NEW BOOK DESIGNED TO GIVE YOU ALL THE INFORMATION AND IDEAS YOU NEED TO PERFECTLY ACCESSORISE YOUR SPECIAL DAY



28

Bridal accessories



04

Choosing your engagement ring

Contents

- 04 Choosing the right engagement ring
- 06 The ultimate diamond guide
- 10 Choosing your wedding rings
- 12 Planning the perfect wedding
- 16 Real life weddings
- 19 Something blue
- 20 Pearly Queens
- 23 Get figure fit
- 24 Wedding customs
- 28 Bridal accessories
- 30 All about the girls
- 32 Off the cuff
- 35 Top tips for Speeches
- 36 All in the details
- 39 Wedmin statistics

30

All about the girls



32

Off the cuff



To have and to hold...



The most popular style of ring is the classic diamond solitaire



Buying an ENGAGEMENT RING

YOUR GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE RIGHT RING

The average cost for an engagement ring in the UK is around £1,800. Tradition states you should be spending around two months wages on that special item. But there are so many options to consider – a beautiful looking ring can start as low as £400 and work its way up to a cool £1 million.



world and can only be cut and polished with another diamond.

Countries such as England, United States, France, and Canada traditionally wear the engagement ring on the left hand. Where as Germany, Russia and India wear the ring on the right hand.

The most common metal used for engagement rings is either white gold or platinum, however due to the rise in

Your final ring choice is governed by a number of factors, including: What metal your partner wants, the diamond size, diamond cut, diamond colour and clarity. Even the diamond shape makes a difference to the cost.

What matters is that you pay for something reflecting your budget and shows your true feelings towards your partner.

Interesting facts about Engagement Rings

The most popular diamond shape for an engagement ring is the round brilliant cut. The most popular style of ring is the classic diamond solitaire.

The tradition of an engagement ring was introduced in 1477. Archduke Maximilian of Austria gave Mary of Burgundy a gold ring set with a diamond as a token of love.

Ancient cultures believed that the third finger on the left hand, had a special vein called Vena Amoris, the vein of "love," this vein runs directly to the heart.

The word diamond comes from the Greek word "adamant" which means steadfast or invincible. It is from this word that the diamond gets its name. Diamonds are the hardest precious gemstone in the

cost for these two types of metal palladium is the new metal on the scene. Palladium is regarded as a precious metal and is a luxury alternative at a much cheaper price. It is most popular for men's wedding rings, so that the lion's share of the wedding ring budget can be spent on the bride's engagement ring!

Although Valentine's Day is one of the most important days of the year for romance, December is in fact the most popular time of the year to get engaged.

Diamonds were first discovered in India as far back as 800 B.C.

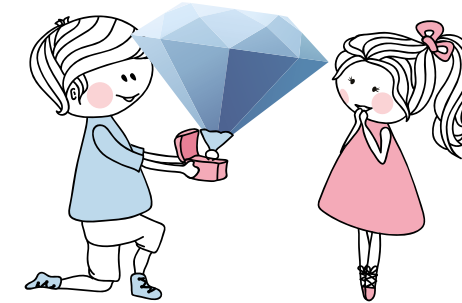
But diamonds were not used on wedding bands or engagement rings until the 15th century.

The youngest natural diamond is 900 million years old.



All about DIAMONDS

GET TO GRIPS WITH THE TECHNICAL TERMINOLOGY
USING OUR COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE



THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU'LL NEED TO
CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A DIAMOND

The Cut



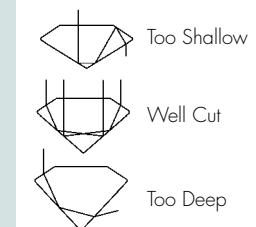
The Colour

D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S-Z
EXCEPTIONAL WHITE		RARE WHITE		WHITE	SLIGHTLY TINTED WHITE		TINTED WHITE		TINTED						

The Clarity

FI IF	VS1 VS2	VS1 VS2	S11 S12	11 12 13
Flawless/ Internally Flawless	Very, very small inclusions	Very small inclusions	Slight inclusions	Inclusions visible to naked eye

The Proportion



The Carat

	3.00 - 9.35mm
	2.50 - 8.8mm
	2.00 - 8.2mm
	1.75 - 7.8mm
	1.50 - 7.4mm
	1.25 - 7mm
	1.00 - 6.5mm
	0.50 - 5.15mm
	0.25 - 4.1mm





RING

the changes

WITH A CHOICE OF STYLES



Solitaire



Trinity

The most popular style of engagement ring is the solitaire, which has one single diamond. The archetype of this ring is the solitaire Tiffany Setting, which was introduced by Tiffany & Co in 1886 and featured the first Tiffany mount, which holds the diamond with six claws.

