

THE DALLAS POST

Fall Bridal Showcase

FASHION FORECAST: What's in for the bride

By Debra Lee Balwin
Copley News Service

What's "in" and what's "out" when it comes to bridal dresses, accessories, hairstyles and makeup? Here's an overview, based on *Bride's* magazine's forecast for the season.

KEY SHAPES AND DETAILS

The overall silhouette is glamorous, feminine rather than sexy; favorite shapes include princess, A-line and Empire-waist; skirts are full and frothy.

Gowns tend to be simple — it's embellishments that aim for impact. For example, a plain gown might have a single graceful ornament at the décolletage, metallic "fairy dust" sprinkled on selectively placed appliques or a beaded bodice or sleeve.

Dramatic petal collars and shoulder-baring portrait necklines bring the focus on neck and shoulders. "Poet sleeves" (very full and pleated) also are popular.

And if you look washed out in white, by all means go for a hint of color — white or ivory mixed with pale champagne, pink, rose or peach (ideal for second weddings).

Key looks for short dresses include detachable "overtrains" that can be removed after the ceremony, lace T-shaped dresses in all-over ivory or white, off-the-shoulder "cocktail suits," button-down chemise styles worn with trailing chiffon chapel trains and above-the-knee strapless sheaths topped with same-length organza jackets.

FABRICS

Texture has never been so important — or so intriguing.

Favorite fabrics include silk, tulle, silk shantung, moiré, taffeta and embroidered cotton. Barely there pastel shades and white-on-white florals create lovely, soft effects.

And lace — Alençon, Chantilly, eyelet — is being used as an all-over fabric, not just as edging.

HEADPIECES

Simple dress shapes mandate more elaborate headpieces.

Veils are sprinkled with tiny silk flowers, bows or pearls; they're made of heirloom lace and edged in lace or ribbon; some even have novelty touches, such as gold stars woven into tulle.

Tiny pillbox hats add a regal touch, as do delicate tiaras with colorful (faux) gems, combs looped with satin ribbon and small crowns of oversize pearls.

Headbands are covered with pearl, crystal and chiffon braids. Some have a porcelain look; others are made of pale silk florals.

Big straw hats are brimming (literally) with flowers. Oversize double silk flowers adorning chignons, nestle at the nape of the neck.

ACCESSORIES

There's a preponderance of pearls, and they're oversize, in pure white or pale pink. Wear them layered strand on strand, on cuff bracelets, in earrings combined with gold filigree.

Earrings with floral themes also are popular, as are those made of crystal, matte or frosted-finish plastic (made into airy, expensive-looking styles).

Gloves are sleek, designed to complement sleeve lengths. Fifties-inspired versions are wrist-length (and even shorter); others have cuffed edges or are decorated with cutout detailing or embroidery.

Handbags are small, sophisticated and geometric; you'll also see soft pouches gathered with exaggerated bows. Detailing includes embroidery, stitching and cutout lace.

Hankies go hand in hand with gloves and handbags. Use one for your "something old," "something borrowed" or "something blue."

SHOES AND LEGWEAR

Hosiery is pearlized and shimmering and comes in soft pastels for bridesmaids and the mother of the bride. Shades of heirloom ivory and antique off-white complement the bride, as do hosiery that is all-over lace or appliqued.

The newest shoes are midheeled slingbacks with straps and cutout



Sweet and romantic details are the hallmarks of this year's bridal gowns. Shown, gown with Marie Antoinette sleeves from *After Six* Bridal Collection.

detailing. It's OK to wear pretty flats, too — particularly ballet flats embellished with embroidery, beading or white tassels.

SHOPPING STRATEGIES

It's a magical moment. You try on a wedding gown and look in the mirror. — and suddenly you're a bride! (And your Mom is in tears.)

The selection in bridal boutiques and departments may seem overwhelming, but you'll be able to narrow it down quickly if you know what styles flatter you, you've torn out your favorites from the pages of bridal magazines, and you know what degree of formality your wedding will be.