Another popular design is an engagement ring with side stones, which has a larger diamond set in the middle and smaller diamonds on the side. Three-stone diamond engagement rings, sometimes called trinity rings or trilogy rings, are rings with three matching diamonds set horizontally in a row with the bigger stone in the centre. The three diamonds on the ring are said to represent a couple's past, present, and future.

Vintage-inspired engagement styles with tiny pavé diamonds that sparkle on the shank of the ring or with filigree detailing are also popular for their romantic and timeless looks.

Ultra modern, vintage romance or a traditional Tiffany mount – we have all these styles and many more in store that will match every couple's diamond dreams.



Side stones



Vintage





Gold is a symbol of true and perfect love that is "as good as gold"

The romance behind A WEDDING RING

A SYMBOL OF LOVE FOR CENTURIES

Wedding rings have been worn in many cultures since the time of the ancient Egyptians and these rings throughout time have symbolised love, devotion, commitment and a powerful bond between families, tribes and kingdoms.

The precious materials within a wedding ring are also symbols of love and devotion. Gold is a symbol of true and perfect love that is "as good as gold", while platinum is the most precious and pure of metals that can remain untarnished. Many couples also choose to have diamonds set in their wedding rings as 'forever' stones that express eternal love.

A new trend among couples is to have their rings engraved, often on the inside of the bands, with the date of their wedding or a message of love. New laser technology means that signatures, hand-written messages and even fingerprints can now be etched onto the wedding rings.



Traditional wedding ring designs include Celtic styles and Russian bands, made of interlocking rings. New ring styles include a fusion of white and yellow gold, while rose gold rings are becoming more popular. But for everyday wear, platinum or palladium rings are the metals most jewellers recommend, as these metals are harder and more scratch-resistant than gold and, unlike white gold, will not tarnish or darken over time.

Traditionally in the UK, wedding rings have been worn on the third finger of the left hand, which the ancients believed contained a vein leading directly to the heart. Although in Eastern Orthodox

tradition, the wedding ring is worn on the right hand and in India, some brides wear a toe ring or a bangle as well as a wedding ring.

While the traditions and designs may be slightly different today, the sentiment and meaning to love, treasure and honour one another forever, remains very much the same: "I love you" "I wish to be with you forever" and "You are mine."



Celtic bands



Men's bands



Russian bands

Planning the PERFECT WEDDING

BANISH WEDMIN STRESS BY PLANNING YOUR BIG DAY
WITH THE HELP OF OUR 12 MONTH PLANNING GUIDE

12 months to go ...

- Have budget conversations with your fiancé and parents
- Decide on where and when you want to get married – church or civil ceremony?
- Fix a date and time
- Decide on guest numbers
- Book a reception venue

11 months to go ...

- Pick your bridesmaids and best man
- Start making appointments to try on wedding dresses

10 months to go ...

- Book the photographer
- Decide on and book your evening entertainment
- Decide on your dress – allow at least 6 months for a made-to-measure gown
- Book hotel rooms if required for the wedding party, guests and your first night

9 months to go ...

- Pick your ushers
- Send out Save the Dates to your guests
- Start thinking about the honeymoon
- Choose and order your bridesmaids outfits



Eight months
Find a florist

8 months to go ...

- Find a florist and discuss bouquets, floral arrangements and buttonholes
- Taste and confirm your menu and drinks with your caterers
- Order invitations and envelopes, place settings and menus
- Book transport for the bridal party
- Book your honeymoon

7 months to go ...

- Decide on readings and music for your wedding ceremony
- Order your wedding cake
- Choose and order wedding favours and bridal party gifts

6 months to go ...

- Pick your wedding rings
- Confirm the order of service with your priest or registrar for the wedding ceremony and have guest booklets printed

5 months to go ...

- Book a hairdresser and style consultation
- Book a make up artist and trial appointments
- Make stag and hen party arrangements ▶



Six months
Pick your wedding rings

Twelve months
Have budget conversations
with your fiancé and parents



Eight months
Book your
honeymoon



Two months
Make any final
fitting adjustments



Five months
Book a make up artist
and trial appointments



Four months
Organise transport...
travel in style!