Make an appointment to try on gowns — the process takes about

an hour and a half, and you'll get better service if the shop knows you're coming.

Nearly 40 percent of brides sew their own dresses or hire dressmakers — an ideal option if you know exactly what you want or have your heart set on a one-of-a-kind creation.

Tips for bridal beauty from model Kim Alexis

By Alison Ashton
Copley News Service

Every blushing bride is beautiful, says model Kim Alexis. And nervous, too.

Even Alexis, who has been married for almost eight years and has two children, remembers her wedding day jitters. And she's a seasoned pro who is used to being in the public eye.

Some would say it was easy for Alexis to be beautiful on her big day. But she says every bride can and should be beautiful. Here are some of her tips:

- Keep your makeup light. Most brides really do blush and don't need a lot of makeup to look pretty. Use a light foundation to conceal blemishes and even skin tone. Use mascara, soft eyeliner and a light shade of blusher. Make sure blusher and eyeliner are well-blended.

- Lipstick depends on the season and your coloring. A blonde, Alexis opted for a light, sheer lip color. In the fall however, a brunette might use a rich berry color.

- Don't worry about adjusting your makeup if your wedding photos are being taken on the big day.

- If you're sitting for wedding portraits before the wedding day, however, consult with the photographer on makeup. What looks best depends on whether the photos are black-and-white or color.

- "Make sure you have your

wedding day look down pat," Alexis advises. Spend time in the weeks before the wedding working with your hair and makeup. Consult with your hairdresser to find out if your gown has to go on before or after your hair is done.

- Perhaps Alexis' most important tip is to remember that your gown, veil, lingerie and shoes have to be absolutely comfortable. If a veil irritates you at all in the bridal shop, it could make you miserable on your wedding day.

- "Remember, you'll be wearing it for hours," she cautions. Almost eight years after her wedding day, Alexis has vivid memories of irritating lingerie.

- Wedding day jitters are another problem for most brides.

- "Try to keep in mind that it's a big day, but don't get so nervous you can't enjoy it," says Alexis.

- In the weeks before the wedding, "give yourself treats," she suggests. "I took bubble baths and drank chamomile tea every night."

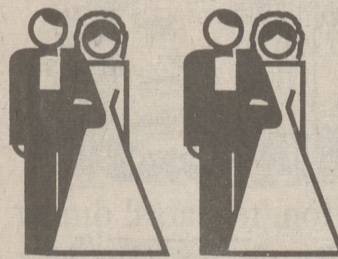
- And remember to exercise. An avid runner who has competed in several marathons, Alexis even ran six miles on the morning of her wedding.

- Exercising on the big day is a smart idea, especially if you have trouble sleeping the night before and wake up with puffy eyes or blotchy skin.

- When the big moment arrives, relax, stay calm and look forward to a happy marriage.

WEDFACTS

Many people who are marrying today have been married before



Either the bride or groom or both are remarrying in one in three marriages.

SOURCE: *Bride's* magazine

Copley News Service

The Perfect Gift For Your Wedding

Gifts for the:
Bride, Groom, Bridesmaids and Attendants.



An assortment of wedding bands ...

- diamonds • earrings
- pearls • tie tacks
- necklaces • coins



PHONE 675-5872
HOURS:
Mon., Tues., Wed.,
Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thurs. & Fri.
10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.



Wedding Photography

- Pre-Bridal
- Engagement



"Wedding Photography Is My Specialty."

FREE 11 x 14 Wedding Portrait
With This Ad

- Wedding Packages To Fit Any Budget.
 - Wedding Albums With Class And Style
- Engagement Portraits Starting at \$39**

They Say A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words
...Then A Wedding Album Is Worth A Lifetime

Photography By Dale Nat

145 N Main St., Shavertown

675-6998

Call for appointments



D.H. OLIVER FOODS

YOUR COMPLETE

Wedding CATERER

550 Memorial Hwy. Dallas 675-0790