Three months
Send out invitations

4 months to go ...

- Organise transport to take you to your first night hotel or the airport
- Choose a wedding gift company and compile a wedding present list
- Get any inoculations or visas if required for your honeymoon

3 months to go ...

- Organise a rehearsal and inform those who will need to be there
- Attend reading of the banns, if you are marrying in church
- Send out invitations and keep a spreadsheet of acceptances

2 months to go ...

- Try on your whole outfit, and make any final fitting adjustments
- Book your pre-wedding beauty treatments
- Confirm numbers with caterers and organise a seating plan
- Go honeymoon clothes shopping

1 month to go ...

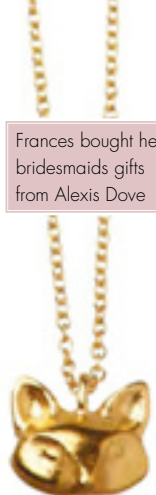
- Pick up your wedding rings
- Confirm all previous bookings with photographer, transport, caterers, florists, hairdressers, make-up artists and evening entertainment
- Have your final cut and colour two weeks before the wedding
- Pick up your wedding cake
- Go on your hen and stag party!

Notes



Sally
&
Steve

Frances bought her
bridesmaids gifts
from Alexis Dove



REAL LIFE WEDDINGS

THREE RECENT BRIDES SHARE THEIR WEDDING EXPERIENCES AND TOP TIPS

September
13

Sally and Steve

Sally and Steve married on Friday 13th September 2013 at 1300 hours, to keep the thirteen theme going (Steve proposed to Sally on the 13 August 2012 and 13 months later they were married), his wedding ring had 12 diamonds on it, so Sally asked her jeweller to set another diamond on the inside to make it up to 13. They had 45 guests during the day and 100 at night.

What jewellery did you wear on your wedding day?

I wore a borrowed Mastercut Diamond tiara, a platinum and diamond tennis bracelet, double strand necklace and drop earrings. On my right hand I wore a 5 stone Mastercut ring (bought in memory of my Dad) and my mum's wedding ring (as my something old, and in her memory). I had Swarovski crystals added to my sandals and on the bottom of them I had 'I do' in Swarovski in blue (as my something blue), my dress was 'new'. I was also very traditional and had the sixpence in my left shoe!



Sally borrowed
a Mastercut
Diamond tiara

What style of engagement and wedding ring do you have?

A platinum and diamond engagement and wedding ring, my engagement ring has a 1.5 carat brilliant cut centre stone, with another .75 carat of diamonds on the shoulders and running underneath the main stone (channel set). And I have a 1.55 carat channel set full eternity for my wedding ring.

Did you purchase jewellery or watches as gifts for your wedding day?

Steve had a platinum and diamond wedding ring and I bought him a Bering Watch. My niece had Fiorelli silver jewellery as a gift and I gave my sister a Pandora charm. The others had white gold and CZ earrings. My dog Star (who was the bridesmaid and stole all the attention on the day) wore a collar embellished with her name in crystal bling and a bling charm shaped like a star.

December

7

Frances and Tom

Frances and Tom were married on Saturday 7th December 2013 with 70 guests.

What is your top tip you can pass on for planning a wedding?

Stick to your guns and make sure you have the day you and your fiancé want. All too often I've seen couples feel like they have to incorporate elements that they don't really want, just to keep other people like family members happy. Your wedding day is the one day that is all about you, and Tom and I found that part of the fun of planning was creating really personal and quirky elements to the day.

What jewellery did you wear on your wedding day?

I kept it simple and wore white gold, diamond and Baroque pearl earrings from the Whispering collection by Fei Liu, one of my favourite jewellery designers who is based in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter.

What style of engagement and wedding ring do you have?

My engagement ring, which Tom chose for me, is a 1.07ct cushion-cut diamond in a four-claw platinum setting, and I love it. Both of our wedding bands are platinum and were from Brown & Newirth London.

I went for a bit of sparkle on mine so it is half-set with 0.7ct of diamonds in total.

Did you purchase jewellery as gifts or favours for your wedding day?

We bought our bridesmaid and Best Man favours from Alexis Dove. I already have one of her Foxy necklaces in yellow gold, which I love, so we bought a Foxy bracelet for one bridesmaid and a Foxy necklace for the other bridesmaid. Tom wore Alexis Dove gold Button cufflinks on our wedding day and we bought a matching pair in silver for the Best Man as his gift. We bought my Mum a necklace and earrings from Fei Liu's Silver Rose collection. ►

FRANCES'S TOP TIP

Make sure you have the day you and your fiancé want...your wedding day is the one day that is all about you.





Lucy and Stephen

Lucy and Stephen were married on 24th August 2013 with 120 guests in the day and another 40 at night with a wedding party for a further 70 guests the day afterwards, all hosted in a marquee at their country home.

What is your top tip you can pass on for planning a wedding? Don't give up, if you have an idea of what you want, don't stop looking until you find it. And the high heels are great but buy a pair of beautiful flats too for changing into later in the day. Oh and check the person writing the dress order isn't dyslexic – mine was and the wrong dress arrived the week before the wedding. Thankfully they were able to get hold of the right dress in time!

What jewellery did you wear on your wedding day?

A pair of Tanzanite earrings and a sapphire and diamond pendant.

What style of engagement and wedding ring do you have?

Both rings are platinum with diamonds. The engagement ring is a three stone with stone shoulders. All the stones are radiant cut even the stones in the wedding ring are radiant, which is a full channel set eternity designed to match the stone shoulders on my engagement ring. Stephen chose a two tone ring with a rose gold central band and platinum edges.

Did you purchase jewellery as gifts for your wedding day?

I gave Stephen blue enamel and silver cufflinks from CW Sellers and a Pandora bracelet for my niece who was a bridesmaid.



Lucy wore sapphire and tanzanite jewellery to match her exquisite dress.



LUCY'S TOP TIP

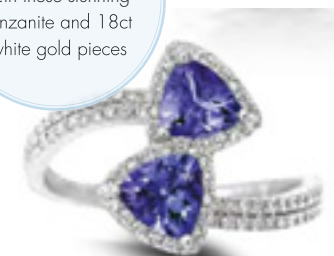
The high heels are great but buy a pair of beautiful flats too for changing into later in the day.



Something BLUE

DAZZLE

...in these stunning tanzanite and 18ct white gold pieces



WHAT WILL YOUR "SOMETHING BLUE" BE?

Wearing blue at your wedding is a symbol of purity, fidelity and love.

Choosing a beautiful blue piece of jewellery, from sumptuous sapphires to deep blue tanzanite stones is one way to keep your 'something blue' as a stunning keepsake for the day.



REGAL

Channel Kate Middleton with this white gold, diamond and sapphire ring



GENTS

Get in on the action with these striking cufflink designs



*Pearls are rare
and beautiful
forms of nature*



PEARLY *Queens*

PEARLS ARE A CLASSIC BRIDAL GEM.
OUR GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE PERFECT PEARL.



The pearl is the only precious gem that is entirely shaped and perfected by nature.

Pearls are formed when a mollusc, such as an oyster or conch shell, produces layers of nacre around an irritant in its shell. The quality of this nacre dictates the colour and shine, or lustre, of the pearl, which is important to its beauty and to its value.

For centuries, pearls were rare and highly prized finds, pearl divers would spend months at sea in the Arabian Gulf searching for pearls, often living on boats for months at a time when the scarcity of fresh water meant the divers returned home with thick salt crusts on their skin. The hardships were well worth it though, as the pearls were so valuable.

Pearl farming, which started with Mikimoto in Japan at the end of the 18th Century, led to a revolution in the pearl industry. Pearl farms began to harvest pearls, by raising molluscs until they are old enough to accept a mother-of-pearl bead nucleus. Through a delicate surgical procedure, a technician implants the bead and then the molluscs are returned to the water and cared for while the pearl forms.

Not all the molluscs produce a pearl and not all the pearls are high quality. Over 10,000 pearls may be sorted before a 16" single strand of beautifully matched pearls is assembled. Pearl farming is a long and expensive process – the farms are usually in remote, pristine areas, and a single typhoon can ruin a pearl harvest that has been cultivated for many years. So although pearls are now



'cultured' in farms, they are still rare and beautiful forms of nature.

Pearls can be found in saltwater and in freshwater and there are also different types of molluscs that produce very different looking pearls. Saltwater pearls include the akoya cultured pearls grown in Japan and China, which are usually white or cream in colour and round in shape. Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines produce the most valuable South Sea pearl – the largest

of all the pearls. They range in size from 9mm to 20mm and can be naturally white, cream, or golden in colour. The most valuable of the South Sea pearls is a large white pearl with a pink hue, although golden South Sea pearls with a deep colour are also highly prized.

Tahitian pearls are grown in several of the islands of French Polynesia, including Tahiti. These naturally coloured pearls are collectively called black pearls, but their colours include grey, blue, green and purple.

Freshwater Pearls are grown in freshwater lakes, rivers, and ponds, mainly in China. Although many are white, they can come in an array of pastel colours and they are usually smaller and less expensive than their saltwater counterparts.

The colours of all pearls are caused by nature and influenced by water temperature, pollution, rainfall, even volcanic activity. Every few years a new rare colour is discovered, from deep reds and purples, to brown and golden hues. Pearls continue to be a marvel of nature, formed in some of the most heavenly parts of the world. ►



Drama

Make a statement with a stunning ring but be careful not to let it steal the show



Pearls

ADD A TOUCH OF CLASSIC STYLE AND ELEGANCE TO YOUR ENSEMBLE



Colour

Choose a pair of delicate earrings for a subtle hint of colour



Romance

Set the tone with these intricate rose pink hearts



GET FIGURE FIT

KEY FIGURES AND TOP TIPS FOR BRIDAL BUDGETS

BRIDAL BUDGET



Wedding Venue

£2,200



Reception Venue

£4,200



Caterers

£3,000



Photographer

£1,500



Flowers

£560



Cake

£295



DJ/Band

£700



Stationery

£700



Wedding Dress

£1,350



Shoes

£100



Groom's Outfit

£350



Beauty Treatments

£250



Engagement Ring

£2,500



Wedding Rings

£800



Other Jewellery

£200



Honeymoon

£4,000



TOTAL AVERAGE COST: £22,255

5 things you are most likely to overspend on:

- The venue** Don't forget VAT!
- The bar tab** Put a cap on it
- The dress** Why is the perfect one always just that bit more than your budget?
- Stationery** Don't forget the cost of stamps!
- The honeymoon** Remember to keep budget aside for spending while you are away



Ancient Greeks and Romans thought the veil protected the bride from evil spirits

Something old, something new WEDDING CUSTOMS

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS
SURROUNDING WEDDINGS ACROSS THE WORLD

Here are just a few you might want to consider to make your day extra auspicious.

In Greece, brides tuck a sugar cube into their glove - according to Greek culture, the sugar sweetens your union.

A spider found in a wedding dress means good luck (especially if it is a money spider!)

In days gone by, Wednesday was considered the "best day" to marry, although Monday was for wealth and Tuesday for health. Saturday was the unluckiest day - now the most popular!

The groom traditionally carried the bride across the threshold to bravely protect her from evil spirits lurking below.



Rain on your wedding day is actually considered good luck, according to Hindu tradition.

Middle Eastern brides paint henna on their hands and feet to protect themselves from the evil eye.

Peas are thrown at Czech newlyweds instead of rice.

A Swedish bride puts a silver coin from her father and a gold coin from her mother in each shoe to ensure that she'll never do without.

A Finnish bride traditionally went door-to-door collecting gifts in a pillowcase, accompanied by an older married man who represented long marriage.

Moroccan women take a milk bath to purify themselves before their wedding ceremony.

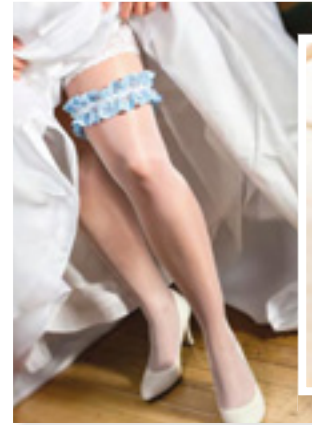
In Holland, a pine tree is planted outside the newlyweds' home as a symbol of fertility and luck.



Moroccan women take a milk bath



Rain on your wedding day is actually considered good luck, according to Hindu tradition



Queen Victoria started the Western world's white wedding dress trend in 1840 – before then, brides simply wore their best dress.

Ancient Greeks and Romans thought the veil protected the bride from evil spirits. Brides have worn veils ever since.

In Korea, brides don bright hues of red and yellow to take their vows.

Brides carry or wear “something old” on their wedding day to symbolize continuity with the past, while “something blue” in a bridal ensemble symbolizes purity, fidelity, and love.

The tradition of a wedding cake comes from ancient Rome, where guests broke a loaf of bread over a bride's head for fertility's sake.

The custom of tiered cakes emerged from a game where the bride and groom attempted to kiss over an ever-higher cake without knocking it over.

An old wives' tale states that if the younger of two sisters marries first, the older sister must dance barefoot at the wedding or risk never finding a husband.

In many cultures around the world – including Celtic, Hindu and Egyptian weddings – the hands of a bride and groom are literally tied together to demonstrate the couple's commitment to each other and their new bond as a married couple (giving us the popular phrase “tying the knot”).



In Greece, brides tuck a sugar cube into their glove

The Roman goddess Juno rules over marriage, the heart, and childbirth, hence the popularity of June weddings.

The bride stands to the groom's left during a Christian ceremony, because in bygone days the groom needed his right hand free to fight off other suitors.

Valentine's Day and New Year's Eve are the two busiest “marriage” days in Las Vegas!

Stag parties were first held by ancient Spartan soldiers, who kissed their bachelor days goodbye with a raucous party.

Choosing your BRIDAL ACCESSORIES

FROM TIARAS TO JEWELLERY STYLES, A GUIDE TO LOOKING AND FEELING FABULOUS ON YOUR BIG DAY



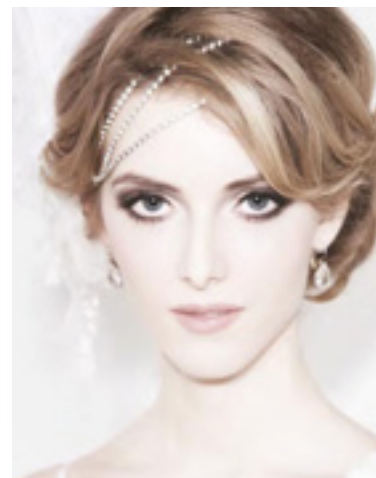
Ever since Kate Middleton married in a stunning Cartier tiara designed for the late Queen Mother, the wedding tiara has become a more popular choice for brides.

So should you wear a stunning wedding tiara on your wedding day? The first thing you have to ask yourself is whether your day is suited to such a formal piece – if your dress, venue or theme is fairly casual, then a traditional tiara is going to look out of place as part of your bridal ensemble. If you do opt for a tiara, then remember that it needs to take pride of place among your wedding accessories – this glamorous piece is the ultimate accessory, so it doesn't need to be worn with chandelier earrings or a large sparkly necklace.

The key to wearing a tiara is placing it in the correct position – it should be on the crown of your head, not your forehead. This is often a little further back than many brides-to-be expect, but your hairstylist should be able to help you pin it correctly. If you're wearing your hair up, then make sure the tiara is placed flat against the hair – there should be no gap between your style and your headpiece.



This glamorous piece is the ultimate accessory



Bridal jewellery can make or break a wedding gown - don't wear anything that you think you 'should' just for the sake of it, but choose your jewellery to complement the style of your gown and your hairstyle.

If you're wearing a strapless dress then there is really nothing that you can't wear with it. As a rule, a maximum of two big statement pieces are enough and never next to each other. For example, if you wear a large necklace, then keep the earrings simple, but adorn your wrist with a sparkling bracelet if you want more impact.

You don't want too much going on with a statement one-shoulder gown so avoid muddling the neckline with a pendant or necklace. With a high neck, low back gown, you could be bang on trend and wear a lariat down your back, or simply wear longer earrings and a bracelet instead of a necklace.

With gowns that feature a Queen Anne neckline or have their own embroidered embellishment, you don't need to go overboard with extra details. Pretty pearl earrings and a simple bracelet are enough to complete the look.

For traditional white gowns, jewellery with pearls and diamonds (or synthetic alternatives, like cubic zirconias or Swarovski crystals) are a classic combination. Or why not take a look at some pretty pastel coloured jewellery to complement the colours of your bridesmaids' dresses or flowers?



Today it's all about letting the personality of each girl shine through.

All about THE GIRLS

JEWELLERY MAKES THE PERFECT GIFT FOR BRIDESMAIDS AND CAN BE WORN TO COMPLEMENT THEIR DRESSES ON THE BIG DAY

These are the girls that mean the most to you, so make sure your bridesmaids are happy, comfortable, complementing you and looking amazing on your big day too!

Remember that your bridesmaids can be in complementary shades – they don't all need to be dressed in the same colour. Today it's all about letting the personality of each girl shine through. So choose necklines and dress lengths to suit their individual figures. That might mean that one of your friends wears a halter neck, another a sweetheart and another something more low cut. Alternatively you could use the colours of your wedding flowers as an inspiration and dress each of your maids in a different colour to match the bridal bouquet.

Letting your bridesmaids choose their own hairstyles for the big day is also a way of making them feel more relaxed on the day and confident in front of the camera. The overall look can be held together if all the maids wear the same accessories, such as matching necklaces and earrings.

Also consider changing their accessories from day to night - from flowers in the hair during the day to sparkling headpieces with matching jewellery for the evening.

And accessorising your girls with matching jewellery that they can then keep and cherish as a reminder of your special day and your special friendship is the very best bridesmaids' gift of all.



Cufflinks are the most formal, common, and traditional type of cuff fastener



Off the CUFF

A STYLE GUIDE FOR THE GROOM
AND HIS PARTY FOR THAT
FINISHING TOUCH TO THE WEDDING SUIT

Cufflinks are designed for wearing with French cuff shirts. Different to most everyday shirts that are equipped with button cuffs, French cuffs are a lengthened piece of fabric folded back on itself to create a cuff. These more formal shirts have no cuff fasteners and so need cufflinks to be held in place.

French cuffs are folded either as kissing cuffs, forming a teardrop shape, or barrel cuffs, with the cuffs overlapping like a standard button cuff. Kissing cuffs are more common, but barrel cuffing your shirt is no faux pas either - it's really up to personal preference and what you feel looks best.

There are two types of cuff fasteners used today: cufflinks, and silk knots. Cufflinks are the most formal, common, and traditional type of cuff fastener, made of steel, gold, or other precious metals and add a touch of understated class to an outfit. There are essentially four types of cufflinks ►

Why not match to your overall colour scheme?





Torpedo cufflinks

These are made of a decorative face, backed by a plain clip to keep them in place. Just push them through, and snap the clip into place.



Chain link cufflinks

A more formal choice. Made of two decorative faces connected by a chain, they're not commonly seen in everyday wear anymore. Usually paired with a black-tie suit.



Bar cufflinks

The simplest of all, involving two decorative balls connected by a bar. The halves are usually very plain, but sometimes include striped or pallet-shaped designs. Unlike chain and torpedo cufflinks, there are no moving parts here, making them a very simple push-through cuff fastener.



Silk knots

Also known as monkey's fists these are a more low-maintenance option. Silk knots are strands of elastic, tied to form two equal knots joined together. No longer made of silk due to reasons of cost and durability, newly purchased French cuff shirts usually come with a pair in the cuffs as placeholders. These are an acceptable choice for day-to-day wear, they should be left at home on dressier occasions, such as weddings.



A French cuffed shirt is traditionally only worn beneath a suit.

Metals on your body should match – and this includes cufflinks. If your belt buckle is gold, your cufflinks should have gold elements as well.

Avoid novelty designs on cufflinks. Cufflinks, more than any other accessory a man can wear, stand out even when you try to hide them. So be classy!

Top tips for WEDDING SPEECHES

Follow this expert advice and make sure your speech gets remembered for all the right reasons...

Remember that giving a good speech is all about engaging the audience in a story. Telling a story requires colour and personality in the voice - the kind that comes naturally when you're sitting in a bar with friends or reading a children's book aloud.

Think about the structure. Every story has a beginning, middle and an end. If you conclude your speech in a way that refers back to your opening comment, you're half way to sounding professional.

Don't try to memorise the speech – unless you're a professional actor. You should be concentrating on what you are actually saying. Use a list of bullet points on a sheet rather than reading out every word if that helps you to deliver a more natural sounding speech.

Read your speech to someone for feedback. Preferably someone who will give honest feedback.

Keep it short. Make sure your speech is no more than 10 minutes timed when you're speaking slowly, which on paper is about 1,000 words.

Managing the nerves. If the big moment has arrived and you're feeling terrified, then before you start the speech, ask the people at the back of the room if they can hear you. It's an old



trick, but it allows you to get those first few words out, it will get a response from the crowd, and should help you settle.

Humour versus sincerity. Too many Best Men write their wedding speeches with a bunch of friends over a few beers. This can be fun at the time but often results in a speech high on rude stories and innuendo but low on sincerity. Strike a balance. The audience will enjoy some jokes at the groom's expense, but in a context that demonstrates he's a good friend with some decent qualities.

Avoid a long list of thank yous. Nothing can be more dull or unoriginal than a speech that resembles a school register of thanks. Stick to those who really need a mention.

End with a toast. This is a great opportunity to end on a sincere and touching note. If you're the father of the bride or best man, toast the couple. If you're a groom, toast your brand new wife.

Finally, have fun!

Giving a speech about someone you love is like giving them a present you know they'll adore. It's a celebration, not a punishment.





Prevent any small print surprises ALL IN THE DETAILS

13 FACTS EVERY BRIDE SHOULD KNOW

1 At popular venues, Saturdays in the summer can be booked up years in advance. If your heart is set on a particular venue, marrying on a Friday is a popular alternative.

2 Many venues insist on preferred catering suppliers so do check first before confirming the booking.

3 As a general rule, between 10% to 20% of your invited wedding guests will decline.

4 A civil ceremony can take place in a register office or any other place licenced to hold weddings under the Marriage Act. Unless you are marrying at a register office, you'll need a registrar.



5 If you wish to marry in Scotland but are living elsewhere in the UK, you may marry in a civil ceremony by submitting notice forms to the registrar more than 15 days in advance.

6 If you want to marry in a Roman Catholic Church, one of you must be a baptised Catholic.

7 To get married in a Church of England church, one of you needs to have lived nearby for 6 months or been baptised there.



8 Banns are a legal requirement for Church of England weddings. Your marriage is announced on three Sundays in the three months before your wedding.

9 Humanism is a non-religious philosophical movement that provides marriage ceremonies. These can take place anywhere but are not legally binding in England and Wales so couples need to have a civil ceremony too.

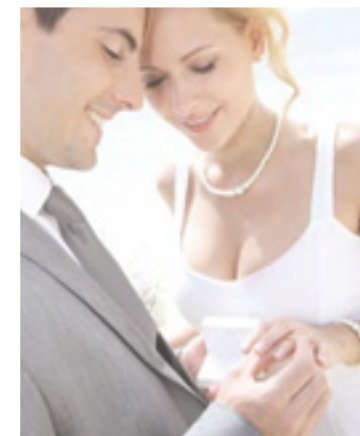


10 'Giving Notice' is a legal requirement in the UK that formalises your intent to marry and must be done at least 15 days before your wedding. For more information, visit gov.uk

11 You can exchange vows at any time of the day in England and Wales and get married on any day of the week.

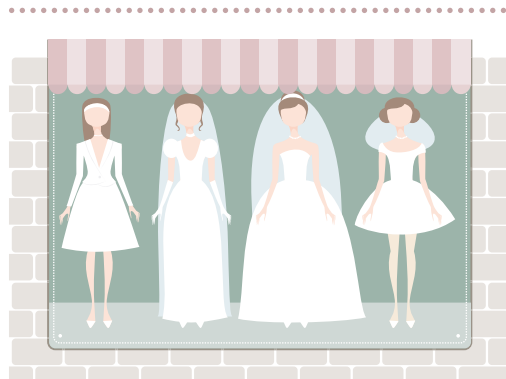
12 In Scotland, a ceremony can take place outdoors, but in England and Wales the ceremony needs to be in a 'permanent structure'.

13 To marry abroad, you will need to satisfy the requirements of British law and the law of the country you are marrying in. For more information, visit fco.gov.uk



Did you know..?

WEDMIN STATISTICS



THE AVERAGE BRIDE VISITS
FIVE BOUTIQUES
BEFORE FINDING HER DRESS



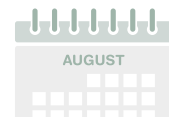
38%
of brides use a wedding planner

106 IS THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF
WEDDING GUESTS



20%

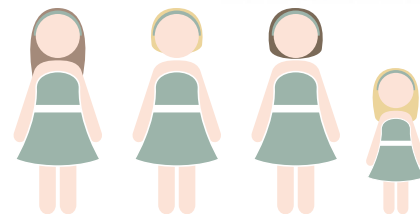
of weddings are held in August,
while only 1% take place in January



44%

of weddings abroad are in Europe

47% of couples make the biggest
contribution towards their own
wedding, while **25%** of couples
say their parents are paying the most



THE AVERAGE BRIDE HAS
3 ADULT BRIDESMAIDS
& 1 CHILD BRIDESMAID